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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 18, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
September 18, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Seretta McKnight, Union Baptist Church, Hempstead, New York, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, Lord God. I acknowledge that You are God alone, large and in charge, and I thank You for being a loving, a forgiving, and a just God.

As I stand in these hallowed halls of this House, this chapel of democracy, I ask You to give all those who have the responsibility to represent, provide, and protect we, the people, the courage, conscience, and heart to do the right thing by choosing the principled position over political posturing.

Lord God, allow these to enact the laws that will help and heal, not hurt and harm, we, the people. Give this august body the courage to decrease the divide between the haves and the have-nots, the conscience to consider all of our children as precious, and the heart to lead with love so that this House turns from a house of pain to one of purpose, of promise, and of productivity for we, the people.

Lord God, please bless Speaker BOEHNER; Leader PELOSI; my Congresswoman, Mrs. MCCARTHY; and all those who have the challenge to lead for such a time as this.

Lastly, Lord, before I ask You to continue to bless America, bless our President Barack Obama and all those who are in service to this great Nation.

Teach us how to bless You, Lord, so that You, God, may continue to bless America.

It is in the name that is above every name that I offer up this petition to the Throne of Grace. I am speaking of my personal Lord and Savior; Jesus Christ is the name in which I pray.

And we all say together, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND SERETTA MCKNIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to certainly welcome the family and friends of our sister, Reverend Seretta McKnight, who just delivered that wonderful prayer opening today's session in the House of Representatives.

Reverend McKnight serves at the Union Baptist Church in Hempstead, New York, on Long Island. She is a product of the Roosevelt Public School System and is a graduate of Syracuse University. Currently, Reverend McKnight is a candidate for a master of divinity degree.

It has been my honor and pleasure to know Reverend McKnight for many years, and I take this time to recognize her for the outstanding service she has provided to local people throughout our unique district and organizations.

I want you to know that she has worked tirelessly with Sisters in the Struggle and several other community-based organizations. She focuses on programs for women and young people. Reverend Seretta McKnight is affectionately known as the "sister minister" to all who are enriched by her sermons and wisdom.

Again, I thank Reverend McKnight, her family, her friends, and her mother for traveling to join us today in Washington. I salute her for her years of service to the people of the Fourth Congressional District and to the people of this country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 11, 2014, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0950

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN);

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN); and

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO); and

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency H.E. Bockari Kortu Stevens, the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

The President of Ukraine, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President POROSHENKO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Majority Leader, Members of the House, Members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen, it is impossible to imagine what I am feeling right now. How symbolic is the unity of the United States Congress in solidarity with Ukraine.

This is exactly what Ukraine now needs the most, unity and solidarity, not only with the United States Congress, not only with the United States, but with the whole world.

Let me thank you for your warmth and hospitality. Addressing both Houses of the Congress is one of the highest political privileges.

Standing here, I am grateful and fully aware that this honor goes not to me, but to the people of Ukraine, those brave men and women who are today on the forefront of the global fight for democracy. Forty-five million Ukrainian people are watching this speech in this session of the Congress, seeing and absolutely sure about our solidarity and our joint and common strength. And please allow me to speak on their behalf.

I will focus on the one thing that is at the core of Ukraine's existence today: freedom. There are moments in history when freedom is more than just a political concept. At those moments, freedom becomes the ultimate choice which defines who you are as a person or as a nation.

Ukraine has lived this moment over the last 10 months and became the scene of the most heroic story of the last decade, a synonym for sacrifice, dedication, and the unbreakable will to live free.

The people of Ukraine stood up to the corrupt regime of Yanukovych. They stood their ground during this dramatic winter. More of you were together with us during the last winter, and I thank you for this very important—for us—gesture of solidarity.

The defenders of freedom were willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of a better future. What is even more amazing is that they and we won. Armed with only sticks and shields, they attacked the special police and chased them away.

The victory gained on Independence Square in Kiev, now known to the whole world as the very international word of "Maidan," was a victory against police brutality, harassment by the state-controlled media, violence, and intimidation.

There is nothing more impressive than seeing hundreds of thousands of peaceful people forcing out a violent dictator and changing the course of history—the second time in our history.

Day after day, week after week, month after month, thousands upon thousands streamed into the streets of Kiev simply because their dignity didn't allow them to remain passive and silent while their liberties were at stake.

The standoff on the Maidan lasted a long 3 months. It culminated on February 20 and 21, when over 100 protesters in 1 day were shot by snipers. We call them the "Heavenly Hundred." We revere them as true national heroes, and we applaud their heroism.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, in February, when the world saw that no one could take away Ukraine's freedom, an external aggressor decided to take away a part of Ukrainian territory. The annexation of Crimea became one of the most cynical acts of treachery in modern history.

I just want to call your attention to the fact that Ukraine gave up the third largest nuclear potential in exchange for security assurance and was stabbed in the back by one of the countries who gave her that assurance.

Allow me to remind you that 20 years ago—exactly 20 years—in the Budapest Memorandum, Russia, along with the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and China, vowed to provide for the inviolability of Ukraine's state borders and territorial sovereignty.

In reality, what we got from Russia was annexation and a war that has brought Ukraine to the brink of its survival.

The Soviet Union had collapsed too quickly, creating the illusion that this chapter in history was closed and that this story had come to the end; but, unfortunately, in the minds of the people, it has not ended. The imperialistic mindset is still there. Nostalgia for the Soviet Union and the dismissal of the settlement that ended the cold war has been cultivating revisionist instincts.

In the year 2008, Russian troops occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Now, they have invaded Ukraine. The right to protect ethnic Russians and even Russian speakers can and already has become a reason to fan the flames of war. Besides Ukraine, Russian speakers reside now in Moldova, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Baltic States, Poland—even in Germany there is a very big majority—and Bulgaria.

Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine—who is next? Many things, including the effectiveness of the global nonproliferation system, will be put to a severe test and judged depending on the response of America and of the whole world to this very simple question.

Even NATO allies are at risk. As if to underline this point, 2 days after President Obama's visit to Estonia, the day the NATO summit ended, an Estonian intelligence officer was abducted and accused of espionage.

The security assurances that were extended to Ukraine then have failed to work, proving that no agreements or treaties can secure world order.

So what can bring peace and what can maintain it? Common values, cooperation, interdependence, leadership, and responsibility. These are the things that can defend global security; so I urge you not to let Ukraine stand alone in the face of this aggression.

It is very important that the whole world will see this gesture of solidarity. Ukraine is not alone. We are together, we are united, and we will win because our fighting is fighting for

freedom and fighting for democracy. I have absolutely no doubt that our victory will be very close.

I am absolutely sure that the United States made a commitment that it would stand behind Ukraine's territorial integrity, and we hope that it will live up to that promise because it is very simple: democracies must support each other. They must show solidarity in the face of aggression and adversity; otherwise, they will be eliminated one by one.

The aggression against Ukraine has become one of the worst setbacks for the cause of democracy in the world in years. With just one move, the world has been thrown back in time to a reality of territorial claims, zones of influence, criminal aggression, and annexations.

Can you imagine, within 2 weeks, Crimea has invaded and annexed. Why? Because Ukraine simply was not prepared to face this aggression. We were not prepared to face this enemy. That was exactly at the time of the revolution of dignity, and they used this opportunity, without any doubt.

The postwar international system of checks and balances was effectively ruined. The world was plunged into the worst security crisis since the U.S.-USSR standoff of 1962.

Today, we are witnessing another attempt at dividing the world, and Ukraine stands in the center of this attempt.

The outcome of today's war will determine whether we will be forced to accept the reality of a dark, torn, and bitter Europe as part of a new world order.

This Ukrainian Army—imagine these young boys, underequipped and often unappreciated by the world—is the only thing that now stands between the reality of peaceful coexistence and the nightmare of a full relapse into the previous century and into a new cold war.

Ukrainian soldiers, Ukrainian people, and Ukrainian boys and girls are now on the front for freedom and democracy. They need your support.

The war that these young men are fighting today is not only Ukraine's war. Everybody should understand that. It is Europe's, and it is America's war too. It is a war of the free world—and for a free world.

Today, aggression against Ukraine is a threat to the global security everywhere. Hybrid proxy wars, terrorism, national radical and extremist movements, the erosion of national and international agreements, the blurring and even the raising of the national identities, all these threats now challenge Europe. If they are not stopped now, they will cross European borders and spread absolutely throughout the world.

To prevent this, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are in the line of fire ex-

actly right now when we have a so-called cease-fire. From the date we started the cease-fire, Ukraine lost 17 lives of the Ukrainian soldiers, 67 are wounded. This is the cease-fire. This is the price Ukraine now paid for the peace.

Speaking in the United States Congress, from this high beacon of freedom, I want to thank them for their sacrifice. Thank you for the United States Congress. And I urge the world to recognize and endorse their fight. They need more political support throughout the world. They need more military equipment, both lethal and nonlethal, urgently needed.

Please understand me correctly, blankets, night-vision goggles are also important, but one cannot win the war with blankets. Even more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket, and this is the most important of our values, of our aim: not to win the war, but keep the peace. For keeping the peace, we should be strong enough, and there is not any doubt that we will be strong because of you, because of our solidarity, and because of the combat, the very strong spirit of the Ukrainian soldiers.

I thank all of those in America who realize and appreciate the historic importance of this fight.

Just like Israel, Ukraine has the right to defend her territory, and it will do so with all the courage of her heart and dedication of her soul.

I urge America to help us and to rise and to be equal to its natural and manifest role. I urge America to lead the way.

Ukraine has a special bond with the United States. Today, Ukraine is taking shape as America's natural and consequential partner in the region. This partnership is not circumstantial. It has not come because we find ourselves "in the same boat." It came about because in the moment of the existential crisis, Ukraine's choice was the same as America's. It is very simple: freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

In a time of Europe's skepticism and Russia's open, unprovoked hostility, Ukrainian citizens have been ready to give their lives to see Ukraine democratic and free.

Circumstantial "boats" can change; the nature of the people cannot.

It is in the nature of the Ukraine people to tolerate no dictators and to strive for their freedom, no matter what. Given today's situation, Ukraine's democracy will have to rely on their own strong army.

In the upcoming years, building a strong military will be another existential test for Ukrainian democracy. I see it as my utmost duty to rectify the damage done to the Ukrainian military and to give Ukraine a strong, modern army that we can be proud of.

With this in mind, I strongly encourage the United States to give Ukraine

a special security and defense status, which should reflect the highest level of interaction with non-NATO allies.

I also ask that the United States be forceful and stand by its principles with respect to further sanctions against the aggressor.

Economic sanctions are important for many reasons. They help to distinguish between good and evil. They help us to defend and stand the moral high ground and not to sink into indifference disguised as pragmatism.

I understand that the wars of the last decade have taken a heavy toll on the economy of the West. And I understand, believe me, that Americans and American citizens and American taxpayers want peace, not war. So do Ukrainian citizens and taxpayers. However, there are moments in history, whose importance cannot be measured solely in percentages of GDP growth.

Ukraine's war is the only war of the last decade that is purely about values. Ukraine's war is the war, again, for the freedom, democracy, and European values, and the best evidence of that is the number of members of the Ukrainian Parliament which fortified our association agreement with the European Union.

Our nation decided to be free and democratic. Another nation decided to punish Ukraine for this. The world simply cannot allow this kind of behavior. "Values come first"—this is the truth the world and the West would remind Ukraine of over the last years. Now it is Ukraine's turn to remind the West of this truth.

Allow me also to say this. There is no way, at no price, and under no condition that we will ever put up with Crimea's occupation. Ending the occupation and annulling the annexation is not only an integral precondition to a full normalization of the relation between Ukraine and Russia; it is also the integral precondition for Crimea's own prosperity and modernization.

Until this precondition is fulfilled, I urge America and the world to stand united in sending a signal to the aggressors of today and of the future that the policy and practice of annexation will never be tolerated.

And clearly, I am not talking about a military solution of the Crimean problem. This will be a dilemma for many years; a choice between two ways of life; and two political, economic, and social systems. But I have no doubt that in the long run the system that offers the greater freedom will prevail. It always does.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, the last half year has been a time of ultimate challenge for millions of Ukrainians. It was a time for heroism and sacrifice. For too many, it became the ultimate sacrifice. Let me share with you two human stories that illustrate my point.

On March 3, when the occupation of Crimea just started, there was one man

in the Crimean city of Simferopol who did the unthinkable. When millions felt paralyzed and stunned at what was unfolding before their eyes, Reshat Ametov, a 39-year-old father of three, decided not to be silent.

This brave son of the Crimean Tatar people went on a one-man protest in front of the occupied city hall. He did nothing more than hold a sheet of paper that said: "NO to Occupation!" A group of unknown people arrested him and transported him away—in the plain sight of dozens of witnesses, in front of TV cameras. Two weeks later, he was found tortured and executed—Mafia style.

Just the thought of this man's final tormented minutes sends chills down my spine. I ask myself: what made this hero do what he did? And I can find no other answer than: he did it for freedom, so his children would not face slavery like that of a neo-Stalinist dictatorship.

I am convinced that years from now, when Crimea's occupation will belong to the past, the Crimean people will think about what he did and salute his braveness—just like I do now.

And I assure you that Ukraine will always stand together with the Crimean Tatar people, whose language, rights, and culture are being trampled upon right now—as they were many years ago under Soviet rule.

I urge America and the world not to be silent about these crimes.

It is Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars who are being oppressed in Crimea right now.

And it is time for all the people of goodwill to rephrase John Kennedy's words from over 50 years ago: "I am a Crimean Tatar"—and there is nothing that would make me give up my freedom.

And let me also commemorate another Ukrainian hero—Volodymyr Rybak, a 42-year-old father of two and a member of the municipal parliament of East Ukrainian Horlivka.

On April 15, he confronted separatists and Russian special operations officers over a separatist flag that they were trying to hoist atop the local administration building. Exactly just like Reshat Ametov, he was abducted and tortured. His last hours must have been unthinkable. His body was badly mutilated.

Today, I stand here in awe of this tragedy and of the courage and sacrifice of this man and of the courage and sacrifice of the millions of Ukrainians.

From the bottom of my heart, I deeply believe that there will be a time—and I am sure very soon—when Horlivka's central square will be named after Volodymyr and when schoolchildren will bring flowers to his monument.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, make no mistake: Europe's, and the world's,

choice right now is not the choice between a unipolar and a multipolar order. Neither is it a choice between different kinds of civilizations. It is a choice between civilization and barbarism.

And while standing at this juncture, before this great trial, the democratic world cannot shrink or hesitate. We don't want to see all the democratic accomplishments of the last decades to be erased and to have been for nothing.

The free world must stand its ground. With America's help, it will.

Yes, we live in a world that is mutually reliant and interconnected. In this world, the aggression on one democratic nation is aggression against all of us. We fully understand that.

If anyone had doubts about this—if anyone was hoping "to sit it out" while Ukrainians and Russians continue killing each other—this ended on July 17, when a Russian missile launched by a Russian mercenary shot down the civilian Boeing 777 Malaysian flight MH17. Two hundred and ninety-eight innocent, peaceful people, many of whom were flying on their vacations in the south, met their ultimate demise in the steppes of Ukraine.

Their cold-blooded killing—just like the barbaric treatment of their remains afterwards—showed that whoever floods Europe with uncontrolled weapons puts millions of lives at risk for years, for decades.

This was an undisputable brutal act of terror. Unfortunately, it was this tragedy that gave a wake-up call to many in the world about the situation in Ukraine.

Long after wars end, the fear and hate linger on.

How many more deaths will be caused by the handguns handed out, with absolutely no controls or accountability in those regions?

How many innocent children will step on landmines so massively utilized by the separatists?

How many lives will be ruined and souls poisoned by the propaganda machine?

The act of pumping the region full of uncontrolled arms represents a policy of state-funded terrorism—and it needs to stop now.

The cynical downing of the Malaysian Boeing revealed one more important thing: we are now at the forefront of the fight against the terrorism.

And we need to join our efforts to effectively respond to this challenge.

With this said, people throughout the world are asking the same questions:

"Are we on the eve of a new cold war?"

"Is the possibility of a new, terrible, and unimaginable European war there?"

"Is what until recently seemed unthinkable now becoming a reality?"

Sadly, today, the answer to all of these questions is "yes."

However, we cannot and must not accept this as an inevitability.

As recently as 2008, the then-President of Russia ran his election campaign under the slogan “Freedom is better than non-freedom.” And it was in Russia in the year 2008.

I am sure that, despite the Crimean annexation and the ongoing aggression, millions of Russians still remember that slogan and take it seriously.

Please, let’s remind them. Let’s show them that freedom is not a luxury—as some try to convince them—but a necessity, and a precondition for the true success of a nation.

I am convinced that the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia have enough goodwill to give peace one last chance and prevail against the spirit of hate between our countries.

That is why my Presidency began with a peace plan and a one-sided cease-fire, which will last a long 10 days, again, paying a very high price of the killing Ukrainian soldiers, hitting Ukrainian planes, and hundreds wounded. We keep this cease-fire a long 10 days.

Unfortunately, this was not accepted by Russian separatists. That is why we are holding our fire now. That is why two armies stand before each other without massively shedding each other’s blood. And if things work out right, they will not have to.

I am in daily contact with the leaders of the world, including the leader of Russia.

The dialogue is not easy, believe me. Over these last months, too much goodwill was destroyed. Too much hate was generated, naturally and artificially. Too many people have died.

Based on that, I feel there is a growing mutual recognition that enough is enough. The bloodshed must stop. The pandemic of hate must be localized and contained.

As President, looking in the eyes of the mothers and wives of the dead soldiers and civilians, believe me, this is my hardest duty.

No one can take it lightly. Today, it is my burden and the burden of President Putin. As he lit a candle in a Moscow church to remember those who perished in this war last week, I did the same in Kiev.

And from the bottom of my heart, I deeply, profoundly wish that church candles would be the only things burned in Ukraine from now on.

□ 1050

Over the last months, Ukrainians have shown that they have the courage to stand up to the most powerful enemy. We will never obey or bend to the aggressor. We are ready to fight, but we are a people of peace, and we extend the hand of peace to Russia and to the Russian-inspired separatists.

I am ready to do my utmost to avoid a further escalation and casualties,

even at this point, when the war has already started feeding on itself.

Sooner or later, I am absolutely sure peace will return to Ukrainian homes; and, despite the insanity of this war, I am convinced that peace can be achieved sooner rather than later. I am ready to offer the separatists more rights than any part of Ukraine has ever had in the history of the nation.

I am ready to discuss anything—Ukrainian independence, Ukrainian territory, Ukrainian sovereignty—except one thing, Ukraine’s dismemberment. I am confident that, if this war is about the rights and not about the geopolitical ambitions, a solution must—and I am sure will—be found.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 1991, independence came to Ukraine at a very low cost and peacefully; yet the more real this independence became, the higher grew its cost. Today, that cost is as high as it gets.

While fighting this war, we learn to value independence and to recognize true friends, and at no point do we ever forget why we need independence. We need it to have a country worthy of the dreams of our ancestors. We need a state that would give its citizens a life of dignity, fairness, and equal opportunity.

To reach this goal, we will have to root out the sins that drained Ukraine’s potential for such a long time and made the two decades of independence a time of lost opportunities. We are painfully aware of these sins—largely inherited from the era of Soviet Union decay—corruption, bureaucracy, and the self-preserving cynicism of political elites.

There is a saying that each people deserve the government it gets. Ukraine’s two revolutions within a single decade show that Ukraine as a people is much better than Ukraine as a government. It shows that Ukraine needs and deserves deep and profound modernization in absolutely all spheres, of the kind that brought economic success to Poland.

Given the current situation in and around Ukraine, the implementation of comprehensive reforms is not a matter of Ukraine succeeding but of Ukraine surviving. Deeply aware of that, I gave my voters this pledge, and I will stick to it.

With the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement signed and ratified simultaneously in the Ukrainian and the European Parliament, we have a clear path of reforms before us. Never in the history of the European Union was there a document that was paid for so dearly, at such incredible human cost and sacrifice.

This sacrifice, the memory of the hundreds dead and wounded, will be one more reason and incentive to hold to this unique chance to make Ukraine live up to its potential.

Ukraine needs more than governance and noncorrupt public administration.

Ukraine needs to delegate more powers to the local communities. Ukraine needs to rely more on its strong, vibrant, and dynamic civil society.

Ukraine is building a new model of managing its state and economic affairs, where merit and hard work are duly rewarded. Ukraine needs know-how, technology, and new startups to become better integrated with the global economy. And, for all that, we need America’s help.

In particular, I ask the Congress to create a special fund to support investments of American companies in Ukraine and to help us with reforming our economy and our justice system. I assure you that all aid received from the West will be utilized by noncorrupt institutions and that the new generation of officials will make sure the funds are distributed effectively.

Ladies and gentlemen, we called our revolution the revolution of dignity. Human dignity was the driving force that took people to the streets. This revolution must result in an education of dignity, an economy of dignity, and a society of dignity.

Human dignity is what makes Ukraine’s heart beat and Ukraine’s mind look toward a new and better version of itself. Human dignity is the one thing we have to oppose the barbarism of those attacking us.

It is the one thing that we can set against the sea of lies in which the highly sophisticated and well-funded machine of Russian propaganda is trying to drown the truth about Ukrainian democracy.

In the coming years, too many things will depend on Ukrainian success. This success will be determined by Ukraine’s new leadership, by its new political generation, and by the newly mobilized society of Ukraine. Ukraine truly makes a difference.

By supporting Ukraine, you support a new future for Europe and the entire free world. By supporting Ukraine, you support a nation that has chosen freedom in the most cynical of times.

In Ukraine, you don’t build a democracy; it already exists. You just defend it. This is exactly what makes Ukraine unique and its struggle deeply and profoundly different from any other conflicts on the world scene. This is what makes Ukraine the ultimate test of adherence to the ideal of freedom.

“Live free or die” was one of the mottos of the American Revolutionary War.

“Live free or die” was the spirit of the revolutionary Maidan during the dramatic winter months of 2014, with the significant presence of the Members of the United States Congress, and we thank you for that.

“Live free or die” are the words of Ukrainian soldiers standing on the line of freedom in this war.

“Live free” must be the answer with which Ukraine comes out of this war.

“Live free” must be the message Ukraine and America send to the world, while standing together in this time of enormous challenge.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m., His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1201

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON) at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 727 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 727

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the

House the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from September 22, 2014, through November 11, 2014,—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering a rule for the consideration of two bills, a package to boost America's energy production and a package to jump-start our American economy. Combined, these bills will help get America back to work with an America that we can afford.

First, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.

This bill would accomplish three important goals for the American family: first, it would create up to 1.2 million good-paying jobs for Americans who are out of work or who are underemployed; second, it would lower—it would lower—energy prices in America; third, it would draw our country closer to an important goal that we should all share, and that is American energy independence.

Let's start by identifying the problem. The facts of the case are that the Federal Government is standing in the way of an American energy boom. That means they are standing in the way of American progress and progress for Americans to have jobs and a better life.

For over 6 years, the American people have waited for this administration to approve construction of the Keystone pipeline. Unfortunately, the approval process has been marred by indecision and unnecessary delays.

First, opponents of the pipeline argue that it would be an environmental disaster; since then, virtually all of the major environmental concerns surrounding the project have been not only addressed, but debugged.

Second, opponents of the pipeline argue that it was unsafe; yet study after study after study have shown the pipeline to be safe and an effective means to transport much-needed energies for America's resources.

The opponents of the Keystone pipeline have run out of excuses, but they continue to delay a decision.

Then there is the Department of Energy, which has been far too slow in approving applications to export liquefied natural gas. The Department has decided on only nine applications submitted to it for the last 4 years.

Twenty-six applications still await action—many, many of which have been delayed by this administration for purely political reasons—another reason to say they are getting in the way of Americans having jobs today. They are getting in the way of American independence for energy.

As a result of these delays, America is squandering an energy boom that could make America, which is the largest producer of natural gas, even better and add to the American economy.

The Department's broken application process destroys good-paying jobs and hampers our economic growth. The energy revolution already supports 1.7

million high-paying, great jobs in America, and we could add an additional 1.3 million new American high-paying jobs by 2020, but only if the Federal Government will get out of the way of its development.

It also allows our international competitors, such as Russia and Iran, not to be dominant in the marketplace and not to use domination for political power and economic power over other countries in Europe.

The Federal Government has ruled 87 percent of our offshore acreage currently off-limits to energy production. Even worse, the administration doesn't have a plan to develop these resources. In fact, the administration's offshore leasing plan for the next 3 years offers no new areas for lease and includes the lowest number of lease sales in history.

This administration's no new drilling policies have cost Americans jobs. We have forfeited revenue that would help us pay down our national debt and denied access to American oil and natural gas that would lessen dependence on foreign sources. More importantly, the American consumer continues to pay higher prices at the pump, nearly double from the time this administration took office a scant 5-plus years ago.

My friends in the minority might rightly point out that U.S. oil and natural gas production is growing; however, the growth is entirely due to increased output on State and private lands, not on Federal lands. Our growth in energy production is in spite of the Federal Government, not because of it.

Combined, these policies hurt the American people. They hurt men, women, and families who need to be able to have a stable price at the pump with energy that is available in a constant supply throughout the seasons.

High energy costs drive up prices, they limit what American families can do with their individual resources, and it is a problem in our economy. That means that the American people have less money in their pockets to buy groceries, to pay the mortgage, or to purchase school supplies for their kids.

What are the solutions to these problems? First, the energy package considered under this rule would speed up approval of the Keystone pipeline. When completed, the Keystone pipeline will transport over 800,000 barrels of oil every single day, adding to the supply.

That means that we can wean ourselves off Middle East oil. The equivalent of half of our daily imports comes from the Middle East.

Second, the bill would force the Department of Energy to issue a final decision on applications to export liquefied natural gas within 30 days of completing the environmental review process, an important step in increasing our exports of LNG and adding to the 1.3 million jobs that are awaiting filling as a result of this delay by this administration.

Third, H.R. 2 would expand oil and natural gas production in the United States by rolling back the administration's overzealous environmental policies that have slowed our economic progress and made energy too expensive.

At a time when so many Americans are unemployed and underemployed, this job-creating legislation would unleash our vast energy resources to create these 1.2 million jobs. We need them now. We need America to have stable energy prices.

In short, the bill would finally pave a way forward for energy policies that would lower energy prices, strengthen our economy, create jobs, lessen our dependence on foreign energy sources, and give the American family and worker an opportunity to have gasoline at the pump at a lesser price.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule and the underlying bills, the so-called American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act—it is H.R. 2—and the Jobs for America, so-called, Act, H.R. 4. Don't let the titles of these bills fool you. H.R. 2 and H.R. 4 won't create any new jobs but would continue to degrade the quality of life and health of the American people.

These bills put more money in the pockets of big industry, corporate welfare, undermine the efficiency of our regulatory activities, and continue to fail to provide opportunities for the middle class, while they continue to enrich international conglomerates and corporations.

Not only are these bills bad, but I should add, Mr. Speaker, the House has already voted on all of these bills that are already included in H.R. 2 and H.R. 4 this session—just another waste of taxpayer time and money here debating and voting on bills that have already been passed. Just as the Republicans have chosen to repeal the Affordable Care Act 53 times, so too we are passing many of these bills for the second time here today if that is the decision the House chooses to make.

Now, I think it is clear, all of us here know, that these bills will not become law, that the Senate did not take them up after the House passed them. There is no indication or reason to believe that in this new configuration and being lumped together in new and more sinister ways that the Senate will react any more positively.

Sadly, it is quite clear that the majority here in the House are either unable or unwilling to bring forth fresh ideas to jump-start the middle class.

These bills instead are bound to political pandering, rewarding of campaign donors and large corporations in advance of elections, instead of taking advantage of our precious few remaining days of session to address the real problems facing our Nation.

I am also dismayed that both of these bills are being reviewed under a closed rule here today. It was fairly recently here on the floor of the House that we celebrated the diamond jubilee of closed rules, 75 closed rules from the Republican Party. H.R. 2 and H.R. 4 are the 76th and 77th closed rules this Congress. Just before this Chamber breaks for a 6-week-long recess, the majority has shut down the process of regular order and not allowed Republicans or Democrats to offer our amendments to improve these bills.

Even though they are not bringing new legislation before us today, we should at least allow—at least allow—Democrats and Republicans to offer their ideas to make these bills better. What is the point in passing the exact same bills without even giving Members of this body the ability to make them better?

I offered two amendments in this bill, which I will speak about later, but, unfortunately, neither was made in order. Other Members of this body also offered great ideas to help improve this legislation, but none were allowed. Instead, we have a restricted rule which has shut out debate from Members on both sides of the aisle. If we can defeat this rule, we can move forward with an open process, encouraging and allowing amendments from both sides of the aisle.

We don't have the precious time left for political posturing. While we were talking here now, I got a text on my phone that votes are, in fact, canceled for tomorrow. I am not sure if my colleague is yet aware of that or if the Speaker is yet aware of that, but this, in fact, may be the last day that we are in session before the election.

And yet instead of dealing with immigration reform, there is a bill to pass of more than two-thirds. Instead of protecting LGBT Americans from being fired from their job just because of who they love or who they are, here we are today bringing forward bills that have already passed in different configurations, that would hurt the quality of life for American families, that would hurt the environment and hurt the health of the American people.

This compilation of bills in H.R. 2 is really an oil and gas industry wish list. Now, of course all of us support responsible energy development on Federal lands and private lands, make sure we balance production with our quality of life and our health. This bill, however, would prioritize development over all other uses of land and all other values that we hold as a country. This bill

would also reduce important protections that we have in favor of speculative energy exploration and development.

Now is not the time to pass a massive corporate giveaway bill to the oil and gas industry, an industry that is already very profitable. They don't need more taxpayer subsidies just to add to their bottom line, especially not at the expense of our health, our environment, and the enjoyment of our public lands and our quality of life.

While there are many problematic provisions in the bill, several are particularly concerning. One provision in the bill would streamline pipeline approvals, so it would even allow for the automatic approval of natural gas pipeline projects without any impact studies or opportunities for public comment.

This bill would also discourage environmental analysis, undermine agency decisions like curbing carbon pollution, and yet another provision would prevent the Federal Government from overseeing fracking activities on Federal lands, an issue near and dear to the hearts of my constituents in the State of Colorado.

It is particularly egregious that given that this bill has a wish list from the oil and gas industry, that somehow, for those of us who support an all-of-the-above energy approach, it left out the wind energy production tax credit. The wind production tax credit is a solution that has allowed for rapid scaling of wind power over the past couple of decades. So why would we be doubling down with taxpayer subsidies for the oil and gas industry at the same time we are not even renewing the one important subsidy that wind energy has?

Now, I offered two different solutions for this, and I was hoping either one of them would have been a constructive way to approach this on the floor of the House. I offered an amendment with Mr. PERLMUTTER to simply extend the wind production tax credit for the next 2 years. Now, that would create jobs, encourage private investment, and allow wind energy to compete on a level playing field with the heavily subsidized oil and gas industry.

I also offered another solution—and I am certainly willing to support either—and that solution would be to eliminate the over \$40 billion in taxpayer subsidies to the oil and gas industry. If we had gone that route, again, at least wind and solar energy would be able to compete on a level playing field because we would stop doling out our precious taxpayer dollars as subsidies to the legacy interests in the oil and gas industry.

That too was not allowed to even be debated, not for 10 minutes, not for 1 minute. Instead, apparently having Friday off was more important than allowing Democratic and Republican

Members of this body to present their ideas on how to make a bad bill better.

H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act, is a group of 15 bills that have also been previously passed by the House. Many of them serve to attack our processes we have in place to keep American consumers safe. The bill empowers polluters, bogs down agencies that are charged with protecting the public health. None of them have become law, having already been passed, and I think all my colleagues here know that none of them will become law in this new and more sinister configuration.

Now, I would love to see a balanced tax extender package that lowers the Federal deficit, strengthens our economy, can actually pass the Senate and be signed into law, but I think we all know that is not the bill before us today.

H.R. 4 would actually add to the deficit by making tax cuts for many special interests permanent. A \$574 billion deficit-busting bill on our last day of session, what a great lead-in to the general election for the Republicans to present a massive, Big Government spending, \$574 billion subsidy bill for our consideration. I think the American people understand the contrast and the different approaches that are in play this year.

Now, an amendment I offered with Mr. BLUMENAUER, which I mentioned earlier, would have offset some of that cost by eliminating the oil and gas industry subsidies to the tune of \$40 billion. Now, the bill still would have cost \$534 billion, but it would have cost \$40 billion less if we had eliminated the oil and gas subsidies. But, again, apparently having a Friday off is more important to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle than having a full and open debate of the merits or lack of merits of the proposal I advanced with Mr. BLUMENAUER.

In summary, I oppose the closed rule in addition to the underlying bills.

Now, we could have shown the American people that Congress could end on a positive note, that we could come together and address our broken immigration system, that we could come together to address our deficit; but instead, we are providing yet another example of why Congress continues to have record low approval ratings: rehashed, repackaged, partisan bills costing taxpayers \$574 billion, enriching the special interests in corporations, and then going on vacation. And people wonder why the American people aren't thrilled with the United States Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Hood River, Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Rules Committee has

actually read the bills that are in this package and knows that they are much more than what my colleague and friend from Colorado just described. Because actually, the forestry legislation is something that passed this House 363 days ago in a big bipartisan vote, a big portion of which was written by my Democratic friends PETER DEFAZIO and KURT SCHRADER. That is in this package.

We have another bill coming up later that has twice passed this House unanimously. Those aren't partisan bills that are being put out, as you said, Mr. POLIS, to reward donors or anything else. This is about creating jobs in America.

By the way, lots of parts of the world, like my district, need jobs. They need the certainty of jobs. And I don't know about Colorado, but Oregon and California and a lot of places are going up in smoke, choked with smoke because of forest fires.

The legislation in this package that we are going to send back over to the Senate one more time, thanks to this rule and thanks to the leadership of this chairman, would allow us to get people back to work in the woods, address the problems of these fires, produce revenues for schoolteachers, for sheriffs and sheriff's deputies, for search and rescue, for all the basic, fundamental services that matter in rural communities and, I think, matter across the West.

So, if you don't believe in taking care of your forests, then vote "no" on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, 363 days ago, the House passed H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Two days short of a year, the Senate has done nothing—nothing. They failed to pass a single active forestry bill—nothing. Our forests are going up in smoke. We are spending taxpayer dollars to fight the fires. We are devastating watersheds. This has to change.

The Federal Government controls over 50 percent of the land in Oregon. In 10 of the 20 counties I represent, they control over half of the land. Over the last 30 years, timber harvests on these lands, these Federal lands, has been decreased by 90 percent—nine-zero. Forests aren't static; they keep growing and they keep dying. We get beetle infestations; we get drought; and then we get fire. Nothing happens after the fire, other than the trees sit there and burn. Then they die; then they rot; then they fall over. There is no productive use. All that needs to change.

Ninety percent reduction in harvest of Federal lands.

Do you know what that means out in rural areas where the Federal Government is supposed to be the steward? It means that we have lost 300 mills and 30,000 American jobs—30,000 American jobs. These are jobs bills we are talking

about here. These same rural areas that I represent have poverty rates at 20, 25, 30, even as high as 33.9 percent in Josephine County, right down in here, 33.9.

You want to do something about poverty? Create a job. You want to do something about getting America on track? Pass these bills. Get the Senate to pass these bills. We will create jobs. We will generate revenue. We will have positive cash flow in this country for once. It doesn't have to be this way. We can put people back to work. So Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP and myself and others worked on the bipartisan forestry legislation.

As I mentioned, we actually have run this bill through an independent evaluation process to say what does this mean for the people of Oregon, because there is a portion here that relates just to the O&C lands which are only in Oregon. Democratic Governor—Democratic Governor—John Kitzhaber, his team took a look at our bipartisan bill, and they concluded that it would create or save 3,000 Oregon jobs. These are real jobs. These are real people. These are real families that have been suffering. Three thousand Oregon jobs.

It would generate \$100 million in revenue or thereabouts. That would pay—pay—for basic services, pay for basic services. 500 million board-feet of timber a year would be harvested. It would be predictable. You would have a private sector involvement here.

Twenty-nine Oregon counties, from Klamath, to Hood River, to Wallowa, including all 20 in my district, 29 Oregon counties passed resolutions supporting this bipartisan legislation. We passed it 363 days ago. The Senate, I don't know what they do over there, not much productive. We are going to give them another chance.

Yes, we are repackaging these bills. Yes, the House has passed these bills before. Yes, they passed in a bipartisan manner. We are at the end of our legislative session. It is time, one more time, to make another attempt to pass this into law, to wake up the Senate, to get them to do the right thing.

So support the rule. Let's move forward. We don't need more partisan rhetoric here. We need to help America get on its feet. We need to take better care of our forests. We need to take better care of our watersheds. We need to put people back to work in America. And that is what these bills do.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule. And for the benefit of my colleagues, I want to be very clear about one of the implications of the language in this rule that is before us.

□ 1230

A vote for this rule is a vote to shut off the mechanisms of the War Powers

Resolution for the next 2 months. If any Member of this House has any concerns about the ongoing military operations in Iraq, the potential of U.S. military airstrikes in Syria, or the possible introduction of U.S. combat ground forces into either country, then this rule will tie their hands for the next 2 months.

If any Member introduces a privileged resolution under the terms of the War Powers Resolution, this rule freezes that resolution in place and stops the clock that would normally advance under the War Powers Resolution.

It is perfectly clear that the House will not debate and vote on an authorization on Iraq at this time. Unfortunately, it is not clear if any vote will ever happen at any time in this House, even after we come back in November, even though there is a growing bipartisan consensus that such an authorization is needed.

This rule freezes out each and every Member of this House from taking any action to move forward the possibility of a vote on Iraq or Syria under the terms put in place by the War Powers Resolution.

On August 8, the U.S. began daily bombing in Iraq—at first to protect the Yazidis trapped on Mount Sinjar. But almost immediately, the bombing campaign expanded to include infrastructure, and then to provide air support to ground operations to retake territory by Iraqi and Kurdish military forces, and then to protect more major infrastructure, and this week to dislodge ISIL from the environs of Baghdad. For 6 weeks, I have been waiting patiently for the leadership of this House to recognize that what we all know is true: the United States is engaged in hostilities and carrying out sustained combat operations in Iraq and that it is time for the House to debate and vote on an authorization.

Yesterday, this House voted to authorize training and equipping Syrian opposition forces. But we have yet to debate and vote on an authorization for the combat operations we are already carrying out in Iraq. Over 150 airstrikes—bombs falling nearly every day—in Iraq. And if that doesn't count as sustained combat, then I don't know what the hell does.

I hear the Senate is drafting an authorization, but no such leadership is happening here in the House. The Speaker says he is waiting for the White House to send a request for an authorization to the House. But as I have said before, the President has stated that he thinks he has all the authority in the world that he needs or wants. It is Congress that is failing to carry out its constitutional responsibilities. It is Congress that is shirking its duties. It is Congress that is sniping from the sidelines while avoiding any responsibility for the service-

men and -women that we are placing in harm's way.

In July, this House overwhelmingly passed a resolution that I offered, along with WALTER JONES and BARBARA LEE, requiring the House to vote on an authorization. And I have been waiting—patiently and respectfully—for the Speaker to schedule such a vote.

Instead, this rule goes in the opposite direction, shutting down the ability of any Member to introduce a privileged resolution and allowing it to mature, as we set forth in the War Powers Resolution.

Now, I understand that this restriction is often included when Congress is in recess for a prolonged period of time. But this time is different, Mr. Speaker, and every Member of this Chamber knows it is different.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Not only are we engaged in sustained combat operations in Iraq, but the President announced last week that he intends to escalate and expand those military operations, and quite likely extend them to Syria. This is a moment in history when the House should not and must not remain silent, let alone slink out of town. We have a responsibility to act.

Until that happens, until we get an ironclad commitment from the leadership of this House that we will debate and vote on an authorization, then I would urge my colleagues to vote down this rule. We have a constitutional responsibility when it comes to war.

Now, I don't believe we should go into another war, but whether you agree with me or you think we should launch into another war, we have an obligation, a constitutional responsibility, to debate and vote on that authorization. We are not doing that. I urge the Speaker to give us that commitment.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Massachusetts well understands that we handled a privileged resolution on the floor where there was a vote a little bit more than a month ago before the last break.

What the gentleman wants to do is bring Congress back to come and grandstand on the floor for a privileged resolution during the break. The gentleman well understands the rules of the House, the privileges that he is given as a Member, and he knows that he has approached me numerous times, as well as the Speaker of the House, who has offered the gentleman every opportunity, under the rules of the House, that any Member would have.

What this very clearly says is we will not start that clock while we are on recess. That is a normal and regular thing for the House to do, for the rules of this House to protect all the Members.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SESSIONS. I see no reason to. The gentleman just had time and spoke his words. I thank the gentleman very much.

At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Grandfather Community, North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the vice chairman of the Rules Committee.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying bill.

Each year, Washington imposes thousands of pages of rules and regulations on America's private sector employers, as well as State and local governments. Buried in those pages are costly Federal mandates that make it harder for businesses to hire and cash-strapped States, counties, and cities to serve their citizens.

There are some who may not understand why a bill to improve the regulatory process is also a bill about jobs. As a former small business owner, I understand firsthand the concerns job creators have about how lengthy, confusing rules affect their ability to conduct business and provide jobs and opportunities to their employees.

That is why I introduced H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, which we call UMITA, and am glad to see it included in H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act.

The bill builds upon the bipartisan 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, also known as UMRA, and will ensure awareness and public disclosure of the cost—in dollars and jobs—that Federal dictates pose to the economy and local governments.

H.R. 899, as included in H.R. 4, does not seek to prevent the Federal Government from regulating. Rather, it seeks to ensure that its regulations are deliberative and economically defensible.

Asking regulators to thoroughly consider and understand the costs of a rule in addition to its benefits should not be controversial—it is just plain common sense.

Regulators and legislators should know exactly what they are asking the American people to pay and whether the cost of compliance might make it harder for family businesses to meet payroll and stay afloat.

And no government body—on purpose or accidentally—should skirt public scrutiny when jobs and scarce resources are at stake.

In the nearly 20 years since UMRA's passage, weaknesses in the law have been revealed, weaknesses that some government agencies and independent regulatory bodies have exploited.

UMITA makes independent regulatory agencies subject to UMRA's requirements, ending a two-tier system that allowed regulations to be implemented without the required consideration, scrutiny, or public input.

H.R. 899 recognizes that the Federal Government's reach extends way beyond the taxes it collects and the money it spends. Regulations can advance government initiatives without using tax dollars.

Rather than count expenses for new programs, the government can require the private sector, as well as State and local governments, to pay for Federal initiatives through compliance costs.

This bill shines much needed light on the murky regulatory process and ensures the public has transparent access to proposed rules and regulations.

Both Democrats and Republicans recognize that appropriate regulations don't need to be issued in the dead of night or negotiated behind closed doors. That is why the House passed H.R. 899 with bipartisan support earlier this year.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I won't need 1½ minutes, but I want to be clear for Members. The privileges that are afforded to Members of this House to vote on the war, those privileges are taken away by this rule.

I want to assure the gentleman from Texas, my colleague and my friend, that I am not interested in grandstanding, and any such a suggestion I find offensive, quite frankly. What I am interested in is us doing our job.

And I want to remind my colleagues that war is a big deal. It is a big deal, and it is long past time that this House treated it as such. We have a constitutional responsibility that we are not living up to.

We voted in July overwhelmingly to say that if there are sustained combat operations in Iraq we are going to have a vote on that. Well, there are sustained combat operations in Iraq. We are much more deeply involved today than we were in July. And I predict by the time we come back in November we will be even more deeply involved.

When are we going to do our job? When are we going to vote? That is what my complaint is about, I would say to the gentleman from Texas. My complaint is that we are not living up to our constitutional responsibilities.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With great respect to the gentleman from Massachusetts, I appreciate his insistence on the floor and respect that very much.

I think that this House is, respectfully, doing its obligations and duties. That is what we are doing here today, trying to work with the American peo-

ple so that we can once again move a jobs package forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman for yielding.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this rule and the underlying legislation, which I support, because included in the underlying legislation is H.R. 1493, the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlement Act, that I authored.

I support these bills that the House will debate and vote on because they will make a difference in the lives of and make them more affordable for families in Georgia and all across America.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the Republican solutions that are offered in these bills that are being brought to the floor today are solutions for moms and dads who can't find full-time employment, who can't afford to buy a full tank of gas, who sit down at the kitchen table with a heavy heart because they can't afford the basics that they just heard their child talk about that they wanted.

Mr. Speaker, America is searching for the things that matter. They are wanting their government to work and they are wanting their government to put ideas to paper. It is not the ideas simply spoken on the floor, but it is the ideas and the dreams and the hopes of every family as they come together wanting a better life, and they want the government not to impede those areas and actually to encourage them.

These bills don't represent just the hard work of my colleagues. They represent the hopes and dreams of Americans who have given up on our government.

House Republicans stand united with one goal: to restore what has been lost. To restore the jobs, the affordable housing, the quality education, the ability to start a business in your home and to see it flourish.

I support these bills to expand domestic energy production because each job it creates equals a family that can put food on the table, buy school uniforms, and do the things that they want to do, not what government dictates.

I am a Republican because I believe that government exists to help, not hinder its citizens. I support these solutions because I firmly believe every family in this Nation should be able to afford life and everything that it entails.

Remember, our Founders said it is the pursuit of happiness, not a guarantee of happiness. And too many times coming from Washington we want to say we will guarantee your happiness. That is not what the Founders said. In fact, what the Founders said is the government will provide the

basis for you to go pursue your own happiness, to provide lifelong tools to those who have fallen on hard times, to help moms who are struggling to provide for their kids and have no one to help them. This is the type of government that I believe in, and this is the type of government Republicans in the House are committed to fighting for.

□ 1245

Unfortunately, many times what happens, I believe, is that the Republicans are the ones that have the ability and the track record to create a Federal Government who keeps our Nation safe from terrorism, who gives parents more control over their children's education, and encourages startups and businesses to grow and hire more and more people.

Unfortunately, many times in our debates over priorities and jobs, we come and paint with broad strokes. We paint with broad strokes, saying that if you want to get government out of the business of hindering businesses through regulation after regulation after regulation—not to destroy quality of life, but to improve business and maintain both—that you are simply destroying the things that built America.

Those are broad strokes that the American people, Mr. Speaker, are no longer buying. They are no longer buying a government that simply gets in the way and does not encourage.

I support these solutions on the floor today because I support a government that works, not a government that works against its people. The Republicans are putting forward on this floor today not just simply partisan bills that have been attacked, but these are bipartisan bills being put forward.

I agree with many on the floor today, but it is time that the system work, and it is time for the United States Senate to work. If they don't like our ideas, they should put their own ideas on paper and send them back over, instead of hindering what is going on and having a debate that simply rounds up in this room right here, with friends on both sides of the aisle frustrated with the process.

Before I came to Congress, I was a pastor. I am still a chaplain in the United States military. The greatest thing that I see for people today is that they have lost trust, unfortunately. They have broke a breach of faith with us.

I believe when we decide that government should be about the people and for the people, then we are doing exactly what we are supposed to be doing; and that is to encourage, as our Founders said, the pursuit of happiness and not the guarantee of happiness.

When we do that, Mr. Speaker, that is Republican principles at play, that is Republican solutions, and that is what these bills offer today.

Don't buy the other argument. Buy the Republican principles that we will

help those who need help, and that is the American citizen. That is what I believe in. That is the government I want to see work, not one that hinders people.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman has any remaining speakers.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for asking and would respond back that I do not have any additional speakers.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 15, the comprehensive immigration reform bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas yield for the purpose of this unanimous consent request?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I do not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas does not yield. Therefore, the unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thought it was worth a try here to reduce the deficit by over \$200 billion, create several hundred thousand jobs for Americans, secure our border and restore the rule of law but, apparently, going on vacation on Friday is more important.

These are likely the last votes that this Chamber will take before the election. Unfortunately, rather than move forward on protecting our borders, rather than move forward on reducing our deficit, rather than move forward on so many of the important national priorities we have, we are simply taking up bills that have already passed, reconsidering them under new and more sinister forms, and sending them nowhere at no time.

These bills are not going to be law. They didn't become law last time. It is even harder for them to become law when they are packaged together in new and different ways. There is a word for this kind of legislative activity, and it isn't "governing." It is called "pandering."

Rather than spinning our wheels, we should have taken up the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill. I was hoping that I could have gotten the permission under unanimous consent to bring that up. I am confident we have strong support from Democrats and Republicans in this body to pass that bill and to send it on into law.

Unfortunately, more than a year after the Senate has passed immigration reform, the House still refuses to even allow a vote on our bipartisan immigration reform bill that secures our borders and restores the rule of law, reduces our deficit, and creates jobs for Americans; instead, the only votes the House has taken this year on the entire

topic of immigration have been to subject DREAMers—who grew up here and know no other country—to deportation and send immigrant children fleeing violence back to their countries, where they face possible persecution or death.

Rather than continuing to waste the American people's time and taxpayer money debating recycled measures over and over again, I wanted to give this body, through my unanimous consent request, one more opportunity to tackle an issue that will get larger and harder to deal with the longer we wait, and that is immigration.

If there are 10 million people here illegally today, Mr. Speaker, if this body continues to object to every motion we make to bring up a law that would secure our borders and restore the rule of law, there is likely to be 15 million people here illegally in 10 years. You can count on it.

This Nation deserves to have secure borders, we deserve to restore the rule of law, and we deserve to reflect our values as a Nation in our immigration system. I know we have the votes for this bill.

I urge my colleagues to change their plans for tomorrow and, instead, allow us to come back and pass immigration reform so that we can finally solve this issue, reduce our budget deficit, create jobs for Americans, secure our border, and end this Congress on a positive note, a positive note of moving forward on solving an issue that the American people are screaming out for a solution to rather than rehashing and repackaging special interest bills into new and more sinister forms.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to consider six separate pieces of legislation that are true priorities for jump-starting the middle class: the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, the Healthy Families Act, the Strong Start for America's Children Act, and the Bring Jobs Home Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" to defeat the previous question. I urge a "no" vote on the rule.

I encourage us to stay here and address immigration reform so that we can solve this issue for our country, reduce our deficit, and secure our borders.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this closed rule, number 76 and 77 of this Congress, allowing no allowed

amendments from either side, including the very reasonable all-of-the-above energy amendments that I offered with my colleagues Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. BLUMENAUER that either would have eliminated oil and gas subsidies or provided a similar and corresponding subsidy for the production tax credit and wind energy, so at least it can compete on a level playing field with the oil and gas industry.

I urge a “no” vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we have heard a number of speakers not only on the Republican side, but also the Democrat side, talk about the issues that need to be addressed today.

The Republican Party—the Republican majority—under the leadership of our great Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER, has gathered together today a group of bills that have passed the House of Representatives, many of them with overwhelming majorities.

We heard the gentleman from Oregon, GREG WALDEN, talking about the plight of the West—and not just in Oregon—where men and women who live in rural communities have found themselves losing their jobs as a result of the administration’s policies of how they would treat their own natural resources.

Mr. WALDEN, an Eagle Scout, just as I am an Eagle Scout, has the forestry merit badge. We understand healthy forests and how they can provide a product, a service, and enjoyment to the American people if well-managed; instead, this administration, because of their unwise management techniques, have allowed the West to burn down over the last 5 years.

At record levels, these forests and resources are up in smoke, not allowing those communities the opportunity to properly replant and take care of their own resources.

What I would like to highlight, if I can, is the Tax Code of America and how America is increasingly becoming less competitive with the world as a result of President Obama’s and the Democrats’ insistence to continually raise taxes and stand in the way of allowing us to be competitive with the world.

I would like to highlight, if I can, a chart here that comes from the Tax Foundation. They say America currently ranks 32nd among 34 major international nations in international tax competitiveness. This competitiveness, as you see here, starting at the very top, would find America 32nd out of 34th.

What does this mean? This means that, at a time when economies around the world are growing, we are finding that our country is stuck at an average rate of 2.2 percent.

We have other countries, for instance, like India, which has a 5 per-

cent growth; Russia has surpassed ours over the last 4 years; and China finds their GDP growth at 7.7 percent over the last 2 years; and we are finding that, quarter after quarter, American is even or below, only to “roar” back at a 2 percent level.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the House, what the package on the floor today is about is to talk about our ability—America—to be competitive with the world so that America’s businesses and America’s employers find work not only in America but compete on a global basis.

What Republicans are talking about today is a chance to have America gain back its footing, not with supremacy, but with competitiveness on a world stage, in a world market, where American products made by Americans—not just manufacturing, but other important intellectual properties—are sold to the world.

When America is at its very best, we are leaders in not just freedom but also in economic opportunity, and it spurs competitors around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, what we are about today in our closing is that the Republican Party, through our great Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER, is sending a strong message to the American people that we in the United States House of Representatives recognize that for America to be competitive, for America’s greatest days to be in our future, we must have a comprehensive view of not just the world and our competitiveness, but an opportunity for its citizens—as Congressman COLLINS has said today—to find work, to be entrepreneurial, and to move our country and the world forward. I believe that what we are talking about today makes a difference.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this resolution, “yes” on the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 727 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 377) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes. The first reading of the joint resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. General debate shall be confined to the joint resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the joint resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution for amendment the Committee

shall rise and report the joint resolution to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the joint resolution, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the joint resolution.

SEC. 8. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 377, the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 9. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 1010, the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4582) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 10. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 4582, the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1286) to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 11. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 1286, the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3461) to support early learning. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 12. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 3461, the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 851) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage domestic insourcing and discourage foreign outsourcing. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority

member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 13. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 377, H.R. 1010, H.R. 4582, H.R. 1286, H.R. 3461, or H.R. 851.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amend-

ment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 18, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On September 17, 2014, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider resolutions to authorize 12 prospectuses. These 12 prospectuses include two alteration projects, one construction project, and three leases included in the General Services Administration's (GSA) FY 2014 and FY 2015 Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. Six of the prospectuses were included in the Department of Veterans Affairs Construction, Long Range Capital Plans. At the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Committee authorized the leases to be executed pursuant to GSA's leasing authority in accordance with the provisions of the Public Buildings Act.

Our Committee continues to work to cut waste and the cost of federal property and

leases. The resolutions include space reductions, consolidations into government-owned space, and reduction in project scopes, saving \$225 million in avoided lease costs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 17, 2014.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE, SAN DIEGO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for repairs and alterations for the reconfiguration and alteration of space in the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse located at 880 Front Street in San Diego, California to consolidate the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and backfill other tenant agencies, at a design and review cost of \$1,997,317, an estimated construction cost

of \$16,042,940 and a management and inspection cost of \$1,688,743 for a total estimated project cost of \$19,729,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution authorizes the prospectus as amended by the FY2014 Expenditures Plans for Major Repairs and Alterations Program submitted by the General Services Administration on February 7, 2014 and the revised Housing Plan dated August 2014.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD14
Congressional District: 53

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a repair and alteration project for the reconfiguration and alteration of space in the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and US Courthouse (Schwartz FB-CT) to consolidate the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and backfill other tenant agencies in space vacated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and portions of the District Court upon their move to the new San Diego courthouse annex during the first quarter of FY2013. Approximately 184,000 rentable square feet (rsf) of space will be backfilled, building security will be improved to meet tenant requirements, and several of the building systems will be upgraded.

A prospectus for design was submitted in FY2011 which included a full modernization project for the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and US Courthouse with an estimated total project cost (ETPC) of \$213,056,000. The project was not fully approved at the time. In an attempt to address only the most critical life safety components of the full modernization project and to allow ICE to collocate 3 leased locations into a Federal building, the proposed project has been reduced in scope and cost with a revised cost of \$61,136,000.

The project will satisfy ICE's need for approximately 157,000 RSF to consolidate its regional operations from three leased locations. In addition to ICE, components of the Executive Office of Immigration Review, US Attorneys, US Trustees, Magistrate Court, US Bankruptcy Clerk, and Federal Protective Service will backfill the vacant space from leased locations. The backfill will allow the Government to release leased space, reducing the Government's rental payments to the private sector by over \$2,000,000 annually.

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I).....\$61,136,000

Major Work Items

Interior construction; security, electrical, fire protection and plumbing systems upgrades; exterior construction

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD14
Congressional District: 53

Project Budget

Design	\$6,292,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)	49,127,000
Management and Inspection (M&I)	5,717,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*	\$61,136,000

FY2014 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, ECC and M&I).....\$61,136,000

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

Schedule

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design and Construction	FY2014	FY2017

Building

The 625,715 rentable square foot (rsf) Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and US Courthouse, at 880 Front St. in downtown San Diego, was built in 1973. It consists of two adjacent structures, a six-story federal office wing, a five-story court wing, and underground parking and basement offices. The building's two wings share an upper basement and are connected by a bridge between the fifth and sixth floors. The last major capital project was a \$14.2 million HVAC upgrade funded in FY2002.

Tenant Agencies

Judiciary, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, GSA

Proposed Project

Approximately 184,000 RSF of vacated space will be reconfigured for occupancy by ICE, Executive Office of Immigration Review, US Attorneys, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Clerk, U.S. Trustee, U.S. Magistrate Court, and the Federal Protective Service coming from leased locations in the San Diego area. Two public restrooms will be remodeled for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS). The project includes wall hardening on several facades and the installation of bollards and an anti-ram barrier at the entrance to the garage. Building system upgrades including new automatic transfer switches, a new electric fire pump, new domestic water shut-off valves, a new emergency generator and new

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD14
Congressional District: 53

quick response fire sprinkler heads will be installed. Precast concrete panels on the south elevation of the building's office wing will be cleaned and sealed.

Major Work Items

Security Upgrade	\$4,483,000
Fire Protection Upgrade	1,338,000
Interior Construction	39,441,000
Electrical Upgrade	2,174,000
Plumbing Upgrade	1,294,000
Exterior Construction	<u>397,000</u>
Total ECC	\$49,127,000

Justification

A prospectus for design was submitted in FY2011 which included a full modernization project for the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and US Courthouse with an ETPC of \$213,056,000. The project was not fully approved at the time. In an attempt to address only the most critical life safety components of the full modernization project, the proposed project has been reduced in scope and cost.

In addition to addressing the critical life safety items necessary in the building the project will also backfill space at the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse vacated by tenants moving to the new San Diego Courthouse, improve building security, upgrade building systems, and collocate ICE functions in the San Diego area.

Currently the building falls short of blast and security standards. In addition, failure to repair or replace the outdated and inefficient building systems will cause operating costs to continue to increase and would likely lead to costly system failures. Further deterioration of the building's systems will make it difficult to backfill the space vacated by tenants moving to the San Diego Courthouse Annex.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD14
Congressional District: 53

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
Senate EPW	11/30/2010	\$22,336,000	Repair & Alteration

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

New Construction\$109,636,000
 Alteration\$ 81,957,000
 Leasing.....\$152,228,000

The 30 year, present value cost of alteration is \$27,670,000 less than the cost of new construction, an equivalent annual cost advantage of \$1,562,000.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ FEDERAL BUILDING AND U.S. COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-0167-SD14
Congressional District: 53

Recommendation

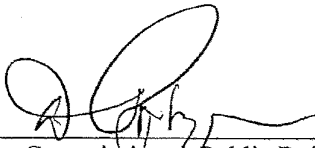
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

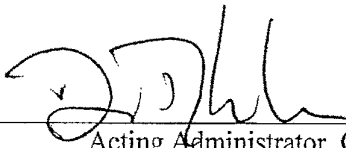
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

	Personnel				Current				Proposed			
	Office	Total	Office	Total	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Storage	Special	Total
Leased Locations												
401 West A Street-CA5939												
ICE	5	5	2,376		-	-	2,376					
185 West F Street-CA6431												
ICE	114	114	43,615		-	-	43,615					
610 W. Ash Street-CA6489												
ICE	40	40	7,954		-	-	7,954					
101 West Broadway - CA6274												
JD Office of the US Attorneys ¹	53	53	18,749		-	-	18,749					
101 West Broadway-CA6274												
Federal Protective Service	16	16	4,033		-	-	4,033					
402 West Broadway-CA6956												
JD US Trustees	35	35	8,746		-	-	8,746					
Subtotal:	263	263	85,473		-	-	85,473					
Edward J. Schwartz FB-CT (CA0167)												
Appeals Court	10	10										
Circuit Library	3	3	4,920		-	6,180	6,180	10	10	-	-	6,180
District Court	45	45	22,130		134	1,733	6,787	3	3	4,920	134	1,733
Magistrate Court	25	25	2,536		-	69,532	91,662	45	45	22,130	-	69,532
District Court Clerk	3	3	182		-	19,050	21,586	25	25	2,536	-	19,050
Grand Jury	3	3	1,686		-	168	350	3	3	182	-	168
DHS (CIS) ²	100	100	20,671		-	1,748	3,434	3	3	1,686	-	1,748
DHS-ICE	202	202	41,420		681	6,210	48,311	100	100	20,671	-	32
Federal Protective Service	9	9	1,996		-	1,996		25	25	3,512	195	1,163
JD US Trustee	-	-	-		-	-	-	19	19	4,679	-	2,184
DHS US Customs & Border Protection	6	6	287		-	234	521	3	3	521	-	521
GSA FAS Telecommunications Facilities	1	1	562		-	562		1	1	562	-	562
Federal Bureau of Investigation	1	1	153		-	153		1	1	153	-	153
FAS, All Other	1	1	201		-	201		1	1	201	-	201
Internal Revenue Service	27	27	5,824		387	-	6,211	27	27	5,824	387	-
Office Of U.S. Attorneys ¹	320	320	84,751		3,944	12,988	101,683	373	373	104,611	3,944	13,213
GSA PBS Field Office & San Diego Srvc Ctr ³	15	15	5,786		1,291	-	7,077	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury IG for Tax Administration (TIGTA) ⁴	3	3	445		-	-	445	5	5	499	-	200
US Marshals Service	52	52	10,331		4,429	19,831	34,591	52	52	10,331	4,429	19,831
US Tax Court	3	3	128		-	434	562	3	3	128	-	434
Joint Use	15	15	13,972		326	5,173	19,471	15	15	13,972	326	5,173
Vacant space	-	-	86,003		2,968	12,268	101,238	-	-	38,197	981	1,100
Subtotal:	844	844	303,984		14,160	155,581	473,724	1,214	1,214	303,635	12,896	157,193

AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ALTERATION—HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for the final phase of the multi-phase modernization of approximately one-half of the Harry S. Truman (Main State) Building located at 2201 C

Street, NW in Washington, D.C., including demolition and build out of the North Court area and the replacement of all HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems, the installation of a fire sprinkler system and replacement of elevators, at an additional estimated construction cost of \$23,962,000 and an additional management and inspection cost of \$1,577,000 for a total additional estimated project cost of \$25,539,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this res-

olution. This resolution authorizes the prospectus as amended by the revised Housing Plan dated August 2014. This resolution amends amounts authorized in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure resolution of August 1, 1996.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the final phase of a multi-phase modernization of approximately one-half of the Harry S. Truman (Main State) Building, located at 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. Alterations under this phase involve demolition and build out of the North Court area and the replacement of all HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems, the installation of a fire sprinkler system and replacement of the elevators.

This request amends prospectus PDC-00464, the last prospectus approved in support of the modernization of the Department of State Headquarters, a project that has spanned several decades with the design started in FY1991 and a revised construction completion anticipated for FY2016.

FY2014 Appropriation Requested¹

(Phase V - ECC and M & I)\$58,908,000

FY2014 Committee Approval Requested²\$25,539,000

Major Work Items (Phase V)

Interior construction, HVAC, electrical and plumbing system replacement, fire protection upgrades, conveyance systems, exterior construction, demolition and abatement, special construction

Project Budget

Design

Phase I (FY88)	\$3,650,000
Phase II (FY91)	2,216,000
Phase III (FY95)	980,000
Phase IV (FY96)	985,000
Phase IVa (FY07)	2,900,000
Phase V (FY09 ARRA)	4,435,000
Total Design	\$15,166,000

¹ Estimated Total Project Costs: \$184,611,000, Appropriations to Date Received: \$125,713,000

² Estimated Total Project Costs: \$184,611,000, Committee Approvals to Date Received: \$144,337,000

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

Estimated Construction Cost (ECC)

Phase I (FY99)	\$27,756,000
Phase II (FY00)	9,768,000
Phase III (FY01)	26,835,000
Phase IV (FY03)	27,190,000
Phase IVa (FY07)	1,616,000
Phase IV (FY09 ARRA)	10,300,000
Phase V (FY14)	55,808,000
Total ECC	\$159,273,000

Management and Inspection (M&I)

Phase I (FY99)	\$2,023,000
Phase II (FY00)	743,000
Phase III (FY01)	1,940,000
Phase IV (FY03)	2,253,000
Phase IVa (FY07)	113,000
Phase V (FY14)	3,100,000
Total M&I	\$10,172,000

Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)* **\$184,611,000**

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

FY2014 Appropriation Requested

(Phase V - ECC and M & I) **\$58,908,000**

FY2014 Committee Approval Requested **\$25,539,000**

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Design	FY1991	FY2011
Construction		
Phase I	FY1999	FY2005
Phase II	FY2000	FY2005
Phase III	FY2003	FY2005
Phase IV	FY2008	FY2012
Phase IVa	FY2008	FY2012
Phase V	FY2014	FY2016

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

Building

The Harry S Truman building is located at 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The original portion of the State Department Building, the "Old War Building", was completed in 1938. It was originally constructed for the War Department, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An addition, "New State", was constructed in 1960. The building provides approximately 2.6 million gross square feet of administrative and support spaces for the Department of State personnel and associated functions and has 905 inside parking spaces on the site.

Tenant Agencies

Department of State

Proposed Project

GSA is seeking to continue the on-going multi-phased modernization of the Harry S Truman (Main State) Building. The modernization project for the Main State Department was submitted and approved August 1, 1996.

Phase V work will include demolition and build-out of the west section of the North Court area. The build-out will include replacing all HVAC systems, electrical and plumbing systems, installing an automatic fire sprinkler system with fire pumps, replacing the elevators, and providing all new office and support spaces. In addition, technology has become more efficient since the construction documents were finished, so HVAC and electrical systems will be modified to take advantage of new efficiencies.

Major Work Items (Phase V)

Demolition and Abatement	\$9,787,000
Special Construction	1,233,000
Exterior Construction	3,019,000
Interior Construction	12,197,000
Conveyance Systems	9,034,000
Plumbing Replacement	871,000
HVAC Replacement	10,644,000
Fire Protection Upgrades	3,212,000
Electrical Systems Replacement	<u>5,811,000</u>
Total ECC (Phase V)	\$55,808,000

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

Justification

The proposed project will mitigate fire and life safety risks to the building occupants by providing sprinkler protection and additional means of building egress.

Obsolete systems will be replaced and upgraded in order to reduce the chances of system failure, sustained outages and labor intensive maintenance and operations costs. The mechanical and electrical systems were the original equipment dating from the 1940s and were outdated, undersized, and under capacity for current demands. Maintenance of these obsolete systems was labor intensive, resulting in frequent and prolonged inconvenience to the tenants and effective mission accomplishment.

The project will also address security requirements through wall hardening, progressive collapse mitigation, and blast window installation. While these security improvements are being largely funded by State rather than this prospectus, however the work must be coordinated for construction efficiency and to reduce taxpayer cost.

This prospectus provides for additional authority as a result of escalation of construction costs to complete Phase V.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

Harry S. Truman Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
100-202	1988	\$3,650,000	Design
101-509	1991	\$2,216,000	Design
103-329	1995	\$980,000	Design
104-52	1996	\$985,000	Design
105-277	1999	\$29,779,000	Phase I ECC & M&I
106-58	2000	\$10,511,000	Phase II ECC & M&I

GSA

PBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

106-554	2001	\$28,775,000	Phase III ECC & M&I
108-7	2003	\$29,443,000	Phase IV ECC & M&I
110-5	2007	\$4,629,000	Phase IV Add'l Design, ECC & M&I
111-5 (ARRA)	2009	\$14,735,000	Phase V Design, Phase IV ECC
Appropriations to Date		\$125,703,000	

Prior Committee Approvals

Harry S. Truman Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
House PWT	6/3/1987	\$3,650,000	Design
House PWT	6/28/1990	\$2,216,000	Design
Senate EPW	6/12/1990	\$2,216,000	Design
House T & I	8/1/1996	\$138,471,000	Add'l Design, ECC & M&I
Senate EPW	7/24/1996	\$138,471,000	Add'l Design ECC & M&I

Prior Prospectus-Level Projects in Building (past 10 years)

None

Alternatives Considered (30 year, present value cost analysis)

This project is a multi-year, multi-phased project. GSA is in the process of renovating the building therefore, there are no other feasible alternatives.

GSAPBS

**AMENDED PROSPECTUS - ALTERATION
HARRY S. TRUMAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-0046-WA14

Recommendation

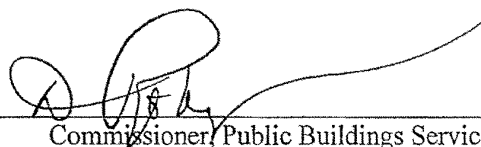
ALTERATION

Certification of Need

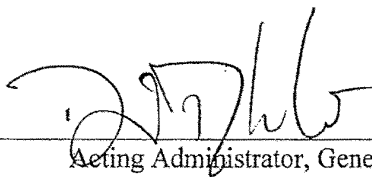
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended:


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:


Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

August 2014

**Housing Plan
Harry S. Truman Building**

PDC-0046-WA14
Washington, DC

Locations	CURRENT - Phase V			PROPOSED - Phase V		
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Harry S. Truman Building						
Phase V (FY 2014)	839	839	162,266	2,650	13,832	178,748
Total	839	839	162,266	2,650	13,832	178,748
Office Utilization Rate² Phase V					Special Space	
Building Office Tenants	Current	Proposed			Conference/Training	USF
	151	115			SCIF/Vaults	8,743
Total Building USF Rate³ Phase V					Work Rooms/Files	1,087
agencies with less than 10 employees)	Current	Proposed			Total	23,768
	213	174				

Current Office UR excludes 35,699 usf of office support space.

Proposed Office UR excludes 30,247 usf of office support space.

Locations	CURRENT - Phases 1 thru 5 and Balance of Building			PROPOSED - Phases 1 thru 5 and Balance of Building		
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Harry S. Truman Building						
Phases 1 through III	885	885	250,861	14,458	37,040	302,359
Phase IV	512	512	121,205	26,050	32,100	179,355
Phase V	839	839	162,266	2,650	13,832	178,748
Subtotal Phases I - V	2,236	2,236	534,332	43,158	82,972	660,462
Balance of Building (future project)	3,231	3,231	755,085	4,536	147,639	907,260
Total	5,467	5,467	1,289,417	47,694	230,611	1,567,722

Office Utilization Rate² - Phases I-V						Special Space	
Building Office Tenants	Current	Proposed			Auditorium/Conference/Exhibit		USF
	186	140			Kitchen		35,015
Total Building USF Rate³ Phase I-V					Computer/Telephone		44,807
All Building Tenants	Current	Proposed			Retail/Fitness/Medical		16,424
	295	248			Print Plant		7,891
					Outlease		12,316
					Communication Equipment Rooms		27,097
					SCIFs/Vault/Watch		1,525
					Work Room/Files		4,662
					Total		20,541
							170,278

Current Office UR excludes 117,553 usf of office support space.

NOTES:

¹ USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.² Office Utilization Rate = total office space available for office personnel. UR calculation excludes office support space USF.³ Total Building USF Rate = total building USF (office, storage, special) available for all building occupants (office, and non-office personnel).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

SITE AND CONSTRUCTION—FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION WINCHESTER, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the site and construction of a 256,425 gross square foot facility in Winchester, Virginia for the

Federal Bureau of Investigation to support its current and future critical record management space needs at a site cost of \$6,750,000, an estimated construction cost of \$85,543,000 and a management and inspection cost of \$5,560,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$97,853,000, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution as amended by this resolution.

Provided, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement shall include Frederick County, Virginia and the City of Winchester, Virginia.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - SITE & CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CENTRAL RECORDS COMPLEX
WINCHESTER, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-FBSC-FR14
Congressional District: 10

FY2014 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the site acquisition and construction of a 256,425 gross square foot (gsf) facility in Winchester, Virginia for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This facility will support the FBI's current and future critical record management space needs.

FY2014 House Committee Approval Requested

(Site, Construction and M&I).....\$108,726,000

FY2014 Senate Committee Approval Requested

(Construction and M&I)\$11,666,000

FY2014 Appropriation Requested

(Site, Construction and M&I).....\$108,726,000

Overview of Project

GSA proposes the design of a new Records Management Facility on an approximately 108-acre site, to be acquired by GSA in Winchester, Virginia. The facility will consolidate FBI's paper records currently housed within the Washington DC metropolitan area, at field offices across the country and in several national information technology centers. The facility will also provide for National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) compliant records storage for environmentally conditioned, fire-protected space in a secured facility. The proposed facility includes a record management building with office support, visitor screening center, secured service center, guard booth, and surface parking lot.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - SITE & CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CENTRAL RECORDS COMPLEX
WINCHESTER, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-FBSC-FR14
Congressional District: 10

Description**Site Information**

To Be Acquired..... 108 acres

Building Area

Building without Parking.....256,425 gsf

Building with Parking.....256,425 gsf

Number of outside parking spaces.....427

Project Budget

Site Acquisition.....\$7,500,000

Design and Review*\$95,048,000

Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) (\$371 /gsf)\$6,178,000

Management and Inspection (M&I).....\$108,726,000

Estimated GSA Total Project Cost (ETPC)\$108,726,000**

* Tenant agency is funding the design

** Tenant agency may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by the GSA.

FY2014 House Committee Approval Requested

(Site, Construction and M&I).....\$108,726,000

FY2014 Senate Committee Approval Requested

(Construction and M&I)\$11,666,000

FY2014 Appropriation Requested

(Site, Construction and M&I).....\$108,726,000

Location

Winchester, Virginia

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS - SITE & CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CENTRAL RECORDS COMPLEX
WINCHESTER, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-FBSC-FR14
Congressional District: 10

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Construction	FY2014	FY2016

Tenant Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Justification

Records management is crucial to the operations of the FBI. Many of the FBI records, which are an integral part of investigations, prosecutions and intelligence analyses the agency conducts, are currently primarily in paper form and dispersed throughout hundreds of locations nationwide.

The proposed centralized facility will promote timely access of FBI records to agents and analysts around the world; support FBI's long-term goal of converting applicable files into electronic, searchable format; provide a secure environment for FBI's valuable intellectual property; reduce records space requirements at FBI Field Offices redirecting field office positions to focus on FBI's operational mission; and enable greater consistency with NARA's Archive Standards as detailed in 36 CFR 1228 Subpart K. The proposed facility will also provide long term cost savings to the government.

To help FBI efficiently achieve its mission critical record management functions, GSA is proposing to utilize a more technologically advanced storage system known as an Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS). ASRS, an automated and mechanized structure integral to the facility for moving files into storage locations and retrieving them when needed is proving to be a successful system in manufacturing, archival, security, food and beverage operations as well as conventional warehousing.

GSA and FBI have been partnering on this effort for several years. As part of its FY2006 Capital Investment and Leasing Program, GSA submitted a prospectus and received authorization to lease 947,000 rsf of space for 20 years. GSA subsequently amended that request as part of the GSA's FY2008 Capital Investment and Leasing Program in a prospectus for 626,488 rsf that was authorized by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 18, 2007 and January 16, 2008, respectively. However, due to market conditions and the specialized nature of the space, GSA was unable to successfully award a lease. In 2010, the FBI determined that the number one priority was the Central Records Complex (CRC) portion of the project. It was decided that the best way to move forward with meeting FBI's long term need for its mission critical record management operation was through federal construction of the records management portion of the originally proposed project. This project was proposed as part of GSA's FY2012 Capital

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - SITE & CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CENTRAL RECORDS COMPLEX
WINCHESTER, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-FBSC-FR14
Congressional District: 10

Investment and Leasing Program. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved \$97,060,000 for the purpose of constructing FBI's CRC, but the funds have not been appropriated.

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Prior Appropriations

None

Prior Committee Approvals

Federal Bureau of Investigation Central Records Complex Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Purpose
Senate EPW	12/8/2011	\$97,060,000	Construction and M&I

Alternatives Considered (30-year, present value cost analysis)

New Construction\$104,223,000
Lease\$154,223,000

The 30 year, present value cost of new construction is \$49,421,000 less than the cost of lease, an equivalent annual cost advantage of \$2,789,000.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - SITE & CONSTRUCTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CENTRAL RECORDS COMPLEX
WINCHESTER, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-FBSC-FR14
Congressional District: 10


Recommendation


CONSTRUCTION

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on April 4, 2013

Recommended: 
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 
Acting Administrator, General Services Administration

PVA-FBSC-FR14
Winchester, VAHousing Plan
FBI Central Records Complex

	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
Locations	Office	Total	Office	Total	Office	Total	Office	Total
FBI Leased Locations								
6305 Gravel Avenue, Alexandria, VA	5	5	750	27,730	-	-	-	-
883-927 S. Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA	172	172	24,500	111,388	-	-	-	-
1025 F Street, NW, Washington, DC ²	27	27	7,176	-	-	-	-	-
170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA ³	173	173	22,093	-	-	-	-	-
Lease Subtotal	377	377	54,519	139,118	-	-	-	-
FBI Government-Owned Locations								
J. Edgar Hoover Building, Washington, DC								
Records Management Division (RMD) ⁴	31	31	13,292	-	-	-	-	-
Government-Owned Subtotal	31	31	13,292	-	-	-	-	-
New FBI Central Record Complex								
Records Storage	-	-	-	-	401	401	44,195	41,297
Site Support Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	14,266
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	401	408	44,195	55,563
Total	408	408	67,811	139,118	401	408	44,195	192,367

Special Space	USF
Food Service/Break Rooms	1,848
Disintegrator Room	1,330
Conference/Training	5,201
Document Labs	28,795
ADP	4,123
Site Security Buildings	14,266
Total	55,563

Office Utilization Rate (UR)		
Rate		Proposed
Current	130	86

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 14,753 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 9,723 usf of office support space

NOTES:

¹ USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

² Upon completion of the Central Records Complex, 27 persons located at 1025 F Street, NW will relocate to the new facility. FBI will continue their leasehold at 1025 F Street, NW for non records management personnel and operations.

³ Upon completion of the Central Records Complex, 173 persons located at 170 Marcel Drive will relocate to the new facility. FBI will continue their other records management personnel and operations (FOIA and National Name Check) at 170 Marcel Drive (633 personnel and 102,931 usf).

⁴ RMD will retain primary executive office space and space for on-site scanning at FBIHQ.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, NORTHERN
VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 343,000 rentable square feet of space, including 26 official parking spaces, for the Department of State to collocate the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations and the Bureau of Administration, Acquisitions and Logistics Management currently located at 1701 N. Ft. Myer Drive and 1735 N. Lynn Street, respectively, in Arlington, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$13,377,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 182 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 182 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option

that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA15
Congressional District: 8

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 343,000 rentable square feet of space for the Department of State (DOS) to collocate the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) and the Bureau of Administration, Acquisitions and Logistics Management (ALM). OBO is currently housed at 1701 N. Ft. Myer Drive and ALM at 1735 N. Lynn Street, Arlington, VA, under leases that expire June 30, 2014 and December 19, 2015. DOS proposes to improve its office and overall utilization rates from 134 to 100 usable square feet (USF) per person and 201 to 182 USF per person, respectively, by housing an additional 148 personnel in the same amount of usable space as the total of its current occupancies.

Description

Occupant:	DOS
Lease Type:	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	320,313 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Proposed Maximum RSF ¹ :	343,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion Space RSF:	None
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	201
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	182
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 years
Expiration Date(s) of Current Lease(s):	6/30/2014 and 12/19/2015
Delineated Area:	Rosslyn/Ballston, Crystal City/Pentagon City, VA
Number of Official Parking Spaces ² :	26
Scoring:	Operating lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$39.00

¹ The RSF/USF at the current locations is approximately 1.12; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.2 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² DOS security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, under an operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building(s).

³ This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for negotiating this lease extension to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA15
Congressional District: 8

Proposed Total Annual Cost ⁴ :	\$13,377,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$11,727,871 (leases effective July 1, 2004 and December 20, 2012)

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize flexibility to acquire space that will house DOS and meet its requirements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space to meet the requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

The Bureau of Overseas Building Operations (OBO) and the Bureau of Administration's Acquisitions and Logistics Management (ALM) are the primary DOS occupants of space leased at 1701 N. Ft. Myer Drive and 1735 N. Lynn Street, Arlington, VA under leases that expire on June 30, 2014 and December 19, 2015. OBO and ALM will require continued housing to carry out their missions.

OBO directs the worldwide overseas buildings program for the DOS and the U.S. Government community serving abroad under the authority of the chiefs of mission. In concert with other DOS, foreign affairs agencies, and Congress, OBO sets worldwide priorities for the design, construction, acquisition, maintenance, use, and sale of real property and the use of sales proceeds.

OBO and ALM work extensively together and with the nearby Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The three bureaus are responsible for the operations and security of all of DOS's 19,000 plus assets worldwide and collaborate daily to support DOS's 260 plus embassies and consulates worldwide.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

⁴ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-02-WA15

Congressional District: 8

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

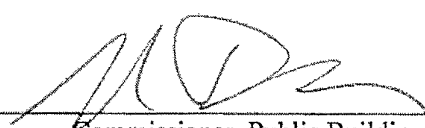
GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on June 30, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 290,000 rentable square feet of space, including 17 official parking spaces, for the Department of Education currently located at 550 12th Street SW, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, and 1990 K Street NW, in Washington, D.C., at a proposed total annual cost of \$14,500,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 180 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 180 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA15

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 290,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Education (DoEd) in Washington, DC. This requirement is currently housed at three locations: 550 12th Street SW, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, and 1990 K Street NW, in Washington, DC. Replacement of the leases will enable DoEd to provide continued housing for current personnel while meeting its mission requirements.

DoEd will improve its office utilization rate from 236 usable square feet (USF) per person to 128 USF per person and its overall utilization rate from 335 USF per person to 180 USF per person. In addition to the improved space utilization, the replacement lease will reduce the current requirement by 212,329 RSF.

Description

Occupant:	DoEd
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	502,329 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	290,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion Space RSF ¹ :	Reduction (212,329) RSF
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	335
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	180
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	3/31/2014 - 550 12 th St. 3/10/2014 - 555 New Jersey Ave. 8/10/2013 - 1990 K St.
Delineated Area:	Washington, DC, CEA
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	17
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$50.00

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.12; however, to maximize competition, a RSF/USF ratio of 1.2 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA15

Proposed Total Annual Cost ³ :	\$14,500,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$19,752,901 (leases effective 4/1/04, 3/11/01, 8/12/99)

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house DoEd, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet the requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Justification

The three leases housing this requirement expired as follows and are in holdover: 550 12th St. SW on March 31, 2014; 1990 K St. NW on August 10, 2013; and 555 New Jersey Ave. NW on March 10, 2014; and DoEd requires continued housing to carry out its mission. The personnel housed in the leases at 1990 K St. and 555 New Jersey Ave were originally planning to move to the federally owned Mary Switzer Building. However, the Department of Health and Human Services now plans to fully occupy this building. The current leases will require interim extensions until FY 2017 when the long-term requirement can be executed. The proposed 290,000 RSF will house all DoEd functions and personnel in 212,329 RSF less than the total at the three current leases.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

³ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC**

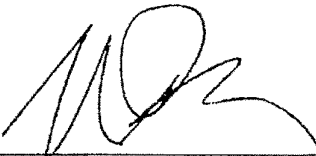
Prospectus Number: PDC-05-WA15

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on July 24, 2014

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2014

Housing Plan
Department of Education

PDC-05-WA15
Washington, DC

Locations	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Office	Total	Storage	Special
Potomac Center, 550 12th St. SW	951	951	266,776	-		286,928		
Capital Place, 555 NJ Ave NW	88	88	50,667			58,928		
1990 K Street NW	301	301	88,823			102,883		
Proposed Lease					1,340	1,340		20,810
Total	1,340	1,340	406,266	-	1,340	448,739	-	20,810

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
Rate		
Current	236	128

UR = average amount of office space per person

Current UR excludes 89,379 usf of office support space

Proposed UR excludes 48,486 usf of office support space

Overall UR ²		
Rate		
Current	335	180

R/U Factor ⁴			
Total USF			
Max RSF			
Current	448,739	1.12	502,329
Proposed	241,200	1.20	290,000

Special Space		USF
Event/MultiMedia		8,648
Health Unit		1,683
Snack Bar		1,151
Breakroom		5,417
Lan Room		1,584
Video Telecon Center		1,745
Locker Room		580
Total		20,810

NOTES:

¹ USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.² Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³ USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.⁴ R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION:
BALTIMORE CITY AND BALTIMORE,
ANNE ARUNDEL, AND HOWARD COUNT-
TIES, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 155,755 rentable square feet of space, including 184 official parking spaces, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Howard Counties, MD to co-locate and reduce requirements currently located at 2600 Lord Baltimore Drive in Woodlawn, Maryland, 11700 Beltsville Drive in Beltsville, Maryland and 1520 Caton Center Drive in Catonsville, Maryland, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,984,160 for a

lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 258 square feet or less per person.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 258 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include

in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
BALTIMORE CITY AND BALTIMORE, ANNE ARUNDEL,
AND HOWARD COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-BC15
Congressional Districts: MD-2,3,7

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 155,755 rentable square feet (RSF) for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Howard Counties, MD, to co-locate and reduce requirements now housed in three separate leased locations. FBI is currently housed at 2600 Lord Baltimore Drive, Woodlawn, MD, and occupies additional leased space at 11700 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, MD, and 1520 Caton Center Drive, Catonsville, MD. The current leases expire on July 1, 2014; January 24, 2016; and March 31, 2015, respectively. The FBI requirements housed in Beltsville and Catonsville included in this prospectus represent portions of the space leased at these locations; these leases will be superseded or restructured as appropriate to accommodate the remaining FBI requirements.

FBI will improve its office utilization rate from 145 usable square feet (USF) to 82 USF per person and its overall utilization rate from 381 USF to 258 USF per person. This will be accomplished by terminating almost 40,000 RSF at two leased locations and collocating the functions and employees under the replacement lease for the third location in a total of 155,755 RSF. The consolidated replacement lease at the proposed \$32.00 per RSF rental rate will save \$2,380,000 annually in lease costs and reduce FBI's leased footprint by almost 40,000 RSF relative to current occupancies.

Description

Occupant:	FBI
Lease Type	Replacement
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	195,676 (Current RSF/USF = 1.12)
Proposed Maximum RSF:	155,755 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.12)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	39,921 RSF Reduction
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	381
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	258
Proposed Maximum Leasing Term:	20 years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	July 1, 2014; January 24, 2016; and March 31, 2015

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
BALTIMORE CITY AND BALTIMORE, ANNE ARUNDEL,
AND HOWARD COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-BC15

Congressional Districts: MD-2,3,7

Delineated Area:	Begin intersection of the Baltimore County west boundary and Route 140, southeast continuing on Route 140 to I-695 North (Baltimore Beltway) to Route 140 Southeast, including all of Baltimore City, and south of I-695 to I-97 South to Route 100 West to Route 170 South to Route 32 West to I-295 North to Route 175 North to Route 29 North back to Baltimore County west boundary.
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	184
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$32.00
Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$4,984,160
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$7,364,362 (leases effective 7/2/2004, 4/1/05, and 1/25/06)

Justification

The current lease at 2600 Lord Baltimore Drive, Woodlawn, MD, expired on July 1, 2014, and FBI requires continued housing to perform its mission. To improve the efficiency of its proposed housing solution, FBI will reduce the amount of space leased at two other locations and house all personnel and functions under the replacement lease for 155,755 RSF.

¹ This estimate is for fiscal year 2015 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government. Lease award shall not exceed the maximum rental rate as specified in this prospectus.

² Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
BALTIMORE CITY AND BALTIMORE, ANNE ARUNDEL,
AND HOWARD COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-BC15
Congressional Districts: MD-2,3,7

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA will encourage offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

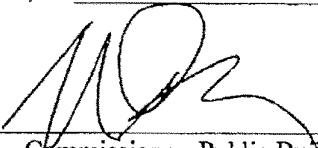
GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on July 24, 2014

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

June 2014

Housing Plan
FBIPMD-01-BC15
Baltimore City and Baltimore,
Anne Arundel, Howard Counties, MD

Leased Locations	Current					Proposed				
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹			Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
2600 Lord Baltimore Drive Woodlawn, MD	387	387	51,467	32,388	55,517	139,372				
11700 Beltsville Drive Beltsville, MD	35	35	27,200			27,200				
1520 Caton Center Drive Catonsville, MD	-	-		7,750		7,750				
Proposed Lease							487	32,388	55,517	139,372
Total	422	422	78,667	40,138	55,517	174,322	487	32,388	55,517	139,372

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
Rate	Current	Proposed
UR=average amount of office space per person	145	82
Current UR excludes 17,307 usf of office support space		
Proposed UR excludes 11,323 usf of office support space		

Overall UR ³		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	381	258

R/U Factor ⁴			
Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF	
Current	174,322	1.12	195,676
Proposed	139,372	1.12	155,755

Special Space		USF
Restrooms		2,156
Health Unit		675
Physical Fitness		3,125
Conference/Training		15,824
Workbench		563
Vehicle Bays		13,094
Gun Vault		375
Disintegrator		375
Mail		688
Mug and Fingerprints		250
Breakroom		1,563
Processing		1,063
ADP		14,005
Generator		375
Loading Dock		750
Visitor Screening		638
Total		55,517

NOTES:

1) USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

2) Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people.

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel. Vehicle Bays and Workbench are not included in calculation.⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
SOUTH BEND, IN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, a replacement lease of up to 96,394 rentable square feet of space, and 520 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs to replace the existing Community Based Out-patient Clinic in South Bend, Indiana, at a proposed unserviced annual cost of \$3,466,615 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a pro-

spectus for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**South Bend, Indiana
Outpatient Clinic Lease**

This proposal provides for leasing a replacement Outpatient Clinic in South Bend, IN, supporting the parent facility of the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne, IN.

I. Budget Authority

Lease Through	2012 Request	2012 Authorization Request	Unserviced Annual Rent
2034	\$4,038,450	\$4,038,450	\$1,893,450

II. Description of Project

This project proposes the lease of an approximately 39,000 net usable square foot (NUSF) Outpatient Clinic facility in South Bend, Indiana. The new leased facility will replace the existing Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in South Bend, and will enable VA to expand services provided to include outpatient primary care and mental health services to better serve the needs of Veterans and their families.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing, as well as potential extension of the present lease as may be necessary pending execution of the replacement lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease addresses two critical issues that will enhance Veteran health care services in the South Bend area. First, the proposed facility will improve the quality of care delivered to Veterans by integrating outpatient care delivery, including primary care and mental health services, into a state-of-the-art building with improved adjacencies. Outpatient services currently contracted out to providers in the South Bend area will be provided at the new facility, allowing VA to have greater control over Veteran healthcare.

Second, the new facility will provide more accessible health care services to Veterans. The leased location will enable VA to expand its service offerings and improve access for Veterans who previously had to travel to other facilities, at a greater distance than the targeted 30-minute drive time, to obtain these outpatient services.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 – Status Quo: Under the Status Quo, VA would continue to provide limited outpatient services in the South Bend area through contracting out services and an arrangement to house four VA mental health providers at the contracted facility, resulting in decreased continuity of care and costly outsourcing expenses. In addition, the time Veterans spend traveling to the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center (VAMC) for care that is not provided locally suggests the status quo is not acceptable to meet customer satisfaction. Therefore, this alternative is not the most optimal.

Alternative 2 – New Lease (Preferred alternative): This alternative proposes leasing a 39,000 NUSF facility close to the Veteran population that the South Bend CBOC currently serves, and expanding the services currently provided. By pursuing the lease option, VA will provide infrastructure that supports increased integration of services, coordination of care, provider productivity and efficiency, patient satisfaction, compliance with clinical guidelines, access, safety and security. This alternative also provides expanded state-of-the-art clinical space sooner than the new construction alternative, and provides an option that will give VA more flexibility to respond to the changing healthcare needs of Veterans and their families.

Alternative 3 - Contract Out Services: This alternative assumes that all health care services would be contracted out in the community. This alternative is not cost-effective and would result in a loss of quality control over Veteran healthcare. There also may not be sufficient, qualified, private-sector providers in the South Bend area to accommodate the Veteran workload. Therefore, this alternative is the least preferred.

Alternative 4 – New Construction: This alternative assumes the construction of a new, outpatient primary care and mental health facility of approximately 39,000 NUSF. It would provide infrastructure that supports the increased integration of services, coordination of care, provider productivity and efficiency, patient satisfaction, compliance with clinical guidelines, access, safety and security. Flexibility to expand services or change location to better align with workload demand would be difficult in this alternative. In addition, this alternative would require VA to acquire land in the South Bend area for the facility; this not only increases the cost but would delay activation. Therefore, this alternative is the second preferred.

V. Demographic Data*

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>2009-2029</u>
Veteran Population	72,766	57,938	45,839	-37%
Enrollees	24,007	27,132	24,870	4%

*Data reflects the VISN 11 Indiana Market

VI. Workload

	<u>Current</u> <u>(2009)</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>(2029)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>(2009-2029)</u>
Ambulatory Stops	15,836	20,821	317%
Mental Health Stops	3,150	5,133	63%

VI. Schedule

Award leases	January 2013
Complete construction	January 2015
Activation/Occupancy	March 2015

VII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$1,893,450
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$48.55/SF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	39,000
Parking Spaces	312
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$2,145,000

*Estimate based on 2011 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Represents lump sum payment to Lessor to design and build out space for clinical use; not included in base rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nusf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
SPRINGFIELD, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, a replacement lease of up to 91,800 rentable square feet of space, and 544 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs for a Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Springfield, Missouri to replace the existing Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic currently located in Mount Vernon, Missouri, at a proposed unserved annual cost of \$2,749,240 for

a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**Springfield, Missouri
Community Based Outpatient Clinic**

This proposal provides for a replacement Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Springfield, MO, supporting the parent facility of the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, AR.

I. Budget Authority

Lease Through	2012 Request	2012 Authorization Request	Unserviced Annual Rent
2034	\$6,489,240	\$6,489,240	\$2,749,240

II. Description of Project

This project proposes the lease of an approximately 68,000 net usable square feet (NUSF) Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Springfield, Missouri, and will include 544 parking spaces. The new CBOC will relocate and expand the 41,000 NUSF Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. Due to budget limitation, the State of Missouri has elected to close the Missouri Rehabilitation Center (MRC) in Mount Vernon, where the current clinic is located, and will be unable to continue to support the current lease agreement. Moving the CBOC to Springfield, Missouri, will better support the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks' (VHSO) strategic initiatives. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing, as well as potential extension of the present lease as may be necessary pending execution of the replacement lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease addresses three critical priorities that will enhance Veteran healthcare services in the Springfield area.

First, it will improve Veteran access to services by locating the replacement CBOC in an area with higher Veteran population. The Upper Western Market of VISN 16 has a significant primary care access gap identified by the Health Care Planning Model. This project will increase the number of unique Veterans within the 30-minute drive time for primary care access by 6,750 Veterans.

Second, the new CBOC will increase clinical capacity for primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services, improving patient satisfaction through expanded services, shorter wait times and more timely appointments, and allow for space

configurations consistent with patient-centered care principles. Expanding the CBOC by approximately 27,000 NUSF will address the utilization gap in the Upper Western Market by approximately 308,000 outpatient visits in primary care, mental health, specialty, and ancillary services.

Third, the relocated and expanded CBOC will improve efficiency and lower operating costs. The functional relationships in the new space will provide a more efficient layout of departments and rooms. The new building envelope will be more energy efficient than the current MRC. In addition, direct yearly operating costs are expected to be reduced by \$2,550,000, including reduced beneficiary travel of \$500,000; reduced contracting of diagnostic services of \$1,900,000; and reduced contracting of sleep study services of \$150,000.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 - Status Quo: The status quo would continue to lease 41,000 NUSF for the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic in the MRC from the State of Missouri. This alternative would continue to contract out laboratory, radiology and sleep studies from the MRC. This option is not optimal for three reasons. First, the State of Missouri is proposing to close the MRC on June 30, 2011. In order to continue to support the existing lease, the MRC has proposed a surcharge to the existing lease of over \$1 million per year. This additional funding is needed to staff MRC facility operations after the facility is closed for state operations. Second, due to a significant utilization gap in the VISN 16 Upper Western Market, it is necessary to expand the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic to meet demand. Additional space is needed to support in-house laboratory and radiology functions that are currently purchased by contract from the MRC. Third, the existing space at MRC is inefficient. A complete renovation would be needed to bring the space into compliance with VA space planning criteria and life safety guidelines.

Alternative 2 - New Lease (Preferred alternative): This project proposes a build-to-suit lease of approximately 68,000 NUSF to expand and relocate the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic to Springfield, Missouri. There are several reasons why this option is the most preferred alternative. First, relocating to Springfield, Missouri would bring the clinic closer to the Veteran population and would reduce the access gap in the VISN 16 Upper Western Market by 6,750 Veterans. Second, the lease would provide additional space for the expansion of services that would reduce the Upper Western Market utilization gaps in primary care, mental health, and specialty care. It would also allow VA to bring in-house, at lower cost, ancillary services such as laboratory and radiology that are currently contracted out. Finally, a build-to-suit lease provides VA with the flexibility to adjust services based on changes in enrollment and Veteran demographics without the up-front investment needed in the new construction alternative.

Alternative 3 – Contract Out Services: This alternative would seek to contract out all services currently offered at the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic as well as the projected workload increase. Challenges for this option include maintaining quality of care across numerous contracts and providers and finding sufficient health care capacity in the community to absorb current and projected VA workload. Health care demand in the area has already stressed capacity of private sector resources; nine of 11 counties in the catchment area served by the Gene Taylor Outpatient Clinic are medically underserved. Therefore, this alternative is the least preferred.

Alternative 4 – New Construction: This alternative proposes to purchase 10 acres of land in the Springfield area and construct a 68,000 NUSF outpatient clinic. This alternative shares many of the benefits of the preferred lease alternative. First, relocating in Springfield, Missouri brings the clinic closer to the Veteran population and will reduce the access gap in the VISN 16 Upper Western Market by 6,750 Veterans. Second, the VA-owned facility would provide additional space for expansion of services to reduce the Upper Western Market utilization gaps in primary care, mental health, and specialty care and bring in-house, at lower cost, ancillary services such as laboratory and radiology that are currently contracted out. Third, this alternative will have a longer implementation timeline than the preferred lease option. Therefore, this alternative is the second preferred.

V. Demographic Data*

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>(2009-2029)</u>
Veteran Population	617,288	530,662	458,005	-26%
Enrollees	241,581	289,825	288,180	19%

*Data reflects the VISN 16 Upper Western Market

VI. Workload

	<u>Current</u> <u>(2009)</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>(2029)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>(2009-2029)</u>
Ambulatory stops	103,367	141,962	37%
Mental Health stops	14,675	24,680	68%

VII. Schedule

Award leases	January 2013
Complete construction	January 2015
Activation/Occupancy	March 2015

VIII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$2,749,240
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$40.43/SF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	68,000
Parking Spaces	544
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$3,740,000

*Estimate based on 2011 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Represents lump sum payment to Lessor to design and build out space for clinical use; not included in base rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nusf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, a lease of up to 226,800 rentable square feet of space, and 1,035 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs for a Health Care Center in the vicinity of Butler, Pennsylvania, at a proposed unserviced annual cost of \$6,582,000 for a lease term of up to 20

years, a prospectus for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**Butler, Pennsylvania
Health Care Center (HCC) Lease**

This proposal provides for a new outpatient clinic lease in Butler, PA, to replace the current VAMC.

I. Budget Authority

<u>Lease Through</u>	<u>2010 Request</u>	<u>2010 Auth. Request</u>	<u>Unserviced Annual Rent</u>
2032	\$16,482,000	\$16,482,000	\$6,582,000

II. Description of Lease

This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit Health Care Center (HCC) in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 180,000 net usable square feet (NUSF) to meet increased veteran demand. This clinic will serve veterans from the counties of Beaver, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Venango, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing including the initial term, and any renewal options, as necessary, prior to the completion of the proposed lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease is designed to address quality, access and capacity for Primary Care, Specialty Care, Dental, Laboratory and Pathology, Radiology, Mental Health, and Ancillary and Diagnostic Services. The buildings in which treatment programs currently reside require renovation and significant expansion. By consolidating services in a single building, VA will be able to ensure that patient intake is handled quickly, professionally and privately, and that veterans' health care needs are fully met. A new facility will enhance the care provided to current veterans and provide proper infrastructure for future veteran care in Butler.

The new HCC will benefit the Butler veteran population in many ways. The efficiency of services provided will be enhanced by the collocation of all clinical categories, such as primary care, mental health and specialty care, in one central building. By expanding the available clinical space to meet projected increases in patient workload, quality of life for veterans will also improve due to reduced wait times. Adding space for both individual and group therapy visits will allow for significant expansion of mental health programs. Increasing the number of

services provided, particularly specialty care services, will increase veterans' geographic access to care and thereby improve the quality of life for rural veterans who previously had to drive approximately 60 minutes to Pittsburgh to access these services. The new facility will also provide adequate parking.

This project will allow VA Butler Healthcare to meet this growing workload, while also increasing its focus on long-term care. The HCC will have the capacity to serve more veterans (3,000 more unique veterans), accommodate the expected increase in clinic stops (projected to increase by 81 percent in Ambulatory Care Stops and increase by 151 percent in Mental Health Stops in the next 20 years) and increase panel provider size by 10 percent.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 - Status Quo: This alternative assumes that the present physical space housing outpatient services at the Butler VAMC would continue to be used for outpatient care with general maintenance only. With this alternative, outpatient services would continue to be located in three separate buildings, maintaining existing inefficiencies and costly operational expenses.

Alternative 2 - Lease (Preferred Alternative): This option assumes the lease of a new, state-of-the-art HCC of approximately 180,000 NUSF. All VA Butler healthcare services, with the exception of the domiciliary and Community Living Center, will relocate to the HCC. It will provide infrastructure that supports the increased integration of outpatient services, coordination of care, provider productivity, efficiency, patient satisfaction, compliance with clinical guidelines, access and safety/security. This alternative solves VA Butler Healthcare's current space constraints cost effectively without requiring major up-front capital investment.

Alternative 3 - New Construction: This alternative assumes the construction of a new, free-standing comprehensive outpatient facility of approximately 180,000 NUSF. This option would consolidate all outpatient services in a modern outpatient facility. It would provide an infrastructure that supports the increased integration of outpatient services, coordination of care, provider productivity, efficiency, patient satisfaction, compliance with clinical guidelines, access and safety/security. Flexibility to expand/contract services and/or change location depending on workload demand would be difficult under this alternative.

Alternative 4 - Contract out: This alternative assumes the outsourcing of all outpatient care to the community. This alternative is not viable because the Butler community does not have sufficient capacity to support the veteran workload. This alternative is also the least cost effective alternative.

V. Demographic Data*

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>2007-2025</u>
Veteran population	487,868	356,166	364,287	-25%
Enrollees	182,025	168,749	141,724	-22%
Ambulatory Stops	73,692	116,732	133,726	81%
Mental Health Stops	25,958	47,102	59,316	129%

*Data for Western market and Butler catchment area

VI. Schedule

Award leases	August 2010
Complete construction	May 2012
Activation/Occupancy	June 2012

VII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$6,582,000
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$36.57/NUSF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	180,000 NUSF
Parking Spaces*	1,035
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$9,900,000

*Estimate based on 2009 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Lump sum payment to Lessor to upgrade space for special administrative or medical use; not included in rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to

Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nusf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
MOBILE, AL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, a replacement lease of up to 87,919 rentable square feet of space, and 521 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs to replace the existing Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Mobile, Alabama, at a proposed unserviced annual cost of \$2,984,028 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus

for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**Mobile, Alabama
Outpatient Clinic Lease**

This proposal provides for a Replacement Lease for the Mobile Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Mobile, AL, supporting the parent facility of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Biloxi, MS.

I. Budget Authority

Lease Through	2012 Request	2012 Authorization Request	Unserviced Annual Rent
2034	\$6,564,528	\$6,564,528	\$2,984,028

II. Description of Project

This project proposes the lease of 65,125 Net Usable Square Feet (NUSF) for a replacement Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Mobile, AL, to replace the existing 35,345 NUSF clinic. The lease will provide for administrative and clinical space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: Audiology and Speech Pathology, CCHT, canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, HBPC, lab, medical administration, medical specialty clinics, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, police, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, Veterans' service organizations, warehouse, and women's health.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing, as well as potential extension of the present lease as may be necessary pending execution of the replacement lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease addresses functional, utilization and safety deficiencies. The existing clinic is housed in a functionally obsolete clinical building owned by the University of South Alabama. VA occupies 35,345 net usable square feet on the first and sixth floors of a 1940's era hospital, which has been sublet to various health-oriented businesses since the 1980's. Due to deteriorating conditions, rising crime rates, and the building's operational inefficiencies, many of the businesses have strategically relocated to other parts of the city. As a result, VA remains as one of the few tenants in an otherwise empty building. The Primary Care Clinic is run out of a 1970's era surgery suite and the Mental Health Clinic is housed on a separate floor, in an old inpatient ward. Hallways are narrow and turning radius for wheelchairs is limited. The main reception area is too small for the number of patients; the sub-waiting areas often overflow into the narrow corridors. Other services, such as Audiology and Radiology, also have small waiting rooms. The rest of the clinic is housed on a different floor; it is overcrowded and many new programs can't be implemented due to lack of square footage. Because of columns and bearing walls, the existing space does not work even in a renovated configuration.

As indicated by staff and Veteran complaints, the current environment is challenging, both logistically and aesthetically. Even before the patient enters the clinic, there are barriers to overcome. For example, the main entrance/reception area is co-located on the side of the building originally designed as an ambulance entrance. In fact, VA still uses the entrance for ambulance pick-ups. Although Veterans may be dropped off at this entrance, there is no parking available for family or other escorts.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 – Status Quo: Maintain the existing lease. The clinic will continue to be housed in a functionally obsolete clinical building on the first and sixth floors of a 1940's era hospital. Space, safety and functional deficiencies will remain. Due to these constraints, this option is not preferred.

Alternative 2 – New Lease (Preferred alternative): This option proposes to lease 65,125 net usable square feet (NUSF) for the Mobile Clinic and would provide greater capacity for medical staff to perform in a more appropriately sized, modern facility. The new lease would incorporate all current services and include the addition of new services, such as Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) and the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Model. The Clinic will need more operational and support space to improve staff and patient flow. Based on cost and the positive patient impact, this alternative is the preferred one.

Alternative 3 - Contract Out: This alternative would contract out all services currently provided by the CBOC to private health care providers in the community. This alternative would result in increased annual costs, which would be challenging to financially support. Also, this alternative would face challenges associated with limited existing capacity in the community to absorb VA's workload. Therefore, this option is the least preferred.

Alternative 4 - New Construction: New construction will address all functional, utilization and safety gap concerns, and agency strategic goals. However, there is a need to reside closer to the Veteran community when demographics change. This makes a permanent site less favorable. In addition, new construction would require land acquisition; this not only increases the cost but would delay activation by at least one year. Therefore, this alternative is the next preferred.

V. Demographic Data*:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>(2009-2029)</u>
Veteran Population	35,177	27,628	22,519	-36%
Enrollees	11,957	13,121	12,486	4%

*Data reflects the VISN 16 Central Southern market

VI. Workload

	Current (2009)	Projected (2029)	Change (2009-2029)
Ambulatory Care Stops	66,894	112,975	69%
Mental Health Stops	18,996	36,986	95%

VII. Schedule

Award leases	January 2013
Complete construction	January 2015
Activation/Occupancy	March 2015

VIII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$2,984,028
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$45.82/SF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	65,125
Parking Spaces	521
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$3,580,500

*Estimate based on 2011 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Represents lump sum payment to Lessor to design and build out space for clinical use; not included in base rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nurf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
ROCHESTER, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, a replacement lease of up to 113,400 rentable square feet of space, and 672 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs to replace the existing Community Based Out-patient Clinic in Rochester, Monroe County, New York, at a proposed unserviced annual cost of \$4,611,600 for a lease term of up to 20

years, a prospectus for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**Rochester, New York
Outpatient Clinic Lease**

This proposal provides for a replacement leased Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Rochester, Monroe County, NY, supporting the parent facility of the Canandaigua VA Medical Center in Canandaigua, NY.

I. Budget Authority

Lease Through	2012 Request	2012 Authorization Request	Unserviced Annual Rent
2034	\$9,231,600	\$9,231,600	\$4,611,600

II. Description of Project

This project proposes to lease a replacement, 84,000 net usable square feet (NUSF) Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), including 672 parking spaces. This leased facility will provide expanded outpatient services to address utilization and space gaps in the Monroe County sub-market area within the Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Market. The current leased Rochester CBOC is 49,190 gross square feet (GSF) and includes 184 parking spaces. Two additional leased sites nearby, at Mt. Hope Avenue (6,364 GSF) and Clinton Crossings (8,091 GSF), are used to offset the space and parking shortages at the CBOC. The current lease is set to expire in October 2016, and the building owner has indicated the lease cannot be renewed.

The replacement Rochester lease will include primary care, women's health, Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF), mental health, homeless outreach, home-based primary care (HBPC), specialty services, ancillary services, compensation and pension (C&P), research, residency programs with local affiliates, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), and volunteer programs.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing, as well as potential extension of the present lease as may be necessary pending execution of the replacement lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease addresses the continuing need to provide primary care, mental health, and specialty care services to Veterans residing in Rochester, NY.

Several programs currently provided at the Rochester CBOC were shown to have both workload and space gaps by the Strategic Capital Investment Plan (SCIP). These services include: ambulatory primary care, geriatrics, and urgent care; medical and other non-surgical specialties; mental health programs; surgical specialties; dental clinic; laboratory and pathology; and radiology and nuclear medicine. These gaps will be addressed in the proposed CBOC replacement facility.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 – Status Quo: The status quo would continue to provide outpatient services in Rochester, Monroe County, NY, in the current, 49,190 GSF leased building until the lease termination date in 2016. After lease termination, this primary care access point would be eliminated, significantly decreasing access to care for Veterans. This alternative would require Veterans in Monroe County to travel to alternative VA facilities to receive primary care, mental health, and specialty care services. Therefore, this option is not the most optimal.

Alternative 2 – New Lease (Preferred alternative): This project proposes to replace the existing lease with a replacement, 84,000 NUSF CBOC to include 332 parking spaces. This replacement lease will allow VA to continue to provide services in Monroe County, and will allow for the required expansion of services to meet current utilization and space gaps at the current CBOC. This alternative was selected because the lease would enable VA to serve a greater number of Veterans, reduce Veteran travel time for some clinical services, and consolidate the three leases into a single location. Furthermore, the lease alternative will provide expanded, state-of-the-art clinical space sooner than the new construction alternative and will provide a more functional and effective healthcare environment to the benefit of Veterans, Veterans' families and medical staff.

Alternative 3 – Contract Out Services: This alternative would seek to contract out all ambulatory, mental health, and specialty care services in the community. This alternative is not cost-effective and would result in a loss of quality control over Veteran healthcare. There also may not be sufficient, qualified, private-sector providers in the Monroe County area to accommodate the Veteran workload. Therefore, this alternative is the least preferred.

Alternative 4 – New Construction: This alternative would require VA to purchase a land parcel and construct a new, 84,000 NUSF facility in Monroe County. This alternative solves utilization and space gaps in the same manner as the lease alternative. However, a permanent site limits the ability to relocate services in the future to adapt to changes in Veteran demographics. In addition, new construction would require land acquisition; this not only increases the cost but would delay activation by approximately one year. Therefore, this alternative is the second preferred.

V. Demographic Data*

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>(2009-2029)</u>
Veteran Population	49,357	33,821	23,579	-52%
Enrollees	16,966	16,244	13,613	-20%

*Data reflects the VISN 2, Monroe County, NY market

VI. Workload

	Current (2009)	Projected (2029)	Change (2009-2029)
Ambulatory Stops	66,653	73,116	10%
Mental Health stops	24,231	27,392	13%

VII. Schedule

Award leases	January 2013
Complete construction	January 2015
Activation/Occupancy	March 2015

VIII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$4,611,600
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$54.90/SF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	84,000
Parking Spaces	672
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$4,620,000

*Estimate based on 2011 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Represents lump sum payment to Lessor to design and build out space for clinical use; not included in base rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nurf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
SAN JOSE, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, a replacement lease of up to 97,200 rentable square feet of space, and 576 parking spaces, for the Department of Veterans Affairs to replace the existing Community Based Outpatient Clinic in San Jose, California, at a proposed unserviced annual cost of \$5,586,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a pro-

spectus for which, as amended by the respective section of the attached VA Lease Summaries, is attached to and authorized by this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the lease contract(s) shall include a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, except that, if it is determined that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus and associated VA Lease Summary, an explanatory statement shall be provided to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

**San Jose, California
Outpatient Clinic Lease**

This proposal provides for leasing a replacement Community Based Outpatient Clinic in San Jose, CA, supporting the parent facility of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA.

I. Budget Authority

Lease Through	2012 Request	2012 Authorization Request	Unserviced Annual Rent
2034	\$9,545,760	\$9,545,760	\$5,585,760

II. Description of Project

This project will replace the existing 72,000 net usable square foot (NUSF) San Jose Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in San Jose, CA. The existing 72,000 NUSF San Jose CBOC lease is set to expire in 2016 with no additional option years remaining on the existing lease and no opportunity to renew. The replacement lease will be for up to 72,000 NUSF and include at least 576 parking spaces. The San Jose CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority for up to 20 years of leasing, as well as potential extension of the present lease as may be necessary pending execution of the replacement lease.

III. Priorities/Deficiencies Addressed

This lease addresses the need to provide ongoing primary care, mental health and specialty care services to Veterans residing in San Jose, CA. The San Jose CBOC is a busy, multi-specialty clinic that treats over 10,000 Veterans annually. The San Jose CBOC is located in Santa Clara County where over 75,000 Veterans currently reside. Maintaining a presence in the San Jose region is critical to ensuring access to health care services for these Veterans, improving the likelihood that Veterans will seek care and comply with clinical treatment plans. A new 20-year lease is required since VA will have to vacate the existing facility no later than November 2016.

Replacing the San Jose CBOC with a new facility in the San Jose region will enable VAPAHCS to provide a state-of-the-art treatment facility using integrated design concepts. The new facility will be designed around the principles of Veteran- and family-centric care; providing space for interdisciplinary team delivery; integration of the family into the treatment plan; and creating space to optimize health and wellness. Continuing service in this region also embodies the goal of being patient-centric by

delivering care in a community setting where a substantial number of Veterans live, thereby reducing wait and drive times and eliminating service disparities.

IV. Alternatives to Lease Considered

Alternative 1 - Status Quo: The status quo would continue to provide outpatient services in the existing San Jose CBOC clinic until the current lease expires in 2016. The primary care access point in southern Santa Clara County would be eliminated, significantly decreasing access to care for Veterans. This alternative would require that Veterans residing in Santa Clara County, specifically in the City of San Jose, travel through densely congested traffic corridors to receive basic services in either Palo Alto or Monterey. In addition, this alternative does not provide any opportunity to decompress the Palo Alto Division. As it is the goal of VAPAHCS to improve access to services for Veterans, this option is not the most optimal.

Alternative 2 - New Lease (Preferred alternative): This project proposes to replace the 72,000 NUSF CBOC in San Jose, CA with a new, leased facility after the expiration of the existing lease in 2016. The replacement lease will be for up to 72,000 NUSF and include a minimum of 360 parking spaces. Through the competitive procurement process, this alternative will allow VAPAHCS to identify the best value land parcel and facility for the new clinic. The clinic will be designed to provide state-of-the-art services and incorporate the latest VA clinical delivery models, to include Patient Aligned Care Team practices. Therefore, leasing a facility in the San Jose area to ensure the continued provision of medical services is the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3 - Contract Out Services: This alternative would seek to contract out all ambulatory, mental health and specialty care in the community. As a national health care system, VA has gained a unique level of expertise in providing Veterans services, including the maintenance of a comprehensive medical record, expertise in mental health issues and provision of wellness outreach and education that would be extremely difficult to replicate in a community setting. Relying on a community or contract provider that potentially lacks expertise in Veteran issues to provide treatment to this potentially vulnerable and at-risk patient population poses a risk to Veteran safety. In addition, relying on contract providers to offer these services remains cost prohibitive and is subject to the availability of mental health providers within the community. Therefore, this alternative is the least preferred.

Alternative 4 - New Construction: This alternative would require VAPAHCS to acquire a land parcel and construct a new, 72,000 NUSF facility. A permanent site limits the ability to relocate services in the future to adapt to changes in Veteran demographics and is therefore less favorable. In addition, new construction would require land acquisition; this not only increases the cost, but would delay activation by approximately one year. Therefore, this alternative is the second preferred.

V. Demographic Data*

	2009	2019	2029	Change (2009-2029)
Veteran Population	225,428	167,749	129,722	-42%
Enrollees	71,246	72,179	65,915	-7%

*Data reflects the VISN 21 South Coast Market and 55% of Alameda County. Note: Alameda County is a shared county that is serviced by both VAPAHCS and VANCHCS. All of the workload for this county is included in the North Coast Market.

VI. Workload

	Current (2009)	Projected (2029)	Change (2009-2029)
Ambulatory stops	32,331	37,105	15%
Mental Health stops	19,111	24,517	28%

VII. Schedule

Award leases	January 2013
Complete construction	January 2015
Activation/Occupancy	March 2015

VIII. Project Cost Summary

Estimated Annual Cost	\$5,585,760
Proposed Rental Rate*	\$77.58/SF
Proposed Lease Authority	20 Years
Net Usable Square Feet	72,000
Parking Spaces	576
Special Purpose Related Improvements**	\$3,960,000

*Estimate based on 2011 rates, and may be escalated by 4% annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

**Represents lump sum payment to Lessor to design and build out space for clinical use; not included in base rent.

VA Lease Summaries:**1. Rochester, NY - Outpatient Clinic Lease**

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 84,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/113,400 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 672 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$4,611,000. The Outpatient Clinic will provide primary care, women's health care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom programs, mental health programs, homeless outreach, home-based primary care, surgical specialties, ambulatory surgery, endoscopy, geriatric care, dental clinic, laboratory, pathology, radiology, ancillary services and compensation and pension services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Elmwood Avenue

South: Erie Station Road/E Henrietta Road/Goodburlet Road/Pinnacle Road/Reeves Road

East: Clover Street

West: W Henrietta Street

2. Mobile, AL - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 65,125 net usable square (nurf) feet/87,919 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 521 parking spaces. The annual unserviced rent is estimated at \$2,984,000. The lease will provide for administrative and clinic space consistent with VA CBOC requirements. Space will be allocated to the following general areas: audiology and speech pathology, care coordination home telehealth (CCHT), canteen, clinic administration, education, environmental management, eye clinic, home based primary care (HBPC), lab, medical administration, mental health, nursing, patient advocacy, pharmacy, primary care, radiology, surgical specialty clinics, and women's health.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Moffett Road

South: County Road 30 (Theodore Dawes Rd) and 26 (Hamilton Blvd)

East: County Road 163(Dauphin Island Parkway) to Government Blvd to

Houston St

West: County Road 31 (Schillinger Road)

3. Springfield, MO - Outpatient Clinic

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 68,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/91,8000 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 544

parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$2,749,000. The new clinic will relocate and expand the existing 41,000 nusf Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic from Mount Vernon, Missouri, where it currently serves over 17,000 unique Veterans. The new CBOC will continue to provide primary and specialty care, mental health and ancillary services. The new clinic will also provide sleep studies, radiology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), laboratory, and dental services.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Sunshine Street
South: US Highway 60 (properties located up to ½ mile South of US 60 will be considered within the boundary)
East: US Highway 65
West: US Highway 160

4. South Bend, IN - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 71,403 net usable square feet (nusf)/96,394 rentable square feet (rsf). The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$3,466,515. This CBOC will replace and expand South Bend's outpatient services to meet increasing Veteran demand, and will include following medical services: primary care; women's health care; home-based primary care; nutrition; audiology; tele-eye care and optometry; urology; cardiology; dermatology; physical therapy; podiatry; pulmonary function; some ambulatory procedures such as colonoscopies, sigmoidoscopies, endoscopies, and other minor procedures; ancillary services – laboratory, pharmacy, basic radiology, and prosthetic dispensing; and Compensation & Physical (C&P) exams.

The South Bend lease was authorized by Public Law 112-37 in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000. The lease increased from 39,000 nusf to 71,403 nusf from the time the prospectus was submitted and when the lease was authorized.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Indiana state border
East: Ash Road north extended to Ash Road
South: Tyler Road/North County Line Road to County Line Road to Tyler Road extended to Ash Road
West: North 900 East east on Route 2/Western Avenue south on Larrison Boulevard/Strawberry Road west on East 50 North/Johnson Road south on County Highway 1100 East extended to Willow Road extended to Willow Road to Adams Street east on Roosevelt Road northeast on Legion Drive southeast on Harrison Street north on Route 23/Liberty Street until Tyler Road/North County Line Road

5. San Jose, CA - Outpatient Clinic Lease

The new Community Base Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will accommodate 72,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/97,200 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 572 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$5,586,000. This project will replace the existing 72,000 nurf CBOC in San Jose, CA. The CBOC will provide primary care, mental health and specialty care, to include audiology, podiatry and optometry. The clinic will also provide ancillary and diagnostic services, to include general x-ray, laboratory, pharmacy and telehealth.

Delineated area - Properties must be located within the delineated area within the following boundaries:

North: Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway) to Charcot Avenue
East: I-880 to Highway 101 to Bernal Road
South: Route 85 to Cottle Road to Santa Teresa Boulevard to Highway 101
West: Route 17 to I-880 to Route 87 (Guadalupe Parkway)

6. Butler, PA - Health Care Center (HCC) Lease

The new Health Care Center (HCC) will accommodate 168,000 net usable square feet (nurf)/226,800 rentable square feet (rsf) with approximately 1,035 parking spaces. The estimated annual unserviced rent is \$6,582,000. This project will relocate outpatient services from the current Butler VA Medical Center (VAMC) to a leased build-to-suit HCC in the vicinity of Butler, PA. The new HCC will expand Butler's outpatient space to approximately 168,000 nurf to meet increased Veteran demand. This clinic will serve Veterans from the counties of Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer. This project will allow VA to continue to provide timely access to state-of-the-art primary care, specialty care, mental health and ancillary diagnostic services in a properly sized facility to meet increased workload.

Delineated area - The proposed site must be within a five (5) mile radius of Eagle Mill Road and Benjamin Franklin Highway (422)

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 18, 2014 at 11:29 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2651.

That the Senate passed S. 2141.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4751.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4809.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 727; and adopting H. Res. 727, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on order-

ing the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 727) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 22, 2014, through November 11, 2014, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 195, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 510]

YEAS—226

Aderholt	Farenthold	King (IA)
Amash	Fincher	King (NY)
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Kingston
Bachmann	Fleischmann	Kinzingler (IL)
Bachus	Fleming	Kline
Barletta	Flores	Labrador
Barr	Forbes	LaMalfa
Benishak	Portenberry	Lamborn
Bentivoglio	Fox	Lance
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Lankford
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Black	Gardner	Latta
Blackburn	Garrett	LoBiondo
Boustany	Gerlach	Long
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Lucas
Bridenstine	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Brooks (AL)	Gohmert	Lummis
Brooks (IN)	Goodlatte	Marchant
Brown (GA)	Gosar	Marino
Buchanan	Gowdy	Massie
Bucshon	Granger	McAllister
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McCarthy (CA)
Byrne	Graves (MO)	McCauley
Calvert	Griffin (AR)	McClintock
Camp	Griffith (VA)	McHenry
Campbell	Grimm	McKeon
Carter	Guthrie	McKinley
Cassidy	Hall	McMorris
Chabot	Hanna	Rodgers
Chaffetz	Harper	Meadows
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Meehan
Coble	Hartzler	Messer
Coffman	Hastings (WA)	Mica
Cole	Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Miller (MI)
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Miller, Gary
Cook	Holding	Mullin
Cotton	Hudson	Mulvaney
Cramer	Huelskamp	Murphy (PA)
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Noem
Curberson	Hunter	Nugent
Daines	Hurt	Nunes
Davis, Rodney	Issa	Olson
Denham	Jenkins	Palazzo
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
Diaz-Balart	Jolly	Perry
Duffy	Jones	Petri
Duncan (SC)	Jordan	Pittenger
Duncan (TN)	Joyce	Pitts
Ellmers	Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)

Pompeo	Salmon	Tipton
Posey	Sanford	Turner
Price (GA)	Scalise	Upton
Reed	Schock	Valadao
Reichert	Schweikert	Wagner
Renacci	Scott, Austin	Walberg
Ribble	Sensenbrenner	Walden
Rice (SC)	Sessions	Walorski
Rigell	Shimkus	Weber (TX)
Roby	Shuster	Webster (FL)
Roe (TN)	Simpson	Wenstrup
Rogers (AL)	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Whitfield
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Williams
Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rokita	Southerland	Wittman
Rooney	Stewart	Wolf
Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Womack
Roskam	Stockman	Woodall
Ross	Stutzman	Yoder
Rothfus	Terry	Yoho
Royce	Thompson (PA)	Young (AK)
Ryunan	Thornberry	Young (IN)
Ryan (WI)	Tiberi	

NAYS—195

Barber	Grayson	Neal
Barrow (GA)	Green, Al	Negrete McLeod
Bass	Green, Gene	Nolan
Beatty	Grijalva	O'Rourke
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Payne
Blumenauer	Higgins	Pelosi
Bonamici	Himes	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Holt	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Honda	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Horsford	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Hoyer	Pocan
Butterfield	Huffman	Polis
Capps	Israel	Price (NC)
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Rahall
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Cartwright	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Keating	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Chu	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Ciçilline	Kildee	Sánchez, Linda
Clark (MA)	Kilmer	T.
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Langevin	Schiff
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Cooper	Levin	Scott (VA)
Costa	Lewis	Scott, David
Courtney	Lipinski	Serrano
Crowley	Loebach	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Cummings	Lowenthal	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lowey	Sinema
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham	Sires
DeFazio	(NM)	Slaughter
DeGette	Luján, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
Delaney	(NM)	Speier
DeLauro	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
DelBene	Maffei	Takano
Deutch	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Doyle	Matheson	Titus
Duckworth	Matsui	Tonko
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Tsongas
Ellison	McCollum	Van Hollen
Engel	McDermott	Vargas
Enyart	McGovern	Veasey
Eshoo	McIntyre	Vela
Esty	McNerney	Velázquez
Farr	Meeks	Visclosky
Fattah	Meng	Walz
Foster	Michaud	Waters
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Waxman
Fudge	Moore	Welch
Gabbard	Moran	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Nadler	
Garcia	Napolitano	

NOT VOTING—10

Barton	Gingrey (GA)	Rush
Capito	Hastings (FL)	Wasserman
Conaway	Nunnelee	Schultz
DesJarlais	Owens	

□ 1359

Messrs. RICHMOND, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SINEMA, Messrs. GRAYSON and HOYER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. AMODEI and COLLINS of Georgia changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 193, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 511]

AYES—227

Aderholt	Farenthold	King (IA)
Amash	Fincher	King (NY)
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Kingston
Bachmann	Fleischmann	Kinzing (IL)
Bachus	Fleming	Kline
Barber	Flores	Labrador
Barletta	Forbes	LaMalfa
Barr	Fortenberry	Lamborn
Benishek	Fox	Lance
Bentivolio	Franks (AZ)	Lankford
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Bishop (UT)	Gardner	Latta
Black	Garrett	LoBiondo
Blackburn	Gerlach	Long
Boustany	Gibbs	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Bridenstine	Gingrey (GA)	Lummis
Brooks (AL)	Gohmert	Marchant
Brooks (IN)	Goodlatte	Marino
Broun (GA)	Gosar	Massie
Buchanan	Gowdy	McAllister
Bucshon	Granger	McCarthy (CA)
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Byrne	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Calvert	Griffin (AR)	McHenry
Camp	Griffith (VA)	McKeon
Campbell	Grimm	McKinley
Carter	Guthrie	McMorris
Cassidy	Hall	Rodgers
Chabot	Hanna	Meadows
Chaffetz	Harper	Meehan
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Messer
Coble	Hartzler	Mica
Coffman	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Cole	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Miller, Gary
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Mullin
Cook	Holding	Mulvaney
Cotton	Hudson	Murphy (PA)
Cramer	Huelskamp	Neugebauer
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Nugent
Culberson	Hunter	Nunes
Daines	Hurt	Olson
Davis, Rodney	Issa	Palazzo
Denham	Jenkins	Paulsen
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Perry
Diaz-Balart	Jolly	Petri
Duffy	Jones	Pittenger
Duncan (SC)	Jordan	Pitts
Duncan (TN)	Joyce	Poe (TX)
Ellmers	Kelly (PA)	Pompeo

Posey	Sanford
Price (GA)	Scalise
Reed	Schoc
Reichert	Schweikert
Renacci	Scott, Austin
Rice (SC)	Sensenbrenner
Rigell	Sessions
Roby	Shimkus
Roe (TN)	Shuster
Rogers (AL)	Simpson
Rogers (KY)	Sinema
Rogers (MI)	Smith (MO)
Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)
Rokita	Smith (NJ)
Rooney	Smith (TX)
Ros-Lehtinen	Southerland
Roskam	Stewart
Ross	Stivers
Rothfus	Stockman
Royce	Stutzman
Runyan	Terry
Ryan (WI)	Thompson (PA)
Salmon	Thornberry

NOES—193

Barrow (GA)	Grayson	Napolitano
Bass	Green, Al	Neal
Beatty	Green, Gene	Negrete McLeod
Becerra	Grijalva	Nolan
Bera (CA)	Gutiérrez	O'Rourke
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	Owens
Bishop (NY)	Hanabusa	Pallone
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Pascarell
Bonamici	Higgins	Pastor (AZ)
Brady (PA)	Himes	Payne
Braley (IA)	Hinojosa	Pelosi
Brown (FL)	Holt	Perlmutter
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Peters (CA)
Bustos	Horsford	Peters (MI)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Peterson
Capps	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
Capuano	Israel	Pocan
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Polis
Carney	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Rangel
Castro (TX)	Keating	Richmond
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Ciçilline	Kennedy	Ruiz
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Ruppersberger
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Clay	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Kuster	Schakowsky
Cohen	Langevin	Schiff
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Costa	Levin	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Lewis	Scott, David
Crowley	Lipinski	Serrano
Cuellar	Loeb	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Loeb	Shea-Porter
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Sires
DeFazio	Lowe	Slaughter
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Smith (WA)
Delaney	(NM)	Speier
DeLauro	Lujan, Ben Ray	Swalwell (CA)
DeBene	(NM)	Takano
Deutch	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Maffei	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Maloney,	Tierney
Doyle	Carolyn	Titus
Duckworth	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
Edwards	Matheson	Tsongas
Ellison	Matsui	Van Hollen
Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Vargas
Enyart	McCollum	Veasey
Eshoo	McDermott	Vela
Esty	McGovern	Velázquez
Farr	McIntyre	Visclosky
Fattah	McNerney	Walz
Foster	Meeks	Waters
Frankel (FL)	Meng	Waxman
Fudge	Michaud	Welch
Gabbard	Miller, George	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Moore	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Moran	
Garcia	Murphy (FL)	
	Nadler	

NOT VOTING—11

Barton	Nunnelee	Wasserman
Capito	Ribble	Schultz
Conaway	Rush	Wolf
DesJarlais	Sánchez, Linda	
Hastings (FL)	T.	

□ 1408

Ms. SINEMA changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 727, I call up the bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). Pursuant to House Resolution 727, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Jobs for America Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. PAYGO scorecard.

DIVISION I—WAYS AND MEANS

TITLE I—SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS

- Sec. 101. Short title.
- Sec. 102. Repeal of 30-hour threshold for classification as full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replacement with 40 hours.

TITLE II—HIRE MORE HEROES

- Sec. 201. Short title.
- Sec. 202. Employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration may be exempted from employer mandate under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TITLE III—AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS

- Sec. 301. Short title.
- Sec. 302. Research credit simplified and made permanent.
- Sec. 303. PAYGO Scorecard.

TITLE IV—AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF

- Sec. 401. Short title.
- Sec. 402. Expensing certain depreciable business assets for small business.
- Sec. 403. Budgetary effects.

TITLE V—S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF

- Sec. 501. Short title.
- Sec. 502. Reduced recognition period for built-in gains of S corporations made permanent.

Sec. 503. Permanent rule regarding basis adjustment to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property.

Sec. 504. Budgetary effects.

TITLE VI—BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

Sec. 601. Bonus depreciation modified and made permanent.

Sec. 602. Budgetary effects.

TITLE VII—REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX

Sec. 701. Repeal of medical device excise tax.

Sec. 702. Budgetary effects.

DIVISION II—FINANCIAL SERVICES

TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL ACCESS AND JOB PRESERVATION

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Registration and reporting exemptions relating to private equity funds advisors.

TITLE II—SMALL BUSINESS MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS, SALES, AND BROKERAGE SIMPLIFICATION

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Registration exemption for merger and acquisition brokers.

Sec. 203. Effective date.

DIVISION III—OVERSIGHT

SUBDIVISION A—UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Purpose.

Sec. 103. Providing for Congressional Budget Office studies on policies involving changes in conditions of grant aid.

Sec. 104. Clarifying the definition of direct costs to reflect Congressional Budget Office practice.

Sec. 105. Expanding the scope of reporting requirements to include regulations imposed by independent regulatory agencies.

Sec. 106. Amendments to replace Office of Management and Budget with Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Sec. 107. Applying substantive point of order to private sector mandates.

Sec. 108. Regulatory process and principles.

Sec. 109. Expanding the scope of statements to accompany significant regulatory actions.

Sec. 110. Enhanced stakeholder consultation.

Sec. 111. New authorities and responsibilities for Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Sec. 112. Retrospective analysis of existing Federal regulations.

Sec. 113. Expansion of judicial review.

SUBDIVISION B—ACHIEVING LESS EXCESS IN REGULATION AND REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 100. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ALL ECONOMIC REGULATIONS ARE TRANSPARENT ACT

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs publication of information relating to rules.

TITLE II—REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Rule making.

Sec. 204. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; presidential authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.

Sec. 205. Hearings; presiding employees; powers and duties; burden of proof; evidence; record as basis of decision.

Sec. 206. Actions reviewable.

Sec. 207. Scope of review.

Sec. 208. Added definition.

Sec. 209. Effective date.

TITLE III—REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Clarification and expansion of rules covered by the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Sec. 303. Expansion of report of regulatory agenda.

Sec. 304. Requirements providing for more detailed analyses.

Sec. 305. Repeal of waiver and delay authority; additional powers of the Chief Counsel for Advocacy.

Sec. 306. Procedures for gathering comments.

Sec. 307. Periodic review of rules.

Sec. 308. Judicial review of compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act available after publication of the final rule.

Sec. 309. Jurisdiction of court of appeals over rules implementing the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Sec. 310. Establishment and approval of small business concern size standards by Chief Counsel for Advocacy.

Sec. 311. Clerical amendments.

Sec. 312. Agency preparation of guides.

Sec. 313. Comptroller General report.

TITLE IV—SUNSHINE FOR REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS ACT

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Consent decree and settlement reform.

Sec. 404. Motions to modify consent decrees.

Sec. 405. Effective date.

DIVISION IV—JUDICIARY

TITLE I—REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Purpose.

Sec. 103. Congressional review of agency rulemaking.

Sec. 104. Budgetary effects of rules subject to section 802 of title 5, United States Code.

Sec. 105. Government Accountability Office study of rules.

TITLE II—PERMANENT INTERNET TAX FREEDOM

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Permanent moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce.

DIVISION V—NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBDIVISION A—RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Sec. 100. Short title.

TITLE I—RESTORING THE COMMITMENT TO RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS

Sec. 101. Purposes.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Establishment of Forest Reserve Revenue Areas and annual volume requirements.

Sec. 104. Management of Forest Reserve Revenue Areas.

Sec. 105. Distribution of forest reserve revenues.

Sec. 106. Annual report.

TITLE II—HEALTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Sec. 201. Purposes.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Hazardous fuel reduction projects and forest health projects in at-risk forests.

Sec. 204. Environmental analysis.

Sec. 205. State designation of high-risk areas of National Forest System and public lands.

Sec. 206. Use of hazardous fuels reduction or forest health projects for high-risk areas.

Sec. 207. Moratorium on use of prescribed fire in Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, pending report.

TITLE III—OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS TRUST, CONSERVATION, AND JOBS

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Trust, Conservation, and Jobs

CHAPTER 1—CREATION AND TERMS OF O&C TRUST

Sec. 311. Creation of O&C Trust and designation of O&C Trust lands.

Sec. 312. Legal effect of O&C Trust and judicial review.

Sec. 313. Board of Trustees.

Sec. 314. Management of O&C Trust lands.

Sec. 315. Distribution of revenues from O&C Trust lands.

Sec. 316. Land exchange authority.

Sec. 317. Payments to the United States Treasury.

CHAPTER 2—TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS TO FOREST SERVICE

Sec. 321. Transfer of certain Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands to Forest Service.

Sec. 322. Management of transferred lands by Forest Service.

Sec. 323. Management efficiencies and expedited land exchanges.

Sec. 324. Review panel and old growth protection.

Sec. 325. Uniqueness of old growth protection on Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands.

CHAPTER 3—TRANSITION

Sec. 331. Transition period and operations.

Sec. 332. O&C Trust management capitalization.

Sec. 333. Existing Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service contracts.

Sec. 334. Protection of valid existing rights and access to non-Federal land.

Sec. 335. Repeal of superseded law relating to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands.

Subtitle B—Coos Bay Wagon Roads

Sec. 341. Transfer of management authority over certain Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands to Coos County, Oregon.

Sec. 342. Transfer of certain Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands to Forest Service.

Sec. 343. Land exchange authority.

Subtitle C—Oregon Treasures

CHAPTER 1—WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 351. Designation of Devil's Staircase Wilderness.

Sec. 352. Expansion of Wild Rogue Wilderness Area.

CHAPTER 2—WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

DESIGNATED AND RELATED PROTECTIONS

Sec. 361. Wild and scenic river designations, Molalla River.

- Sec. 362. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act technical corrections related to Chetco River.
- Sec. 363. Wild and scenic river designations, Wasson Creek and Franklin Creek.
- Sec. 364. Wild and scenic river designations, Rogue River area.
- Sec. 365. Additional protections for Rogue River tributaries.

CHAPTER 3—ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS

- Sec. 371. Limitations on land acquisition.
- Sec. 372. Overflights.
- Sec. 373. Buffer zones.
- Sec. 374. Prevention of wildfires.
- Sec. 375. Limitation on designation of certain lands in Oregon.

CHAPTER 4—EFFECTIVE DATE

- Sec. 381. Effective date.

Subtitle D—Tribal Trust Lands

PART 1—COUNCIL CREEK LAND CONVEYANCE

- Sec. 391. Definitions.
- Sec. 392. Conveyance.
- Sec. 393. Map and legal description.
- Sec. 394. Administration.

PART 2—OREGON COASTAL LAND CONVEYANCE

- Sec. 395. Definitions.
- Sec. 396. Conveyance.
- Sec. 397. Map and legal description.
- Sec. 398. Administration.

TITLE IV—COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION

- Sec. 401. Purpose and definitions.
- Sec. 402. Establishment of community forest demonstration areas.
- Sec. 403. Advisory committee.
- Sec. 404. Management of community forest demonstration areas.
- Sec. 405. Distribution of funds from community forest demonstration area.
- Sec. 406. Initial funding authority.
- Sec. 407. Payments to United States Treasury.
- Sec. 408. Termination of community forest demonstration area.

TITLE V—REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Extension of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 pending full operation of Forest Reserve Revenue Areas.
- Sec. 502. Restoring original calculation method for 25-percent payments.
- Sec. 503. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management good-neighbor cooperation with States to reduce wildfire risks.
- Sec. 504. Treatment as supplemental funding.
- Sec. 505. Definition of fire suppression to include certain related activities.
- Sec. 506. Prohibition on certain actions regarding Forest Service roads and trails.

SUBDIVISION B—NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION

- Sec. 100. Short title.
- Sec. 100A. Findings.
- Sec. 100B. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC SOURCES OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS

- Sec. 101. Improving development of strategic and critical minerals.
- Sec. 102. Responsibilities of the lead agency.
- Sec. 103. Conservation of the resource.
- Sec. 104. Federal register process for mineral exploration and mining projects.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL REVIEW OF AGENCY ACTIONS RELATING TO EXPLORATION AND MINE PERMITS

- Sec. 201. Definitions for title.
- Sec. 202. Timely filings.
- Sec. 203. Right to intervene.
- Sec. 204. Expedition in hearing and determining the action.

- Sec. 205. Limitation on prospective relief.
- Sec. 206. Limitation on attorneys' fees.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 301. Secretarial order not affected.

SEC. 3. PAYGO SCORECARD.

The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

DIVISION I—WAYS AND MEANS

TITLE I—SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Save American Workers Act of 2014”.

SEC. 102. REPEAL OF 30-HOUR THRESHOLD FOR CLASSIFICATION AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE FOR PURPOSES OF THE EMPLOYER MANDATE IN THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND REPLACEMENT WITH 40 HOURS.

(a) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

- (1) by repealing subparagraph (E), and
- (2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS TREATED AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph, an employer shall, in addition to the number of full-time employees for any month otherwise determined, include for such month a number of full-time employees determined by dividing the aggregate number of hours of service of employees who are not full-time employees for the month by 174.”.

(b) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Paragraph (4) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

- (1) by repealing subparagraph (A), and
- (2) by inserting before subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘full-time employee’ means, with respect to any month, an employee who is employed on average at least 40 hours of service per week.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

TITLE II—HIRE MORE HEROES

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Hire More Heroes Act of 2014”.

SEC. 202. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

TITLE III—AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. RESEARCH CREDIT SIMPLIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the research credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall be an amount equal to the sum of—

“(1) 20 percent of so much of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year as exceeds 50 percent of the average qualified research expenses for the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined,

“(2) 20 percent of so much of the basic research payments for the taxable year as exceeds 50 percent of the average basic research payments for the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined, plus

“(3) 20 percent of the amounts paid or incurred by the taxpayer in carrying on any trade or business of the taxpayer during the taxable year (including as contributions) to an energy research consortium for energy research.”.

(b) REPEAL OF TERMINATION.—Section 41 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (h).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (c) of section 41 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(c) DETERMINATION OF AVERAGE RESEARCH EXPENSES FOR PRIOR YEARS.—

“(1) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF NO QUALIFIED RESEARCH EXPENDITURES IN ANY OF 3 PRECEDING TAXABLE YEARS.—In any case in which the taxpayer has no qualified research expenses in any one of the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined, the amount determined under subsection (a)(1) for such taxable year shall be equal to 10 percent of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year.

“(2) CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF EXPENSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding whether the period for filing a claim for credit or refund has expired for any taxable year taken into account in determining the average qualified research expenses, or average basic research payments, taken into account under subsection (a), the qualified research expenses and basic research payments taken into account in determining such averages shall be determined on a basis consistent with the determination of qualified research expenses and basic research payments, respectively, for the credit year.

“(B) PREVENTION OF DISTORTIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations to prevent distortions in calculating a taxpayer's qualified research expenses or basic research payments caused by a change in accounting methods used by such taxpayer between the current year and a year taken into account in determining the average qualified research expenses or average basic research payments taken into account under subsection (a).”.

(2) Section 41(e) of such Code is amended—
(A) by striking all that precedes paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(e) BASIC RESEARCH PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘basic research payment’ means, with respect to any taxable year, any amount paid in cash during such taxable year by a corporation to any qualified organization for basic research but only if—

“(A) such payment is pursuant to a written agreement between such corporation and such qualified organization, and

“(B) such basic research is to be performed by such qualified organization.

“(2) EXCEPTION TO REQUIREMENT THAT RESEARCH BE PERFORMED BY THE ORGANIZATION.—In the case of a qualified organization described in subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (3), subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) shall not apply.”

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and

(C) in paragraph (4) as so redesignated, by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

(3) Section 41(f)(3) of such Code is amended—

(A)(i) by striking “, and the gross receipts” in subparagraph (A)(i) and all that follows through “determined under clause (iii)”,

(ii) by striking clause (iii) of subparagraph (A) and redesignating clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), thereof, as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively,

(iii) by striking “and (iv)” each place it appears in subparagraph (A)(iv) (as so redesignated) and inserting “and (iii)”,

(iv) by striking subclause (IV) of subparagraph (A)(iv) (as so redesignated), by striking “, and” at the end of subparagraph (A)(iv)(III) (as so redesignated) and inserting a period, and by adding “and” at the end of subparagraph (A)(iv)(II) (as so redesignated),

(v) by striking “(A)(vi)” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “(A)(v)”, and

(vi) by striking “(A)(iv)(II)” in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) and inserting “(A)(iii)(II)”,

(B) by striking “, and the gross receipts of the predecessor,” in subparagraph (A)(iv)(II) (as so redesignated),

(C) by striking “, and the gross receipts of,” in subparagraph (B),

(D) by striking “, or gross receipts of,” in subparagraph (B)(i)(I), and

(E) by striking subparagraph (C).

(4) Section 45C(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) SUBSECTION (b).—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 303. PAYGO SCORECARD.

(a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

TITLE IV—AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “America’s Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2014”.

SEC. 402. EXPENSING CERTAIN DEPRECIABLE BUSINESS ASSETS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed—” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$500,000.”

(2) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code is amended by striking “exceeds—” and all that follows and inserting “exceeds \$2,000,000.”

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Clause (ii) of section 179(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “, to which section 167 applies, and which is placed in service in a taxable year beginning after 2002 and before 2014” and inserting “and to which section 167 applies”.

(c) ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(c) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “may not be revoked” and all that follows through “and before 2014”, and

(2) by striking “IRREVOCABLE” in the heading thereof.

(d) AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING UNITS.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(d) of such Code is amended by striking “and shall not include air conditioning or heating units”.

(e) QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—Subsection (f) of section 179 of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013” in paragraph (1), and

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(f) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 179 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2014, the dollar amounts in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which such taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(B) ROUNDING.—The amount of any increase under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 403. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

TITLE V—S CORPORATION PERMANENT TAX RELIEF

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act of 2014”.

SEC. 502. REDUCED RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS OF S CORPORATIONS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (7) of section 1374(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(7) RECOGNITION PERIOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘recognition period’ means the 5-year period beginning with the 1st day of the 1st taxable year for

which the corporation was an S corporation. For purposes of applying this section to any amount includible in income by reason of distributions to shareholders pursuant to section 593(e), the preceding sentence shall be applied without regard to the phrase ‘5-year’.

“(B) INSTALLMENT SALES.—If an S corporation sells an asset and reports the income from the sale using the installment method under section 453, the treatment of all payments received shall be governed by the provisions of this paragraph applicable to the taxable year in which such sale was made.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 503. PERMANENT RULE REGARDING BASIS ADJUSTMENT TO STOCK OF S CORPORATIONS MAKING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1367(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 504. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

TITLE VI—BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

SEC. 601. BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT.

(a) MADE PERMANENT; INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED RETAIL IMPROVEMENT PROPERTY.—Section 168(k)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(2) QUALIFIED PROPERTY.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified property’ means property—

“(i) to which this section applies which has a recovery period of 20 years or less,

“(II) which is computer software (as defined in section 167(f)(1)(B)) for which a deduction is allowable under section 167(a) without regard to this subsection,

“(III) which is water utility property,

“(IV) which is qualified leasehold improvement property, or

“(V) which is qualified retail improvement property, and

“(ii) the original use of which commences with the taxpayer.

“(B) EXCEPTION FOR ALTERNATIVE DEPRECIATION PROPERTY.—The term ‘qualified property’ shall not include any property to which the alternative depreciation system under subsection (g) applies, determined—

“(i) without regard to paragraph (7) of subsection (g) (relating to election to have system apply), and

“(ii) after application of section 280F(b) (relating to listed property with limited business use).

“(C) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(i) SALE-LEASEBACKS.—For purposes of clause (ii) and subparagraph (A)(ii), if property is—

“(I) originally placed in service by a person, and

“(II) sold and leased back by such person within 3 months after the date such property was originally placed in service,

such property shall be treated as originally placed in service not earlier than the date on which such property is used under the lease-back referred to in subclause (II).

“(ii) SYNDICATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), if—

“(I) property is originally placed in service by the lessor of such property,

“(II) such property is sold by such lessor or any subsequent purchaser within 3 months after the date such property was originally placed in service (or, in the case of multiple units of property subject to the same lease, within 3 months after the date the final unit is placed in service, so long as the period between the time the first unit is placed in service and the time the last unit is placed in service does not exceed 12 months), and

“(III) the user of such property after the last sale during such 3-month period remains the same as when such property was originally placed in service,

such property shall be treated as originally placed in service not earlier than the date of such last sale.

“(D) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 280F.—For purposes of section 280F—

“(i) AUTOMOBILES.—In the case of a passenger automobile (as defined in section 280F(d)(5)) which is qualified property, the Secretary shall increase the limitation under section 280F(a)(1)(A)(i) by \$8,000.

“(ii) LISTED PROPERTY.—The deduction allowable under paragraph (1) shall be taken into account in computing any recapture amount under section 280F(b)(2).

“(iii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2014, the \$8,000 amount in clause (i) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(II) the automobile price inflation adjustment determined under section 280F(d)(7)(B)(i) for the calendar year in which such taxable year begins by substituting ‘2013’ for ‘1987’ in subclause (II) thereof.

If any increase under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$100, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

“(E) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.—For purposes of determining alternative minimum taxable income under section 55, the deduction under section 167 for qualified property shall be determined without regard to any adjustment under section 56.”.

(b) EXPANSION OF ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—Section 168(k)(4) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(4) ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a corporation elects to have this paragraph apply for any taxable year—

“(i) paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(D)(i), and (5)(A)(i) shall not apply for such taxable year,

“(ii) the applicable depreciation method used under this section with respect to any qualified property shall be the straight line method, and

“(iii) the limitation imposed by section 53(c) for such taxable year shall be increased by the bonus depreciation amount which is determined for such taxable year under subparagraph (B).

“(B) BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The bonus depreciation amount for any taxable year is an amount equal to 20 percent of the excess (if any) of—

“(I) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be allowed under this section for qualified property placed in service by the taxpayer during such taxable year if paragraph (1) applied to all such property, over

“(II) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be allowed under this section for qualified property placed in service by the taxpayer during such taxable year if paragraph (1) did not apply to any such property.

The aggregate amounts determined under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be determined without regard to any election made under subsection (b)(2)(D), (b)(3)(D), or (g)(7) and without regard to subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(ii) LIMITATION.—The bonus depreciation amount for any taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of—

“(I) 50 percent of the minimum tax credit under section 53(b) for the first taxable year ending after December 31, 2013, or

“(II) the minimum tax credit under section 53(b) for such taxable year determined by taking into account only the adjusted net minimum tax for taxable years ending before January 1, 2014 (determined by treating credits as allowed on a first-in, first-out basis).

“(iii) AGGREGATION RULE.—All corporations which are treated as a single employer under section 52(a) shall be treated—

“(I) as 1 taxpayer for purposes of this paragraph, and

“(II) as having elected the application of this paragraph if any such corporation so elects.

“(C) CREDIT REFUNDABLE.—For purposes of section 6401(b), the aggregate increase in the credits allowable under part IV of subchapter A for any taxable year resulting from the application of this paragraph shall be treated as allowed under subpart C of such part (and not any other subpart).

“(D) OTHER RULES.—

“(i) ELECTION.—Any election under this paragraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(ii) PARTNERSHIPS WITH ELECTING PARTNERS.—In the case of a corporation which is a partner in a partnership and which makes an election under subparagraph (A) for the taxable year, for purposes of determining such corporation's distributive share of partnership items under section 702 for such taxable year—

“(I) paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(D)(i), and (5)(A)(i) shall not apply, and

“(II) the applicable depreciation method used under this section with respect to any qualified property shall be the straight line method.

“(iii) CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.—In the case of a partnership in which more than 50 percent of the capital and profits interests are owned (directly or indirectly) at all times during the taxable year by 1 corporation (or by corporations treated as 1 taxpayer under subparagraph (B)(iii)), each partner shall compute its bonus depreciation amount under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by taking into account its distributive share of the amounts determined by the partnership under subclauses (I) and (II) of such clause for the taxable year of the partnership ending with or within the taxable year of the partner.”.

(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREES AND VINES BEARING FRUITS AND NUTS.—Section 168(k) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREES AND VINES BEARING FRUITS AND NUTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any tree or vine bearing fruits or nuts which is planted, or is grafted to a plant that has already been planted, by the taxpayer in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's farming business (as defined in section 263A(e)(4))—

“(i) a depreciation deduction equal to 50 percent of the adjusted basis of such tree or vine shall be allowed under section 167(a) for the taxable year in which such tree or vine is so planted or grafted, and

“(ii) the adjusted basis of such tree or vine shall be reduced by the amount of such deduction.

“(B) ELECTION OUT.—If a taxpayer makes an election under this subparagraph for any taxable year, this paragraph shall not apply to any tree or vine planted or grafted during such taxable year. An election under this subparagraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(C) ADDITIONAL DEPRECIATION MAY BE CLAIMED ONLY ONCE.—If this paragraph applies to any tree or vine, such tree or vine shall not be treated as qualified property in the taxable year in which placed in service.

“(D) COORDINATION WITH ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS.—If a corporation makes an election under paragraph (4) for any taxable year, the amount under paragraph (4)(B)(i)(I) for such taxable year shall be increased by the amount determined under subparagraph (A)(i) for such taxable year.

“(E) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (2)(E) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 168(e)(8) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) Section 168(k) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) ELECTION OUT.—If a taxpayer makes an election under this paragraph with respect to any class of property for any taxable year, this subsection shall not apply to all property in such class placed in service (or, in the case of paragraph (5), planted or grafted) during such taxable year. An election under this paragraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.”.

(3) Section 168(l)(5) of such Code is amended by striking “section 168(k)(2)(G)” and inserting “section 168(k)(2)(E)”.

(4) Section 263A(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 168(k)(5).—This section shall not apply to any amount allowable as a deduction by reason of section 168(k)(5) (relating to special rules for trees and vines bearing fruits and nuts).”.

(5) Section 460(c)(6)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “which—” and all that follows and inserting “which has a recovery period of 7 years or less.”.

(6) Section 168(k) of such Code is amended by striking “ACQUIRED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2007, AND BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014” in the heading thereof.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

(2) EXPANSION OF ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (b) (other than so much of such

amendment as relates to section 168(k)(4)(D)(iii) of such Code, as added by such amendment) shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2013.

(B) **TRANSITIONAL RULE.**—In the case of a taxable year beginning before January 1, 2014, and ending after December 31, 2013, the bonus depreciation amount determined under section 168(k)(4) of such Code for such year shall be the sum of—

(i) such amount determined without regard to the amendments made by this section and—

(I) by taking into account only property placed in service before January 1, 2014, and

(II) by multiplying the limitation under section 168(k)(4)(C)(ii) of such Code (determined without regard to the amendments made by this section) by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of days in the taxable year before January 1, 2014, and the denominator of which is the number of days in the taxable year, and

(ii) such amount determined after taking into account the amendments made by this section and—

(I) by taking into account only property placed in service after December 31, 2013, and

(II) by multiplying the limitation under section 168(k)(4)(B)(ii) of such Code (as amended by this section) by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of days in the taxable year after December 31, 2013, and the denominator of which is the number of days in the taxable year.

(3) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN TREES AND VINES.**—The amendment made by subsection (c)(2) shall apply to trees and vines planted or grafted after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 602. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

TITLE VII—REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX

SEC. 701. REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE EXCISE TAX.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter E.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Subsection (a) of section 4221 of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 6416(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(3) The table of subchapters for chapter 32 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter E.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after December 31, 2012.

SEC. 702. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

DIVISION II—FINANCIAL SERVICES TITLE I—SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL ACCESS AND JOB PRESERVATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act”.

SEC. 102. REGISTRATION AND REPORTING EXEMPTIONS RELATING TO PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS ADVISORS.

Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) **EXEMPTION OF AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BY PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS ADVISORS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in this subsection, no investment adviser shall be subject to the registration or reporting requirements of this title with respect to the provision of investment advice relating to a private equity fund or funds, provided that each such fund has not borrowed and does not have outstanding a principal amount in excess of twice its invested capital commitments.

“(2) **MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND ACCESS BY COMMISSION.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall issue final rules—

“(A) to require investment advisers described in paragraph (1) to maintain such records and provide to the Commission such annual or other reports as the Commission may require taking into account fund size, governance, investment strategy, risk, and other factors, as the Commission determines necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors; and

“(B) to define the term ‘private equity fund’ for purposes of this subsection.”.

TITLE II—SMALL BUSINESS MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS, SALES, AND BROKERAGE SIMPLIFICATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2014”.

SEC. 202. REGISTRATION EXEMPTION FOR MERGER AND ACQUISITION BROKERS.

Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) **REGISTRATION EXEMPTION FOR MERGER AND ACQUISITION BROKERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an M&A broker shall be exempt from registration under this section.

“(B) **EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.**—An M&A broker is not exempt from registration under this paragraph if such broker does any of the following:

“(i) Directly or indirectly, in connection with the transfer of ownership of an eligible privately held company, receives, holds, transmits, or has custody of the funds or securities to be exchanged by the parties to the transaction.

“(ii) Engages on behalf of an issuer in a public offering of any class of securities that is registered, or is required to be registered, with the Commission under section 12 or with respect to which the issuer files, or is required to file, periodic information, documents, and reports under subsection (d).

“(C) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit any other authority of the Commission to exempt any person, or any class of persons, from any provision of this title, or from any provision of any rule or regulation thereunder.

“(D) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **CONTROL.**—The term ‘control’ means the power, directly or indirectly, to direct the management or policies of a company, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. There is a presumption of control for any person who—

“(I) is a director, general partner, member or manager of a limited liability company, or officer exercising executive responsibility (or has similar status or functions);

“(II) has the right to vote 20 percent or more of a class of voting securities or the power to sell or direct the sale of 20 percent or more of a class of voting securities; or

“(III) in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, has the right to receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, 20 percent or more of the capital.

“(ii) **ELIGIBLE PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY.**—The term ‘eligible privately held company’ means a company that meets both of the following conditions:

“(I) The company does not have any class of securities registered, or required to be registered, with the Commission under section 12 or with respect to which the company files, or is required to file, periodic information, documents, and reports under subsection (d).

“(II) In the fiscal year ending immediately before the fiscal year in which the services of the M&A broker are initially engaged with respect to the securities transaction, the company meets either or both of the following conditions (determined in accordance with the historical financial accounting records of the company):

“(aa) The earnings of the company before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization are less than \$25,000,000.

“(bb) The gross revenues of the company are less than \$250,000,000.

“(iii) **M&A BROKER.**—The term ‘M&A broker’ means a broker, and any person associated with a broker, engaged in the business of effecting securities transactions solely in connection with the transfer of ownership of an eligible privately held company, regardless of whether the broker acts on behalf of a seller or buyer, through the purchase, sale, exchange, issuance, repurchase, or redemption of, or a business combination involving, securities or assets of the eligible privately held company, if the broker reasonably believes that—

“(I) upon consummation of the transaction, any person acquiring securities or assets of the eligible privately held company, acting alone or in concert, will control and, directly or indirectly, will be active in the management of the eligible privately held company or the business conducted with the assets of the eligible privately held company; and

“(II) if any person is offered securities in exchange for securities or assets of the eligible privately held company, such person will, prior to becoming legally bound to consummate the transaction, receive or have reasonable access to the most recent year-end balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in financial position, and statement of owner's equity of the issuer of the securities offered in exchange, and, if the financial statements of the issuer are audited, the related report of the independent auditor, a balance sheet dated not more than 120 days before the date of the offer, and information pertaining to the management, business, results of operations for the period covered by the foregoing financial statements, and material loss contingencies of the issuer.

“(E) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.**—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2014, and every 5 years thereafter, each dollar amount in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II) shall be adjusted by—

“(I) dividing the annual value of the Employment Cost Index For Wages and Salaries, Private Industry Workers (or any successor index), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the adjustment is being made by the annual value of such index (or successor) for the calendar year ending December 31, 2012; and

“(II) multiplying such dollar amount by the quotient obtained under subclause (I).

“(ii) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount determined under clause (i) shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100,000.”.

SEC. 203. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title and any amendment made by this title shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

DIVISION III—OVERSIGHT

SUBDIVISION A—UNFUNDED MANDATES INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2014”.

SEC. 102. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is—

(1) to improve the quality of the deliberations of Congress with respect to proposed Federal mandates by—

(A) providing Congress and the public with more complete information about the effects of such mandates; and

(B) ensuring that Congress acts on such mandates only after focused deliberation on their effects; and

(2) to enhance the ability of Congress and the public to identify Federal mandates that may impose undue harm on consumers, workers, employers, small businesses, and State, local, and tribal governments.

SEC. 103. PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDIES ON POLICIES INVOLVING CHANGES IN CONDITIONS OF GRANT AID.

Section 202(g) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) ADDITIONAL STUDIES.—At the request of any Chairman or ranking member of the minority of a Committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives, the Director shall conduct an assessment comparing the authorized level of funding in a bill or resolution to the prospective costs of carrying out any changes to a condition of Federal assistance being imposed on State, local, or tribal governments participating in the Federal assistance program concerned or, in the case of a bill or joint resolution that authorizes such sums as are necessary, an assessment of an estimated level of funding compared to such costs.”.

SEC. 104. CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF DIRECT COSTS TO REFLECT CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PRACTICE.

Section 421(3) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658(3)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting “incur or” before “be required”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after “to spend” the following: “or could forgo in profits, including costs passed on to consumers or other entities taking into account,

to the extent practicable, behavioral changes.”.

SEC. 105. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS IMPOSED BY INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Paragraph (1) of section 421 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658) is amended by striking “, but does not include independent regulatory agencies” and inserting “, except it does not include the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee”.

SEC. 106. AMENDMENTS TO REPLACE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(c) (2 U.S.C. 1511(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET” and inserting “OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS”; and

(B) by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”;

(2) in section 205(c) (2 U.S.C. 1535(c))—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “OMB”; and

(B) by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”;

(3) in section 206 (2 U.S.C. 1536), by striking “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs”.

SEC. 107. APPLYING SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF ORDER TO PRIVATE SECTOR MANDATES.

Section 425(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658d(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Federal intergovernmental mandates” and inserting “Federal mandates”; and

(2) by inserting “or 424(b)(1)” after “section 424(a)(1)”.

SEC. 108. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

Section 201 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 201. REGULATORY PROCESS AND PRINCIPLES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall, unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector (other than to the extent that such regulatory actions incorporate requirements specifically set forth in law) in accordance with the following principles:

“(1) Each agency shall identify the problem that it intends to address (including, if applicable, the failures of private markets or public institutions that warrant new agency action) as well as assess the significance of that problem.

“(2) Each agency shall examine whether existing regulations (or other law) have created, or contributed to, the problem that a new regulation is intended to correct and whether those regulations (or other law) should be modified to achieve the intended goal of regulation more effectively.

“(3) Each agency shall identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including providing economic incentives to

encourage the desired behavior, such as user fees or marketable permits, or providing information upon which choices can be made by the public.

“(4) If an agency determines that a regulation is the best available method of achieving the regulatory objective, it shall design its regulations in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the regulatory objective. In doing so, each agency shall consider incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, the costs of enforcement and compliance (to the government, regulated entities, and the public), flexibility, distributive impacts, and equity.

“(5) Each agency shall assess both the costs and the benefits of the intended regulation and, recognizing that some costs and benefits are difficult to quantify, propose or adopt a regulation, unless expressly prohibited by law, only upon a reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs.

“(6) Each agency shall base its decisions on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other information concerning the need for, and consequences of, the intended regulation.

“(7) Each agency shall identify and assess alternative forms of regulation and shall, to the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than specifying the behavior or manner of compliance that regulated entities must adopt.

“(8) Each agency shall avoid regulations that are inconsistent, incompatible, or duplicative with its other regulations or those of other Federal agencies.

“(9) Each agency shall tailor its regulations to minimize the costs of the cumulative impact of regulations.

“(10) Each agency shall draft its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(b) REGULATORY ACTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘regulatory action’ means any substantive action by an agency (normally published in the Federal Register) that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final rule or regulation, including advance notices of proposed rulemaking and notices of proposed rulemaking.”.

SEC. 109. EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF STATEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1532) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless otherwise expressly prohibited by law, before promulgating any general notice of proposed rulemaking or any final rule, or within six months after promulgating any final rule that was not preceded by a general notice of proposed rulemaking, if the proposed rulemaking or final rule includes a Federal mandate that may result in an annual effect on State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, in the aggregate of \$100,000,000 or more in any 1 year, the agency shall prepare a written statement containing the following:

“(1) The text of the draft proposed rulemaking or final rule, together with a reasonably detailed description of the need for the proposed rulemaking or final rule and an explanation of how the proposed rulemaking or final rule will meet that need.

“(2) An assessment of the potential costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking or

final rule, including an explanation of the manner in which the proposed rulemaking or final rule is consistent with a statutory requirement and avoids undue interference with State, local, and tribal governments in the exercise of their governmental functions.

“(3) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of benefits anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the promotion of the efficient functioning of the economy and private markets, the enhancement of health and safety, the protection of the natural environment, and the elimination or reduction of discrimination or bias).

“(4) A qualitative and quantitative assessment, including the underlying analysis, of costs anticipated from the proposed rulemaking or final rule (such as the direct costs both to the Government in administering the final rule and to businesses and others in complying with the final rule, and any adverse effects on the efficient functioning of the economy, private markets (including productivity, employment, and international competitiveness), health, safety, and the natural environment).

“(5) Estimates by the agency, if and to the extent that the agency determines that accurate estimates are reasonably feasible, of—

“(A) the future compliance costs of the Federal mandate; and

“(B) any disproportionate budgetary effects of the Federal mandate upon any particular regions of the Nation or particular State, local, or tribal governments, urban or rural or other types of communities, or particular segments of the private sector.

“(6)(A) A detailed description of the extent of the agency's prior consultation with the private sector and elected representatives (under section 204) of the affected State, local, and tribal governments.

“(B) A detailed summary of the comments and concerns that were presented by the private sector and State, local, or tribal governments either orally or in writing to the agency.

“(C) A detailed summary of the agency's evaluation of those comments and concerns.

“(7) A detailed summary of how the agency complied with each of the regulatory principles described in section 201.”

(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR DETAILED SUMMARY.**—Subsection (b) of section 202 of such Act is amended by inserting “detailed” before “summary”.

SEC. 110. ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.

Section 204 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1534) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND PRIVATE SECTOR**” before “**INPUT**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business),” after “on their behalf”;

(B) by striking “Federal intergovernmental mandates” and inserting “Federal mandates”;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) **GUIDELINES.**—For appropriate implementation of subsections (a) and (b) consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the following guidelines shall be followed:

“(1) Consultations shall take place as early as possible, before issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking, continue through the final rule stage, and be integrated explicitly into the rulemaking process.

“(2) Agencies shall consult with a wide variety of State, local, and tribal officials and

impacted parties within the private sector (including small businesses). Geographic, political, and other factors that may differentiate varying points of view should be considered.

“(3) Agencies should estimate benefits and costs to assist with these consultations. The scope of the consultation should reflect the cost and significance of the Federal mandate being considered.

“(4) Agencies shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) seek out the views of State, local, and tribal governments, and impacted parties within the private sector (including small business), on costs, benefits, and risks; and

“(B) solicit ideas about alternative methods of compliance and potential flexibilities, and input on whether the Federal regulation will harmonize with and not duplicate similar laws in other levels of government.

“(5) Consultations shall address the cumulative impact of regulations on the affected entities.

“(6) Agencies may accept electronic submissions of comments by relevant parties but may not use those comments as the sole method of satisfying the guidelines in this subsection.”

SEC. 111. NEW AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.

Section 208 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1538) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 208. OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall provide meaningful guidance and oversight so that each agency's regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 are consistent with the principles and requirements of this title, as well as other applicable laws, and do not conflict with the policies or actions of another agency. If the Administrator determines that an agency's regulations for which a written statement is required under section 202 do not comply with such principles and requirements, are not consistent with other applicable laws, or conflict with the policies or actions of another agency, the Administrator shall identify areas of non-compliance, notify the agency, and request that the agency comply before the agency finalizes the regulation concerned.

“(b) **ANNUAL STATEMENTS TO CONGRESS ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.**—The Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs annually shall submit to Congress, including the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, a written report detailing compliance by each agency with the requirements of this title that relate to regulations for which a written statement is required by section 202, including activities undertaken at the request of the Director to improve compliance, during the preceding reporting period. The report shall also contain an appendix detailing compliance by each agency with section 204.”

SEC. 112. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4; 2 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210; and

(2) by inserting after section 208 the following new section 209:

“SEC. 209. RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

“(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—At the request of the chairman or ranking minority member of a standing or select committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, an agency shall conduct a retrospective analysis of an existing Federal regulation promulgated by an agency.

“(b) **REPORT.**—Each agency conducting a retrospective analysis of existing Federal regulations pursuant to subsection (a) shall submit to the chairman of the relevant committee, Congress, and the Comptroller General a report containing, with respect to each Federal regulation covered by the analysis—

“(1) a copy of the Federal regulation;

“(2) the continued need for the Federal regulation;

“(3) the nature of comments or complaints received concerning the Federal regulation from the public since the Federal regulation was promulgated;

“(4) the extent to which the Federal regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal regulations, and, to the extent feasible, with State and local governmental rules;

“(5) the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the Federal regulation;

“(6) a complete analysis of the retrospective direct costs and benefits of the Federal regulation that considers studies done outside the Federal Government (if any) estimating such costs or benefits; and

“(7) any litigation history challenging the Federal regulation.”

SEC. 113. EXPANSION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Section 401(a) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1571(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A)—

(A) by striking “sections 202 and 203(a)(1) and (2)” each place it appears and inserting “sections 201, 202, 203(a)(1) and (2), and 205(a) and (b)”;

(B) by striking “only” each place it appears;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “section 202” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “section 202, prepare the written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or comply with section 205(a) and (b), a court may compel the agency to prepare such written statement, prepare such written plan, or comply with such section.”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “written statement or plan is required” and all that follows through “shall not” and inserting the following: “written statement under section 202, a written plan under section 203(a)(1) and (2), or compliance with sections 201 and 205(a) and (b) is required, the inadequacy or failure to prepare such statement (including the inadequacy or failure to prepare any estimate, analysis, statement, or description), to prepare such written plan, or to comply with such section may”.

SUBDIVISION B—ACHIEVING LESS EXCESS IN REGULATION AND REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Achieving Less Excess in Regulation and Requiring Transparency Act of 2014” or as the “**ALERT** Act of 2014”.

TITLE I—ALL ECONOMIC REGULATIONS ARE TRANSPARENT ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act of 2014” or the “ALERT Act of 2014”.

SEC. 102. OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO RULES.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 6, the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 6A—OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO RULES

“Sec.

“651. Agency monthly submission to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

“652. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Publications.

“653. Requirement for rules to appear in agency-specific monthly publication.

“654. Definitions.

“§ 651. Agency monthly submission to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

“On a monthly basis, the head of each agency shall submit to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (referred to in this chapter as the ‘Administrator’), in such a manner as the Administrator may reasonably require, the following information:

“(1) For each rule that the agency expects to propose or finalize during the following year:

“(A) A summary of the nature of the rule, including the regulation identifier number and the docket number for the rule.

“(B) The objectives of and legal basis for the issuance of the rule, including—

“(i) any statutory or judicial deadline; and

“(ii) whether the legal basis restricts or precludes the agency from conducting an analysis of the costs or benefits of the rule during the rule making, and if not, whether the agency plans to conduct an analysis of the costs or benefits of the rule during the rule making.

“(C) Whether the agency plans to claim an exemption from the requirements of section 553 pursuant to section 553(b)(B).

“(D) The stage of the rule making as of the date of submission.

“(E) Whether the rule is subject to review under section 610.

“(2) For any rule for which the agency expects to finalize during the following year and has issued a general notice of proposed rule making—

“(A) an approximate schedule for completing action on the rule;

“(B) an estimate of whether the rule will cost—

“(i) less than \$50,000,000;

“(ii) \$50,000,000 or more but less than \$100,000,000;

“(iii) \$100,000,000 or more but less than \$500,000,000;

“(iv) \$500,000,000 or more but less than \$1,000,000,000;

“(v) \$1,000,000,000 or more but less than \$5,000,000,000;

“(vi) \$5,000,000,000 or more but less than \$10,000,000,000; or

“(vii) \$10,000,000,000 or more; and

“(C) any estimate of the economic effects of the rule, including any estimate of the net effect that the rule will have on the number of jobs in the United States, that was considered in drafting the rule. If such estimate is

not available, a statement affirming that no information on the economic effects, including the effect on the number of jobs, of the rule has been considered.

“§ 652. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Publications

“(a) AGENCY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION PUBLISHED MONTHLY.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of information pursuant to section 651, the Administrator shall make such information publicly available on the Internet.

“(b) CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT OF AGENCY RULE MAKING PUBLISHED ANNUALLY.—

“(1) PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—Not later than October 1 of each year, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register, for the previous year the following:

“(A) The information that the Administrator received from the head of each agency under section 651.

“(B) The number of rules and a list of each such rule—

“(i) that was proposed by each agency, including, for each such rule, an indication of whether the issuing agency conducted an analysis of the costs or benefits of the rule; and

“(ii) that was finalized by each agency, including for each such rule an indication of whether—

“(I) the issuing agency conducted an analysis of the costs or benefits of the rule;

“(II) the agency claimed an exemption from the procedures under section 553 pursuant to section 553(b)(B); and

“(III) the rule was issued pursuant to a statutory mandate or the rule making is committed to agency discretion by law.

“(C) The number of agency actions and a list of each such action taken by each agency that—

“(i) repealed a rule;

“(ii) reduced the scope of a rule;

“(iii) reduced the cost of a rule; or

“(iv) accelerated the expiration date of a rule.

“(D) The total cost (without reducing the cost by any offsetting benefits) of all rules proposed or finalized, and the number of rules for which an estimate of the cost of the rule was not available.

“(2) PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET.—Not later than October 1 of each year, the Administrator shall make publicly available on the Internet the following:

“(A) The analysis of the costs or benefits, if conducted, for each proposed rule or final rule issued by an agency for the previous year.

“(B) The docket number and regulation identifier number for each proposed or final rule issued by an agency for the previous year.

“(C) The number of rules and a list of each such rule reviewed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget for the previous year, and the authority under which each such review was conducted.

“(D) The number of rules and a list of each such rule for which the head of an agency completed a review under section 610 for the previous year.

“(E) The number of rules and a list of each such rule submitted to the Comptroller General under section 801.

“(F) The number of rules and a list of each such rule for which a resolution of disapproval was introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate under section 802.

“§ 653. Requirement for rules to appear in agency-specific monthly publication

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), a rule may not take effect until the information required to be made publicly available on the Internet regarding such rule pursuant to section 652(a) has been so available for not less than 6 months.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The requirement of subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a rule—

“(1) for which the agency issuing the rule claims an exception under section 553(b)(B); or

“(2) which the President determines by Executive order should take effect because the rule is—

“(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

“(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

“(C) necessary for national security; or

“(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

“§ 654. Definitions

“In this chapter, the terms ‘agency’, ‘agency action’, ‘rule’, and ‘rule making’ have the meanings given those terms in section 551.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for part I of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 5, the following:

“6. The Analysis of Regulatory Functions 601

“6A. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Publication of Information Relating to Rules 651”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) AGENCY MONTHLY SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS.—The first submission required pursuant to section 651 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be submitted not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this title, and monthly thereafter.

(2) CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT OF AGENCY RULE MAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 652 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

(B) DEADLINE.—The first requirement to publish or make available, as the case may be, under subsection (b) of section 652 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be the first October 1 after the effective date of such subsection.

(C) FIRST PUBLICATION.—The requirement under section 652(b)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall include for the first publication, any analysis of the costs or benefits conducted for a proposed or final rule, for the 10 years before the date of the enactment of this title.

(3) REQUIREMENT FOR RULES TO APPEAR IN AGENCY-SPECIFIC MONTHLY PUBLICATION.—Section 653 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is 8 months after the date of the enactment of this title.

TITLE II—REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulatory Accountability Act of 2014”.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

Section 551 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) ‘major rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local, or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions;

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

“(D) significant impacts on multiple sectors of the economy;

“(16) ‘high-impact rule’ means any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to impose an annual cost on the economy of \$1,000,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(17) ‘negative-impact on jobs and wages rule’ means any rule that the agency that made the rule or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determines is likely to—

“(A) in one or more sectors of the economy that has a 6-digit code under the North American Industry Classification System, reduce employment not related to new regulatory compliance by 1 percent or more annually during the 1-year, 5-year, or 10-year period after implementation;

“(B) in one or more sectors of the economy that has a 6-digit code under the North American Industry Classification System, reduce average weekly wages for employment not related to new regulatory compliance by 1 percent or more annually during the 1-year, 5-year, or 10-year period after implementation;

“(C) in any industry area (as such term is defined in the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) in which the most recent annual unemployment rate for the industry area is greater than 5 percent, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Current Population Survey, reduce employment not related to new regulatory compliance during the first year after implementation; or

“(D) in any industry area in which the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects in the Occupational Employment Statistics program that the employment level will decrease by 1 percent or more, further reduce employment not related to new regulatory compliance during the first year after implementation;

“(18) ‘guidance’ means an agency statement of general applicability and future effect, other than a regulatory action, that sets forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory or technical issue or an interpretation of a statutory or regulatory issue;

“(19) ‘major guidance’ means guidance that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs finds is likely to lead to—

“(A) an annual cost on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted annually for inflation;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, local or tribal government agencies, or geographic regions;

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

“(D) significant impacts on multiple sectors of the economy;

“(20) the ‘Information Quality Act’ means section 515 of Public Law 106-554, the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, and guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs or other agencies pursuant to the Act; and

“(21) the ‘Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs’ means the office established under section 3503 of chapter 35 of title 44 and any successor to that office.”.

SEC. 203. RULE MAKING.

(a) Section 553(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “(a) This section applies” and inserting “(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies”.

(b) Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (b) through (e) and inserting the following:

“(b) RULE MAKING CONSIDERATIONS.—In a rule making, an agency shall make all preliminary and final factual determinations based on evidence and consider, in addition to other applicable considerations, the following:

“(1) The legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making.

“(2) Other statutory considerations applicable to whether the agency can or should propose a rule or undertake other agency action.

“(3) The specific nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule (including the degree and nature of risks the problem poses and the priority of addressing those risks compared to other matters or activities within the agency’s jurisdiction), whether the problem warrants new agency action, and the countervailing risks that may be posed by alternatives for new agency action.

“(4) Whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency may address with a rule and whether those rules could be amended or rescinded to address the problem in whole or part.

“(5) Any reasonable alternatives for a new rule or other response identified by the agency or interested persons, including not only responses that mandate particular conduct or manners of compliance, but also—

“(A) the alternative of no Federal response;

“(B) amending or rescinding existing rules;

“(C) potential regional, State, local, or tribal regulatory action or other responses that could be taken in lieu of agency action; and

“(D) potential responses that—

“(i) specify performance objectives rather than conduct or manners of compliance;

“(ii) establish economic incentives to encourage desired behavior;

“(iii) provide information upon which choices can be made by the public; or

“(iv) incorporate other innovative alternatives rather than agency actions that specify conduct or manners of compliance.

“(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

“(A) the potential costs and benefits associated with potential alternative rules and

other responses considered under section 553(b)(5), including direct, indirect, and cumulative costs and benefits and estimated impacts on jobs (including an estimate of the net gain or loss in domestic jobs), wages, economic growth, innovation, and economic competitiveness;

“(B) means to increase the cost-effectiveness of any Federal response; and

“(C) incentives for innovation, consistency, predictability, lower costs of enforcement and compliance (to government entities, regulated entities, and the public), and flexibility.

“(c) ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING FOR MAJOR RULES, HIGH-IMPACT RULES, NEGATIVE-IMPACT ON JOBS AND WAGES RULES, AND RULES INVOLVING NOVEL LEGAL OR POLICY ISSUES.—In the case of a rule making for a major rule, a high-impact rule, a negative-impact on jobs and wages rule, or a rule that involves a novel legal or policy issue arising out of statutory mandates, not later than 90 days before a notice of proposed rule making is published in the Federal Register, an agency shall publish advance notice of proposed rule making in the Federal Register. In publishing such advance notice, the agency shall—

“(1) include a written statement identifying, at a minimum—

“(A) the nature and significance of the problem the agency may address with a rule, including data and other evidence and information on which the agency expects to rely for the proposed rule;

“(B) the legal authority under which a rule may be proposed, including whether a rule making is required by statute, and if so, whether by a specific date, or whether the agency has discretion to commence a rule making;

“(C) preliminary information available to the agency concerning the other considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(D) in the case of a rule that involves a novel legal or policy issue arising out of statutory mandates, the nature of and potential reasons to adopt the novel legal or policy position upon which the agency may base a proposed rule; and

“(E) an achievable objective for the rule and metrics by which the agency will measure progress toward that objective;

“(2) solicit written data, views or argument from interested persons concerning the information and issues addressed in the advance notice; and

“(3) provide for a period of not fewer than 60 days for interested persons to submit such written data, views, or argument to the agency.

“(d) NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING; DETERMINATIONS OF OTHER AGENCY COURSE.—

(1) Before it determines to propose a rule, and following completion of procedures under subsection (c), if applicable, the agency shall consult with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. If the agency thereafter determines to propose a rule, the agency shall publish a notice of proposed rule making, which shall include—

“(A) a statement of the time, place, and nature of public rule making proceedings;

“(B) reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed;

“(C) the terms of the proposed rule;

“(D) a description of information known to the agency on the subject and issues of the proposed rule, including but not limited to—

“(i) a summary of information known to the agency concerning the considerations specified in subsection (b);

“(ii) a summary of additional information the agency provided to and obtained from interested persons under subsection (c);

“(iii) a summary of any preliminary risk assessment or regulatory impact analysis performed by the agency; and

“(iv) information specifically identifying all data, studies, models, and other evidence or information considered or used by the agency in connection with its determination to propose the rule;

“(E)(i) a reasoned preliminary determination of need for the rule based on the information described under subparagraph (D);

“(ii) an additional statement of whether a rule is required by statute; and

“(iii) an achievable objective for the rule and metrics by which the agency will measure progress toward that objective;

“(F) a reasoned preliminary determination that the benefits of the proposed rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the costs of the proposed rule (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)), based on the information described under subparagraph (D);

“(G) a discussion of—

“(i) the alternatives to the proposed rule, and other alternative responses, considered by the agency under subsection (b);

“(ii) the costs and benefits of those alternatives (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6));

“(iii) whether those alternatives meet relevant statutory objectives; and

“(iv) why the agency did not propose any of those alternatives; and

“(H)(i) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule; and

“(ii) if so, whether or not the agency proposes to amend or rescind any such rules, and why.

All information provided to or considered by the agency, and steps to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination to propose the rule, including any preliminary risk assessment or regulatory impact analysis prepared by the agency and all other information prepared or described by the agency under subparagraph (D) and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the proposed rule and made accessible to the public by electronic means and otherwise for the public's use when the notice of proposed rule making is published.

“(2)(A) If the agency undertakes procedures under subsection (c) and determines thereafter not to propose a rule, the agency shall, following consultation with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, publish a notice of determination of other agency course. A notice of determination of other agency course shall include information required by paragraph (1)(D) to be included in a notice of proposed rule making and a description of the alternative response the agency determined to adopt.

“(B) If in its determination of other agency course the agency makes a determination to amend or rescind an existing rule, the agency need not undertake additional proceedings under subsection (c) before it publishes a notice of proposed rule making to amend or rescind the existing rule.

All information provided to or considered by the agency, and steps to obtain information by the agency, in connection with its determination of other agency course, including

but not limited to any preliminary risk assessment or regulatory impact analysis prepared by the agency and all other information that would be required to be prepared or described by the agency under paragraph (1)(D) if the agency had determined to publish a notice of proposed rule making and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the determination and made accessible to the public by electronic means and otherwise for the public's use when the notice of determination is published.

“(3) After notice of proposed rule making required by this section, the agency shall provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making through submission of written data, views, or arguments with or without opportunity for oral presentation, except that—

“(A) if a hearing is required under paragraph (4)(B) or subsection (e), opportunity for oral presentation shall be provided pursuant to that requirement; or

“(B) when other than under subsection (e) of this section rules are required by statute or at the discretion of the agency to be made on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing, sections 556 and 557 shall apply, and paragraph (4), the requirements of subsection (e) to receive comment outside of the procedures of sections 556 and 557, and the petition procedures of subsection (e)(6) shall not apply.

The agency shall provide not fewer than 60 days for interested persons to submit written data, views, or argument (or 120 days in the case of a proposed major or high-impact rule).

“(4)(A) Within 30 days of publication of notice of proposed rule making, a member of the public may petition for a hearing in accordance with section 556 to determine whether any evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with the Information Quality Act.

“(B)(i) The agency may, upon review of the petition, determine without further process to exclude from the rule making the evidence or other information that is the subject of the petition and, if appropriate, withdraw the proposed rule. The agency shall promptly publish any such determination.

“(ii) If the agency does not resolve the petition under the procedures of clause (i), it shall grant any such petition that presents a prima facie case that evidence or other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule fails to comply with the Information Quality Act, hold the requested hearing not later than 30 days after receipt of the petition, provide a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at the hearing, and decide the issues presented by the petition not later than 60 days after receipt of the petition. The agency may deny any petition that it determines does not present such a prima facie case.

“(C) There shall be no judicial review of the agency's disposition of issues considered and decided or determined under subparagraph (B)(ii) until judicial review of the agency's final action. There shall be no judicial review of an agency's determination to withdraw a proposed rule under subparagraph (B)(i) on the basis of the petition.

“(D) Failure to petition for a hearing under this paragraph shall not preclude judicial review of any claim based on the Information Quality Act under chapter 7 of this title.

“(e) HEARINGS FOR HIGH-IMPACT RULES.—Following notice of a proposed rule making, receipt of comments on the proposed rule, and any hearing held under subsection (d)(4), and before adoption of any high-impact rule, the agency shall hold a hearing in accordance with sections 556 and 557, unless such hearing is waived by all participants in the rule making other than the agency. The agency shall provide a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination at such hearing. The hearing shall be limited to the following issues of fact, except that participants at the hearing other than the agency may waive determination of any such issue:

“(1) Whether the agency's asserted factual predicate for the rule is supported by the evidence.

“(2) Whether there is an alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the proposed rule.

“(3) If there is more than one alternative to the proposed rule that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at a lower cost than the proposed rule, which alternative would achieve the relevant statutory objectives at the lowest cost.

“(4) Whether, if the agency proposes to adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)), the additional benefits of the more costly rule exceed the additional costs of the more costly rule.

“(5) Whether the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the proposed rule meets the requirements of the Information Quality Act.

“(6) Upon petition by an interested person who has participated in the rule making, other issues relevant to the rule making, unless the agency determines that consideration of the issues at the hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the nature of the need for agency action, unreasonably delay completion of the rule making. An agency shall grant or deny a petition under this paragraph within 30 days of its receipt of the petition.

No later than 45 days before any hearing held under this subsection or sections 556 and 557, the agency shall publish in the Federal Register a notice specifying the proposed rule to be considered at such hearing, the issues to be considered at the hearing, and the time and place for such hearing, except that such notice may be issued not later than 15 days before a hearing held under subsection (d)(4)(B).

“(f) FINAL RULES.—(1) The agency shall adopt a rule only following consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to facilitate compliance with applicable rule making requirements.

“(2) The agency shall adopt a rule only on the basis of the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, and other evidence and information concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule.

“(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the agency shall adopt the least costly rule considered during the rule making (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) that meets relevant statutory objectives.

“(B) The agency may adopt a rule that is more costly than the least costly alternative that would achieve the relevant statutory objectives only if the additional benefits of

the more costly rule justify its additional costs and only if the agency explains its reason for doing so based on interests of public health, safety or welfare that are clearly within the scope of the statutory provision authorizing the rule.

“(4) When it adopts a final rule, the agency shall publish a notice of final rule making. The notice shall include—

“(A) a concise, general statement of the rule’s basis and purpose;

“(B) the agency’s reasoned final determination of need for a rule to address the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute and a summary of any final risk assessment or regulatory impact analysis prepared by the agency;

“(C) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule’s costs (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6));

“(D) the agency’s reasoned final determination not to adopt any of the alternatives to the proposed rule considered by the agency during the rule making, including—

“(i) the agency’s reasoned final determination that no alternative considered achieved the relevant statutory objectives with lower costs (including all costs to be considered under subsection (b)(6)) than the rule; or

“(ii) the agency’s reasoned determination that its adoption of a more costly rule complies with subsection (f)(3)(B);

“(E) the agency’s reasoned final determination—

“(i) that existing rules have not created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule; or

“(ii) that existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the rule, and, if so—

“(I) why amendment or rescission of such existing rules is not alone sufficient to respond to the problem; and

“(II) whether and how the agency intends to amend or rescind the existing rule separate from adoption of the rule;

“(F) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the evidence and other information upon which the agency bases the rule complies with the Information Quality Act;

“(G) the agency’s reasoned final determination that the rule meets the objectives that the agency identified in subsection (d)(1)(E)(iii) or that other objectives are more appropriate in light of the full administrative record and the rule meets those objectives;

“(H) the agency’s reasoned final determination that it did not deviate from the metrics the agency included in subsection (d)(1)(E)(iii) or that other metrics are more appropriate in light of the full administrative record and the agency did not deviate from those metrics;

“(I)(i) for any major rule, high-impact rule, or negative-impact on jobs and wages rule, the agency’s plan for review of the rule no less than every ten years to determine whether, based upon evidence, there remains a need for the rule, whether the rule is in fact achieving statutory objectives, whether the rule’s benefits continue to justify its costs, and whether the rule can be modified or rescinded to reduce costs while continuing to achieve statutory objectives; and

“(ii) review of a rule under a plan required by clause (i) of this subparagraph shall take into account the factors and criteria set forth in subsections (b) through (f) of section 553 of this title; and

“(J) for any negative-impact on jobs and wages rule, a statement that the head of the agency that made the rule approved the rule knowing about the findings and determination of the agency or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs that qualified the rule as a negative impact on jobs and wages rule.

All information considered by the agency in connection with its adoption of the rule, and, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, information provided by that Office in consultations with the agency, shall be placed in the docket for the rule and made accessible to the public for the public’s use no later than when the rule is adopted.

“(g) EXCEPTIONS FROM NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Except when notice or hearing is required by statute, the following do not apply to interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice:

“(A) Subsections (c) through (e).

“(B) Paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (f).

“(C) Subparagraphs (B) through (H) of subsection (f)(4).

“(2)(A) When the agency for good cause, based upon evidence, finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section before the issuance of an interim rule is impracticable or contrary to the public interest, including interests of national security, such subsections or requirements to render final determinations shall not apply to the agency’s adoption of an interim rule.

“(B) If, following compliance with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the agency adopts an interim rule, it shall commence proceedings that comply fully with subsections (d) through (f) of this section immediately upon publication of the interim rule, shall treat the publication of the interim rule as publication of a notice of proposed rule making and shall not be required to issue supplemental notice other than to complete full compliance with subsection (d). No less than 270 days from publication of the interim rule (or 18 months in the case of a major rule or high-impact rule), the agency shall complete rule making under subsections (d) through (f) of this subsection and take final action to adopt a final rule or rescind the interim rule. If the agency fails to take timely final action, the interim rule will cease to have the effect of law.

“(C) Other than in cases involving interests of national security, upon the agency’s publication of an interim rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of this section, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under chapter 7 of this title of the agency’s determination to adopt such interim rule. The record on such review shall include all documents and information considered by the agency and any additional information presented by a party that the court determines necessary to consider to assure justice.

“(3) When the agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are unnecessary, including because agency rule making is undertaken only to correct a de minimis technical or clerical error in a previously issued rule or for other

noncontroversial purposes, the agency may publish a rule without compliance with subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f)(1)–(3) and (f)(4)(B)–(F). If the agency receives significant adverse comment within 60 days after publication of the rule, it shall treat the notice of the rule as a notice of proposed rule making and complete rule making in compliance with subsections (d) and (f).

“(h) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEARINGS.—When a hearing is required under subsection (e) or is otherwise required by statute or at the agency’s discretion before adoption of a rule, the agency shall comply with the requirements of sections 556 and 557 in addition to the requirements of subsection (f) in adopting the rule and in providing notice of the rule’s adoption.

“(i) DATE OF PUBLICATION OF RULE.—The required publication or service of a substantive final or interim rule shall be made not less than 30 days before the effective date of the rule, except—

“(1) a substantive rule which grants or recognizes an exemption or relieves a restriction;

“(2) interpretive rules and statements of policy; or

“(3) as otherwise provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule.

“(j) RIGHT TO PETITION.—Each agency shall give an interested person the right to petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

“(k) RULE MAKING GUIDELINES.—(1)(A) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall establish guidelines for the assessment, including quantitative and qualitative assessment, of the costs and benefits of proposed and final rules and other economic issues or issues related to risk that are relevant to rule making under this title. The rigor of cost-benefit analysis required by such guidelines shall be commensurate, in the Administrator’s determination, with the economic impact of the rule.

“(B) To ensure that agencies use the best available techniques to quantify and evaluate anticipated present and future benefits, costs, other economic issues, and risks as accurately as possible, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall regularly update guidelines established under paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

“(2) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall also issue guidelines to promote coordination, simplification and harmonization of agency rules during the rule making process and otherwise. Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids regulations that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, its other regulations and those of other Federal agencies and drafts its regulations to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(3) To ensure consistency in Federal rule making, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall—

“(A) issue guidelines and otherwise take action to ensure that rule makings conducted in whole or in part under procedures specified in provisions of law other than those of subchapter II of this title conform to the fullest extent allowed by law with the procedures set forth in section 553 of this title; and

“(B) issue guidelines for the conduct of hearings under subsections 553(d)(4) and

553(e) of this section, including to assure a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination. Each agency shall adopt regulations for the conduct of hearings consistent with the guidelines issued under this subparagraph.

“(4) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall issue guidelines pursuant to the Information Quality Act to apply in rule making proceedings under sections 553, 556, and 557 of this title. In all cases, such guidelines, and the Administrator’s specific determinations regarding agency compliance with such guidelines, shall be entitled to judicial deference.

“(1) **INCLUSION IN THE RECORD OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION.**—The agency shall include in the record for a rule making, and shall make available by electronic means and otherwise, all documents and information prepared or considered by the agency during the proceeding, including, at the discretion of the President or the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, documents and information communicated by that Office during consultation with the Agency.

“(m) **MONETARY POLICY EXEMPTION.**—Nothing in subsection (b)(6), subparagraphs (F) and (G) of subsection (d)(1), subsection (e), subsection (f)(3), and subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (f)(5) shall apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 204. AGENCY GUIDANCE; PROCEDURES TO ISSUE MAJOR GUIDANCE; PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GUIDELINES FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 553 the following new section:

“§ 553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance

“(a) Before issuing any major guidance, or guidance that involves a novel legal or policy issue arising out of statutory mandates, an agency shall—

“(1) make and document a reasoned determination that—

“(A) assures that such guidance is understandable and complies with relevant statutory objectives and regulatory provisions (including any statutory deadlines for agency action);

“(B) summarizes the evidence and data on which the agency will base the guidance;

“(C) identifies the costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during a rule making under section 553(b) of this title) of conduct conforming to such guidance and assures that such benefits justify such costs; and

“(D) describes alternatives to such guidance and their costs and benefits (including all costs to be considered during a rule making under section 553(b) of this title) and explains why the agency rejected those alternatives; and

“(2) confer with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs on the issuance of such guidance to assure that the guidance is reasonable, understandable, consistent with relevant statutory and regulatory provisions and requirements or practices of other agencies, does not produce costs that are unjustified by the guidance’s benefits, and is otherwise appropriate.

Upon issuing major guidance, or guidance that involves a novel legal or policy issue arising out of statutory mandates, the agency shall publish the documentation required

by subparagraph (1) by electronic means and otherwise.

“(b) **Agency guidance—**

“(1) is not legally binding and may not be relied upon by an agency as legal grounds for agency action;

“(2) shall state in a plain, prominent and permanent manner that it is not legally binding; and

“(3) shall, at the time it is issued or upon request, be made available by the issuing agency to interested persons and the public by electronic means and otherwise.

Agencies shall avoid the issuance of guidance that is inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, the agency’s governing statutes or regulations, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.

“(c) **The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall have authority to issue guidelines for use by the agencies in the issuance of major guidance and other guidance.** Such guidelines shall assure that each agency avoids issuing guidance documents that are inconsistent or incompatible with, or duplicative of, the law, its other regulations, or the regulations of other Federal agencies and drafts its guidance documents to be simple and easy to understand, with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty and litigation arising from such uncertainty.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 553 the following new item:

“553a. Agency guidance; procedures to issue major guidance; authority to issue guidelines for issuance of guidance.”.

SEC. 205. HEARINGS; PRESIDING EMPLOYEES; POWERS AND DUTIES; BURDEN OF PROOF; EVIDENCE; RECORD AS BASIS OF DECISION.

Section 556 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) The transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, constitutes the exclusive record for decision in accordance with section 557 and shall be made available to the parties and the public by electronic means and, upon payment of lawfully prescribed costs, otherwise. When an agency decision rests on official notice of a material fact not appearing in the evidence in the record, a party is entitled, on timely request, to an opportunity to show the contrary.

“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, in a proceeding held under this section pursuant to section 553(d)(4) or 553(e), the record for decision shall also include any information that is part of the record of proceedings under section 553.

“(f) When an agency conducts rule making under this section and section 557 directly after concluding proceedings upon an advance notice of proposed rule making under section 553(c), the matters to be considered and determinations to be made shall include, among other relevant matters and determinations, the matters and determinations described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 553.

“(g) Upon receipt of a petition for a hearing under this section, the agency shall grant the petition in the case of any major rule, unless the agency reasonably determines that a hearing would not advance consideration of the rule or would, in light of the need for agency action, unreasonably

delay completion of the rule making. The agency shall publish its decision to grant or deny the petition when it renders the decision, including an explanation of the grounds for decision. The information contained in the petition shall in all cases be included in the administrative record. This subsection shall not apply to rule makings that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.”.

SEC. 206. ACTIONS REVIEWABLE.

Section 704 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Agency action made” and inserting “(a) Agency action made”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Denial by an agency of a correction request or, where administrative appeal is provided for, denial of an appeal, under an administrative mechanism described in subsection (b)(2)(B) of the Information Quality Act, or the failure of an agency within 90 days to grant or deny such request or appeal, shall be final action for purposes of this section.

“(b) Other than in cases involving interests of national security, notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, upon the agency’s publication of an interim rule without compliance with section 553(c), (d), or (e) or requirements to render final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553, an interested party may seek immediate judicial review under this chapter of the agency’s determination to adopt such rule on an interim basis. Review shall be limited to whether the agency abused its discretion to adopt the interim rule without compliance with section 553(c), (d), or (e) or without rendering final determinations under subsection (f) of section 553.”.

SEC. 207. SCOPE OF REVIEW.

Section 706 of title 5, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking “To the extent necessary” and inserting “(a) To the extent necessary”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) of subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1) of this section), by inserting after “in accordance with law” the following: “(including the Information Quality Act)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) The court shall not defer to the agency’s—

“(1) interpretation of an agency rule if the agency did not comply with the procedures of section 553 or sections 556–557 of chapter 5 of this title to issue the interpretation;

“(2) determination of the costs and benefits or other economic or risk assessment of the action, if the agency failed to conform to guidelines on such determinations and assessments established by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under section 553(k);

“(3) determinations made in the adoption of an interim rule; or

“(4) guidance.

“(c) The court shall review agency denials of petitions under section 553(e)(6) or any other petition for a hearing under sections 556 and 557 for abuse of agency discretion.”.

SEC. 208. ADDED DEFINITION.

Section 701(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end, and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ‘substantial evidence’ means such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion

in light of the record considered as a whole, taking into account whatever in the record fairly detracts from the weight of the evidence relied upon by the agency to support its decision.”.

SEC. 209. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title to—
(1) sections 553, 556, and 704 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) subsection (b) of section 701 of such title;

(3) paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 706(b) of such title; and

(4) subsection (c) of section 706 of such title,

shall not apply to any rule makings pending or completed on the date of enactment of this title.

TITLE III—REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF RULES COVERED BY THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) RULE.—The term ‘rule’ has the meaning given such term in section 551(4) of this title, except that such term does not include a rule pertaining to the protection of the rights of and benefits for veterans or a rule of particular (and not general) applicability relating to rates, wages, corporate or financial structures or reorganizations thereof, prices, facilities, appliances, services, or allowances therefor or to valuations, costs or accounting, or practices relating to such rates, wages, structures, prices, appliances, services, or allowances.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF RULES WITH INDIRECT EFFECTS.—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) ECONOMIC IMPACT.—The term ‘economic impact’ means, with respect to a proposed or final rule—

“(A) any direct economic effect on small entities of such rule; and

“(B) any indirect economic effect (including compliance costs and effects on revenue) on small entities which is reasonably foreseeable and results from such rule (without regard to whether small entities will be directly regulated by the rule).”.

(c) INCLUSION OF RULES WITH BENEFICIAL EFFECTS.—

(1) INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—Subsection (c) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting “Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis shall also contain a detailed description of alternatives to the proposed rule which minimize any adverse significant economic impact or maximize any beneficial significant economic impact on small entities.”.

(2) FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—The first paragraph (6) of section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “minimize the significant economic impact” and inserting “minimize the adverse significant economic impact or maximize the beneficial significant economic impact”.

(d) INCLUSION OF RULES AFFECTING TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Paragraph (5) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(1))),” after “special districts,”.

(e) INCLUSION OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND FORMAL RULEMAKING.—

(1) INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—Subsection (a) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “or” after “proposed rule,”; and

(B) by inserting “or publishes a revision or amendment to a land management plan,” after “United States,”.

(2) FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—Subsection (a) of section 604 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “or” after “proposed rulemaking,”; and

(B) by inserting “or adopts a revision or amendment to a land management plan,” after “section 603(a),”.

(3) LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN DEFINED.—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘land management plan’ means—

“(i) any plan developed by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604); and

“(ii) any plan developed by the Secretary of the Interior under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

“(B) REVISION.—The term ‘revision’ means any change to a land management plan which—

“(i) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i), is made under section 6(f)(5) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)); or

“(ii) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(ii), is made under section 1610.5-6 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

“(C) AMENDMENT.—The term ‘amendment’ means any change to a land management plan which—

“(i) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i), is made under section 6(f)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(4)) and with respect to which the Secretary of Agriculture prepares a statement described in section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)); or

“(ii) in the case of a plan described in subparagraph (A)(ii), is made under section 1610.5-5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation) and with respect to which the Secretary of the Interior prepares a statement described in section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).”.

(f) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INTERPRETIVE RULES INVOLVING THE INTERNAL REVENUE LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “or a recordkeeping requirement, and without regard to whether such requirement is imposed by statute or regulation.”.

(2) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Paragraph (7) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(7) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—The term ‘collection of information’ has the meaning given such term in section 3502(3) of title 44.”.

(3) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT.—Paragraph (8) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(8) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT.—The term ‘recordkeeping requirement’ has the meaning given such term in section 3502(13) of title 44.”.

(g) DEFINITION OF SMALL ORGANIZATION.—Paragraph (4) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) SMALL ORGANIZATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘small organization’ means any not-for-profit enterprise which, as of the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking—

“(i) in the case of an enterprise which is described by a classification code of the North American Industrial Classification System, does not exceed the size standard established by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration pursuant to section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) for small business concerns described by such classification code; and

“(ii) in the case of any other enterprise, has a net worth that does not exceed \$7,000,000 and has not more than 500 employees.

“(B) LOCAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of any local labor organization, subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to any national or international organization of which such local labor organization is a part.

“(C) AGENCY DEFINITIONS.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to the extent that an agency, after consultation with the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and after opportunity for public comment, establishes one or more definitions for such term which are appropriate to the activities of the agency and publishes such definitions in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 303. EXPANSION OF REPORT OF REGULATORY AGENDA.

Section 602 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting “;”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) a brief description of the sector of the North American Industrial Classification System that is primarily affected by any rule which the agency expects to propose or promulgate which is likely to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), to read as follows:

“(c) Each agency shall prominently display a plain language summary of the information contained in the regulatory flexibility agenda published under subsection (a) on its website within 3 days of its publication in the Federal Register. The Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall compile and prominently display a plain language summary of the regulatory agendas referenced in subsection (a) for each agency on its website within 3 days of their publication in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 304. REQUIREMENTS PROVIDING FOR MORE DETAILED ANALYSES.

(a) INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—Subsection (b) of section 603 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Each initial regulatory flexibility analysis required under this section shall contain a detailed statement—

“(1) describing the reasons why action by the agency is being considered;

“(2) describing the objectives of, and legal basis for, the proposed rule;

“(3) estimating the number and type of small entities to which the proposed rule will apply;

“(4) describing the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements of the proposed rule, including an estimate of the classes of small entities which will be subject to the requirement and the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report and record;

“(5) describing all relevant Federal rules which may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed rule, or the reasons why such a description could not be provided;

“(6) estimating the additional cumulative economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities beyond that already imposed on the class of small entities by the agency or why such an estimate is not available;

“(7) describing any disproportionate economic impact on small entities or a specific class of small entities; and

“(8) describing any impairment of the ability of small entities to have access to credit.”.

(b) FINAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “an explanation” and inserting “a detailed explanation”;

(B) in each of paragraphs (4), (5), and the first paragraph (6), by inserting “detailed” before “description”;

(C) in the second paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(D) by redesignating the second paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) a detailed description of any disproportionate economic impact on small entities or a specific class of small entities.”.

(2) INCLUSION OF RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON CERTIFICATION OF PROPOSED RULE.—Paragraph (2) of section 604(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(or certification of the proposed rule under section 605(b))” after “initial regulatory flexibility analysis”.

(3) PUBLICATION OF ANALYSIS ON WEBSITE.—Subsection (b) of section 604 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) The agency shall make copies of the final regulatory flexibility analysis available to the public, including placement of the entire analysis on the agency’s website, and shall publish in the Federal Register the final regulatory flexibility analysis, or a summary thereof which includes the telephone number, mailing address, and link to the website where the complete analysis may be obtained.”.

(c) CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER ANALYSES.—Subsection (a) of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) A Federal agency shall be treated as satisfying any requirement regarding the content of an agenda or regulatory flexibility analysis under section 602, 603, or 604, if such agency provides in such agenda or analysis a cross-reference to the specific portion of another agenda or analysis which is required by any other law and which satisfies such requirement.”.

(d) CERTIFICATIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “detailed” before “statement” the first place it appears; and

(2) by inserting “and legal” after “factual”.

(e) QUANTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 607 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 607. Quantification requirements

“In complying with sections 603 and 604, an agency shall provide—

“(1) a quantifiable or numerical description of the effects of the proposed or final rule and alternatives to the proposed or final rule; or

“(2) a more general descriptive statement and a detailed statement explaining why quantification is not practicable or reliable.”.

SEC. 305. REPEAL OF WAIVER AND DELAY AUTHORITY; ADDITIONAL POWERS OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 608 is amended to read as follows:

“§ 608. Additional powers of Chief Counsel for Advocacy

“(a)(1) Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall, after opportunity for notice and comment under section 553, issue rules governing agency compliance with this chapter. The Chief Counsel may modify or amend such rules after notice and comment under section 553. This chapter (other than this subsection) shall not apply with respect to the issuance, modification, and amendment of rules under this paragraph.

“(2) An agency shall not issue rules which supplement the rules issued under subsection (a) unless such agency has first consulted with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy to ensure that such supplemental rules comply with this chapter and the rules issued under paragraph (1).

“(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration may intervene in any agency adjudication (unless such agency is authorized to impose a fine or penalty under such adjudication), and may inform the agency of the impact that any decision on the record may have on small entities. The Chief Counsel shall not initiate an appeal with respect to any adjudication in which the Chief Counsel intervenes under this subsection.

“(c) The Chief Counsel for Advocacy may file comments in response to any agency notice requesting comment, regardless of whether the agency is required to file a general notice of proposed rulemaking under section 553.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 611(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking “608(b)”,

(2) Section 611(a)(2) of such title is amended by striking “608(b)”,

(3) Section 611(a)(3) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking “(3)(A) A small entity” and inserting the following:

“(3) A small entity”.

SEC. 306. PROCEDURES FOR GATHERING COMMENTS.

Section 609 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and all that follows through the end of the section and inserting the following:

“(b)(1) Prior to publication of any proposed rule described in subsection (e), an agency making such rule shall notify the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and provide the Chief Counsel with—

“(A) all materials prepared or utilized by the agency in making the proposed rule, including the draft of the proposed rule; and

“(B) information on the potential adverse and beneficial economic impacts of the proposed rule on small entities and the type of small entities that might be affected.

“(2) An agency shall not be required under paragraph (1) to provide the exact language of any draft if the rule—

“(A) relates to the internal revenue laws of the United States; or

“(B) is proposed by an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44).

“(c) Not later than 15 days after the receipt of such materials and information under subsection (b), the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall—

“(1) identify small entities or representatives of small entities or a combination of both for the purpose of obtaining advice, input, and recommendations from those persons about the potential economic impacts of the proposed rule and the compliance of the agency with section 603; and

“(2) convene a review panel consisting of an employee from the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, an employee from the agency making the rule, and in the case of an agency other than an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44), an employee from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget to review the materials and information provided to the Chief Counsel under subsection (b).

“(d)(1) Not later than 60 days after the review panel described in subsection (c)(2) is convened, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall, after consultation with the members of such panel, submit a report to the agency and, in the case of an agency other than an independent regulatory agency (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) Such report shall include an assessment of the economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities, including an assessment of the proposed rule’s impact on the cost that small entities pay for energy, an assessment of the proposed rule’s impact on start-up costs for small entities, and a discussion of any alternatives that will minimize adverse significant economic impacts or maximize beneficial significant economic impacts on small entities.

“(3) Such report shall become part of the rulemaking record. In the publication of the proposed rule, the agency shall explain what actions, if any, the agency took in response to such report.

“(e) A proposed rule is described by this subsection if the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of the agency (or the delegatee of the head of the agency), or an independent regulatory agency determines that the proposed rule is likely to result in—

“(1) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

“(2) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local governments, tribal organizations, or geographic regions;

“(3) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with

foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

“(4) a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

“(f) Upon application by the agency, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration may waive the requirements of subsections (b) through (e) if the Chief Counsel determines that compliance with the requirements of such subsections are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.

“(g) A small entity or a representative of a small entity may submit a request that the agency provide a copy of the report prepared under subsection (d) and all materials and information provided to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration under subsection (b). The agency receiving such request shall provide the report, materials and information to the requesting small entity or representative of a small entity not later than 10 business days after receiving such request, except that the agency shall not disclose any information that is prohibited from disclosure to the public pursuant to section 552(b) of this title.”.

SEC. 307. PERIODIC REVIEW OF RULES.

Section 610 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 610. Periodic review of rules

“(a) Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this section, each agency shall publish in the Federal Register and place on its website a plan for the periodic review of rules issued by the agency which the head of the agency determines have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Such determination shall be made without regard to whether the agency performed an analysis under section 604. The purpose of the review shall be to determine whether such rules should be continued without change, or should be amended or rescinded, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes, to minimize any adverse significant economic impacts or maximize any beneficial significant economic impacts on a substantial number of small entities. Such plan may be amended by the agency at any time by publishing the revision in the Federal Register and subsequently placing the amended plan on the agency's website.

“(b) The plan shall provide for the review of all such agency rules existing on the date of the enactment of this section within 10 years of the date of publication of the plan in the Federal Register and for review of rules adopted after the date of enactment of this section within 10 years after the publication of the final rule in the Federal Register. If the head of the agency determines that completion of the review of existing rules is not feasible by the established date, the head of the agency shall so certify in a statement published in the Federal Register and may extend the review for not longer than 2 years after publication of notice of extension in the Federal Register. Such certification and notice shall be sent to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration and the Congress.

“(c) The plan shall include a section that details how an agency will conduct outreach to and meaningfully include small businesses (including small business concerns owned and controlled by women, small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such terms are defined in the Small Business Act)) for the purposes of carrying out this section. The

agency shall include in this section a plan for how the agency will contact small businesses and gather their input on existing agency rules.

“(d) Each agency shall annually submit a report regarding the results of its review pursuant to such plan to the Congress, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and, in the case of agencies other than independent regulatory agencies (as defined in section 3502(5) of title 44) to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget. Such report shall include the identification of any rule with respect to which the head of the agency made a determination described in paragraph (5) or (6) of subsection (e) and a detailed explanation of the reasons for such determination.

“(e) In reviewing a rule pursuant to subsections (a) through (d), the agency shall amend or rescind the rule to minimize any adverse significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities or disproportionate economic impact on a specific class of small entities, or maximize any beneficial significant economic impact of the rule on a substantial number of small entities to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes. In amending or rescinding the rule, the agency shall consider the following factors:

“(1) The continued need for the rule.

“(2) The nature of complaints received by the agency from small entities concerning the rule.

“(3) Comments by the Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

“(4) The complexity of the rule.

“(5) The extent to which the rule overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal rules and, unless the head of the agency determines it to be infeasible, State, territorial, and local rules.

“(6) The contribution of the rule to the cumulative economic impact of all Federal rules on the class of small entities affected by the rule, unless the head of the agency determines that such calculations cannot be made and reports that determination in the annual report required under subsection (d).

“(7) The length of time since the rule has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the rule.

“(f) Each year, each agency shall publish in the Federal Register and on its website a list of rules to be reviewed pursuant to such plan. The agency shall include in the publication a solicitation of public comments on any further inclusions or exclusions of rules from the list, and shall respond to such comments. Such publication shall include a brief description of the rule, the reason why the agency determined that it has a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities (without regard to whether it had prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis for the rule), and request comments from the public, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and the Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman concerning the enforcement of the rule.”.

SEC. 308. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT AVAILABLE AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 611(a) of title 5, United States Code, is

amended by striking “final agency action” and inserting “such rule”.

(b) JURISDICTION.—Paragraph (2) of such section is amended by inserting “(or which would have such jurisdiction if publication of the final rule constituted final agency action)” after “provision of law.”.

(c) TIME FOR BRINGING ACTION.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “final agency action” and inserting “publication of the final rule”; and

(2) by inserting “, in the case of a rule for which the date of final agency action is the same date as the publication of the final rule,” after “except that”.

(d) INTERVENTION BY CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.—Subsection (b) of section 612 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the first period “or agency compliance with section 601, 603, 604, 605(b), 609, or 610”.

SEC. 309. JURISDICTION OF COURT OF APPEALS OVER RULES IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2342 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) all final rules under section 608(a) of title 5.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 2341 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, when the final rule is under section 608(a) of title 5.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION TO INTERVENE AND COMMENT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE.—Subsection (b) of section 612 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “chapter 5, and chapter 7,” after “this chapter.”.

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT AND APPROVAL OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN SIZE STANDARDS BY CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 3(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the criteria specified in paragraph (1)—

“(i) the Administrator may specify detailed definitions or standards by which a business concern may be determined to be a small business concern for purposes of this Act or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and

“(ii) the Chief Counsel for Advocacy may specify such definitions or standards for purposes of any other Act.”.

(b) APPROVAL BY CHIEF COUNSEL.—Clause (iii) of section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) except in the case of a size standard prescribed by the Administrator, is approved by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy.”.

(c) INDUSTRY VARIATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or Chief Counsel for Advocacy, as appropriate” before “shall ensure”; and

(2) by inserting “or Chief Counsel for Advocacy” before the period at the end.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF SIZE STANDARDS APPROVED BY CHIEF COUNSEL.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS APPROVED BY CHIEF COUNSEL.—In the case of an action for judicial review of a rule which includes a definition or standard approved by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy under this subsection, the party seeking such review shall be entitled to join the Chief Counsel as a party in such action.”.

SEC. 311. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(1) the term” and inserting the following:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(3) the term” and inserting the following:

“(3) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term”;

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(5) the term” and inserting the following:

“(5) SMALL GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION.—The term”;

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking “(6) the term” and inserting the following:

“(6) SMALL ENTITY.—The term”.

(b) INCORPORATIONS BY REFERENCE AND CERTIFICATIONS.—The heading of section 605 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§605. Incorporations by reference and certifications”.

(c) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following new item:

“605. Incorporations by reference and certifications.”;

(2) by striking the item relating to section 607 and inserting the following new item:

“607. Quantification requirements.”;

and

(3) by striking the item relating to section 608 and inserting the following:

“608. Additional powers of Chief Counsel for Advocacy.”.

(d) OTHER CLERICAL AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6.—Chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, is amended in section 603(d)—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by striking “(1) For a covered agency,” and inserting “For a covered agency.”;

(3) by striking “(A) any” and inserting “(1) any”;

(4) by striking “(B) any” and inserting “(2) any”;

(5) by striking “(C) advice” and inserting “(3) advice”.

SEC. 312. AGENCY PREPARATION OF GUIDES.

Section 212(a)(5) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) AGENCY PREPARATION OF GUIDES.—The agency shall, in its sole discretion, taking into account the subject matter of the rule

and the language of relevant statutes, ensure that the guide is written using sufficiently plain language likely to be understood by affected small entities. Agencies may prepare separate guides covering groups or classes of similarly affected small entities and may cooperate with associations of small entities to distribute such guides. In developing guides, agencies shall solicit input from affected small entities or associations of affected small entities. An agency may prepare guides and apply this section with respect to a rule or a group of related rules.”.

SEC. 313. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and publish a study that examines whether the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration has the capacity and resources to carry out the duties of the Chief Counsel under this title and the amendments made by this title.

TITLE IV—SUNSHINE FOR REGULATORY DECREES AND SETTLEMENTS ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2014”.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the terms “agency” and “agency action” have the meanings given those terms under section 551 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term “covered civil action” means a civil action—

(A) seeking to compel agency action;

(B) alleging that the agency is unlawfully withholding or unreasonably delaying an agency action relating to a regulatory action that would affect the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government; and

(C) brought under—

(i) chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code; or

(ii) any other statute authorizing such an action;

(3) the term “covered consent decree” means—

(A) a consent decree entered into in a covered civil action; and

(B) any other consent decree that requires agency action relating to a regulatory action that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government;

(4) the term “covered consent decree or settlement agreement” means a covered consent decree and a covered settlement agreement; and

(5) the term “covered settlement agreement” means—

(A) a settlement agreement entered into in a covered civil action; and

(B) any other settlement agreement that requires agency action relating to a regulatory action that affects the rights of—

(i) private persons other than the person bringing the action; or

(ii) a State, local, or tribal government.

SEC. 403. CONSENT DECREE AND SETTLEMENT REFORM.

(a) PLEADINGS AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered civil action, the agency against which the covered civil action is brought shall publish the notice of intent to sue and the complaint in a

readily accessible manner, including by making the notice of intent to sue and the complaint available online not later than 15 days after receiving service of the notice of intent to sue or complaint, respectively.

(2) ENTRY OF A COVERED CONSENT DECREE OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—A party may not make a motion for entry of a covered consent decree or to dismiss a civil action pursuant to a covered settlement agreement until after the end of proceedings in accordance with paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of subsection (d) or subsection (d)(3)(A), whichever is later.

(b) INTERVENTION.—

(1) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—In considering a motion to intervene in a covered civil action or a civil action in which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement has been proposed that is filed by a person who alleges that the agency action in dispute would affect the person, the court shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that the interests of the person would not be represented adequately by the existing parties to the action.

(2) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—In considering a motion to intervene in a covered civil action or a civil action in which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement has been proposed that is filed by a State, local, or tribal government, the court shall take due account of whether the movant—

(A) administers jointly with an agency that is a defendant in the action the statutory provisions that give rise to the regulatory action to which the action relates; or

(B) administers an authority under State, local, or tribal law that would be preempted by the regulatory action to which the action relates.

(c) SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.—Efforts to settle a covered civil action or otherwise reach an agreement on a covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall—

(1) be conducted pursuant to the mediation or alternative dispute resolution program of the court or by a district judge other than the presiding judge, magistrate judge, or special master, as determined appropriate by the presiding judge; and

(2) include any party that intervenes in the action.

(d) PUBLICATION OF AND COMMENT ON COVERED CONSENT DECREES OR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days before the date on which a covered consent decree or settlement agreement is filed with a court, the agency seeking to enter the covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall publish in the Federal Register and online—

(A) the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement; and

(B) a statement providing—

(i) the statutory basis for the covered consent decree or settlement agreement; and

(ii) a description of the terms of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, including whether it provides for the award of attorneys’ fees or costs and, if so, the basis for including the award.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency seeking to enter a covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall accept public comment during the period described in paragraph (1) on any issue relating to the matters alleged in the complaint in the applicable civil action or addressed or affected by the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement.

(B) **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.**—An agency shall respond to any comment received under subparagraph (A).

(C) **SUBMISSIONS TO COURT.**—When moving that the court enter a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement or for dismissal pursuant to a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement, an agency shall—

(i) inform the court of the statutory basis for the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement and its terms;

(ii) submit to the court a summary of the comments received under subparagraph (A) and the response of the agency to the comments;

(iii) submit to the court a certified index of the administrative record of the notice and comment proceeding; and

(iv) make the administrative record described in clause (iii) fully accessible to the court.

(D) **INCLUSION IN RECORD.**—The court shall include in the court record for a civil action the certified index of the administrative record submitted by an agency under subparagraph (C)(iii) and any documents listed in the index which any party or amicus curiae appearing before the court in the action submits to the court.

(3) **PUBLIC HEARINGS PERMITTED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—After providing notice in the Federal Register and online, an agency may hold a public hearing regarding whether to enter into a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement.

(B) **RECORD.**—If an agency holds a public hearing under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the agency shall—

(I) submit to the court a summary of the proceedings;

(II) submit to the court a certified index of the hearing record; and

(III) provide access to the hearing record to the court; and

(ii) the full hearing record shall be included in the court record.

(4) **MANDATORY DEADLINES.**—If a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement requires an agency action by a date certain, the agency shall, when moving for entry of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement or dismissal based on the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, inform the court of—

(A) any required regulatory action the agency has not taken that the covered consent decree or settlement agreement does not address;

(B) how the covered consent decree or settlement agreement, if approved, would affect the discharge of the duties described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) why the effects of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement on the manner in which the agency discharges its duties is in the public interest.

(e) **SUBMISSION BY THE GOVERNMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For any proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement that contains a term described in paragraph (2), the Attorney General or, if the matter is being litigated independently by an agency, the head of the agency shall submit to the court a certification that the Attorney General or head of the agency approves the proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement. The Attorney General or head of the agency shall personally sign any certification submitted under this paragraph.

(2) **TERMS.**—A term described in this paragraph is—

(A) in the case of a covered consent decree, a term that—

(i) converts into a nondiscretionary duty a discretionary authority of an agency to propose, promulgate, revise, or amend regulations;

(ii) commits an agency to expend funds that have not been appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the regulatory action in question;

(iii) commits an agency to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization;

(iv) divests an agency of discretion committed to the agency by statute or the Constitution of the United States, without regard to whether the discretion was granted to respond to changing circumstances, to make policy or managerial choices, or to protect the rights of third parties; or

(v) otherwise affords relief that the court could not enter under its own authority upon a final judgment in the civil action; or

(B) in the case of a covered settlement agreement, a term—

(i) that provides a remedy for a failure by the agency to comply with the terms of the covered settlement agreement other than the revival of the civil action resolved by the covered settlement agreement; and

(ii) that—

(I) interferes with the authority of an agency to revise, amend, or issue rules under the procedures set forth in chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, or any other statute or Executive order prescribing rulemaking procedures for a rulemaking that is the subject of the covered settlement agreement;

(II) commits the agency to expend funds that have not been appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the regulatory action in question; or

(III) for such a covered settlement agreement that commits the agency to exercise in a particular way discretion which was committed to the agency by statute or the Constitution of the United States to respond to changing circumstances, to make policy or managerial choices, or to protect the rights of third parties.

(f) **REVIEW BY COURT.**—

(1) **AMICUS.**—A court considering a proposed covered consent decree or settlement agreement shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that it is proper to allow amicus participation relating to the covered consent decree or settlement agreement by any person who filed public comments or participated in a public hearing on the covered consent decree or settlement agreement under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (d).

(2) **REVIEW OF DEADLINES.**—

(A) **PROPOSED COVERED CONSENT DECREES.**—For a proposed covered consent decree, a court shall not approve the covered consent decree unless the proposed covered consent decree allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(B) **PROPOSED COVERED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.**—For a proposed covered settlement agreement, a court shall ensure that the covered settlement agreement allows sufficient time and incorporates adequate procedures for the agency to comply with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and other applicable statutes that govern rulemaking and, unless contrary to the public interest, the provisions of any Executive order that governs rulemaking.

(g) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Each agency shall submit to Congress an annual report that, for the year covered by the report, includes—

(1) the number, identity, and content of covered civil actions brought against and covered consent decrees or settlement agreements entered against or into by the agency; and

(2) a description of the statutory basis for—

(A) each covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency; and

(B) any award of attorneys fees or costs in a civil action resolved by a covered consent decree or settlement agreement entered against or into by the agency.

SEC. 404. MOTIONS TO MODIFY CONSENT DECREES.

If an agency moves a court to modify a covered consent decree or settlement agreement and the basis of the motion is that the terms of the covered consent decree or settlement agreement are no longer fully in the public interest due to the obligations of the agency to fulfill other duties or due to changed facts and circumstances, the court shall review the motion and the covered consent decree or settlement agreement *de novo*.

SEC. 405. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title shall apply to—

(1) any covered civil action filed on or after the date of enactment of this title; and

(2) any covered consent decree or settlement agreement proposed to a court on or after the date of enactment of this title.

DIVISION IV—JUDICIARY

TITLE I—REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2014”.

SEC. 102. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to increase accountability for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process. Section 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants all legislative powers to Congress. Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability for the content of the laws it passes. By requiring a vote in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable to the American people for the laws imposed upon them. Moreover, as a tax on carbon emissions increases energy costs on consumers, reduces economic growth and is therefore detrimental to individuals, families and businesses, the REINS Act includes in the definition of a major rule, any rule that implements or provides for the imposition or collection of a tax on carbon emissions.

SEC. 103. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.

Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

“Sec.

“801. Congressional review.

“802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.

“803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.

“804. Definitions.

“805. Judicial review.

“806. Exemption for monetary policy.

“807. Effective date of certain rules.

“§ 801. Congressional review

“(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule

shall submit to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

- “(i) a copy of the rule;
- “(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;
- “(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within clauses (i) through (iii) of section 804(2)(A) or within section 804(2)(B);
- “(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions taken by or that will be taken by the Federal agency promulgating the rule that are intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions;
- “(v) a list of any other related regulatory actions taken by or that will be taken by any other Federal agency with authority to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective that are intended to implement such provision or objective, of which the Federal agency promulgating the rule is aware, as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and
- “(vi) the proposed effective date of the rule.

“(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

- “(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs added or lost, differentiating between public and private sector jobs;
- “(ii) the agency’s actions pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of this title;
- “(iii) the agency’s actions pursuant to sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995; and
- “(iv) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

“(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

“(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the agency’s compliance with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assessment of whether the major rule imposes any new limits or mandates on private-sector activity.

“(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General’s report under subparagraph (A).

“(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.

“(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

“(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a

joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 802.

“(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

“(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

“(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

“(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

“(C) necessary for national security; or

“(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

“(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 802.

“(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this chapter, in the case of any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

“(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days, or

“(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days,

before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 802 and 803 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session of Congress.

“(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

“(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

“(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day, or

“(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day,

after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

“(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

“(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

“§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules

“(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint

resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

“(A) bears no preamble;

“(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled as appropriate): ‘Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’;

“(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following (with blanks filled as appropriate): ‘That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’; and

“(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within three legislative days; and

“(B) in the case of the Senate, within three session days.

“(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

“(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the

rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint resolution having the same text, then—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

“(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

“(2) with full recognition of the Constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules

“(a) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding

days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

“(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the Senate the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

“(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date, or

“(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

“(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in

subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

“(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

“(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

“(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

“§ 804. Definitions

“For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) The term ‘Federal agency’ means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1).

“(2) The term ‘major rule’ means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds—

“(A) has resulted in or is likely to result in—

“(i) an annual effect on the economy of \$50,000,000 or more;

“(ii) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(iii) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets; or

“(B) is made by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and that would have a significant impact on a substantial number of agricultural entities, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall publish such determination in the Federal Register);

“(C) is a rule that implements or provides for the imposition or collection of a carbon tax; or

“(D) is made under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148).

“(3) The term ‘nonmajor rule’ means any rule that is not a major rule.

“(4) The term ‘rule’ has the meaning given such term in section 551, except that such term does not include any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing.

“(5) The term ‘submission date or publication date’, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, means—

“(A) in the case of a major rule, the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); and

“(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the later of—

“(i) the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); and

“(ii) the date on which the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

“(6) The term ‘agricultural entity’ means any entity involved in or related to agricultural enterprise, including enterprises that are engaged in the business of production of food and fiber, ranching and raising of livestock, aquaculture, and all other farming and agricultural related industries.

“(7) The term ‘carbon tax’ means a fee, levy, or price on—

“(A) emissions, including carbon dioxide emissions generated by the burning of coal, natural gas, or oil; or

“(B) coal, natural gas, or oil based on emissions, including carbon dioxide emissions that would be generated through the fuel’s combustion.

“§ 805. Judicial review

“(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

“(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take effect.

“(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 802 shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

“§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

“Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

“§ 807. Effective date of certain rules

“Notwithstanding section 801—

“(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

“(2) any rule other than a major rule which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest,

SEC. 104. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Any rules subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.”.

SEC. 105. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) how many rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect;

(2) how many major rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect; and

(3) the total estimated economic cost imposed by all such rules.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

TITLE II—PERMANENT INTERNET TAX FREEDOM

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act”.

SEC. 202. PERMANENT MORATORIUM ON INTERNET ACCESS TAXES AND MULTIPLE AND DISCRIMINATORY TAXES ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1101(a) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note) is amended by striking “during the period beginning November 1, 2003, and ending November 1, 2014”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxes imposed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

DIVISION V—NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBDIVISION A—RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act”.

TITLE I—RESTORING THE COMMITMENT TO RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS

SEC. 101. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land.

(2) To ensure that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land.

(3) To reduce Forest Service management costs while also ensuring the protection of United States forests resources.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ANNUAL VOLUME REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “annual volume requirement”, with respect to a Forest Reserve Revenue Area, means a volume of national forest materials no less than 50 percent of the sustained yield of the Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—In determining the volume of national forest materials or the sustained yield of a Forest Reserve Revenue Area, the Secretary may not include non-commercial post and pole sales and personal use firewood.

(2) BENEFICIARY COUNTY.—The term “beneficiary county” means a political subdivision of a State that, on account of containing National Forest System land, was eligible to receive payments through the State under title I of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.).

(3) CATASTROPHIC EVENT.—The term “catastrophic event” means an event (including severe fire, insect or disease infestations, windthrow, or other extreme weather or natural disaster) that the Secretary determines will cause or has caused substantial damage to National Forest System land or natural resources on National Forest System land.

(4) COVERED FOREST RESERVE PROJECT.—The terms “covered forest reserve project” and “covered project” mean a project involving the management or sale of national forest materials within a Forest Reserve Revenue Area to generate forest reserve revenues and achieve the annual volume requirement for the Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

(5) FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Forest Reserve Revenue Area” means National Forest System land in a unit of the National Forest System designated for sustainable forest management for the production of national forest materials and forest reserve revenues.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), but otherwise notwithstanding any other provision of law, including executive orders and regulations, the Secretary shall include in Forest Reserve Revenue Areas not less than 50 percent of the National Forest System lands identified as commercial forest land capable of producing twenty cubic feet of timber per acre.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—A Forest Reserve Revenue Area may not include National Forest System land—

(i) that is a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(ii) on which the removal of vegetation is specifically prohibited by Federal statute; or

(iii) that is within a National Monument as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) FOREST RESERVE REVENUES.—The term “forest reserve revenues” means revenues derived from the sale of national forest materials in a Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

(7) NATIONAL FOREST MATERIALS.—The term “national forest materials” has the meaning given that term in section 14(e)(1) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(e)(1)).

(8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)), except that the term does not include the National Grasslands and land utilization projects designated as National Grasslands administered pursuant to the Act of July 22, 1937 (7 U.S.C. 1010–1012).

(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(10) SUSTAINED YIELD.—The term “sustained yield” means the maximum annual growth potential of the forest calculated on the basis of the culmination of mean annual increment using cubic measurement.

(11) STATE.—The term “State” includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(12) 25-PERCENT PAYMENT.—The term “25-percent payment” means the payment to States required by the sixth paragraph under the heading of “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260; 16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 963; 16 U.S.C. 500).

SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS AND ANNUAL VOLUME REQUIREMENTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall establish one or more Forest Reserve Revenue Areas within each unit of the National Forest System.

(b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall complete establishment of the Forest Reserve Revenue Areas not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a Forest Reserve Revenue Area is to provide a dependable source of 25-percent payments and economic activity through sustainable forest management for each beneficiary county containing National Forest System land.

(d) FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall have a fiduciary responsibility to beneficiary counties to manage Forest Reserve Revenue Areas to satisfy the annual volume requirement.

(e) **DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL VOLUME REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the establishment of a Forest Reserve Revenue Area, the Secretary shall determine the annual volume requirement for that Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

(f) **LIMITATION ON REDUCTION OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.**—Once a Forest Reserve Revenue Area is established under subsection (a), the Secretary may not reduce the number of acres of National Forest System land included in that Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

(g) **MAP.**—The Secretary shall provide a map of all Forest Reserve Revenue Areas established under subsection (a) for each unit of the National Forest System—

(1) to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(2) to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(h) **RECOGNITION OF VALID AND EXISTING RIGHTS.**—Neither the establishment of Forest Reserve Revenue Areas under subsection (a) nor any other provision of this title shall be construed to limit or restrict—

(1) access to National Forest System land for hunting, fishing, recreation, and other related purposes; or

(2) valid and existing rights regarding National Forest System land, including rights of any federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 104. MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT TO ACHIEVE ANNUAL VOLUME REQUIREMENT.**—Immediately upon the establishment of a Forest Reserve Revenue Area, the Secretary shall manage the Forest Reserve Revenue Area in the manner necessary to achieve the annual volume requirement for the Forest Reserve Revenue Area. The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to commence covered forest reserve projects as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act to begin generating forest reserve revenues.

(b) **STANDARDS FOR PROJECTS WITHIN FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.**—The Secretary shall conduct covered forest reserve projects within Forest Reserve Revenue Areas in accordance with this section, which shall serve as the sole means by which the Secretary will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) and other laws applicable to the covered projects.

(c) **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PROCESS FOR PROJECTS IN FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.**—

(1) **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary shall give published notice and complete an environmental assessment pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) for a covered forest reserve project proposed to be conducted within a Forest Reserve Revenue Area, except that the Secretary is not required to study, develop, or describe any alternative to the proposed agency action.

(2) **CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.**—The Secretary shall consider cumulative effects solely by evaluating the impacts of a proposed covered forest reserve project combined with the impacts of any other projects that were approved with a Decision Notice or Record of Decision before the date on which the Secretary published notice of the proposed covered project. The cumulative effects of past projects may be considered in the environmental assessment by using a description of the current environmental conditions.

(3) **LENGTH.**—The environmental assessment prepared for a proposed covered forest reserve project shall not exceed 100 pages in length. The Secretary may incorporate in the environmental assessment, by reference, any documents that the Secretary determines, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, are relevant to the assessment of the environmental effects of the covered project.

(4) **DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.**—The Secretary shall complete the environmental assessment for a covered forest reserve project within 180 days after the date on which the Secretary published notice of the proposed covered project.

(5) **TREATMENT OF DECISION NOTICE.**—The decision notice for a covered forest reserve project shall be considered a final agency action and no additional analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall be required to implement any portion of the covered project.

(6) **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.**—A covered forest reserve project that is proposed in response to a catastrophic event, that covers an area of 10,000 acres or less, or an eligible hazardous fuel reduction or forest health project proposed under title II that involves the removal of insect-infected trees, dead or dying trees, trees presenting a threat to public safety, or other hazardous fuels within 500 feet of utility or telephone infrastructure, campgrounds, roadsides, heritage sites, recreation sites, schools, or other infrastructure, shall be categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.).

(d) **APPLICATION OF LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The Secretary may modify the standards and guidelines contained in the land and resource management plan for the unit of the National Forest System in which the covered forest reserve project will be carried out as necessary to achieve the requirements of this subdivision. Section 6(g)(3)(E)(iv) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(E)(iv)) shall not apply to a covered forest reserve project.

(e) **COMPLIANCE WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.**—

(1) **NON-JEOPARDY ASSESSMENT.**—If the Secretary determines that a proposed covered forest reserve project may affect the continued existence of any species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533), the Secretary shall issue a determination explaining the view of the Secretary that the proposed covered project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

(2) **SUBMISSION, REVIEW, AND RESPONSE.**—

(A) **SUBMISSION.**—The Secretary shall submit a determination issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate.

(B) **REVIEW AND RESPONSE.**—Within 30 days after receiving a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate, shall provide a written response to the Secretary concurring in or rejecting the Secretary's determination. If the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce rejects the determination, the written response shall include recommendations for measures that—

(i) will avoid the likelihood of jeopardy to an endangered or threatened species;

(ii) can be implemented in a manner consistent with the intended purpose of the covered forest reserve project;

(iii) can be implemented consistent with the scope of the Secretary's legal authority and jurisdiction; and

(iv) are economically and technologically feasible.

(3) **FORMAL CONSULTATION.**—If the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce rejects a determination issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce also is required to engage in formal consultation with the Secretary. The Secretaries shall complete such consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) within 90 days after the submission of the written response under paragraph (2).

(f) **ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.**—Administrative review of a covered forest reserve project shall occur only in accordance with the special administrative review process established under section 105 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6515).

(2) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Judicial review of a covered forest reserve project shall occur in accordance with section 106 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6516), except that a court of the United States may not issue a restraining order, preliminary injunction, or injunction pending appeal covering a covered forest reserve project in response to an allegation that the Secretary violated any procedural requirement applicable to how the project was selected, planned, or analyzed.

(B) **BOND REQUIRED.**—A plaintiff challenging a covered forest reserve project shall be required to post a bond or other security acceptable to the court for the reasonably estimated costs, expenses, and attorneys fees of the Secretary as defendant. All proceedings in the action shall be stayed until the security is given. If the plaintiff has not complied with the order to post such bond or other security within 90 days after the date of service of the order, then the action shall be dismissed with prejudice.

(C) **RECOVERY.**—If the Secretary prevails in the case, the Secretary shall submit to the court a motion for payment of all litigation expenses.

(g) **USE OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may allow the use of all-terrain vehicles within the Forest Reserve Revenue Areas for the purpose of activities associated with the sale of national forest materials in a Forest Reserve Revenue Area.

SEC. 105. DISTRIBUTION OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUES.

(a) **25-PERCENT PAYMENTS.**—The Secretary shall use forest reserve revenues generated by a covered forest reserve project to make 25-percent payments to States for the benefit of beneficiary counties.

(b) **DEPOSIT IN KNUTSON-VANDENBERG AND SALVAGE SALE FUNDS.**—After compliance with subsection (a), the Secretary shall use forest reserve revenues to make deposits into the fund established under section 3 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (16 U.S.C. 576b; commonly known as the Knutson-Vandenberg Fund) and the fund established under section 14(h) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(h); commonly known as the salvage sale fund) in contributions equal to the monies otherwise collected under those Acts for projects conducted on National Forest System land.

(c) DEPOSIT IN GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY.—After compliance with subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall deposit remaining forest reserve revenues into the general fund of the Treasury.

SEC. 106. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report specifying the annual volume requirement in effect for that fiscal year for each Forest Reserve Revenue Area, the volume of board feet actually harvested for each Forest Reserve Revenue Area, the average cost of preparation for timber sales, the forest reserve revenues generated from such sales, and the amount of receipts distributed to each beneficiary county.

(b) FORM OF REPORT.—The information required by subsection (a) to be provided with respect to a Forest Reserve Revenue Area shall be presented on a single page. In addition to submitting each report to Congress, the Secretary shall also make the report available on the website of the Forest Service.

TITLE II—HEALTHY FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION

SEC. 201. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To provide the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior with the tools necessary to reduce the potential for wildfires.

(2) To expedite wildfire prevention projects to reduce the chances of wildfire on certain high-risk Federal lands.

(3) To protect communities and forest habitat from uncharacteristic wildfires.

(4) To enhance aquatic conditions and terrestrial wildlife habitat.

(5) To restore diverse and resilient landscapes through improved forest conditions.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) AT-RISK COMMUNITY.—The term “at-risk community” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

(2) AT-RISK FOREST.—The term “at-risk forest” means—

(A) Federal land in condition class II or III, as those classes were developed by the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in the general technical report titled “Development of Coarse-Scale Spatial Data for Wildland Fire and Fuel Management” (RMRS-87) and dated April 2000 or any subsequent revision of the report; or

(B) Federal land where there exists a high risk of losing an at-risk community, key ecosystem, water supply, wildlife, or wildlife habitat to wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire and post-fire disturbances, as designated by the Secretary concerned.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) COVERED LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—

(i) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))); or

(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

(B) EXCLUDED LAND.—The term does not include land—

(i) that is a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(ii) on which the removal of vegetation is specifically prohibited by Federal statute; or

(iii) that is within a National Monument as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) HIGH-RISK AREA.—The term “high-risk area” means an area of Federal land identified under section 205 as an area suffering from the bark beetle epidemic, drought, or deteriorating forest health conditions, with the resulting imminent risk of devastating wildfires, or otherwise at high risk for bark beetle infestation, drought, or wildfire.

(5) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, in the case of National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, in the case of public lands.

(6) ELIGIBLE HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS.—The terms “hazardous fuel reduction project” or “forest health project” mean the measures and methods developed for a project to be carried out on Federal land—

(A) in an at-risk forest under section 203 for hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, forest restoration, or watershed restoration, using ecological restoration principles consistent with the forest type where such project will occur; or

(B) in a high-risk area under section 206.

SEC. 203. HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS IN AT-RISK FORESTS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned is authorized to implement a hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project in at-risk forests in a manner that focuses on surface, ladder, and canopy fuels reduction activities using ecological restoration principles consistent with the forest type in the location where such project will occur.

(b) AUTHORIZED PRACTICES.—

(1) INCLUSION OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND TIMBER HARVESTING.—A hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project may include livestock grazing and timber harvest projects carried out for the purposes of hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, forest restoration, watershed restoration, or threatened and endangered species habitat protection or improvement, if the management action is consistent with achieving long-term ecological restoration of the forest type in the location where such project will occur.

(2) GRAZING.—Domestic livestock grazing may be used in a hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project to reduce surface fuel loads and to recover burned areas. Utilization standards shall not apply when domestic livestock grazing is used in such a project.

(3) TIMBER HARVESTING AND THINNING.—Timber harvesting and thinning, where the ecological restoration principles are consistent with the forest type in the location where such project will occur, may be used in a hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project to reduce ladder and canopy fuel loads to prevent unnatural fire.

(c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary concerned shall give priority to hazardous fuel reduction projects and forest health projects submitted by the Governor of a State as provided in section 206(c) and to projects submitted under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a).

SEC. 204. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.

Subsections (b) through (f) of section 104 shall apply to the implementation of a hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project under this title. In addition, if the primary purpose of a hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project under this title is the salvage of dead, dam-

aged, or down timber resulting from wildfire occurring in 2013 or 2014, the hazardous fuel reduction project or forest health project, and any decision of the Secretary concerned in connection with the project, shall not be subject to judicial review or to any restraining order or injunction issued by a United States court.

SEC. 205. STATE DESIGNATION OF HIGH-RISK AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM AND PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) DESIGNATION AUTHORITY.—The Governor of a State may designate high-risk areas of Federal land in the State for the purposes of addressing—

(1) deteriorating forest health conditions in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act due to the bark beetle epidemic or drought, with the resulting imminent risk of devastating wildfires; and

(2) the future risk of insect infestations or disease outbreaks through preventative treatments to improve forest health conditions.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In designating high-risk areas, the Governor of a State shall consult with county government from affected counties and with affected Indian tribes.

(c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The following Federal land may not be designated as a high-risk area:

(1) A component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(2) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is specifically prohibited by Federal statute.

(3) Federal land within a National Monument as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION.—Designation of high-risk areas shall be consistent with standards and guidelines contained in the land and resource management plan or land use plan for the unit of Federal land for which the designation is being made, except that the Secretary concerned may modify such standards and guidelines to correspond with a specific high-risk area designation.

(e) TIME FOR INITIAL DESIGNATIONS.—The first high-risk areas should be designated not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, but high-risk areas may be designated at any time consistent with subsection (a).

(f) DURATION OF DESIGNATION.—The designation of a high-risk area in a State shall expire 20 years after the date of the designation, unless earlier terminated by the Governor of the State.

(g) REDESIGNATION.—The expiration of the 20-year period specified in subsection (f) does not prohibit the Governor from redesignating an area of Federal land as a high-risk area under this section if the Governor determines that the Federal land continues to be subject to the terms of this section.

(h) RECOGNITION OF VALID AND EXISTING RIGHTS.—The designation of a high-risk area shall not be construed to limit or restrict—

(1) access to Federal land included in the area for hunting, fishing, and other related purposes; or

(2) valid and existing rights regarding the Federal land.

SEC. 206. USE OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION OR FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS FOR HIGH-RISK AREAS.

(a) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) PROPOSALS AUTHORIZED.—Upon designation of a high-risk area in a State, the Governor of the State may provide for the development of proposed hazardous fuel reduction projects or forest health projects for the high-risk area.

(2) **PROJECT CRITERIA.**—In preparing a proposed hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project, the Governor of a State and the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) take into account managing for rights of way, protection of watersheds, protection of wildlife and endangered species habitat, safe-guarding water resources, and protecting at-risk communities from wildfires; and

(B) emphasize activities that thin the forest to provide the greatest health and longevity of the forest.

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—In preparing a proposed hazardous fuel reduction project or a forest health project, the Governor of a State shall consult with county government from affected counties, and with affected Indian tribes.

(c) **SUBMISSION AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Governor of a State shall submit proposed emergency hazardous fuel reduction projects and forest health projects to the Secretary concerned for implementation as provided in section 203.

SEC. 207. MORATORIUM ON USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MISSOURI, PENDING REPORT.

(a) **MORATORIUM.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture may not conduct any prescribed fire in Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project until the report required by subsection (c) is submitted to Congress.

(b) **EXCEPTION FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.**—Subsection (a) does not prohibit the use of prescribed fire as part of wildfire suppression activities.

(c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report containing an evaluation of recent and current Forest Service management practices for Mark Twain National Forest, including lands in the National Forest enrolled, or under consideration for enrollment, in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project to convert certain lands into shortleaf pine-oak woodlands, to determine the impact of such management practices on forest health and tree mortality. The report shall specifically address—

(1) the economic costs associated with the failure to utilize hardwoods cut as part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project and the subsequent loss of hardwood production from the treated lands in the long term;

(2) the extent of increased tree mortality due to excessive heat generated by prescribed fires;

(3) the impacts to water quality and rate of water run off due to erosion of the scorched earth left in the aftermath of the prescribed fires; and

(4) a long-term plan for evaluation of the impacts of prescribed fires on lands previously burned within the Eleven Point Ranger District.

TITLE III—OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS TRUST, CONSERVATION, AND JOBS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **AFFILIATES.**—The term “Affiliates” has the meaning given such term in part 121 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**—The term “Board of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees for

the Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands Trust appointed under section 313.

(3) **COOS BAY WAGON ROAD GRANT LANDS.**—The term “Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands” means the lands reconveyed to the United States pursuant to the first section of the Act of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179).

(4) **FISCAL YEAR.**—The term “fiscal year” means the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through the next September 30.

(5) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the Governor of the State of Oregon.

(6) **O&C REGION PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS.**—The term “O&C Region Public Domain lands” means all the land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Salem District, Eugene District, Roseburg District, Coos Bay District, and Medford District in the State of Oregon, excluding the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands.

(7) **O&C TRUST.**—The terms “Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands Trust” and “O&C Trust” mean the trust created by section 311, which has fiduciary responsibilities to act for the benefit of the O&C Trust counties in the management of O&C Trust lands.

(8) **O&C TRUST COUNTY.**—The term “O&C Trust county” means each of the 18 counties in the State of Oregon that contained a portion of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands as of January 1, 2013, each of which are beneficiaries of the O&C Trust.

(9) **O&C TRUST LANDS.**—The term “O&C Trust lands” means the surface estate of the lands over which management authority is transferred to the O&C Trust pursuant to section 311(c)(1). The term does not include any of the lands excluded from the O&C Trust pursuant to section 311(c)(2), transferred to the Forest Service under section 321, or Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D.

(10) **OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS.**—The term “Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands” means the following lands:

(A) All lands in the State of Oregon re-vested in the United States under the Act of June 9, 1916 (39 Stat. 218), regardless of whether the lands are—

(i) administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to the first section of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a); or

(ii) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as part of the National Forest System pursuant to the first section of the Act of June 24, 1954 (43 U.S.C. 1181g).

(B) All lands in the State obtained by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the land exchanges authorized and directed by section 2 of the Act of June 24, 1954 (43 U.S.C. 1181h).

(C) All lands in the State acquired by the United States at any time and made subject to the provisions of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f).

(11) **RESERVE FUND.**—The term “Reserve Fund” means the reserve fund created by the Board of Trustees under section 315(b).

(12) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands that are transferred to the management authority of the O&C Trust and, immediately before such transfer, were managed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands that—

(i) are transferred to the management authority of the O&C Trust and, immediately

before such transfer, were part of the National Forest System; or

(ii) are transferred to the Forest Service under section 321.

(13) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Oregon.

(14) **TRANSITION PERIOD.**—The term “transition period” means the three fiscal-year period specified in section 331 following the appointment of the Board of Trustees during which—

(A) the O&C Trust is created; and

(B) interim funding of the O&C Trust is secured.

(15) **TRIBAL LANDS.**—The term “Tribal lands” means any of the lands transferred to the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians or the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians under subtitle D.

Subtitle A—Trust, Conservation, and Jobs

CHAPTER 1—CREATION AND TERMS OF O&C TRUST

SEC. 311. CREATION OF O&C TRUST AND DESIGNATION OF O&C TRUST LANDS.

(a) **CREATION.**—The Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands Trust is established effective on October 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the appointment of the Board of Trustees. As management authority over the surface of estate of the O&C Trust lands is transferred to the O&C Trust during the transition period pursuant to section 331, the transferred lands shall be held in trust for the benefit of the O&C Trust counties.

(b) **TRUST PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the O&C Trust is to produce annual maximum sustained revenues in perpetuity for O&C Trust counties by managing the timber resources on O&C Trust lands on a sustained-yield basis subject to the management requirements of section 314.

(c) **DESIGNATION OF O&C TRUST LANDS.**—

(1) **LANDS INCLUDED.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the O&C Trust lands shall include all of the lands containing the stands of timber described in subsection (d) that are located, as of January 1, 2013, on Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands.

(2) **LANDS EXCLUDED.**—O&C Trust lands shall not include any of the following Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands (even if the lands are otherwise described in subsection (d)):

(A) Federal lands within the National Landscape Conservation System as of January 1, 2013.

(B) Federal lands designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as of January 1, 2013.

(C) Federal lands that were in the National Wilderness Preservation System as of January 1, 2013.

(D) Federal lands included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System of January 1, 2013.

(E) Federal lands within the boundaries of a national monument, park, or other developed recreation area as of January 1, 2013.

(F) Oregon treasures addressed in subtitle C, any portion of which, as of January 1, 2013, consists of Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands.

(G) Tribal lands addressed in subtitle D.

(d) **COVERED STANDS OF TIMBER.**—

(1) **DESCRIPTION.**—The O&C Trust lands consist of stands of timber that have previously been managed for timber production or that have been materially altered by natural disturbances since 1886. Most of these stands of timber are 80 years old or less, and

all of such stands can be classified as having a predominant stand age of 125 years or less.

(2) **DELINEATION OF BOUNDARIES BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.**—The Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands that, immediately before transfer to the O&C Trust, were managed by the Bureau of Land Management are timber stands that have predominant birth date attributes of 1886 or later, with boundaries that are defined by polygon spatial data layer in and electronic data compilation filed by the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to paragraph (4). Except as provided in paragraph (5), the boundaries of all timber stands constituting the O&C Trust lands are finally and conclusively determined for all purposes by coordinates in or derived by reference to the polygon spatial data layer prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and filed pursuant to paragraph (4), notwithstanding anomalies that might later be discovered on the ground. The boundary coordinates are locatable on the ground by use of global positioning system signals. In cases where the location of the stand boundary is disputed or is inconsistent with paragraph (1), the location of boundary coordinates on the ground shall be, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (5), finally and conclusively determined for all purposes by the direct or indirect use of global positioning system equipment with accuracy specification of one meter or less.

(3) **DELINEATION OF BOUNDARIES BY FOREST SERVICE.**—The O&C Trust lands that, immediately before transfer to the O&C Trust, were managed by the Forest Service are timber stands that can be classified as having predominant stand ages of 125 years old or less. Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall commence identification of the boundaries of such stands, and the boundaries of all such stands shall be identified and made available to the Board of Trustees not later than 180 days following the creation of the O&C Trust pursuant to subsection (a). In identifying the stand boundaries, the Secretary may use geographic information system data, satellite imagery, cadastral survey coordinates, or any other means available within the time allowed. The boundaries shall be provided to the Board of Trustees within the time allowed in the form of a spatial data layer from which coordinates can be derived that are locatable on the ground by use of global positioning system signals. Except as provided in paragraph (5), the boundaries of all timber stands constituting the O&C Trust lands are finally and conclusively determined for all purposes by coordinates in or derived by reference to the data provided by the Secretary within the time provided by this paragraph, notwithstanding anomalies that might later be discovered on the ground. In cases where the location of the stand boundary is disputed or inconsistent with paragraph (1), the location of boundary coordinates on the ground shall be, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (5), finally and conclusively determined for all purposes by the boundary coordinates provided by the Secretary as they are located on the ground by the direct or indirect use of global positioning system equipment with accuracy specifications of one meter or less. All actions taken by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be deemed to not involve Federal agency action or Federal discretionary involvement or control.

(4) **DATA AND MAPS.**—Copies of the data containing boundary coordinates for the

stands included in the O&C Trust lands, or from which such coordinates are derived, and maps generally depicting the stand locations shall be filed with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the office of the Secretary concerned. The maps and data shall be filed—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, in the case of the lands identified pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(B) not later than 180 days following the creation of the O&C Trust pursuant to subsection (a), in the case of lands identified pursuant to paragraph (3).

(5) **ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY AND LIMITATIONS.**—

(A) **NO IMPACT ON DETERMINING TITLE OR PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BOUNDARIES.**—Stand boundaries identified under paragraph (2) or (3) shall not be relied upon for purposes of determining title or property ownership boundaries. If the boundary of a stand identified under paragraph (2) or (3) extends beyond the property ownership boundaries of Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands, as such property boundaries exist on the date of enactment of this Act, then that stand boundary is deemed adjusted by this subparagraph to coincide with the property ownership boundary.

(B) **EFFECT OF DATA ERRORS OR INCONSISTENCIES.**—Data errors or inconsistencies may result in parcels of land along property ownership boundaries that are unintentionally omitted from the O&C Trust lands that are identified under paragraph (2) or (3). In order to correct such errors, any parcel of land that satisfies all of the following criteria is hereby deemed to be O&C Trust land:

(i) The parcel is within the ownership boundaries of Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(ii) The parcel satisfies the description in paragraph (1) on the date of enactment of this Act.

(iii) The parcel is not excluded from the O&C Trust lands pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

(C) **NO IMPACT ON LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit the authority of the Trust and the Forest Service to engage in land exchanges between themselves or with owners of non-Federal land as provided elsewhere in this title.

SEC. 312. LEGAL EFFECT OF O&C TRUST AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **LEGAL STATUS OF TRUST LANDS.**—Subject to the other provisions of this section, all right, title, and interest in and to the O&C Trust lands remain in the United States, except that—

(1) the Board of Trustees shall have all authority to manage the surface estate of the O&C Trust lands and the resources found thereon;

(2) actions on the O&C Trust lands shall be deemed to involve no Federal agency action or Federal discretionary involvement or control and the laws of the State shall apply to the surface estate of the O&C Trust lands in the manner applicable to privately owned timberlands in the State; and

(3) the O&C Trust shall be treated as the beneficial owner of the surface estate of the O&C Trust lands for purposes of all legal proceedings involving the O&C Trust lands.

(b) **MINERALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Mineral and other subsurface rights in the O&C Trust lands are retained by the United States or other owner of such rights as of the date on which management authority over the surface estate of the lands are transferred to the O&C Trust.

(2) **ROCK AND GRAVEL.**—

(A) **USE AUTHORIZED; PURPOSE.**—For maintenance or construction on the road system under the control of the O&C Trust or for non-Federal lands intermingled with O&C Trust lands, the Board of Trustees may—

(i) utilize rock or gravel found within quarries in existence immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act on any Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands, excluding those lands designated under subtitle C or transferred under subtitle D; and

(ii) construct new quarries on O&C Trust lands, except that any quarry so constructed may not exceed 5 acres.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—The Board of Trustees shall not construct new quarries on any of the lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321 or lands designated under subtitle D.

(c) **ROADS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Board of Trustees shall assume authority and responsibility over, and have authority to use, all roads and the road system specified in the following subparagraphs:

(A) All roads and road systems on the Oregon and California Railroad and Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands owned or administered by the Bureau of Land Management immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture shall assume the Secretary of Interior's obligations for pro-rata maintenance expense and road use fees under reciprocal right-of-way agreements for those lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321. All of the lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321 shall be considered as part of the tributary area used to calculate pro-rata maintenance expense and road use fees.

(B) All roads and road systems owned or administered by the Forest Service immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act and subsequently included within the boundaries of the O&C Trust lands.

(C) All roads later added to the road system for management of the O&C Trust lands.

(2) **LANDS TRANSFERRED TO FOREST SERVICE.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall assume the obligations of the Secretary of Interior for pro-rata maintenance expense and road use fees under reciprocal rights-of-way agreements for those Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321.

(3) **COMPLIANCE WITH CLEAN WATER ACT.**—All roads used, constructed, or reconstructed under the jurisdiction of the O&C Trust must comply with requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) applicable to private lands through the use of Best Management Practices under the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

(d) **PUBLIC ACCESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), public access to O&C Trust lands shall be preserved consistent with the policies of the Secretary concerned applicable to the O&C Trust lands as of the date on which management authority over the surface estate of the lands is transferred to the O&C Trust.

(2) **RESTRICTIONS.**—The Board of Trustees may limit or control public access for reasons of public safety or to protect the resources on the O&C Trust lands.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—The assets of the O&C Trust shall not be subject to the creditors of an O&C Trust county, or otherwise be distributed in an unprotected manner or be subject to anticipation, encumbrance, or expenditure other than for a purpose for which the O&C Trust was created.

(f) **REMEDY.**—An O&C Trust county shall have all of the rights and remedies that would normally accrue to a beneficiary of a trust. An O&C Trust county shall provide the Board of Trustees, the Secretary concerned, and the Attorney General with not less than 60 days notice of an intent to sue to enforce the O&C Trust county's rights under the O&C Trust.

(g) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), judicial review of any provision of this title shall be sought in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Parties seeking judicial review of the validity of any provision of this title must file suit within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and no preliminary injunctive relief or stays pending appeal will be permitted. If multiple cases are filed under this paragraph, the Court shall consolidate the cases. The Court must rule on any action brought under this paragraph within 180 days.

(2) **DECISIONS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**—Decisions made by the Board of Trustees shall be subject to judicial review only in an action brought by an O&C County, except that nothing in this title precludes bringing a legal claim against the Board of Trustees that could be brought against a private landowner for the same action.

SEC. 313. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(a) **APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION.**—Subject to the conditions on appointment imposed by this section, the Governor is authorized to appoint the Board of Trustees to administer the O&C Trust and O&C Trust lands. Appointments by the Governor shall be made within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **MEMBERS AND ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **NUMBER.**—Subject to subsection (c), the Board of Trustees shall consist of seven members.

(2) **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT.**—Members of the Board of Trustees must reside within an O&C Trust county.

(3) **GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION.**—To the extent practicable, the Governor shall ensure broad geographic representation among the O&C Trust counties in appointing members to the Board of Trustees.

(c) **COMPOSITION.**—The Board of Trustees shall include the following members:

(1)(A) Two forestry and wood products representatives, consisting of—

(i) one member who represents the commercial timber, wood products, or milling industries and who represents an Oregon-based company with more than 500 employees, taking into account its affiliates, that has submitted a bid for a timber sale on the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands, O&C Region Public Domain lands, Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands, or O&C Trust lands in the preceding five years; and

(ii) one member who represents the commercial wood products or milling industries and who represents an Oregon-based company with 500 or fewer employees, taking into account its affiliates, that has submitted a bid for a timber sale on the Oregon

and California Railroad Grant lands, O&C Region Public Domain lands, Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands, or O&C Trust lands in the preceding five years.

(B) At least one of the two representatives selected in this paragraph must own commercial forest land that is adjacent to the O&C Trust lands and from which the representative has not exported unprocessed timber in the preceding five years.

(2) One representative of the general public who has professional experience in one or more of the following fields:

(A) Business management.

(B) Law.

(C) Accounting.

(D) Banking.

(E) Labor management.

(F) Transportation.

(G) Engineering.

(H) Public policy.

(3) One representative of the science community who, at a minimum, holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in wildlife biology, forestry, ecology, or related field and has published peer-reviewed academic articles in the representative's field of expertise.

(4) Three governmental representatives, consisting of—

(A) two members who are serving county commissioners of an O&C Trust county and who are nominated by the governing bodies of a majority of the O&C Trust counties and approved by the Governor, except that the two representatives may not be from the same county; and

(B) one member who holds State-wide elected office (or is a designee of such a person) or who represents a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribes within one or more O&C Trust counties.

(d) **TERM, INITIAL APPOINTMENT, VACANCIES.**—

(1) **TERM.**—Except in the case of initial appointments, members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for five-year terms and may be reappointed for one consecutive term.

(2) **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—In making the first appointments to the Board of Trustees, the Governor shall stagger initial appointment lengths so that two members have three-year terms, two members have four-year terms, and three members have a full five-year term.

(3) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy on the Board of Trustees shall be filled within 45 days by the Governor for the unexpired term of the departing member.

(4) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MANAGEMENT COSTS.**—Members of the Board of Trustees may receive annual compensation from the O&C Trust at a rate not to exceed 50 percent of the average annual salary for commissioners of the O&C Trust counties for that year.

(e) **CHAIRPERSON AND OPERATIONS.**—

(1) **CHAIRPERSON.**—A majority of the Board of Trustees shall select the chairperson for the Board of Trustees each year.

(2) **MEETINGS.**—The Board of Trustees shall establish proceedings to carry out its duties. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. Except for meetings substantially involving personnel and contractual decisions, all meetings of the Board shall comply with the public meetings law of the State.

(f) **QUORUM AND DECISION-MAKING.**—

(1) **QUORUM.**—A quorum shall consist of five members of the Board of Trustees. The presence of a quorum is required to constitute an official meeting of the board of trustees to satisfy the meeting requirement under subsection (e)(2).

(2) **DECISIONS.**—All actions and decisions by the Board of Trustees shall require approval by a majority of members.

(g) **ANNUAL AUDIT.**—Financial statements regarding operation of the O&C Trust shall be independently prepared and audited annually for review by the O&C Trust counties, Congress, and the State.

SEC. 314. MANAGEMENT OF O&C TRUST LANDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the O&C Trust lands will be managed by the Board of Trustees in compliance with all Federal and State laws in the same manner as such laws apply to private forest lands.

(b) **TIMBER SALE PLANS.**—The Board of Trustees shall approve and periodically update management and sale plans for the O&C Trust lands consistent with the purpose specified in section 311(b). The Board of Trustees may defer sale plans during periods of depressed timber markets if the Board of Trustees, in its discretion, determines that such delay until markets improve is financially prudent and in keeping with its fiduciary obligation to the O&C Trust counties.

(c) **STAND ROTATION.**—

(1) **100-120 YEAR ROTATION.**—The Board of Trustees shall manage not less than 50 percent of the harvestable acres of the O&C Trust lands on a 100-120 year rotation. The acreage subject to 100-120 year management shall be geographically dispersed across the O&C Trust lands in a manner that the Board of Trustees, in its discretion, determines will contribute to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem values.

(2) **BALANCE.**—The balance of the harvestable acreage of the O&C Trust lands shall be managed on any rotation age the Board of Trustees, in its discretion and in compliance with applicable State law, determines will best satisfy its fiduciary obligation to provide revenue to the O&C Trust counties.

(3) **THINNING.**—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit the ability of the Board of Trustees to decide, in its discretion, to thin stands of timber on O&C Trust lands.

(d) **SALE TERMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish the terms for sale contracts of timber or other forest products from O&C Trust lands.

(2) **SET ASIDE.**—The Board of Trustees shall establish a program consistent with the program of the Bureau of Land Management under a March 10, 1959 Memorandum of Understanding, as amended, regarding calculation of shares and sale of timber set aside for purchase by business entities with 500 or fewer employees and consistent with the regulations in part 121 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations applicable to timber sale set asides, except that existing shares in effect on the date of enactment of this Act shall apply until the next scheduled recomputation of shares. In implementing its program that is consistent with such Memorandum of Understanding, the Board of Trustees shall utilize the Timber Sale Procedure Handbook and other applicable procedures of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Operating Procedures for Conducting the Five-Year Recomputation of Small Business Share Percentages in effect on January 1, 2013.

(3) **COMPETITIVE BIDDING.**—The Board of Trustees must sell timber on a competitive bid basis. No less than 50 percent of the total volume of timber sold by the Board of Trustees each year shall be sold by oral bidding consistent with practices of the Bureau of Land Management as of January 1, 2013.

(e) PROHIBITION ON EXPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on the sale of timber or other forest products from O&C Trust lands, unprocessed timber harvested from O&C Trust lands may not be exported.

(2) VIOLATIONS.—Any person who knowingly exports unprocessed timber harvested from O&C Trust lands, who knowingly provides such unprocessed timber for export by another person, or knowingly sells timber harvested from O&C Trust lands to a person who is disqualified from purchasing timber from such lands pursuant to this section shall be disqualified from purchasing timber or other forest products from O&C Trust lands or from Federal lands administered under this subtitle. Any person who uses unprocessed timber harvested from O&C Trust lands in substitution for exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands shall be disqualified from purchasing timber or other forest products from O&C Trust lands or from Federal lands administered under this subtitle.

(3) UNPROCESSED TIMBER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “unprocessed timber” has the meaning given such term in section 493(9) of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620e(9)).

(f) INTEGRATED PEST, DISEASE, AND WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Board of Trustees shall develop an integrated pest and vegetation management plan to assist forest managers in prioritizing and minimizing the use of pesticides and herbicides approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and used in compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The plan shall optimize the ability of the O&C Trust to re-establish forest stands after harvest in compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and to create diverse early seral stage forests. The plan shall allow for the eradication, containment and suppression of disease, pests, weeds and noxious plants, and invasive species as found on the State Noxious Weed List and prioritize ground application of herbicides and pesticides to the greatest extent practicable. The plan shall be completed before the start of the second year of the transition period. The planning process shall be open to the public and the Board of Trustees shall hold not less than two public hearings on the proposed plan before final adoption.

(g) ACCESS TO LANDS TRANSFERRED TO FOREST SERVICE.—Persons acting on behalf of the O&C Trust shall have a right of timely access over lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321 and Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D as is reasonably necessary for the Board of Trustees to carry out its management activities with regard to the O&C Trust lands and the O&C Trust to satisfy its fiduciary duties to O&C counties.

(h) HARVEST AREA TREE AND RETENTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The O&C Trust lands shall include harvest area tree and retention requirements consistent with State law.

(2) USE OF OLD GROWTH DEFINITION.—To the greatest extent practicable, and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, old growth, as defined by the Old Growth Review Panel created by section 324, shall be used to meet the retention requirements applicable under paragraph (1).

(i) RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The O&C Trust lands shall be managed with timber harvesting limited in riparian areas as follows:

(A) STREAMS.—For all fish bearing streams and all perennial non-fish-bearing streams, there shall be no removal of timber within a

distance equal to the height of one site potential tree on both sides of the stream channel. For intermittent, non-fish-bearing streams, there shall be no removal of timber within a distance equal to one-half the height of a site potential tree on both sides of the stream channel. For purposes of this subparagraph, the stream channel boundaries are the lines of ordinary high water.

(B) LARGER LAKES, PONDS AND RESERVOIRS.—For all lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with surface area larger than one quarter of one acre, there shall be no removal of timber within a distance equal to the height of one site potential tree from the line of ordinary high water of the water body.

(C) SMALL PONDS AND NATURAL WETLANDS, SPRINGS AND SEEPS.—For all ponds with surface area one quarter acre or less, and for all natural wetlands, springs and seeps, there shall be no removal of timber within the area dominated by riparian vegetation.

(2) MEASUREMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), all distances shall be measured along slopes, and all site potential tree heights shall be average height at maturity of the dominant species of conifer determined at a scale no finer than the applicable fifth field watershed.

(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed—

(A) to prohibit the falling or placement of timber into streams to create large woody debris for the benefit of aquatic ecosystems; or

(B) to prohibit the falling of trees within riparian areas as may be reasonably necessary for safety or operational reasons in areas adjacent to the riparian areas, or for road construction or maintenance pursuant to section 312(c)(3).

(j) FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—

(1) RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS.—

(A) CONTINUATION OF AGREEMENTS.—Subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), any reciprocal fire protection agreement between the State or any other entity and the Secretary concerned with regard to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain in place for a period of ten years after such date unless earlier terminated by the State or other entity.

(B) ASSUMPTION OF BLM RIGHTS AND DUTIES.—The Board of Trustees shall exercise the rights and duties of the Bureau of Land Management under the agreements described in subparagraph (A), except as such rights and duties might apply to Tribal lands under subtitle D.

(C) EFFECT OF EXPIRATION OF PERIOD.—Following the expiration of the ten-year period under subparagraph (A), the Board of Trustees shall continue to provide for fire protection of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands, including those transferred to the Forest Service under section 331, through continuation of the reciprocal fire protection agreements, new cooperative agreements, or by any means otherwise permitted by law. The means selected shall be based on the review by the Board of Trustees of whether the reciprocal fire protection agreements were effective in protecting the lands from fire.

(D) EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Secretary of Agriculture from an emergency response to a fire on the O&C Trust lands or lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321.

(2) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FIRE.—Subject to paragraph (1), if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that fire on any of the lands transferred under section 321 is burning uncontrolled or the Secretary, the Board of Trustees, or contracted party does not have readily and immediately available personnel and equipment to control or extinguish the fire, the Secretary, or any forest protective association or agency under contract or agreement with the Secretary or the Board of Trustees for the protection of forestland against fire, shall summarily and aggressively abate the nuisance thus controlling and extinguishing the fire.

(k) NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL.—So long as the O&C Trust maintains the 100–120 year rotation on 50 percent of the harvestable acres required in subsection (c), the section 321 lands representing the best quality habitat for the owl are transferred to the Forest Service, and the O&C Trust protects currently occupied northern spotted owl nest sites consistent with the forest practices in the Oregon Forest Practices Act, management of the O&C Trust land by the Board of Trustees shall be considered to comply with section 9 of Public Law 93–205 (16 U.S.C. 1538) for the northern spotted owl. A currently occupied northern spotted owl nest site shall be considered abandoned if there are no northern spotted owl responses following three consecutive years of surveys using the Protocol for Surveying Management Activities that May Impact Northern Spotted Owls dated February 2, 2013.

SEC. 315. DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES FROM O&C TRUST LANDS.

(a) ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES.—

(1) TIME FOR DISTRIBUTION; USE.—Payments to each O&C Trust county shall be made available to the general fund of the O&C Trust county as soon as practicable following the end of each fiscal year, to be used as are other unrestricted county funds.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount paid to an O&C Trust county in relation to the total distributed to all O&C Trust counties for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion that the total assessed value of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands in each of the O&C Trust counties for fiscal year 1915 bears to the total assessed value of all of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands in the State for that same fiscal year. However, for the purposes of this subsection the portion of the reverted Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands in each of the O&C Trust counties that was not assessed for fiscal year 1915 shall be deemed to have been assessed at the average assessed value of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands in the county.

(3) LIMITATION.—After the fifth payment made under this subsection, the payment to an O&C Trust county for a fiscal year shall not exceed 110 percent of the previous year's payment to the O&C Trust county, adjusted for inflation based on the consumer price index applicable to the geographic area in which the O&C Trust counties are located.

(b) RESERVE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE FUND.—The Board of Trustees shall generate and maintain a reserve fund.

(2) DEPOSITS TO RESERVE FUND.—Within 10 years after creation of the O&C Trust or as soon thereafter as is practicable, the Board of Trustees shall establish and seek to maintain an annual balance of \$125,000,000 in the Reserve Fund, to be derived from revenues generated from management activities involving O&C Trust lands. All annual revenues generated in excess of operating costs

and payments to O&C Trust counties required by subsection (a) and payments into the Conservation Fund as provided in subsection (c) shall be deposited in the Reserve Fund.

(3) **EXPENDITURES FROM RESERVE FUND.**—The Board of Trustees shall use amounts in the Reserve Fund only—

(A) to pay management and administrative expenses or capital improvement costs on O&C Trust lands; and

(B) to make payments to O&C Trust counties when payments to the counties under subsection (a) are projected to be 90 percent or less of the previous year's payments.

(c) **O&C TRUST CONSERVATION FUND.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION FUND.**—The Board of Trustees shall use a portion of revenues generated from activity on the O&C Trust lands, consistent with paragraph (2), to establish and maintain a O&C Trust Conservation Fund. The O&C Trust Conservation Fund shall include no Federal appropriations.

(2) **REVENUES.**—Following the transition period, five percent of the O&C Trust's annual net operating revenue, after deduction of all management costs and expenses, including the payment required under section 317, shall be deposited to the O&C Trust Conservation Fund.

(3) **EXPENDITURES FROM CONSERVATION FUND.**—The Board of Trustees shall use amounts from the O&C Trust Conservation Fund only—

(A) to fund the voluntary acquisition of conservation easements from willing private landowners in the State;

(B) to fund watershed restoration, remediation and enhancement projects within the State; or

(C) to contribute to balancing values in a land exchange with willing private landowners proposed under section 323(b), if the land exchange will result in a net increase in ecosystem benefits for fish, wildlife, or rare native plants.

SEC. 316. LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORITY.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to approval by the Secretary concerned, the Board of Trustees may negotiate proposals for land exchanges with owners of lands adjacent to O&C Trust lands in order to create larger contiguous blocks of land under management by the O&C Trust to facilitate resource management, to improve conservation value of such lands, or to improve the efficiency of management of such lands.

(b) **APPROVAL REQUIRED; CRITERIA.**—The Secretary concerned may approve a land exchange proposed by the Board of Trustees administratively if the exchange meets the following criteria:

(1) The non-Federal lands are completely within the State.

(2) The non-Federal lands have high timber production value, or are necessary for more efficient or effective management of adjacent or nearby O&C Trust lands.

(3) The non-Federal lands have equal or greater value to the O&C Trust lands proposed for exchange.

(4) The proposed exchange is reasonably likely to increase the net income to the O&C Trust counties over the next 20 years and not decrease the net income to the O&C Trust counties over the next 10 years.

(c) **ACREAGE LIMITATION.**—The Secretary concerned shall not approve land exchanges under this section that, taken together with all previous exchanges involving the O&C Trust lands, have the effect of reducing the total acreage of the O&C Trust lands by more than five percent from the total acre-

age to be designated as O&C Trust land under section 311(c)(1).

(d) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.**—Section 3 of the Oregon Public Lands Transfer and Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-321; 112 Stat. 3022), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.), including the amendments made by the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-409; 102 Stat. 1086), the Act of March 20, 1922 (16 U.S.C. 485, 486), and the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) shall not apply to the land exchange authority provided by this section.

(e) **EXCHANGES WITH FOREST SERVICE.**—

(1) **EXCHANGES AUTHORIZED.**—The Board of Trustees is authorized to engage in land exchanges with the Forest Service if approved by the Secretary pursuant to section 323(c).

(2) **MANAGEMENT OF EXCHANGED LANDS.**—Following completion of a land exchange under paragraph (1), the management requirements applicable to the newly acquired lands by the O&C Trust or the Forest Service shall be the same requirements under this subtitle applicable to the other lands that are managed by the O&C Board or the Forest Service.

SEC. 317. PAYMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES TREASURY.

As soon as practicable after the end of the third fiscal year of the transition period and in each of the subsequent seven fiscal years, the O&C Trust shall submit a payment of \$10,000,000 to the United States Treasury.

CHAPTER 2—TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS TO FOREST SERVICE

SEC. 321. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS TO FOREST SERVICE.

(a) **TRANSFER REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over all Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands not designated as O&C Trust lands by subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 311(c)(1), including those lands excluded by section 311(c)(2), to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the National Forest System and administration by the Forest Service as provided in section 322.

(b) **EXCEPTION.**—This section does not apply to Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D.

SEC. 322. MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED LANDS BY FOREST SERVICE.

(a) **ASSIGNMENT TO EXISTING NATIONAL FORESTS.**—To the greatest extent practicable, management responsibilities for the lands transferred under section 321 shall be assigned to the unit of the National Forest System geographically closest to the transferred lands. The Secretary of Agriculture shall have ultimate decision-making authority, but shall assign the transferred lands to a unit not later than the applicable transfer date provided in the transition period.

(b) **APPLICATION OF NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the lands transferred under section 321 shall be managed under the Northwest Forest Plan and shall retain Northwest Forest Plan land use designations until or unless changed in the manner provided by Federal laws applicable to the administration and management of the National Forest System.

(2) **EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN DESIGNATED LANDS.**—The lands excluded from the O&C Trust by subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 311(c)(2) and transferred to the Forest Service under section 321 shall be man-

aged as provided by Federal laws applicable to the lands.

(c) **PROTECTION OF OLD GROWTH.**—Old growth, as defined by the Old Growth Review Panel pursuant to rulemaking conducted in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not be harvested by the Forest Service on lands transferred under section 321.

(d) **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FIRE.**—Subject to section 314(i), if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that fire on any of the lands transferred under section 321 is burning uncontrolled or the Secretary or contracted party does not have readily and immediately available personnel and equipment to control or extinguish the fire, the Secretary, or any forest protective association or agency under contract or agreement with the Secretary for the protection of forestland against fire, and within whose protection area the fire exists, shall summarily and aggressively abate the nuisance thus controlling and extinguishing the fire.

SEC. 323. MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES AND EXPEDITED LAND EXCHANGES.

(a) **LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may conduct land exchanges involving lands transferred under section 321, other than the lands excluded from the O&C Trust by subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 311(c)(2), in order to create larger contiguous blocks of land under management of the Secretary to facilitate resource management, to improve conservation value of such lands, or to improve the efficiency of management of such lands.

(b) **CRITERIA FOR EXCHANGES WITH NON-FEDERAL OWNERS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a land exchange administratively under this section with a non-Federal owner (other than the O&C Trust) if the land exchange meets the following criteria:

(1) The non-Federal lands are completely within the State.

(2) The non-Federal lands have high wildlife conservation or recreation value or the exchange is necessary to increase management efficiencies of lands administered by the Forest Service for the purposes of the National Forest System.

(3) The non-Federal lands have equal or greater value to the Federal lands purposed for exchange or a balance of values can be achieved—

(A) with a grant of funds provided by the O&C Trust pursuant to section 315(c); or

(B) from other sources.

(c) **CRITERIA FOR EXCHANGES WITH O&C TRUST.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may conduct land exchanges with the Board of Trustees administratively under this subsection, and such an exchange shall be deemed to not involve any Federal action or Federal discretionary involvement or control if the land exchange with the O&C Trust meets the following criteria:

(1) The O&C Trust lands to be exchanged have high wildlife value or ecological value or the exchange would facilitate resource management or otherwise contribute to the management efficiency of the lands administered by the Forest Service.

(2) The exchange is requested or approved by the Board of Trustees for the O&C Trust and will not impair the ability of the Board of Trustees to meet its fiduciary responsibilities.

(3) The lands to be exchanged by the Forest Service do not contain stands of timber meeting the definition of old growth established by the Old Growth Review Panel pursuant to section 324.

(4) The lands to be exchanged are equal in acreage.

(d) **ACREAGE LIMITATION.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not approve land exchanges under this section that, taken together with all previous exchanges involving the lands described in subsection (a), have the effect of reducing the total acreage of such lands by more than five percent from the total acreage originally transferred to the Secretary.

(e) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.**—Section 3 of the Oregon Public Lands Transfer and Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-321; 112 Stat. 3022), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.), including the amendments made by the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-409; 102 Stat. 1086), the Act of March 20, 1922 (16 U.S.C. 485, 486), and the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) shall not apply to the land exchange authority provided by this section.

SEC. 324. REVIEW PANEL AND OLD GROWTH PROTECTION.

(a) **APPOINTMENT; MEMBERS.**—Within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint an Old Growth Review Panel consisting of five members. At a minimum, the members must hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree in wildlife biology, forestry, ecology, or related field and published peer-reviewed academic articles in their field of expertise.

(b) **PURPOSE OF REVIEW.**—Members of the Old Growth Review Panel shall review existing, published, peer-reviewed articles in relevant academic journals and establish a definition or definitions of old growth as it applies to the ecologically, geographically and climatologically unique Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands managed by the O&C Trust or the Forest Service only. The definition or definitions shall bear no legal force, shall not be used as a precedent for, and shall not apply to any lands other than the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands managed by the O&C Trust or the Forest Service in western Oregon. The definition or definitions shall not apply to Tribal lands.

(c) **SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.**—The definition or definitions for old growth in western Oregon established under subsection (b), if approved by at least four members of the Old Growth Review Panel, shall be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 325. UNIQUENESS OF OLD GROWTH PROTECTION ON OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS.

All sections of this subtitle referring to the term “old growth” are uniquely suited to resolve management issues for the lands covered by this subtitle only, and shall not be construed as precedent for any other situation involving management of other Federal, State, Tribal, or private lands.

CHAPTER 3—TRANSITION

SEC. 331. TRANSITION PERIOD AND OPERATIONS.

(a) **TRANSITION PERIOD.**—

(1) **COMMENCEMENT; DURATION.**—Effective on October 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the appointment of the Board of Trustees under section 313, a transition period of three fiscal years shall commence.

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Unless specifically stated in the following subsections, any action under this section shall be deemed not to involve Federal agency action or Federal discretionary involvement or control.

(b) **YEAR ONE.**—

(1) **APPLICABILITY.**—During the first fiscal year of the transition period, the activities described in this subsection shall occur.

(2) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTIVITIES.**—The Board of Trustees shall employ sufficient staff or contractors to prepare for beginning management of O&C Trust lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands in the second fiscal year of the transition period, including preparation of management plans and a harvest schedule for the lands over which management authority is transferred to the O&C Trust in the second fiscal year.

(3) **FOREST SERVICE ACTIVITIES.**—The Forest Service shall begin preparing to assume management authority of all Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands transferred under section 321 in the second fiscal year.

(4) **SECRETARY CONCERNED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary concerned shall continue to exercise management authority over all Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands and O&C Region Public Domain lands under all existing Federal laws.

(5) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—Upon written request from the Board of Trustees, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide copies of any documents or data, however stored or maintained, that includes the requested information concerning O&C Trust lands. The copies shall be provided as soon as practicable and to the greatest extent possible, but in no event later than 30 days following the date of the request.

(6) **EXCEPTION.**—This subsection does not apply to Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D.

(c) **YEAR TWO.**—

(1) **APPLICABILITY.**—During the second fiscal year of the transition period, the activities described in this subsection shall occur.

(2) **TRANSFER OF O&C TRUST LANDS.**—Effective on October 1 of the second fiscal year of the transition period, management authority over the O&C Trust lands shall be transferred to the O&C Trust.

(3) **TRANSFER OF LANDS TO FOREST SERVICE.**—The transfers required by section 321 shall occur.

(4) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall obtain and manage, as soon as practicable, all documents and data relating to the Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands, O&C Region Public Domain lands, and Coos Bay Wagon Road lands previously managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Upon written request from the Board of Trustees, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide copies of any documents or data, however stored or maintained, that includes the requested information concerning O&C Trust lands. The copies shall be provided as soon as practicable and to the greatest extent possible, but in no event later than 30 days following the date of the request.

(5) **IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The Board of Trustees shall begin implementing its management plan for the O&C Trust lands and revise the plan as necessary. Distribution of revenues generated from all activities on the O&C Trust lands shall be subject to section 315.

(d) **YEAR THREE AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.**—

(1) **APPLICABILITY.**—During the third fiscal year of the transition period and all subsequent fiscal years, the activities described in this subsection shall occur.

(2) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MANAGEMENT.**—The Board of Trustees shall manage the O&C Trust lands pursuant to subtitle A.

SEC. 332. O&C TRUST MANAGEMENT CAPITALIZATION.

(a) **BORROWING AUTHORITY.**—The Board of Trustees is authorized to borrow from any available private sources and non-Federal, public sources in order to provide for the costs of organization, administration, and management of the O&C Trust during the three-year transition period provided in section 331.

(b) **SUPPORT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, O&C Trust counties are authorized to loan to the O&C Trust, and the Board of Trustees is authorized to borrow from willing O&C Trust counties, amounts held on account by such counties that are required to be expended in accordance with the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260; 16 U.S.C. 500) and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 963; 16 U.S.C. 500), except that, upon repayment by the O&C Trust, the obligation of such counties to expend the funds in accordance with such Acts shall continue to apply.

SEC. 333. EXISTING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND FOREST SERVICE CONTRACTS.

(a) **TREATMENT OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.**—Any work or timber contracts sold or awarded by the Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service on or with respect to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands before the transfer of the lands to the O&C Trust or the Forest Service, or Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D, shall remain binding and effective according to the terms of the contracts after the transfer of the lands. The Board of Trustees and Secretary concerned shall make such accommodations as are necessary to avoid interfering in any way with the performance of the contracts.

(b) **TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS.**—Payments made pursuant to the contracts described in subsection (a), if any, shall be made as provided in those contracts and not made to the O&C Trust.

SEC. 334. PROTECTION OF VALID EXISTING RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO NON-FEDERAL LAND.

(a) **VALID RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title, or any amendment made by this title, shall be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, right-of-way, agreement, or other right of authorization existing on the date of the enactment of this Act with regard to Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands, including O&C Trust lands over which management authority is transferred to the O&C Trust pursuant to section 311(c)(1), lands transferred to the Forest Service under section 321, and Tribal lands transferred under subtitle D.

(b) **ACCESS TO LANDS.**—

(1) **EXISTING ACCESS RIGHTS.**—The Secretary concerned shall preserve all rights of access and use, including (but not limited to) reciprocal right-of-way agreements, tail hold agreements, or other right-of-way or easement obligations existing on the date of the enactment of this Act, and such rights shall remain applicable to lands covered by this subtitle in the same manner and to the same extent as such rights applied before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **NEW ACCESS RIGHTS.**—If a current or future landowner of land intermingled with Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands does not have an existing access agreement related to the lands covered by this subtitle, the Secretary concerned shall enter into an access agreement, including appurtenant lands, to secure the landowner the reasonable use and enjoyment of the landowner's land, including the harvest and hauling of timber.

(c) **MANAGEMENT COOPERATION.**—The Board of Trustees and the Secretary concerned shall provide current and future landowners of land intermingled with Oregon and California Railroad Grant lands or O&C Region Public Domain lands the permission needed to manage their lands, including to locate tail holds, tramways, and logging wedges, to purchase guylines, and to cost-share property lines surveys to the lands covered by this subtitle, within 30 days after receiving notification of the landowner's plan of operation.

(d) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Notwithstanding section 312(g)(2), a private landowner may obtain judicial review of a decision of the Board of Trustees to deny—

(1) the landowner the rights provided by subsection (b) regarding access to the landowner's land; or

(2) the landowner the reasonable use and enjoyment of the landowner's land.

SEC. 335. REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW RELATING TO OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD GRANT LANDS.

(a) **REPEAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a et seq.) is repealed effective on October 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the appointment of the Board of Trustees.

(b) **EFFECT OF CERTAIN COURT RULINGS.**—If, as a result of judicial review authorized by section 312, any provision of this subtitle is held to be invalid and implementation of the provision or any activity conducted under the provision is then enjoined, the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181a et seq.), as in effect immediately before its repeal by subsection (a), shall be restored to full legal force and effect as if the repeal had not taken effect.

Subtitle B—Coos Bay Wagon Roads

SEC. 341. TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OVER CERTAIN COOS BAY WAGON ROAD GRANT LANDS TO COOS COUNTY, OREGON.

(a) **TRANSFER REQUIRED.**—Except in the case of the lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer management authority over the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands reconveyed to the United States pursuant to the first section of the Act of February 26, 1919 (40 Stat. 1179), and the surface resources thereon, to the Coos County government. The transfer shall be completed not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **LANDS EXCLUDED.**—The transfer under subsection (a) shall not include any of the following Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands:

(1) Federal lands within the National Landscape Conservation System as of January 1, 2013.

(2) Federal lands designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as of January 1, 2013.

(3) Federal lands that were in the National Wilderness Preservation System as of January 1, 2013.

(4) Federal lands included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System of January 1, 2013.

(5) Federal lands within the boundaries of a national monument, park, or other developed recreation area as of January 1, 2013.

(6) All stands of timber generally older than 125 years old, as of January 1, 2011, which shall be conclusively determined by reference to the polygon spatial data layer in the electronic data compilation filed by the Bureau of Land Management based on the predominant birth-date attribute, and the boundaries of such stands shall be conclu-

sively determined for all purposes by the global positioning system coordinates for such stands.

(7) Tribal lands addressed in subtitle D.

(c) **MANAGEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Coos County shall manage the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands over which management authority is transferred under subsection (a) consistent with section 314, and for purposes of applying such section, "Board of Trustees" shall be deemed to mean "Coos County" and "O&C Trust lands" shall be deemed to mean the transferred lands.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT COSTS.**—Coos County shall be responsible for all management and administrative costs of the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands over which management authority is transferred under subsection (a).

(3) **MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS.**—Coos County may contract, if competitively bid, with one or more public, private, or tribal entities, including (but not limited to) the Coquille Indian Tribe, if such entities are substantially based in Coos or Douglas Counties, Oregon, to manage and administer the lands.

(d) **TREATMENT OF REVENUES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All revenues generated from the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands over which management authority is transferred under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Coos County treasury to be used as are other unrestricted county funds.

(2) **TREASURY.**—As soon as practicable after the end of the third fiscal year of the transition period and in each of the subsequent seven fiscal years, Coos County shall submit a payment of \$400,000 to the United States Treasury.

(3) **DOUGLAS COUNTY.**—Beginning with the first fiscal year for which management of the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands over which management authority is transferred under subsection (a) generates net positive revenues, and for all subsequent fiscal years, Coos County shall transmit a payment to the general fund of the Douglas County treasury from the net revenues generated from the lands. The payment shall be made as soon as practicable following the end of each fiscal year and the amount of the payment shall bear the same proportion to total net revenues for the fiscal year as the proportion of the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands in Douglas County in relation to all Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands in Coos and Douglas Counties as of January 1, 2013.

SEC. 342. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN COOS BAY WAGON ROAD GRANT LANDS TO FOREST SERVICE.

The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant lands excluded by paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 341(b) to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the National Forest System and administration by the Forest Service as provided in section 322.

SEC. 343. LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORITY.

Coos County may recommend land exchanges to the Secretary of Agriculture and carry out such land exchanges in the manner provided in section 316.

Subtitle C—Oregon Treasures

CHAPTER 1—WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 351. DESIGNATION OF DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Federal land in the State of Oregon administered by the Forest Service and

the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 30,520 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled "Devil's Staircase Wilderness Proposal", dated October 26, 2009, are designated as a wilderness area for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and to be known as the "Devil's Staircase Wilderness".

(b) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of wilderness area designated by subsection (a). The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subdivision, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and description. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in subsection (a) and the map, the map shall control. The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area shall be administered by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, in accordance with the Wilderness Act and the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, except that, with respect to the wilderness area, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **FOREST SERVICE ROADS.**—As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(A) decommission any National Forest System road within the wilderness boundaries; and

(B) convert Forest Service Road 4100 within the wilderness boundary to a trail for primitive recreational use.

(d) **INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.**—Any land within the boundary of the wilderness area designated by this section that is acquired by the United States shall—

(1) become part of the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area; and

(2) be managed in accordance with this section and any other applicable law.

(e) **FISH AND WILDLIFE.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Oregon with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

(f) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land designated as wilderness area by this section is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(g) **PROTECTION OF TRIBAL RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish—

(1) the existing rights of any Indian tribe; or

(2) tribal rights regarding access to Federal lands for tribal activities, including spiritual, cultural, and traditional food gathering activities.

SEC. 352. EXPANSION OF WILD ROGUE WILDERNESS AREA.

(a) **EXPANSION.**—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 58,100 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Wild Rogue”, dated September 16, 2010, are hereby included in the Wild Rogue Wilderness, a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(b) **MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and a legal description of the wilderness area designated by this section, with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FORCE OF LAW.**—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the area designated as wilderness by this section shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(d) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land designated as wilderness by this section is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

CHAPTER 2—WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATED AND RELATED PROTECTIONS**SEC. 361. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS, MOLALLA RIVER.**

(a) **DESIGNATIONS.**—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“() MOLALLA RIVER, OREGON.—The following segments in the State of Oregon, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a recreational river:

“(A) The approximately 15.1-mile segment from the southern boundary line of T. 7 S., R. 4 E., sec. 19, downstream to the edge of the Bureau of Land Management boundary in T. 6 S., R. 3 E., sec. 7.

“(B) The approximately 6.2-mile segment from the easternmost Bureau of Land Management boundary line in the NE¼ sec. 4, T. 7 S., R. 4 E., downstream to the confluence with the Molalla River.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—Section 3(a)(102) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(102)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SQUAW CREEK” and inserting “WHYCHUS CREEK”;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “McAllister Ditch, including the Soap Fork Squaw Creek, the North Fork, the South Fork, the East and West Forks of Park Creek, and Park Creek Fork” and inserting “Plainview Ditch, including the Soap Creek, the North and South Forks of

Whychus Creek, the East and West Forks of Park Creek, and Park Creek”; and

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “McAllister Ditch” and inserting “Plainview Ditch”.

SEC. 362. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS RELATED TO CHETCO RIVER.

Section 3(a)(69) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(69)) is amended—

(1) by inserting before the “The 44.5-mile” the following:

“(A) DESIGNATIONS.—”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively (and by moving the margins 2 ems to the right);

(3) in clause (i), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “25.5-mile” and inserting “27.5-mile”; and

(B) by striking “Boulder Creek at the Kalmiopsis Wilderness boundary” and inserting “Mislatah Creek”;

(4) in clause (ii), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “8” and inserting “7.5”;

(B) by striking “Boulder Creek” and inserting “Mislatah Creek”; and

(C) by striking “Steel Bridge” and inserting “Eagle Creek”;

(5) in clause (iii), as redesignated—

(A) by striking “11” and inserting “9.5”; and

(B) by striking “Steel Bridge” and inserting “Eagle Creek”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid rights, the Federal land within the boundaries of the river segments designated by subparagraph (A), is withdrawn from all forms of—

“(i) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

“(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

“(iii) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.”.

SEC. 363. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS, WASSON CREEK AND FRANKLIN CREEK.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“() FRANKLIN CREEK, OREGON.—The 4.5-mile segment from the headwaters to the private land boundary in section 8 to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a wild river.

“() WASSON CREEK, OREGON.—

“(A) The 4.2-mile segment from the eastern edge of section 17 downstream to the boundary of sections 11 and 12 to be administered by the Secretary of Interior as a wild river.

“(B) The 5.9-mile segment downstream from the boundary of sections 11 and 12 to the private land boundary in section 22 to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a wild river.”.

SEC. 364. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS, ROGUE RIVER AREA.

(a) **DESIGNATIONS.**—Section 3(a)(5) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(5)) (relating to the Rogue River, Oregon) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In addition to the segment described in the previous sentence, the following segments in the Rogue River area are designated:

“(A) **KELSEY CREEK.**—The approximately 4.8 miles of Kelsey Creek from east section line of T32S, R9W, sec. 34, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(B) **EAST FORK KELSEY CREEK.**—The approximately 4.6 miles of East Fork Kelsey Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness

boundary in T33S, R8W, sec. 5, W.M. to the confluence with Kelsey Creek as a wild river.

“(C) **WHISKY CREEK.**—

“(i) The approximately 0.6 miles of Whisky Creek from the confluence of the East Fork and West Fork to 0.1 miles downstream from road 33-8-23 as a recreational river.

“(ii) The approximately 1.9 miles of Whisky Creek from 0.1 miles downstream from road 33-8-23 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(D) **EAST FORK WHISKY CREEK.**—

“(i) The approximately 2.8 miles of East Fork Whisky Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R8W, sec. 11, W.M. to 0.1 miles downstream of road 33-8-26 crossing as a wild river.

“(ii) The approximately .3 miles of East Fork Whisky Creek from 0.1 miles downstream of road 33-8-26 to the confluence with Whisky Creek as a recreational river.

“(E) **WEST FORK WHISKY CREEK.**—The approximately 4.8 miles of West Fork Whisky Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with Whisky Creek as a wild river.

“(F) **BIG WINDY CREEK.**—

“(i) The approximately 1.5 miles of Big Windy Creek from its headwaters to 0.1 miles downstream from road 34-9-17.1 as a scenic river.

“(ii) The approximately 5.8 miles of Big Windy Creek from 0.1 miles downstream from road 34-9-17.1 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(G) **EAST FORK BIG WINDY CREEK.**—

“(i) The approximately 0.2 miles of East Fork Big Windy Creek from its headwaters to 0.1 miles downstream from road 34-8-36 as a scenic river.

“(ii) The approximately 3.7 miles of East Fork Big Windy Creek from 0.1 miles downstream from road 34-8-36 to the confluence with Big Windy Creek as a wild river.

“(H) **LITTLE WINDY CREEK.**—The approximately 1.9 miles of Little Windy Creek from 0.1 miles downstream of road 34-8-36 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(I) **HOWARD CREEK.**—

“(i) The approximately 0.3 miles of Howard Creek from its headwaters to 0.1 miles downstream of road 34-9-34 as a scenic river.

“(ii) The approximately 6.9 miles of Howard Creek from 0.1 miles downstream of road 34-9-34 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(J) **MULE CREEK.**—The approximately 6.3 miles of Mule Creek from east section line of T32S, R10W, sec. 25, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(K) **ANNA CREEK.**—The approximately 3.5-mile section of Anna Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with Howard Creek as a wild river.

“(L) **MISSOURI CREEK.**—The approximately 1.6 miles of Missouri Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R10W, sec. 24, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(M) **JENNY CREEK.**—The approximately 1.8 miles of Jenny Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R9W, sec. 28, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(N) **RUM CREEK.**—The approximately 2.2 miles of Rum Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T34S, R8W, sec. 9, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(O) **EAST FORK RUM CREEK.**—The approximately 1.5 miles of East Rum Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T34S, R8W, sec. 10, W.M. to the confluence with Rum Creek as a wild river.

“(P) WILDCAT CREEK.—The approximately 1.7-mile section of Wildcat Creek from its headwaters downstream to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(Q) MONTGOMERY CREEK.—The approximately 1.8-mile section of Montgomery Creek from its headwaters downstream to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(R) HEWITT CREEK.—The approximately 1.2 miles of Hewitt Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R9W, sec. 19, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(S) BUNKER CREEK.—The approximately 6.6 miles of Bunker Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(T) DULOG CREEK.—

“(i) The approximately 0.8 miles of Dulog Creek from its headwaters to 0.1 miles downstream of road 34–8–36 as a scenic river.

“(ii) The approximately 1.0 miles of Dulog Creek from 0.1 miles downstream of road 34–8–36 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(U) QUAIL CREEK.—The approximately 1.7 miles of Quail Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R10W, sec. 1, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(V) MEADOW CREEK.—The approximately 4.1 miles of Meadow Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(W) RUSSIAN CREEK.—The approximately 2.5 miles of Russian Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R8W, sec. 20, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(X) ALDER CREEK.—The approximately 1.2 miles of Alder Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(Y) BOOZE CREEK.—The approximately 1.5 miles of Booze Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(Z) BRONCO CREEK.—The approximately 1.8 miles of Bronco Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(AA) COPSEY CREEK.—The approximately 1.5 miles of Copsey Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(BB) CORRAL CREEK.—The approximately 0.5 miles of Corral Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(CC) COWLEY CREEK.—The approximately 0.9 miles of Cowley Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(DD) DITCH CREEK.—The approximately 1.8 miles of Ditch Creek from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R9W, sec. 5, W.M. to its confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(EE) FRANCIS CREEK.—The approximately 0.9 miles of Francis Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(FF) LONG GULCH.—The approximately 1.1 miles of Long Gulch from the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in T33S, R10W, sec. 23, W.M. to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(GG) BAILEY CREEK.—The approximately 1.7 miles of Bailey Creek from the west section line of T34S, R8W, sec. 14, W.M. to the confluence of the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(HH) SHADY CREEK.—The approximately 0.7 miles of Shady Creek from its headwaters

to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.

“(II) SLIDE CREEK.—

“(i) The approximately 0.5-mile section of Slide Creek from its headwaters to 0.1 miles downstream from road 33–9–6 as a scenic river.

“(ii) The approximately 0.7-mile section of Slide Creek from 0.1 miles downstream of road 33–9–6 to the confluence with the Rogue River as a wild river.”

(b) MANAGEMENT.—All wild, scenic, and recreation classified segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be managed as part of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River.

(c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights, the Federal land within the boundaries of the river segments designated by the amendment made by subsection (a) is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

SEC. 365. ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR ROGUE RIVER TRIBUTARIES.

(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights, the Federal land within a quarter-mile on each side of the streams listed in subsection (b) is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(b) STREAM SEGMENTS.—Subsection (a) applies the following tributaries of the Rogue River:

(1) KELSEY CREEK.—The approximately 4.5 miles of Kelsey Creek from its headwaters to the east section line of 32S 9W sec. 34.

(2) EAST FORK KELSEY CREEK.—The approximately .2 miles of East Fork Kelsey Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 8W sec. 5.

(3) EAST FORK WHISKY CREEK.—The approximately .7 miles of East Fork Whisky Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 8W section 11.

(4) LITTLE WINDY CREEK.—The approximately 1.2 miles of Little Windy Creek from its headwaters to west section line of 33S 9W sec. 34.

(5) MULE CREEK.—The approximately 5.1 miles of Mule Creek from its headwaters to east section line of 32S 10W sec. 25.

(6) MISSOURI CREEK.—The approximately 3.1 miles of Missouri Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 10W sec. 24.

(7) JENNY CREEK.—The approximately 3.1 miles of Jenny Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 9W sec. 28.

(8) RUM CREEK.—The approximately 2.2 miles of Rum Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 34S 8W sec. 9.

(9) EAST FORK RUM CREEK.—The approximately .5 miles of East Fork Rum Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 34S 8W sec. 10.

(10) HEWITT CREEK.—The approximately 1.4 miles of Hewitt Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 9W sec. 19.

(11) QUAIL CREEK.—The approximately .8 miles of Quail Creek from its headwaters to

the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 10W sec. 1.

(12) RUSSIAN CREEK.—The approximately .1 miles of Russian Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 8W sec. 20.

(13) DITCH CREEK.—The approximately .7 miles of Ditch Creek from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 9W sec. 5.

(14) LONG GULCH.—The approximately 1.4 miles of Long Gulch from its headwaters to the Wild Rogue Wilderness boundary in 33S 10W sec. 23.

(15) BAILEY CREEK.—The approximately 1.4 miles of Bailey Creek from its headwaters to west section line of 34S 8W sec. 14.

(16) QUARTZ CREEK.—The approximately 3.3 miles of Quartz Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the North Fork Galice Creek.

(17) NORTH FORK GALICE CREEK.—The approximately 5.7 miles of the North Fork Galice Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with Galice Creek.

(18) GRAVE CREEK.—The approximately 10.2 mile section of Grave Creek from the confluence of Wolf Creek downstream to the confluence with the Rogue River.

(19) CENTENNIAL GULCH.—The approximately 2.2 miles of Centennial Gulch from its headwaters to its confluence with the Rogue River.

CHAPTER 3—ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS

SEC. 371. LIMITATIONS ON LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CONDEMNATION.—The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may not acquire by condemnation any land or interest within the boundaries of the river segments or wilderness designated by this subtitle.

(b) LANDOWNER CONSENT REQUIRED.—Private or non-Federal public property shall not be included within the boundaries of the river segments or wilderness designated by this subtitle unless the owner of the property has consented in writing to having that property included in such boundaries.

SEC. 372. OVERFLIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle or the Wilderness Act shall preclude low-level overflights and operations of military aircraft, helicopters, missiles, or unmanned aerial vehicles over the wilderness designated by this subtitle, including military overflights and operations that can be seen or heard within the wilderness.

(b) SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE AND TRAINING ROUTES.—Nothing in this subtitle or the Wilderness Act shall preclude the designation of new units of special use airspace, the expansion of existing units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military training routes over wilderness designated by this subtitle.

SEC. 373. BUFFER ZONES.

Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) establishes or authorizes the establishment of a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the boundaries of the river segments or wilderness designated by this subtitle; or

(2) precludes, limits, or restricts an activity from being conducted outside such boundaries, including an activity that can be seen or heard from within such boundaries.

SEC. 374. PREVENTION OF WILDFIRES.

The designation of a river segment or wilderness by this subtitle or the withdrawal of the Federal land under this subtitle shall not be construed to interfere with the authority of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize mechanical thinning of trees or underbrush to prevent or control the spread of wildfires, or

conditions creating the risk of wildfire that threatens areas outside the boundary of the wilderness, or the use of mechanized equipment for wildfire pre-suppression and suppression.

SEC. 375. LIMITATION ON DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN LANDS IN OREGON.

A national monument designation under the Act of June 8, 1906 (commonly known as the Antiquities Act; 16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) within or on any portion of the Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands or the O&C Region Public Domain lands, regardless of whether management authority over the lands are transferred to the O&C Trust pursuant to section 311(c)(1), the lands are excluded from the O&C Trust pursuant to section 311(c)(2), or the lands are transferred to the Forest Service under section 321, shall only be made pursuant to Congressional approval in an Act of Congress.

CHAPTER 4—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 381. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect on October 1 of the second fiscal year of the transition period.

(b) EXCEPTION.—If, as a result of judicial review authorized by section 312, any provision of subtitle A is held to be invalid and implementation of the provision or any activity conducted under the provision is enjoined, this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall not take effect, or if the effective date specified in subsection (a) has already occurred, this subtitle shall have no force and effect and the amendments made by this subtitle are repealed.

Subtitle D—Tribal Trust Lands

PART 1—COUNCIL CREEK LAND CONVEYANCE

SEC. 391. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) COUNCIL CREEK LAND.—The term “Council Creek land” means the approximately 17,519 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Canyon Mountain Land Conveyance” and dated June 27, 2013.

(2) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

SEC. 392. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Council Creek land, including any improvements located on the land, appurtenances to the land, and minerals on or in the land, including oil and gas, shall be—

(1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(2) part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(b) SURVEY.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

SEC. 393. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and legal description of the Council Creek land with—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subdivision, except that the Sec-

retary of the Interior may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 394. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless expressly provided in this part, nothing in this part affects any right or claim of the Tribe existing on the date of enactment of this Act to any land or interest in land.

(b) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Council Creek land.

(2) NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.—Any real property taken into trust under section 392 shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under Public Law 100-497 (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(c) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Any forest management activity that is carried out on the Council Creek land shall be managed in accordance with all applicable Federal laws.

PART 2—OREGON COASTAL LAND CONVEYANCE

SEC. 395. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) OREGON COASTAL LAND.—The term “Oregon Coastal land” means the approximately 14,804 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Oregon Coastal Land Conveyance” and dated March 5, 2013.

(2) CONFEDERATED TRIBES.—The term “Confederated Tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

SEC. 396. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Oregon Coastal land, including any improvements located on the land, appurtenances to the land, and minerals on or in the land, including oil and gas, shall be—

(1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes; and

(2) part of the reservation of the Confederated Tribes.

(b) SURVEY.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

SEC. 397. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and legal description of the Oregon Coastal land with—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subdivision, except that the Secretary of the Interior may correct any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 398. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Unless expressly provided in this part, nothing in this part affects any right or claim of the Consolidated Tribes existing on the date of enactment of this Act to any land or interest in land.

(b) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) EXPORTS OF UNPROCESSED LOGS.—Federal law (including regulations) relating to the export of unprocessed logs harvested from Federal land shall apply to any unprocessed logs that are harvested from the Oregon Coastal land.

(2) NON-PERMISSIBLE USE OF LAND.—Any real property taken into trust under section 396 shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under Public Law 100-497 (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(c) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Any forest management activity that is carried out on the Oregon Coastal land shall be managed in accordance with all applicable Federal laws.

TITLE IV—COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION

SEC. 401. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to generate dependable economic activity for counties and local governments by establishing a demonstration program for local, sustainable forest management.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor of a State for the community forest demonstration area established for the State.

(2) COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION AREA.—The term “community forest demonstration area” means a community forest demonstration area established for a State under section 402.

(3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)), except that the term does not include the National Grasslands and land utilization projects designated as National Grasslands administered pursuant to the Act of July 22, 1937 (7 U.S.C. 1010-1012).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture or the designee of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

SEC. 402. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION AREAS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED; TIME FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to subsection (c) and not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a community forest demonstration area at the request of the Advisory Committee appointed to manage community forest demonstration area land in that State.

(b) COVERED LAND.—

(1) INCLUSION OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The community forest demonstration areas of a State shall consist of the National Forest System land in the State identified for inclusion by the Advisory Committee of that State.

(2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LAND.—A community forest demonstration area shall not include National Forest System land—

(A) that is a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(B) on which the removal of vegetation is specifically prohibited by Federal statute;

(C) National Monuments; or

(D) over which administration jurisdiction was first assumed by the Forest Service under title III.

(c) CONDITIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) ACREAGE REQUIREMENT.—A community forest demonstration area must include at least 200,000 acres of National Forest System land. If the unit of the National Forest System in which a community forest demonstration area is being established contains more than 5,000,000 acres, the community forest demonstration area may include 900,000 or more acres of National Forest System land.

(2) MANAGEMENT LAW OR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REQUIREMENT.—A community forest demonstration area may be established in a State only if the State—

(A) has a forest practices law applicable to State or privately owned forest land in the State; or

(B) has established silvicultural best management practices or other regulations for forest management practices related to clean water, soil quality, wildlife or forest health.

(3) REVENUE SHARING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of the inclusion in a community forest demonstration area of National Forest System land located in a particular county in a State, the county must enter into an agreement with the Governor of the State that requires that, in utilizing revenues received by the county under section 406(b), the county shall continue to meet any obligations under applicable State law as provided under title I of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.) or as provided in the sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500) and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500).

(d) TREATMENT UNDER CERTAIN OTHER LAWS.—National Forest System land included in a community forest demonstration area shall not be considered Federal land for purposes of—

(1) making payments to counties under the sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500) and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500); or

(2) title I.

(e) ACREAGE LIMITATION.—Not more than a total of 4,000,000 acres of National Forest System land may be established as community forest demonstration areas.

(f) RECOGNITION OF VALID AND EXISTING RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit or restrict—

(1) access to National Forest System land included in a community forest demonstration area for hunting, fishing, and other related purposes; or

(2) valid and existing rights regarding such National Forest System land, including rights of any federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 403. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—A community forest demonstration area for a State shall be managed by an Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor of the State.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area in a State shall include, but is not limited to, the following members:

(1) One member who holds county or local elected office, appointed from each county or local governmental unit in the State containing community forest demonstration area land.

(2) One member who represents the commercial timber, wood products, or milling industry.

(3) One member who represents persons holding Federal grazing or other land use permits.

(4) One member who represents recreational users of National Forest System land.

(c) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of certain initial appointments required by paragraph (2), members of an Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of three years.

(2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—In making initial appointments to an Advisory Committee, the Governor making the appointments shall stagger terms so that at least one-third of the members will be replaced every three years.

(d) COMPENSATION.—Members of a Advisory Committee shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed from the funds made available for the management of a community forest demonstration area for the actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses incurred by members in the performance of their duties.

SEC. 404. MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION AREAS.

(a) ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT.—

(1) CONFIRMATION.—The Advisory Committee appointed for a community forest demonstration area shall assume all management authority with regard to the community forest demonstration area as soon as the Secretary confirms that—

(A) the National Forest System land to be included in the community forest demonstration area meets the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 402;

(B) the Advisory Committee has been duly appointed under section 403 and is able to conduct business; and

(C) provision has been made for essential management services for the community forest demonstration area.

(2) SCOPE AND TIME FOR CONFIRMATION.—The determination of the Secretary under paragraph (1) is limited to confirming whether the conditions specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph have been satisfied. The Secretary shall make the determination not later than 60 days after the date of the appointment of the Advisory Committee.

(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO CONFIRM.—If the Secretary determines that either or both conditions specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) are not satisfied for confirmation of an Advisory Committee, the Secretary shall—

(A) promptly notify the Governor of the affected State and the Advisory Committee of the reasons preventing confirmation; and

(B) make a new determination under paragraph (2) within 60 days after receiving a new request from the Advisory Committee that addresses the reasons that previously prevented confirmation.

(b) MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—Upon assumption of management of a community forest demonstration area, the Advisory Committee for the community forest demonstration area shall manage the land and resources of the community forest demonstration area and the occupancy and use thereof in conformity with this title, and to the extent not in conflict with this title, the laws and regulations applicable to management of State or privately-owned forest lands in the State in which the community forest demonstration area is located.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The administration and management of a community forest demonstration area, including implementing actions, shall not be considered Federal action and shall be subject to the following only to

the extent that such laws apply to the State or private administration and management of forest lands in the State in which the community forest demonstration area is located:

(A) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 note).

(B) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

(C) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(D) Federal laws and regulations governing procurement by Federal agencies.

(E) Except as provided in paragraph (2), other Federal laws.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT.—Notwithstanding the assumption by an Advisory Committee of management of a community forest demonstration area, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) shall continue to apply to the National Forest System land included in the community forest demonstration area.

(d) CONSULTATION.—

(1) WITH INDIAN TRIBES.—The Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area shall cooperate and consult with Indian tribes on management policies and practices for the community forest demonstration area that may affect the Indian tribes. The Advisory Committee shall take into consideration the use of lands within the community forest demonstration area for religious and cultural uses by Native Americans.

(2) WITH COLLABORATIVE GROUPS.—The Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area shall consult with any applicable forest collaborative group.

(e) RECREATION.—Nothing in this section shall affect public use and recreation within a community forest demonstration area.

(f) FIRE MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide fire suppression, suppression, and rehabilitation services on and with respect to a community forest demonstration area to the same extent generally authorized in other units of the National Forest System.

(g) PROHIBITION ON EXPORT.—As a condition on the sale of timber or other forest products from a community forest demonstration area, unprocessed timber harvested from a community forest demonstration area may not be exported in accordance with subpart F of part 223 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 405. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION AREA.

(a) RETENTION OF FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT.—The Advisory Committee appointed for a community forest demonstration area may retain such sums as the Advisory Committee considers to be necessary from amounts generated from that community forest demonstration area to fund the management, administration, restoration, operation and maintenance, improvement, repair, and related expenses incurred with respect to the community forest demonstration area.

(b) FUNDS TO COUNTIES OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS.—Subject to subsection (a) and section 407, the Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area in a State shall distribute funds generated from that community forest demonstration area to each county or local governmental unit in the State in an amount proportional to the funds received by the county or local governmental unit under title I of the Secure Rural

Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.).

SEC. 406. INITIAL FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) **FUNDING SOURCE.**—Counties may use such sum as the counties consider to be necessary from the amounts made available to the counties under section 501 to provide initial funding for the management of community forest demonstration areas.

(b) **NO RESTRICTION ON USE OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.**—Nothing in this title restricts the Advisory Committee of a community forest demonstration area from seeking non-Federal loans or other non-Federal funds for management of the community forest demonstration area.

SEC. 407. PAYMENTS TO UNITED STATES TREASURY.

(a) **PAYMENT REQUIREMENT.**—As soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year in which a community forest demonstration area is established and as soon as practicable after the end of each subsequent fiscal year, the Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area shall make a payment to the United States Treasury.

(b) **PAYMENT AMOUNT.**—The payment for a fiscal year under subsection (a) with respect to a community forest demonstration area shall be equal to 75 percent of the quotient obtained by dividing—

(1) the number obtained by multiplying the number of acres of land in the community forest demonstration area by the average annual receipts generated over the preceding 10-fiscal year period from the unit or units of the National Forest System containing that community forest demonstration area; by

(2) the total acres of National Forest System land in that unit or units of the National Forest System.

SEC. 408. TERMINATION OF COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION AREA.

(a) **TERMINATION AUTHORITY.**—Subject to approval by the Governor of the State, the Advisory Committee for a community forest demonstration area may terminate the community forest demonstration area by a unanimous vote.

(b) **EFFECT OF TERMINATION.**—Upon termination of a community forest demonstration area, the Secretary shall immediately resume management of the National Forest System land that had been included in the community forest demonstration area, and the Advisory Committee shall be dissolved.

(c) **TREATMENT OF UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS.**—Any revenues from the terminated area that remain undistributed under section 405 more than 30 days after the date of termination shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury for use by the Forest Service in such amounts as may be provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

TITLE V—REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 501. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000 PENDING FULL OPERATION OF FOREST RESERVE REVENUE AREAS.

(a) **BENEFICIARY COUNTIES.**—During the month of February 2015, the Secretary of Agriculture shall distribute to each beneficiary county (as defined in section 102(2)) a payment equal to the amount distributed to the beneficiary county for fiscal year 2010 under section 102(c)(1) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(c)(1)).

(b) **COUNTIES THAT WERE ELIGIBLE FOR DIRECT COUNTY PAYMENTS.**—

(1) **TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENTS.**—During the month of February 2015,

the Secretary of the Interior shall distribute to all counties that received a payment for fiscal year 2010 under subsection (a)(2) of section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) payments in a total amount equal to the difference between—

(A) the total amount distributed to all such counties for fiscal year 2010 under subsection (c)(1) of such section; and

(B) \$27,000,000.

(2) **COUNTY SHARE.**—From the total amount determined under paragraph (1), each county described in such paragraph shall receive, during the month of February 2015, an amount that bears the same proportion to the total amount made available under such paragraph as that county's payment for fiscal year 2010 under subsection (c)(1) of section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) bears to the total amount distributed to all such counties for fiscal year 2010 under such subsection.

(c) **EFFECT ON 25-PERCENT AND 50-PERCENT PAYMENTS.**—A county that receives a payment made under subsection (a) or (b) may not receive a 25-percent payment or 50-percent payment (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7102)) for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 502. RESTORING ORIGINAL CALCULATION METHOD FOR 25-PERCENT PAYMENTS.

(a) **AMENDMENT OF ACT OF MAY 23, 1908.**—The sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “the annual average of 25 percent of all amounts received for the applicable fiscal year and each of the preceding 6 fiscal years” and inserting “25 percent of all amounts received for the applicable fiscal year”;

(2) by striking “said reserve” both places it appears and inserting “the national forest”;

and

(3) by striking “forest reserve” both places it appears and inserting “national forest”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO WEEKS LAW.**—Section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Law; 16 U.S.C. 500) is amended in the first sentence by striking “the annual average of 25 percent of all amounts received for the applicable fiscal year and each of the preceding 6 fiscal years” and inserting “25 percent of all amounts received for the applicable fiscal year”.

SEC. 503. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GOOD-NEIGHBOR COOPERATION WITH STATES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—The term “eligible State” means a State that contains National Forest System land or land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) **STATE FORESTER.**—The term “State forester” means the head of a State agency with jurisdiction over State forestry programs in an eligible State.

(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) with

a State forester to authorize the State forester to provide the forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration, management, and protection services described in subsection (c) on National Forest System land or land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, as applicable, in the eligible State.

(c) **AUTHORIZED SERVICES.**—The forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration, management, and protection services referred to in subsection (b) include the conduct of—

(1) activities to treat insect infected forests;

(2) activities to reduce hazardous fuels;

(3) activities involving commercial harvesting or other mechanical vegetative treatments; or

(4) any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

(d) **STATE AS AGENT.**—Except as provided in subsection (g), a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under subsection (b) may authorize the State forester to serve as the agent for the Secretary in providing the restoration, management, and protection services authorized under subsection (b).

(e) **SUBCONTRACTS.**—In accordance with applicable contract procedures for the eligible State, a State forester may enter into subcontracts to provide the restoration, management, and protection services authorized under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under subsection (b).

(f) **TIMBER SALES.**—Subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) shall not apply to services performed under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under subsection (b).

(g) **RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any restoration, management, or protection services to be provided under this section by a State forester on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land, as applicable, shall not be delegated to a State forester or any other officer or employee of the eligible State.

(h) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The restoration, management, and protection services to be provided under this section shall be carried out on a project-to-project basis under existing authorities of the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, as applicable.

SEC. 504. TREATMENT AS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.

None of the funds made available to a beneficiary county (as defined in section 102(2)) or other political subdivision of a State under this subdivision shall be used in lieu of or to otherwise offset State funding sources for local schools, facilities, or educational purposes.

SEC. 505. DEFINITION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION TO INCLUDE CERTAIN RELATED ACTIVITIES.

For purposes of utilizing amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior for fire suppression activities, including funds made available from the FLAME Fund, the term “fire suppression” includes reforestation, site rehabilitation, salvage operations, and replanting occurring following fire damage on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned or following fire suppression efforts on such lands by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 506. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS REGARDING FOREST SERVICE ROADS AND TRAILS.

The Forest Service shall not remove or otherwise eliminate or obliterate any legally

created road or trail unless there has been a specific decision, which included adequate and appropriate public involvement, to decommission the specific road or trail in question. The fact that any road or trail is a not a Forest System road or trail, or does not appear on a Motor Vehicle Use Map, shall not constitute a decision.

SUBDIVISION B—NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION

SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2014”.

SEC. 100A. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The industrialization of China and India has driven demand for nonfuel mineral commodities, sparking a period of resource nationalism exemplified by China’s reduction in exports of rare-earth elements necessary for telecommunications, military technologies, healthcare technologies, and conventional and renewable energy technologies.

(2) The availability of minerals and mineral materials are essential for economic growth, national security, technological innovation, and the manufacturing and agricultural supply chain.

(3) The exploration, production, processing, use, and recycling of minerals contribute significantly to the economic well-being, security and general welfare of the Nation.

(4) The United States has vast mineral resources, but is becoming increasingly dependent upon foreign sources of these mineral materials, as demonstrated by the following:

(A) Twenty-five years ago the United States was dependent on foreign sources for 30 nonfuel mineral materials, 6 of which the United States imported 100 percent of the Nation’s requirements, and for another 16 commodities the United States imported more than 60 percent of the Nation’s needs.

(B) By 2011 the United States import dependence for nonfuel mineral materials had more than doubled from 30 to 67 commodities, 19 of which the United States imported 100 percent of the Nation’s requirements, and for another 24 commodities, imported more than 50 percent of the Nation’s needs.

(C) The United States share of worldwide mineral exploration dollars was 8 percent in 2011, down from 19 percent in the early 1990s.

(D) In the 2012 Ranking of Countries for Mining Investment, out of 25 major mining countries, the United States ranked last with Papua New Guinea in permitting delays, and towards the bottom regarding government take and social issues affecting mining.

SEC. 100B. DEFINITIONS.

In this subdivision:

(1) **STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS.**—The term “strategic and critical minerals” means minerals that are necessary—

(A) for national defense and national security requirements;

(B) for the Nation’s energy infrastructure, including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production;

(C) to support domestic manufacturing, agriculture, housing, telecommunications, healthcare, and transportation infrastructure; or

(D) for the Nation’s economic security and balance of trade.

(2) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” means any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or tribal government, or Alaska Native Corporation.

(3) **MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMIT.**—The term “mineral exploration or mine permit” includes plans of operation issued by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service pursuant to 43 CFR 3809 and 36 CFR 228A or the authorities listed in 43 CFR 3503.13, respectively.

TITLE I—DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC SOURCES OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS

SEC. 101. IMPROVING DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS.

Domestic mines that will provide strategic and critical minerals shall be considered an “infrastructure project” as described in Presidential Order “Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects” dated March 22, 2012.

SEC. 102. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD AGENCY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The lead agency with responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit shall appoint a project lead who shall coordinate and consult with cooperating agencies and any other agency involved in the permitting process, project proponents and contractors to ensure that agencies minimize delays, set and adhere to timelines and schedules for completion of the permitting process, set clear permitting goals and track progress against those goals.

(b) **DETERMINATION UNDER NEPA.**—To the extent that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to any mineral exploration or mine permit, the lead agency with responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit shall determine that the action to approve the exploration or mine permit does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 if the procedural and substantive safeguards of the permitting process alone, any applicable State permitting process alone, or a combination of the two processes together provide an adequate mechanism to ensure that environmental factors are taken into account.

(c) **COORDINATION ON PERMITTING PROCESS.**—The lead agency with responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit shall enhance government coordination for the permitting process by avoiding duplicative reviews, minimizing paperwork and engaging other agencies and stakeholders early in the process. The lead agency shall consider the following best practices:

(1) Deferring to and relying upon baseline data, analyses and reviews performed by State agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed project.

(2) Conducting any consultations or reviews concurrently rather than sequentially to the extent practicable and when such concurrent review will expedite rather than delay a decision.

(d) **SCHEDULE FOR PERMITTING PROCESS.**—At the request of a project proponent, the lead agency, cooperating agencies and any other agencies involved with the mineral exploration or mine permitting process shall enter into an agreement with the project proponent that sets time limits for each part of the permitting process including the following:

(1) The decision on whether to prepare a document required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(2) A determination of the scope of any document required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(3) The scope of and schedule for the baseline studies required to prepare a document

required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(4) Preparation of any draft document required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(5) Preparation of a final document required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(6) Consultations required under applicable laws.

(7) Submission and review of any comments required under applicable law.

(8) Publication of any public notices required under applicable law.

(9) A final or any interim decisions.

(e) **TIME LIMIT FOR PERMITTING PROCESS.**—In no case should the total review process described in subsection (d) exceed 30 months unless agreed to by the signatories of the agreement.

(f) **LIMITATION ON ADDRESSING PUBLIC COMMENTS.**—The lead agency is not required to address agency or public comments that were not submitted during any public comment periods or consultation periods provided during the permitting process or as otherwise required by law.

(g) **FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.**—The lead agency will determine the amount of financial assurance for reclamation of a mineral exploration or mining site, which must cover the estimated cost if the lead agency were to contract with a third party to reclaim the operations according to the reclamation plan, including construction and maintenance costs for any treatment facilities necessary to meet Federal, State or tribal environmental standards.

(h) **APPLICATION TO EXISTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**—This section shall apply with respect to a mineral exploration or mine permit for which an application was submitted before the date of the enactment of this Act if the applicant for the permit submits a written request to the lead agency for the permit. The lead agency shall begin implementing this section with respect to such application within 30 days after receiving such written request.

(i) **STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS WITHIN NATIONAL FORESTS.**—With respect to strategic and critical minerals within a federally administered unit of the National Forest System, the lead agency shall—

(1) exempt all areas of identified mineral resources in Land Use Designations, other than Non-Development Land Use Designations, in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act from the procedures detailed at and all rules promulgated under part 294 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations;

(2) apply such exemption to all additional routes and areas that the lead agency finds necessary to facilitate the construction, operation, maintenance, and restoration of the areas of identified mineral resources described in paragraph (1); and

(3) continue to apply such exemptions after approval of the Minerals Plan of Operations for the unit of the National Forest System.

SEC. 103. CONSERVATION OF THE RESOURCE.

In evaluating and issuing any mineral exploration or mine permit, the priority of the lead agency shall be to maximize the development of the mineral resource, while mitigating environmental impacts, so that more of the mineral resource can be brought to the market place.

SEC. 104. FEDERAL REGISTER PROCESS FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECTS.

(a) **PREPARATION OF FEDERAL NOTICES FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—The preparation of Federal

Register notices required by law associated with the issuance of a mineral exploration or mine permit shall be delegated to the organization level within the agency responsible for issuing the mineral exploration or mine permit. All Federal Register notices regarding official document availability, announcements of meetings, or notices of intent to undertake an action shall be originated and transmitted to the Federal Register from the office where documents are held, meetings are held, or the activity is initiated.

(b) **DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW OF FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECTS.**—Absent any extraordinary circumstance or except as otherwise required by any Act of Congress, each Federal Register notice described in subsection (a) shall undergo any required reviews within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture and be published in its final form in the Federal Register no later than 30 days after its initial preparation.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL REVIEW OF AGENCY ACTIONS RELATING TO EXPLORATION AND MINE PERMITS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS FOR TITLE.

In this title the term “covered civil action” means a civil action against the Federal Government containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action affecting a mineral exploration or mine permit.

SEC. 202. TIMELY FILINGS.

A covered civil action is barred unless filed no later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which it relates.

SEC. 203. RIGHT TO INTERVENE.

The holder of any mineral exploration or mine permit may intervene as of right in any covered civil action by a person affecting rights or obligations of the permit holder under the permit.

SEC. 204. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as possible.

SEC. 205. LIMITATION ON PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

In a covered civil action, the court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct that violation.

SEC. 206. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS’ FEES.

Sections 504 of title 5, United States Code, and 2412 of title 28, United States Code (together commonly called the Equal Access to Justice Act) do not apply to a covered civil action, nor shall any party in such a covered civil action receive payment from the Federal Government for their attorneys’ fees, expenses, and other court costs.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.

Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as to affect any aspect of Secretarial Order 3324, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 3, 2012, with respect to potash and oil and gas operators.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5

legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every day, honest, hardworking men and women are struggling. Far too many families haven’t seen a pay raise in years, and many have lost hope and stopped looking for work entirely. H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act, will strengthen the economy by creating more jobs with higher take-home pay.

The House has already passed dozens of bipartisan solutions that will break down burdensome regulations and promote policies that allow businesses, large and small, to do what they do best: grow, innovate, and hire new workers.

The bill we have before us today, the Jobs for America Act, includes provisions that have strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

The research and development credit, which has been around for over 30 years, is a proven way to incentivize U.S. companies to innovate, create new products, and invest in the U.S.

The United States is the only country that allows important pieces of its Tax Code to expire on a regular basis. Businesses cannot grow and invest when the Tax Code is riddled with instability and uncertainty.

Making the R&D tax credit permanent also supports good-paying jobs. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, 70 percent of research and development credit dollars are used to pay salaries of R&D workers.

The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that making the R&D credit permanent could increase the amount of research and development American companies undertake by up to 10 percent. That translates into more workers, higher wages, and increased innovation here in the United States.

This bill would also make permanent bonus depreciation and section 179 expensing at higher levels, allowing businesses, farmers, and ranchers to plan for the future and expand their businesses. The result of that is more jobs and higher wages for hardworking Americans. The Tax Foundation analysis found that permanent bonus depreciation would add \$182 billion to the economy and increase wages by 1 percent, which creates 212,000 jobs.

□ 1415

Additionally, the bill would make permanent several expired tax provisions that benefit S corporations, a popular and important business structure that is used by millions of small businesses across the country.

This commonsense effort will give small businesses some much-needed relief from the burdens of the Tax Code, allowing them to invest and create new jobs.

This bill would also repeal some of the job-killing provisions of the health care law. The current 30-hour rule in the Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate results in fewer jobs, reduced hours, and less opportunity for Americans.

By changing the definition of “full-time work,” ObamaCare places an unprecedented government regulation on workers. As a direct result, Americans across the country are having their hours cut at work and seeing smaller paychecks. At a time when the cost of groceries, gas, and health care keep increasing, lower paychecks are simply unacceptable.

Worst of all, the law hits lower-income Americans the hardest: 2.6 million workers with a median income of under \$30,000 are at risk of losing jobs or hours; 89 percent of workers impacted by the rule don’t have college degrees, 63 percent of which are women; and over half have a high school diploma or less.

So simply restoring the definition of “full-time work” to 40 hours will ensure the hardest-working Americans don’t see their hours and wages cut as a result of the health care law.

This bill also ensures that small businesses that hire veterans returning from service overseas, who already have coverage through TRICARE or the VA, are not counted under the employer mandate.

And we repeal the onerous medical device tax, which is stifling medical innovation and hurting jobs. According to a survey by AdvaMed, the medical device tax has already resulted in 14,000 jobs lost in the industry and prevented 19,000 jobs from being created. This tax is contributing to lackluster job creation and hampering medical innovation.

We have strong bipartisan support for repeal of this tax, and for repealing it before even more detrimental harm is done to the workforce and medical community.

These are only a few among a long list of policies that will ultimately get Americans back to work and increase their quality of living. With better jobs, higher take-home pay, and a stronger economy, we can offer a brighter future for our youth and ease the everyday burdens felt by individuals nationwide.

It is time to create an America that works.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

It is awkward and embarrassing to stand on this floor to discuss something described as a Jobs for America bill.

Fortunately, we Democrats don't have to expend too much energy because of the lack of credibility that the majority party has with any type of legislation designed to help those people who are without employment.

The irony of this whole thing is that our distinguished chairman spent hours, days, weeks, and months putting together a tax reform bill that, even though it could be challenged in parts, all tax writers and people who respect the necessity of reforming the Tax Code lauded him for the work, the fairness, and, most of all, the lack of partisanship that went into that bill.

Indeed, many of the provisions that are in this bill that could better be described as an opportunity for corporates to avoid paying taxes, many of those provisions in this bill were repealed in the chairman's bill that he presented to the Congress to be considered for reform.

Let me strike that from the record. He did not bring it to the floor for it to be considered for anything. It was a strong political statement that he knew the majority of his party would not support.

Having said that, it was a fine piece of legislation that gained support by eliminating the very same violations of equity and fair play that are now in this bill.

\$500 billion tab. \$500 billion cost, not paid for, not a promise to pay for. And half of this is to make permanent the extension of bonus appreciation, which all economists, including those in the Congressional Research Service, say that in order to be effective, it should not be made permanent.

In any event, I think, as we go home, we should recognize that there will be opportunity when we come back to really get together and have an effective bill.

To do this, the Republican majority should not bring to the floor bills that have passed the House and been rejected already by the Senate, but should sit down with the administration, with the Senate, with the minority in the House and work out something that is for the good of all Americans.

This happened yesterday, where we had honest, serious disagreements. But at the same time, we came together as a Congress in the House at least on what is good for the country.

So, quite frankly, I don't think I will be using all of my time because what is before the House today is not a jobs bill but a public relations piece of political advertisement.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I

very much appreciate his leadership on this issue.

In every State across this country, and most certainly in the Commonwealth of Virginia, there are folks still looking for good full-time jobs and businesses who want to hire them but can't for fear of government imposed regulations that increase expenses.

The administration's tax, regulate, and spend response to this problem hasn't worked, and it is incumbent upon us to enact necessary reforms to restore the American economy.

The legislation we consider today includes many provisions to combat excessive regulations that have already been passed by the House of Representatives and await action in the Senate, which has been moribund in dealing with a whole host of issues that are sitting over there on the majority leader's desk, including provisions to restore the 40-hour workweek, to permanently ban taxation of Internet access, to prevent secret settlement deals between Federal bureaucrats and pro-regulatory plaintiffs in lawsuits, to require bureaucrats to consider the cost of regulations to small businesses, to require agencies to adopt the least costly method of implementing the law, and to require Federal agencies to submit major regulations to Congress for approval. We know these provisions will help spur our economy and create jobs.

America's labor force participation rate has essentially remained stagnant for the past several months and job creation and economic growth continue to fall short of what is needed to produce a real and durable recovery in our country. It is imperative that we again take action to pass these commonsense reforms, return discouraged workers to full-time jobs, and restore America to prosperity.

I urge the Senate to stop stalling and to join us in this effort.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If we were serious about passing a bill that has been rehashed in this House and no action has been taken upon it, common sense and reason would dictate that we would work with the Democrats, work with the Senate, and work with the President to get one passed.

This bill transcends over eight or nine different legislative committees, and the ranking member—one who has so much jurisdiction over this issue—would share with the House and the country what parts of this bill she believes would create jobs, if any part.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RANGEL for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 4, the so-called Jobs for America Act.

Six years ago this week marked the collapse of Lehman Brothers. That

bankruptcy on Wall Street quickly spread across our country, bringing small business lending to a halt, causing a devastating number of foreclosures, and pushing far too many of our fellow Americans into personal bankruptcy.

In the wake of this devastation, Democrats in Congress worked diligently to put in place serious and comprehensive safeguards to prevent another collapse. And, today, my Republican colleagues continue their hard work to thwart that effort and roll back meaningful reform.

Indeed, this bill, H.R. 4, places significant additional administrative hurdles on our Federal regulatory agencies, particularly on our independent financial regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Certain provisions of this bill would impose requirements on our financial regulators to conduct onerous cost-benefit analysis, to submit their rules for review to the Office of Management and Budget, and to delay effectiveness of major rules until Congress enacts an unprecedented joint resolution.

Not only would these provisions limit the independence of our Wall Street sheriffs, it would also tie up their already insufficient resources and put them at even greater risk of litigation for every rule. In fact, this bill would create a constitutional crisis by allowing the "do-nothing" Republican Congress to intervene in the actions of our executive branch, which is diligently trying to implement critical portions of the Wall Street Reform Act.

The effect of this legislative effort would be to grind to a halt all meaningful regulation on everything from payday loans to mortgage services to the types of risky trading that caused the 2008 crisis. And, ironically, it would stop JOBS Act implementation dead in its tracks. Worst, this comes at a time when House Republicans want to hold funding for our financial regulators flat, despite their new responsibilities, the increase in the number of entities they oversee, and the growth in the complexity and size of U.S. financial markets.

With our economy still recovering from the \$14 trillion financial crisis, we simply cannot, under the guise of so-called "job creation," afford to destroy crucial reforms and hamstringing our financial regulators.

I enter the following letter of opposition from Public Citizen into the RECORD.

PUBLIC CITIZEN,
Washington, DC

A VOTE FOR THE "JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT" IS A VOTE AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Republicans will have you believe that a vote for H.R. 4, the "Jobs for America Act," is not a vote against clean air and water, against food safety, against safe consumer

products, against safe workplaces, and against a stable financial system less prone to excessive risk-taking. But that is false. The Impact of the “Jobs for America” Act is clear and simple: it will lead to more polluted air and water, more dangerous workplaces, more tainted and contaminated food, more dangerous workplaces, and a deregulated Wall Street allowed to gamble our economy into the next financial crash. By taking regulators “off the beat” and preventing them from updating and modernizing basic health and safety protections, the public is once again dependent on Big Business to “self-regulate.” Our public has seen the disastrous impact of letting industry regulate itself whether it’s the BP Gulf Oil Spill, the West Virginia Chemical Spill, The Upper Big Branch Mine explosion, oil train derailment explosions, or the Wall Street financial meltdown. The solution is not to make our public even more vulnerable to deregulatory disasters that put Americans in harm’s way and damage our economy as the “Jobs for America Act” would do.

THE ENORMOUS COSTS OF DEREGULATION

a. West Virginia Chemical Spill: those who were hurt by the damage caused by the spill are claiming 160 million in damages from the spill. These include small businesses in Charleston who were forced to shut down for days and the many thousands of residents who were forced to buy bottled water because of the severe water contamination. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2014/08/12/337282.htm>

b. Lake Erie Algae Bloom: a half million Ohio residents were forced to buy bottled water because their water had become so badly contaminated from algae. In 2008, the government estimated algae blooms resulted in 82 million dollars annually in economic damages: http://www.cop.noaa.gov/stressors/extremeevents/hab/current/econimpact_08.pdf the damage to Lake Erie can be directly traced to successful attempts to roll back the Clean Water Act by special interests. <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blogs/the-toledo-water-crisis-wont-be-the-last/>

c. Oil Freight Train Explosions: Trains carrying highly explosive crude oil are traveling through communities every day without most of those communities even aware of the threat. A massive oil train derailment and explosion in Canada killed 47 people and will cost 2.7 billion in economic damages over the next decade. <http://bangordailynews.com/2014/04/17/news/state/after-end-of-the-world-explosion-Quebec-town-tries-to-find-hope/>

d. Preventable Workplace Deaths and Injuries: Every day, an average of 150 workers die from job injuries or occupational diseases. Every year, the lack of effective workplace safety protections costs our country 250 billion to 330 billion in injuries and illnesses. <http://www.afcio.org/content/download/126621/34645631/DOTJ2014.pdf>

e. Climate Inaction: Blocking or delaying new carbon emission rules from the EPA and other climate change measures will cost our country up to 150 billion dollars annually in economic damage in the future. <http://fortune.com/2014/07/29/white-house-in-action-on-climate-costs-150-billion-a-year/>

f. BP Oil Spill: This massive environmental disaster in the Gulf ended up costing more than 42 billion dollars. The oil spill harmed thousands of Gulf Coast residents and destroyed many local small businesses. BP has now been found “grossly negligent” in causing the disaster and faces up to 18 billion in fines, some of which will go to Gulf Coast restoration projects. <http://www.edf.org/blog/2014/09/05/bp-oil-spill-ruling-could-jumpstart-gulf-coast-restoration-work>

g. 2008 Wall Street Crash: The rampant deregulation that led to the crash cost our economy anywhere from 6 trillion to 14 trillion dollars or 50,000 to 120,000 for every US household. In addition, 8.7 million Americans lost their jobs during or immediately following the crisis. <http://ourfinancialsecurity.org/blogs/wp-content/ourfinancialsecurity.org/uploads/2012/09/Costs-of-The-Financial-Crisis-September-20142.pdf>

THE “JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT” WILL NOT CREATE A SINGLE JOB

The bill trades on the fallacy that deregulation leads to job growth by freeing up capital to invest in labor. There is simply no neutral, non-partisan empirical evidence to back this up. In fact, journalists and academics who have thoroughly studied this claim have concluded that regulations have no overall effect on job growth. The claim that regulations kill jobs is the very definition of a baseless and fabricated talking point.

A thorough investigative report by the Washington Post concluded that regulations have no effect on jobs (highlights below): http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/does-government-regulation-really-kill-jobs-economists-say-overall-effect-minimal/2011/10/19/gIQAIRF5IN_story.html

Conservative thinker Richard Morganstern (Resources for the Future): “Based on the available literature, there’s not much evidence that EPA regulations are causing major job losses or major job gains.”

Mike Morris, CEO of AEP, one of America’s largest coal-based utilities even admitted EPA regulations will create jobs: “We have to hire plumbers, electricians, painters, folks who do that kind of work when you retrofit a plant” Morris said. “Jobs are created in the process—no question about that.”

A recent and exhaustive exploration of the “job-killing regulation” claim by Academics from across the political spectrum concluded that regulations have no net impact on jobs: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15183.html>

The editors of “Does Regulation Kill Jobs?” Cary Coglianese and Christopher Corrigan conclude: “the empirical work suggests that regulation plays relatively little role in affecting the aggregate number of jobs in the United States.”

BIG BUSINESS “JOB-KILLING” CLAIMS ARE ALWAYS WRONG

Big Business groups have been making hyperbolic claims about regulations killing jobs for decades and it never comes true. Not only is this talking point patently false, but it also never dies despite being proven wrong every time. The following examples are from Public Citizen’s recent report, “It’s an Outrage: Regulations are Entirely to Blame for Unemployment and a Leading Cause of Death, According to Industry and Allies.” <http://www.citizen.org/documents/regulations-are-to-blame-unemployment-death-report.pdf>

1974: OSHA bans the carcinogenic vinyl chloride. The plastics industry claimed that the OSHA regulation would kill 2.2 million jobs. Those claims were proven completely false and a new way manufacture vinyl chloride was developed within a year without any jobs lost.

1975: NHTSA increases fuel efficiency standard. Industry reports warned of 1.5 million jobs lost. By 1985, auto makers had met the higher standard without losing any jobs.

1990: EPA sets new pollution standards under the Clean Air Act. In response the

Business Roundtable (BRT) and National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) responded with doomsday hysterics, claiming up to 2 million jobs would be lost. Those were proven entirely wrong. Instead, according to the Investor’s Business Daily, “Pollution has been falling across the board for decades, even while the nation’s population and economy have expand

1995: EPA removes lead from gasoline. A Monsanto official testified to Congress that the regulation would cost up to 43 million jobs. The removal of lead is now considered one of the biggest public health success stories while gas prices did not dramatically increase and no jobs were lost.

THE NEW INDUSTRY-FUNDED STUDY ON REGULATIONS DOESN’T PASS THE LAUGH TEST

The study just released by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is not worth the paper it is printed on. NAM turned to discredited economists whose last study was so poorly done and inaccurate that it was roundly criticized by observers in bipartisan fashion, including by the CRS, Republican economists, and then OIRA Administrator Cass Sunstein. The study brought so much negative attention that the agency which commissioned it, the Small Business Administration, had to formally and publicly disavow it.

Business Media Push Industry-Funded Study On Federal Regulations Experts Call “Bogus”: Reuters and CNBC uncritically promoted a new report claiming that government regulations cost the economy over \$2 trillion each year, ignoring any benefits of regulation. But the study uses the same flawed methodology as an earlier report by the same authors that was so widely panned that even the organization that commissioned it distanced itself from it. <http://mediamatters.org/research/2014/09/11/business-media-push-industry-funded-study-on-fe/200732>

NAM’s “Cost of Regulations” Estimate: An Exercise in How Not to Do Convincing Empirics: The bulk of these costs (75 percent) are estimated using a cross-country regression analysis. This cross-country analysis, however, is completely unconvincing and should be ignored. <http://www.epi.org/bloginams-cost-regulations-estimate-exercise/>

THE “JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT” IS A BROKEN RECORD

The “Jobs for America Act” is just a re-packaging of the same old and tired legislation that the House has already passed. Each of these bills, if enacted, will significantly exacerbate the current problems in our regulatory system. Collectively, these bills amount to a virtual shutdown of our system of public protections by blocking federal agencies from responding to public health and safety crises and putting forth strong new safeguards to prevent the next one.

1. Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS, HR): This bill is a blatant power grab by the House GOP. Requiring Congressional approval of regulations before they take effect means, in practical terms, that the House GOP can unilaterally veto any regulation it opposes. Even Congressional inaction would kill a regulation. This is a recipe for extending the same paralysis and dysfunction that has plagued our lawmaking process to the regulatory process.

2. Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA, H.R. 2122): This bill would re-write dozens of critical public health and safety laws, including the Clean Air Act, to require agencies to choose safety standards not based on

whether they are the most effective but on whether they are the least burdensome to regulated special interests. This bill is a backdoor way of gutting laws that the GOP knows are too politically popular to overturn directly.

3. Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act (RFIA, H.R. 2542): This bill is a small business bill in name only. It does nothing to help small businesses directly. Instead, it would delay or block rules that in many instances disproportionately impact Big Business. For example, the bill requires agencies to consider the “indirect” effects of their rules on small businesses without ever defining what constitutes an “indirect” effect. Ordering an agency to discern all indirect economic impacts of any rule, however small, is akin to ordering a meteorologist to discern the effects on Washington, D.C. weather of a butterfly flapping its wings in Japan. Even worse, agencies could be sued by industry for not complying with this wholly undefined mandate. Agencies will be forced to waste precious time and resources looking for small business impacts where there clearly are none. In the meantime, lives could be lost and people could be needlessly injured.

4. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA, H.R. 899): Once again, this legislation forces agencies to pick the least costly rule to industry, rather than the rule that is most effective at keeping the public safe. It also undermines the independence of important agencies that are working to put new Wall Street reforms and product safety standards in place. Ironically, the new mandates in this bill do not come with any additional funding for agencies, making them the very definition of “unfunded mandates.”

5. The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act (H.R. 1493): This legislation targets citizen suits aimed at spurring agencies to move forward with overdue and congressionally mandated protections. Consent decrees and settlement agreements have long been an effective tool to provide citizens and the courts with a means of ensuring that Congressional mandates are implemented, whether they are new environmental safety standards or civil rights and antidiscrimination measures. This bill would force them to run a gauntlet of burdensome, time-consuming, and redundant procedures—furthering slowing agency action. This bill would weaken the power of citizens to ensure agencies follow the law—and waste government resources in the process.

6. The All Economic Regulations are Transparent (“ALERT”) Act (H.R. 2804): This legislation would add a blanket six-month delay to most rules essential to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the American public. When the norm is federal agencies missing Congressional and legal deadlines for new public protections, rather than meeting or beating deadlines, the last thing our public needs is more delays.

BOTTOM LINE

A vote for H.R. 4, the “Jobs for America Act,” is a vote against life-saving public health and safety standards and will put American lives at risk without creating any jobs. We need stronger public protections, not a weaker system of safeguards. We need better enforcement of health and safety and environmental rules, not more needless delays.

We urge you in the strongest terms to vote against the “Jobs for America Act.”

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), the

gentleman from the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this jobs package includes important legislation, H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act, which passed the House almost 1 year ago today. It is a long-term sustainable solution to put Americans back to work, restore forest health, and prevent wildfires.

Our national forests, unless otherwise designated, should be open for multiple uses for everything from recreation to job-creating economic activities. Instead, Mr. Speaker, due to onerous Federal regulations and litigation, our Federal forests have increasingly been shut down.

Mr. Speaker, timber harvests have dropped by 80 percent in the last 30 years. We have seen catastrophic wildfires destroy our Federal forests. We have seen loggers, mill workers, and truck drivers put out of work, and we have seen rural communities turned into ghost towns.

It is long past time for the Senate to join with the House to provide better stewardship over our Federal forest lands. It is disappointing and, frankly, unacceptable that a year later the Senate is still sitting on the sidelines. Meanwhile, rural communities continue to suffer.

This legislation requires responsible timber production on at least one half of the Federal Forest Service’s non-environmentally sensitive timber lands.

□ 1430

By restoring active forest management, this bill will create over 200,000 direct and indirect jobs. It also maintains and strengthens the historic sharing of timber receipts with local counties which is essential, given the upcoming expiration of the Secure Rural Schools program.

Instead of having to pay for wildfire suppression, this bill would allow us to reap the benefits of a responsible timber harvest that reduces wildfire threats to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must act to restore the promise that the Federal Government made over a century ago to actively manage our forests and create jobs for the benefit of rural communities. Today, the House is, once again, living up to this promise. We hope that the Senate will join us and support this commonsense reform of Federal forest management.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Certainly, we all will be getting a lot of mail from the logging companies asking for this legislation in order to create jobs. I wish included in this

package would have been the earned income tax credit, a bill that keeps people who work hard each and every day out of poverty by subsidizing their wages, but that is too much like creating jobs, and it is not in this package.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished and articulate Member who serves on the Judiciary Committee and has a ranking position on the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over part of this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4, the so-called Jobs for America Act. It brings to mind occasions where, as a youth, my sister and I would go to my uncle’s house in Cleveland. My uncle’s wife would prepare a lot of food, and we would sit down and eat. The food would taste terrible. We had a couple of more days to be there, and so we hoped for the best. The next day, when we sat down at dinner, we had leftovers.

This is what this bill reminds me of. It is a package of anti-consumer, anti-safety, anti-environment bills that the House has already passed. This omnibus legislation is emblematic of a Republican Party that lacks vision or direction for Americans that demand cooperation and leadership.

This bill smacks of a new Republican leadership that is still on training wheels, unable to work across the aisle to deliver real solutions to grow the economy and create jobs; but what is new from a Republican Party that voted dozens and dozens of time to defund and defeat the Affordable Care Act, the same law that is helping American families by keeping millions of young people—be they recent college graduates looking for their first job or students still in school—on their parents’ insurance and out of a cycle of unpayable medical debt?

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the training wheels to come off so that this Chamber can, once again, do the work of the American people.

There is a clear, unmistakable thirst in our country for cooperation, bipartisan solutions, and getting things done. The American people look to the House of Representatives for leadership, not one-sided messaging bills that this Chamber has already warmed up, served yesterday—it was bad—and, today, we are eating the leftovers.

This Chamber has already considered and passed these bills, and they have no chance, no hope, of becoming law. The so-called Jobs for America Act includes a number of dangerous bills straight from the wish list of industrial polluters and unsafe manufacturers. This legislation will not create a single job.

It exists only to minimize corporate accountability while maximizing the

likelihood of dangerous, unsafe conditions in our homes, vehicles, workplaces, and throughout the environment.

It is time to work together to forge real solutions, Mr. Speaker, not the same dangerous legislation that this Chamber has already passed.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the chairman for his great work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4, and I will tell you why: the world is looking for the next great, emerging economy, and you know where it is? It is right here. It is us. It sits here, in this country.

We talk about the American people. What are they tired of? They are tired of political talk and not policy change that will get them back to work.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, 92 million Americans woke up and decided they weren't even going to go look for a job today because there is no hope in finding a job today. That is 92 million Americans.

Now, I don't know if they vote Republican. I don't know if they vote Democrat. I think they are getting to the point where they don't want to vote for either side because all they are asking is: work together to fix America.

The President of Ukraine came to the United States today to ask for help. He didn't go anywhere else in the world. He came here. Why did he come to the United States? Why did he come to America? Why, for centuries, have people come to America? For opportunity, for jobs, and to make their life better.

We sit and debate a jobs package, and we want to talk about politics. We don't want to talk about the policy of it; we don't want to talk about the opportunity that this country has always presented. Are you kidding me?

If there is dysfunction, it is in the Senate, where 360 pieces of legislation are on a table because one man stands in the way of this legislation, and it is the leader of the Senate.

If the American people—and I am not talking about Republicans or Democrats, I am talking about the American people—are to see what actually takes place in this great House, where so much policy has been driven in the past—please, get away from the politics; we are sick of it as a people.

The opportunity is off the charts. A new day is dawning. The only thing holding it back right now is the cloud cover that comes from Washington, D.C., where we refuse to create opportunity and, instead, create anger and we create dissatisfaction and we create confusion.

The American people sit back and say, "Why me? Why now? Why here?"

That is the great question, "Why?" Does a reelection mean more than the redirection of this country?

After 6 years of waiting to see this great country emerge again with all the assets that we have been given—and they are gifts from God, but we haven't capitalized on them—the American people want something done.

This is a package of jobs bills, my friends. This gets America back to work, my friends. This makes America great again. This makes us who we are. This is the very fabric of who this country has always been, the greatest Nation in the world, always a defender of personal freedoms and liberty, but we can only do it when we have a dynamic and robust company.

It is time to stop talking politics and start talking policy. It is time to get America back to work. A new day is dawning, a new opportunity is waiting for us, and the greatest emerging economy the world has ever seen is sitting right here within our borders, and the only thing it is looking for right now is dynamic leadership and direction.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my friend, who eloquently mentioned how the Congress should and could be working more closely together. Again, I say that yesterday proved it.

I am certain that the eloquent gentleman from Pennsylvania would have to agree that, if we were passing bills in the House and they were not going anywhere, any legislator would have to find out why.

It would seem to me that we would go to the minority party, we would ask to sit down with the Senate, we would work with the Department of Labor and the administration, and we would do that just before we were going home to attempt to get reelected.

I don't challenge the sincerity of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, but just bringing in bills that you know are not going to pass the Senate, bringing in bills the administration has already said that they would veto is not the way to success. It may be a good political statement, but it is certainly not the way to pass legislation.

I have the great honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who has distinguished himself nationally in terms of being a legislator with a heart and common sense.

He is the ranking member of the Oversight Committee, that has attempted to show the entire country exactly what is going on and not going on in the Congress. I look forward to his eloquent remarks on this sensitive, important subject.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4. The special interest bills that make up this package have all passed the House before and

went nowhere in the Senate. This is not just a waste of time, it is a waste of taxpayer money. Americans work hard for their money, and here we are wasting time, and everybody knows that.

This legislation is simply a gimmick. It hurts me to even say that, but it is, in fact, a gimmick. The Republican leadership in the House cannot fool the American people by passing the same bad bills over and over again.

Just because Republican leadership has slapped the word "jobs" on this bill does not change the fact that the bill will not create jobs, and they know that. We each represent 700,000 people. Those people have sent us here with the mission of making their lives better.

The legislation we are considering today will not help the people we represent. This bill would help big corporations.

Let me give you an example. Under this legislation, private companies would have the ability to weigh in on agency rulemakings before individual citizens and most other stakeholders. That means that oil companies could weigh in on drilling regulations before the American public even gets a chance to submit comments.

Another section of the bill would explicitly prohibit the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs from taking into account benefits when providing total cost estimates for proposed and final rules as required by the bill.

The bill also contains numerous provisions to degrade the regulatory process and make it nearly impossible for agencies to take actions that protect our health, our safety, our air, our water, our food, and our environment.

This is a terrible piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your service in this great institution.

Mr. Speaker, we are here debating this jobs package because our economy is stagnant. Our unemployment rate hasn't fallen below 6 percent since this President took office 6 years ago.

Although growing the economy may not remain a number one priority for the Senate, it may not remain a number one priority for the President, I assure you it is for millions of Americans who can't find a job or who continue to look for that job promotion or who feel their paycheck isn't going as far as it should.

My bill, the Hire More Heroes Act, is not a waste of our time, is not a waste of taxpayer dollars, and it overwhelmingly passed this House with only one "no" vote. You can't get much more bipartisan than that, Mr. Speaker.

It is part of this jobs package because the Senate has yet to take up this bipartisan bill that would help our veterans. This bill will help incentivize small businesses to hire more of our heroes. It takes away a punitive punishment in ObamaCare.

We have been told that we can't change ObamaCare, but this bill does, and it does it because any veteran who gets their health care through the VA or TRICARE wouldn't count toward a small business' 50-employee limit which would, in turn, incentivize small businesses who create the jobs in this country to hire more of our veterans.

That is not a waste of taxpayer dollars. That is not a waste of time. Frankly, we need to do what we can to stop what ObamaCare has been doing to small businesses and disincentivizing them from hiring more people and, therefore, lowering our unemployment rate.

This jobs package is crucial. This jobs package is something that we in this House should continue to push. I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to make sure that they call their colleagues in the Senate and say, "Pass this bill."

□ 1445

Pass this bill. Do what is right. Help our veterans. Help Americans find jobs.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would not suggest to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois what he should be doing as a part of the majority, but if I had a bill as good as the one that he had, I certainly would not allow it to be included in this piece of political legislation. Because it would serve the veterans of this great country, I would say, give me a break and let the House and the Senate and the President give this legislation a chance.

But I am not in the majority, and I respect that you are doing the best you can with what you have to work with, and I respect you for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), who is the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Most Americans know, like with our family, he has the responsibility to suggest to this august body exactly how much we are spending, how much we owe, and which is the best way to bring some balance to it, and I am so proud to be able to serve with him.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York for all his good work on these issues.

Just to underscore what he said with respect to Mr. DAVIS' proposal, we would love to have that proposal on veterans come before the floor as a stand-alone bill. Of course it has been wrapped into a much larger package that has nothing to do with jobs and everything to do with rewarding spe-

cial interests at the expense of middle class families and taxpayers. It is a continuation of the failed strategy that responds to every economic challenge with more tax breaks to corporations and more breaks to folks at the very top of the economic ladder, the old, failed trickle-down theory of economics.

There is nothing to raise the minimum wage, nothing to achieve pay equity for women, nothing to invest in America's infrastructure or our education system. Instead, it is a collection of tax cuts that together would add \$572 million to the deficit over the next 10 years—no attempt to offset that cost.

That is a lot of work in one afternoon, to add over half a trillion dollars to the deficit, totally in violation of the Republican budget that was brought to the floor.

Nor is this a bill that attempts to reform the Tax Code. I have great respect for the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and he did a credible effort in coming up with a reform plan. It wasn't perfect, lots of things that a lot of people don't like, but it was a credible effort.

This bill takes us in the opposite direction. When the chairman introduced that bill, the Speaker of this House ran away faster than anybody else from that proposal, and this proposal runs away from it as well.

Let me give you one example. The reform bill that was proposed by Mr. CAMP repealed bonus depreciation. This bill adds \$270 billion to the deficit by making bonus depreciation permanent.

Mr. CAMP's proposal was revenue-neutral in the first 10 years. This one adds over half a trillion dollars to the deficit, and it doesn't close a single corporate tax loophole.

Look, if we are going to provide over a half a trillion dollars in tax breaks to large corporations, you would think that our Republican colleagues would at least deal with the issue of inversions, this sweep we see toward more and more corporations changing their address offshore to avoid their tax obligations to the American people. But, no, nothing to deal with inversions. In fact, this bill rewards a number of companies that have recently engaged in inversions.

I want to call attention to section 701 of the bill because it says a lot about the priorities reflected on the floor today. That section repeals the excise tax paid by medical device companies that was put in place to help finance health care reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield the gentleman from Maryland 30 more seconds.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So it repeals that—no effort to replace that. So it adds \$26 billion to the deficit, just that provision. Not only that, but it repeals

it going forward, and it also gives a rebate going backwards. So a company, Medtronic, which is right now moving its tax address overseas to avoid its tax obligations to the American people, is going to get a \$200 million plus interest tax bonus.

So here is this bill in a nutshell: do nothing to boost the middle class.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield the gentleman as much time as he may consume to close.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So just to wrap this up, because I hope people will focus on this, the bottom-line message of this is: sorry to see you leave our shores, but you know what? As a goodbye present, we are going to hand you \$200 million in tax breaks.

That sums up the problems with this bill, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just say my friend from Maryland mentioned the Hire Our Heroes Act. That received virtually every Democrat vote and Republican vote on the floor but one. I certainly trust that the gentleman from Maryland has urged his two Democrat Senators in the Senate to take this bill up and pass it. It has been sitting in the Senate. It is blocked.

Certainly, we don't think those who fight for our country should be penalized when they come back to the United States in terms of getting their health care. This would certainly help tremendously, and it is something that has received large bipartisan support.

Every one of these provisions help create jobs, and certainly all of them have bipartisan support:

R&D, the research and development credit, 62 Democrat votes;

Section 179, extending, 53 Democrat votes;

The S corporation reform, 42 Democrat votes;

Bonus depreciation, 34 Democrat votes;

Repealing the 30-hour work week rule, 18 Democrat votes.

All of these have bipartisan support. They are all sitting in the Senate.

I heard the gentleman say maybe nothing is being done. Well, I would submit, my friends on the other side, other than voting for these bills, have done nothing to urge their colleagues who have the majority in the Senate to move something that will actually get people back to work and really bring the American Dream back in reach for millions of Americans, and it isn't now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And I wanted to also say, the gentleman from Maryland talked about a

company, and I am not familiar with this company, but a company that is moving out of America because of our burdensome Tax Code. Does that not prove the point that we need tax reform as championed by Mr. CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee?

We need a Tax Code that is competitive. This company is probably leaving to get away from a burdensome, complicated tax system that is killing jobs. Those jobs are going overseas. They need to stay in America.

Mr. Speaker, to create jobs, we have to have a Tax Code that is clear, fair, concise, one that creates jobs. But we also need a regulatory burden that does the same thing: one that is clear; one that is concise; one that uses cost-benefit analysis.

I can't understand why there are Members of the House that oppose cost-benefit analysis on new regulations. It is a matter of common sense, because our regulatory burden, as much as the Tax Code, is driving jobs offshore. We don't need that.

One of the things that was lost in the debate earlier that I find just mind-boggling is the ability to fight forest fires, of all things. As Smokey the Bear says, "Only you can prevent forest fires." Well, I guess towards this administration he is saying, "Only you can promote forest fires through your ridiculous regulatory climate."

And then let me say this. To create jobs in America, we need to have competitive energy. We need to use American energy resources.

As somebody who represents four military installations, I know well that it is not a matter of cheap and abundant energy for manufacturing and traveling and transportation purposes. It is also a matter of national security. Because when we depend so heavily on Middle East oil and oil from unstable anti-American countries, what we are, in fact, doing is funding both sides in the war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KINGSTON. We need to develop American energy, and that is what this bill does. It is commonsense tax reform, commonsense regulatory reform, and commonsense energy reform.

I am appalled that the United States Senate has not had time to take up one of these bills. And, as Mr. CAMP just outlined, as a matter of public record, the number of Democrats who have supported these pieces of legislation, we need to get the Senate moving.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentleman from Maryland to inform the gentleman from Georgia more about these corporations that are attempting to flee the United States, I

would like to have good news for the distinguished chairman of the committee that this veterans bill has been so popular on the other side of the Capitol that it appears as though it is included in a Senate bill and, as we talk, is actually being attacked by the Republican minority on the other side. So, at least as relates to the veterans, if we can take it out of this hodgepodge that has politically been put together, maybe collectively we can do something for our beloved veterans.

As far as the gentleman from Georgia is concerned, he had a problem in identifying the U.S. company that is going to receive a bonus, that is fleeing their tax obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) so he can help clarify those issues to explain exactly how this provision is costing us.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend.

Look, the Joint Tax Committee has suggested that if we don't deal with this problem of corporations changing their tax address to escape their responsibilities to the citizens of this country, it will add \$20 billion to the deficit, which taxpayers will have to make up.

I just want to emphasize the point the gentleman made because Mr. CAMP has called upon Senate Democrats to vote on the Hire Our Heroes bill. In fact, that bill is in the Senate 2-year extender bill in the United States Senate, which is currently being blocked and filibustered by our Republican Senate colleagues.

I would also point out that the cost of that bill, which we all accept, is \$700 million added to the deficit. You are now putting it in a package with all sorts of corporate giveaways that doesn't cost \$700 million but, together, costs \$573 billion to the deficit, all in an afternoon's work.

Mr. Speaker, this is an irresponsible bill. We should vote "no."

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act.

The undeniable fact is the U.S. House has passed more than 40 individual jobs bills, sent them to the Senate, and they remain untouched by the Democratic majority leader.

Many of the jobs proposals included in this broader package, H.R. 4, have bipartisan support and include commonsense ideas like extending the section 179 tax benefits for small businesses, helping our veterans get back to work, and a repeal of the medical device tax.

Medical device companies, in particular, play an integral role in my home State of Indiana and our econ-

omy—more than 71,000 jobs and \$44 billion in personal income on account of the industry—and I hear every day how this tax has stifled innovation and led to a decrease in jobs for my fellow Hoosiers.

In 2013, 79 Senators, many of them champions of ObamaCare, took a symbolic vote to eliminate that tax. I hope that the Democrat-controlled Senate will move beyond political symbolism—and for many, political self-preservation—and vote to repeal this tax on innovation, job creation, and patient care.

Finally, I am pleased that two pieces of legislation which I authored are included in H.R. 4. The Save American Workers Act, which is also bipartisan, would simply change the definition of full-time employment within ObamaCare from 30 hours back to the traditional definition of 40 hours.

□ 1500

Now, 40 hours is what everyone agrees is full time, so let's not further harm small business employees, school cafeteria workers, adjunct university professors, and other hourly workers with this arbitrary change in the definition of "full time."

Also included is the REINS Act. This bipartisan bill aims to relieve much of the regulatory burden on our Nation's small- and medium-sized businesses and on all Americans who benefit from affordable goods and services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. The legislation ensures that, when unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in Washington enact rules and regs that impact our economy, these regulations will be voted on by Congress to ensure that your elected Representatives are held accountable for the laws our constituents are subjected to.

I respectfully urge the American people to take a very close look at H.R. 4 and to demand that the Democratic-controlled Senate bring these bills up for consideration so we can enable people to get back to work and see their personal incomes grow.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a hardworking gentleman on the Ways and Means Committee, one who has been outspoken on all of the issues that concern national security as well as the protection of our economy.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are shutting down this House early today, and they are shutting it down with the same happy talk and tax cut hocus pocus that they began this Congress with 21 months ago, last January.

That is when Speaker BOEHNER reserved H. Res. 1 for a form of Miracle-

Gro. They were going to sprinkle around Miracle-Gro tax cuts—more special interest tax breaks on everyone—and they would grow money faster than it could grow on trees. They have given us so much talk and so many press conferences about how they would do away with all of these complex special interest provisions that Republicans have spent years writing into law for their buddies—into their Tax Code—and we would all have brighter smiles and, certainly, fatter wallets. All of that joy, all of those wonders, would be accomplished debt free. We wouldn't have to borrow another dime from the Chinese or the Saudis or from whoever would lend it to us. We would get all that and more with their proposal.

Unfortunately, their old time medicine show started brightly, but it fizzled out rather quickly.

No Democrat stood in the way of their introducing and voting in the Ways and Means Committee on a tax cut Miracle-Gro elixir. There is no reason they couldn't have brought it out here on the floor on any day the Speaker wanted to consider Miracle-Gro. Yet we are here today, closing out, and H. Res. 1 says on the Republican Web site that it is still reserved for the Speaker, as is most attention to any major issue in this country reserved, because these folks don't want to work here in Washington. Instead, we get to this sorry bill today that is before us that provides more debt, more complexity, and more sweetheart deals.

When we consider the difficult budget choices, Republicans claim that we just don't have enough money. As much as they would like to provide full funding for Alzheimer's research, for cancer, for multiple sclerosis, for diabetes, for Parkinson's, we just don't have the money. We would like to do more to prevent the many forest fires that are spreading across the country—wildfires of all types—and provide the National Weather Service better funding to deal with the dramatic changes in our climate and our weather, but we just don't have the money to do that.

And what about our roads and bridges? We can't figure out a way to fund them, even to this time next year, because we just don't have the money.

Yes, we would like each child to be able to accomplish their full, God-given potential, but we just can't afford to fund from pre-K to post grad. But somehow we can afford more Miracle-Gro today—\$500 billion taken right out of the debt, added to the debt. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. I am for—and I know the gentleman is for—a pro-growth, pro-job creation set of government policies that focus on workforce development, on having the research in med-

icine and technology not only to find cures but to produce another round of jobs.

If we lack the Federal resources to do that, we certainly don't have the Federal resources today to hand out one bonus after another, as their bill does, to corporations with special interest provisions that will ultimately fail our economy.

This bill that we have does everything that they said their tax elixir would not do. It borrows money from many to give money to a few who already have the most. This represents the first installment in new national debt, a big chunk of the more than \$1 trillion that these Republicans told us they wouldn't bury us in, but they proposed the first big installment today. They continue a Tax Code that is riddled with special interest tax preferences and giveaways while making a bonus depreciation provision that even failed as a temporary stimulus measure.

The only jobs that this bill is really designed to protect—and the reason that it is here right now before they rush to the airport—are the jobs of the Republican Members of this House of Representatives, and they sure do a good job of trying to accomplish that.

We ought to reject this package that is motivated solely by a looming election for a Republican majority whose biggest contributions to job creation in America have cost us dearly. They stand steadfast against the proposal that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and one business group after another tells us will grow this economy—that is immigration reform—because they can't overcome the Know Nothings within their party who stand against the reform that we know would grow so many jobs.

Of course, their major accomplishment that they can point to right now out of this Congress was when they put the country on Cruz control, and it cost us \$24 billion in economic growth. Reject this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT).

Mr. HURT. I thank Chairman CAMP for his leadership on this bill. I thank Chairman HENSARLING for his leadership on the issue that I rise to speak about today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Jobs for America Act, H.R. 4.

In Virginia's Fifth District, our district, there are literally thousands of jobs that exist because of private equity investments. These critical investments allow our small businesses to innovate, expand their operations, and create the jobs that our communities need.

Unfortunately, Dodd-Frank has placed the costly and unnecessary regulatory burden of SEC registration on advisers to private equity while ex-

empting advisers to similar investment funds. These registration requirements do not improve the stability of our financial system, and they restrict the ability of private equity to invest capital in small businesses, which would spur job growth.

Instead of complying with costly SEC registration, private equity should be encouraged to focus on investing capital in companies such as Virginia Candle, a company in our district that, through private equity investment, expanded from a garage in Lynchburg to millions of homes across the world.

That is why I, along with my colleagues Representative COOPER and Representative HIMES, introduced the Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act, a provision of H.R. 4 which previously passed the House with bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, the Senate has failed to consider this and dozens of other House-passed jobs bills. At a time when unemployment in Virginia's Fifth District is still too high, the Senate needs to join us immediately in enacting pro-growth policies to spur job creation for our communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4 to increase the flow of private capital to our small businesses so they can innovate, grow, and create jobs for the American people.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), my friend and a distinguished, eloquent member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure if I have been living in a parallel universe over the last few years, but I thought there was genuine concern in this body about getting a grip on our budget deficits, about trying to get our fiscal house put back in order. Yet here we are, in the eleventh hour, before they cut us loose for the fall campaign season, and we have another bill pending before this body that costs \$573 billion—with a B—with not a penny of offset, with not a dime of it paid for. Then people wonder where these budget deficits come from.

What is unfortunate is some of the policy proposals in this legislation I actually support. We have got five bills coming out of the Ways and Means Committee with some permanent changes to the Tax Code that I happen to agree with, whether it is the R&D—research and development—tax credit; the 179 expensing; the S Corp Modernization bill, which is a bill that I and my friend from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT) introduced earlier this year to help with the S corporation businesses in this country; the bonus depreciation; and the repeal of the medical device tax—again, legislation that I and my friend from Minnesota, ERIK PAULSEN, had introduced because

we didn't think it was a good idea for us to be taxing our domestic medical device manufacturers, especially on a pre-revenue basis.

I always believed that, with these changes being made, they should be offset, that they should be paid for. That is the fiscally responsible approach to take, and yet we have a \$573 billion bill with not one offset. This is following on the heels earlier this year of 15 permanent changes to the Tax Code being reported out of the Ways and Means Committee, at a cost approaching \$1 trillion, with none of it being offset.

I would submit that, if we went forward on that type of policy prescription, we might as well forget about comprehensive tax reform because we wouldn't have any tools left to do anything with.

I give the chairman of the committee, Mr. CAMP, who is going to be retiring at the end of this year, a lot of credit for having the guts to come out with a discussion draft on what comprehensive reform should look like. In that draft, he was making some tough decisions. He was finding offsets to lower rates and simplify the Tax Code in order to help us be more competitive in the global marketplace. That is not what is being done here today.

I would request with the Republican leadership that, instead of cutting us loose today, what we ought to be doing is staying in longer and working on a true innovation agenda for our Nation, one that invests in quality educational opportunities for all of our students and good job training programs for workers in transition or for those looking to upgrade their skills so they can be competitive in the global marketplace, the crucial investments we have to make in broadband expansion, basic research funding through NIH and NSF grants and infrastructure modernization in this country, that is long overdue. We know we have to do it. Let's do it now when we need the jobs. That would be a true jobs package that, I think, we could rally around so as to get this economy humming again.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KIND. Rather than this dog and pony show and the message piece that is before us today, right before the November 4 elections, I think the American people are a lot smarter than what some people give them credit for. They know we have a fiscal problem that has to be addressed, and I think most people would realize that, by coming forward with yet another bill at a cost of \$573 billion, with no offsets and no pay-fors, it is only going to make the situation worse and truly jeopardize the economic opportunities for our children and grandchildren in the future.

Instead of coming out with this legislation today, which is a grab bag for

powerful special interests, let's do the tough, heavy lifting that needs to be done. Let's make these policy changes but in a fiscally responsible way, by finding offsets in the code to pay for them, so we can get our fiscal house put back in order and create the good-paying jobs that America needs today.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just say to my good friend from Wisconsin that that was part of the story. Many of these provisions that are bipartisan job-creating provisions have been extended time and time again without being "offset," without being "paid for."

Look at the research and development tax credit. It has been extended 15 times over a 33-year period. It has never been paid for, but it is temporary, so it doesn't have the impact on innovation and research and development. That is what drives economies. That is what grows jobs.

Let's make this permanent. Let's not be the only nation in the world with a temporary tax policy. Then we wonder why we are not growing. Then we wonder why median incomes are flat or are declining. Then we wonder why people aren't achieving the American Dream.

Some of my friends have talked about the Senate. They didn't pay for this. What did they do? They extended some of these policies backwards a year and forward 1 year. How can anyone decide to hire a worker, to build a new building, to buy equipment, to start a new production line on 1 year of policy? This is about permanency, and it is about growing jobs.

I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

□ 1515

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have been pleading for Congress to take action to spur economic growth and create jobs. And the House has repeatedly acted to pass bipartisan legislation to get people back to work, and we are doing so once again today.

Today in this jobs bill is a provision that I authored to repeal the destructive medical device tax. It is destructive because it is a tax not on profit but on sales.

The medical device industry directly employs more than 400,000 people across the country, including 35,000 jobs in my home State of Minnesota. These companies create the lifesaving and life-improving technologies for our patients.

But, because of the President's new health care law, the device industry is now facing one of the highest effective tax rates in the world. This device tax has already resulted in the loss of 33,000 American jobs. That is the equiv-

alent of the entire Minnesota medical device industry being wiped off the map. Another 132,000 jobs are expected to disappear or now go overseas. And these are good-paying jobs, Mr. Speaker—\$60,000 to \$80,000 per job. Eighty percent of these companies are small businesses, employing 50 people or less.

I asked one company that I recently visited, with 60 employees: What does the device tax mean to you? It means I have six projects now instead of 10 projects; I will have two fewer engineers and two fewer technicians.

Another Minnesota company that I recently talked to with 20 employees that is not yet profitable told me that now they are borrowing—they are borrowing—\$100,000 a month just to pay the tax. That is crazy.

So companies are cutting back on their research and development. Venture capital is disappearing. And we are seeing less innovation.

The bottom line is, this device tax is so poorly conceived, it kills jobs, it is stifling lifesaving and life-enhancing innovation, and both Democrats and Republicans in the House agree on this.

My legislation to repeal this harmful tax has 275 coauthors in this body, 46 of whom are Democrats. There is overwhelming bipartisan support to repeal this job-killing tax. But we need the Senate to take action. We need the Senate to stop blocking this bill from moving forward. That way, we can get this done.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to come together to protect American jobs by repealing the device tax.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), one of the hardest working members of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New York for yielding.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4 because it adds over \$500 billion in permanent corporate tax giveaways that could end up causing 1 million hard-working Americans to lose their employer-provided health coverage and do nothing to help the tens of thousands of my constituents and tens of millions of Americans who are experiencing deep poverty, unemployment, and economic distress.

I cannot support adding over \$500 billion to our deficit for permanent handouts to big corporations while 3.3 million long-term unemployed go unaided, while repairs and renovations to our Nation's infrastructure are threatened, while the Medicare doctors' fix goes unresolved, and while irrational budget cuts strangle education, health, research, and innovation.

This bill marks the height of Republican irresponsibility on both fiscal and policy grounds. I ask, how many millions of low-income students could complete college using Pell grants with

just a fraction of the cost of this bill? How many long-term unemployed could pay their rent or provide food for their families with even a tiny amount of the cost of this bill? How many more small businesses could receive investment grants or critical low-cost loans?

Our government, yes, has the responsibility to advance policies that create jobs, strengthen our citizens, and grow our economy, not ones that undermine the health and well-being of Americans and advance the wealthiest among us at the expense of the struggling.

I will vote “no” on this sham jobs-creating bill.

Mr. CAMP. I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as we close out on this bill, I would like to enter into the RECORD a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. This is an objective report on the subject that we have just talked about, and that is whether or not the Affordable Care Act has caused a loss in full-time jobs. This report clearly shows that we have had a rise in full-time work in connection with the health care reform bill.

[From Off the Charts, Sept. 17, 2014]

CENSUS REPORT SHOWS RISE IN FULL-TIME WORK, UNDERCUTTING CLAIMS BY HEALTH REFORM OPONENTS

(By Paul N. Van de Water)

Yesterday's Census Bureau report shows that the share of workers with full-time, full-year work rose in 2013, while the share with part-time, part-year work fell. This finding further undercuts assertions that health reform is causing a large increase in part-time employment—as proponents of a House measure to change health reform's rules on covering full-time workers claim.

Health reform requires employers with at least 50 full-time-equivalent workers to offer coverage to full-time employees—defined as those who work at least 30 hours a week—or pay a penalty. Critics claim that employers are shifting some employees to part-time work to avoid offering them health insurance. But the data provide scant evidence of such a shift.

To the contrary, part-time work became less frequent last year. “An estimated 72.7 percent of working men with earnings and 60.5 percent of working women with earnings worked full time, year round in 2013, both percentages higher than the 2012 estimates of 71.1 percent and 59.4 percent respectively,” according to the new Census report. These data are consistent with a recent Urban Institute analysis that found little evidence that health reform has increased part-time work.

The share of involuntary part-timers—workers who'd rather have full-time jobs but can't find them—tells a similar story. If health reform were distorting hiring practices, as critics assert, we'd expect the share of involuntary part-timers to be growing. Instead, as the chart (based on Labor Department data) shows, it's down by 1½ percentage points from its post-recession peak. My colleague Jared Bernstein finds that this pattern is typical for this stage of a recovery.

Later this week, the House will consider a proposal (part of a so-called “jobs bill”) to

raise health reform's threshold for full-time work from 30 to 40 hours. But this step would make a shift toward part-time employment much more likely—not less so.

Only about 7 percent of employees work 30 to 34 hours (that is, at or modestly above health reform's 30-hour threshold), but 44 percent of employees work 40 hours a week and thus would be vulnerable to cuts in their hours if the threshold rose to 40 hours. Employers could easily cut back large numbers of employees from 40 to 39 hours so they wouldn't have to offer them health coverage.

If you exclude workers at firms that already offer health insurance and thus won't be tempted to cut workers' hours, more than twice as many workers would face a high risk of reduced hours under a 40-hour threshold than under the current 30-hour threshold, according to New York University economist Sherry Glied.

There's little evidence to date that health reform has caused a shift to part-time work. There's every reason to expect the impact to be small as a share of total employment, as we have explained. And raising the cutoff for the employer mandate from 30 to 40 hours a week would be a step in the wrong direction.

Mr. RANGEL. Now, the gentleman knows also that in order to get a bill passed, it really helps if you get the cooperation of the President of the United States.

I would like to submit a statement for the RECORD from the administration which says that if this bill was to reach him that he would be forced to follow the advice of his administration specialists and veto it.

On the other hand, I think it is abundantly clear that the Speaker knows that the President has reached out to him and to the Senate to come together to create jobs.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 4—JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

(Rep. Camp, R-Michigan, and 4 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4, which incorporates several bills that have previously been passed by the House during this Congress, including a number of bills for which the Administration issued Statements of Administration Policy strongly opposing passage and indicating that, if presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto them.

The Administration wants to work with Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen the economy and help middle class families, including pro-growth business tax reform. The Administration continues to support tax proposals that would benefit the Nation's economy and small businesses, such as making permanent the research and experimentation tax credit and increased expensing for small businesses. However, making traditional tax extenders and costly business tax cuts permanent without offsets, while at the same time allowing taxes to increase on 26 million working families, represents the wrong approach.

In addition, the Administration welcomes ideas to improve the Affordable Care Act. However, H.R. 4 would undermine that Act by shifting costs to taxpayers and causing fewer Americans to have employer-sponsored health insurance coverage.

Also, the Administration is committed to ensuring that the benefits of regulation justify their costs and that they are tailored to

advance statutory goals in a manner that is efficient, is cost-effective, and minimizes uncertainty. However, H.R. 4 would throw all major regulations into a months-long limbo, marking a significant departure from the longstanding separation of powers between the Executive and Legislative branches and, fostering uncertainty and impeding business investment that is vital to economic growth. Furthermore, the bill would impose other unnecessary requirements on agencies that would seriously undermine their ability to execute their statutory mandates.

Finally, the Administration is committed to sound long-term management of Federal lands for continued productivity and economic benefit, as well as for the long-term health of the wildlife and ecological values sustained by these holdings. However, H.R. 4 includes numerous harmful provisions that would impair responsible management of Federally-owned lands and undermine many important existing public land and environmental laws, rules, and processes.

If the President were presented with H.R. 4, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Mr. RANGEL. Lastly, I would like to say, as the distinguished chair moves on to his retirement from this august body, that for as long as the gentleman has been a member of this Ways and Means Committee that I have admired and I continue to respect the fine work that he has contributed to the committee as well as to this House, and that his honesty, candidness, sincerity, and hard work to make this a better Congress and a better country certainly is appreciated now and will be in the future.

And I would hope that the hard work that he has done on tax reform—which is a very difficult, complex subject to deal with—that we might try to remember him for the fine work that he has done over these years, rather than on the eve of an election, where sometimes the leadership would want to make a political statement.

I, for one, will never associate him with this piece of legislation, but, rather, for the outstanding contributions that he has made year after year, session after session—not for Republicans, not for the committee, but for this great country. And I thank him for his friendship over the years.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from New York for those kind remarks and also for the work we have been able to do together over the years.

I remember the first legislation that we really worked together on was the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which was signed into law and has done a lot to move children from a temporary situation into a permanent loving home. And I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership on that and other issues on the committee.

And as a former chairman of the committee, you have sat in the chair I am sitting in right now and know what a challenge it can be at times. But we have done some great work together.

I do happen to believe, though, that this legislation would create jobs. And it is not just my opinion. These provisions have been analyzed by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation, and that indicates that these are all important provisions.

There has been some reference to the fact that we are close to an election. And I think clearly what most Americans are sick of is the dysfunction in Washington, the lack of ability for the two parties to get together, whether it is the Republicans and Democrats in the House or Democrat majorities in the Senate and Republican majorities in the House. And these are all bipartisan provisions. These are all tax provisions that have had significant Democrat support and votes. In the case of the Help Hire Our Heroes Act, I think every Democrat but one voted for it. Clearly these are things that will help create jobs.

And not only do Americans want to see the dysfunction in this body end, but they would like to see something that will help move the economy forward, that will help make their lives better.

If you look at polling—there is certainly a lot of polling out there right now—a lot of Americans know that things are not as good as they should be. I mean, it clearly comes across in the polls how dissatisfied they are. And there are lots of reasons for that, largely because median incomes are declining.

But what is really troubling is that Americans don't believe that things are going to get better. They are worried that, for the first time, their children or their brothers and sisters or their family members or they will not have the same opportunities that many of their parents or some of their friends have had. That is a very troubling situation.

This is legislation that will help move the ball forward on getting some economic growth, some job creation, a stronger economy. And with that stronger economy comes more jobs, comes higher wages, comes benefits so that people can pay for food and gas and put something aside for their retirement and for their kids' education.

These are all things that have been extended repeatedly with bipartisan support. As I mentioned, R&D, 30 years; section 179, expensing for small businesses, 10 years; some of the S Corp perform, 12 years—seven times since 2006.

So let's not have a temporary policy. Let's make this permanent. Let's get this country moving again. Let's restore that faith that people have had in this country and in the American Dream. Let's vote "yes" on H.R. 4.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of disappointment that I deliver

my remarks today. For the past 21 months, this House has failed to take any meaningful action to reduce unemployment or boost job creation in America. We know what the solutions are, and yet unconscionably the Republican leadership has chosen to engage in divisive political gamesmanship rather than taking on the more challenging task of governing, which is what our constituents sent us here to do.

In my home state of Rhode Island, employers are still struggling to find qualified employees to fill available jobs. This skills gap keeps the unemployment rate stubbornly high, while many middle class families are still struggling to make ends meet.

H.R. 4 contains provisions from several bills that have already passed the House and failed to gain traction in the Senate. Instead of more duplicative messaging bills, we should be working with our colleagues across the aisles, and across the Capitol, to incentivize companies to bring jobs back home, invest in advanced research and development, educate and train our workforce for a 21st Century economy, and modernize our infrastructure to improve safety, boost commerce and create jobs.

Certainly the House and Senate have different visions about how to proceed. But when disagreements arise, the process should involve working together to find a solution that can pass both houses and reach the President's desk. Instead, House Republican leaders have decided the best course of action is to revisit bills that we already know are unacceptable to the Senate. As a fitting coda to the 113th Congress, we will again squander an opportunity to act while millions of Americans still need our help.

This Congress is set to go down in history as the least productive ever. Many members have taken a "death or glory" approach to legislating, demanding that either we give them everything, or nobody can have anything. It was a year ago that we suffered the first government shutdown in 17 years; a shutdown caused by the House Majority's inability to contemplate negotiation.

Even by the Speaker's own criteria of "laws repealed" instead of laws passed, we have been remarkably unproductive. Without any coherent legislative strategy, the Republican majority has attempted to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act over 50 times. However, we still cannot find the time to extend long-term unemployment insurance, fix our broken immigration system, or tackle any of the other challenges that our constituents sent us here to fix.

One of the easiest steps we can take would be to re-authorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. This main source of federal funding for career training programs was last re-authorized in 2006 and expired in 2012. There is broad, bipartisan support for revisiting Perkins and updating its provisions to reflect the realities of the 21st Century economy. Advocates across the country support re-authorizing Perkins. Unfortunately, this did not become a priority for the Committee and we are left waiting for action yet again.

There is too much work to be done to waste time on this petty political squabbling. We

have the capacity to meet the challenges that face us, but a lack of courage on the part of House leadership keeps us from doing so. It is my sincere hope that in the 114th Congress we return to regular order, negotiate instead of digging in our heels, and solve problems instead of creating them.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM.

Washington, DC, September 18, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Americans for Financial Reform (AFR), we are writing to urge you to oppose H.R. 4, the "Jobs For America Act". Division III of the legislation contains a number of extremely problematic provisions that would require regulatory agencies to satisfy dozens of additional mandates prior to any regulation of Wall Street, and which would create numerous additional opportunities for large financial firms to block any government action in court. AFR has joined the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards and dozens of other civil society organizations in a joint letter opposing these provisions.

We would also like to draw attention to Title I of Division II of this legislation, the "Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act". This legislation would exempt private equity fund advisors—who include some of the wealthiest and most significant entities on Wall Street—from registration and reporting requirements designed to allow regulators to protect investors and the public and monitor risk in the financial system.

Prior to the Dodd-Frank Act, hedge and private equity funds received almost no regulatory monitoring, despite the fact that they manage some \$3 trillion in assets in total on behalf of numerous investors, including many pension funds. The Dodd-Frank Act created more transparency for this previously dark portion of the markets, by requiring hedge and private equity fund advisors to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), maintain a code of ethics and a compliance program, and report basic financial information relevant to systemic risk. This legislation would effectively exempt all private equity fund advisors from these requirements.

Since this legislation was voted on as a stand alone bill in December, 2013 as H.R. 1105, the SEC has reported publicly on its basic 'presence examinations' of private equity fund advisors pursuant to its new Dodd-Frank responsibilities. These examinations found widespread evidence of abuse of investors and violations of the law. In a recent speech, Andrew Bowden, the SEC's Director of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, stated that "when we have examined how fees and expenses are handled by advisers to private equity funds, we have identified what we believe are violations of law or material weaknesses in controls over 50% of the time". The speech details evidence of deception and abuse of investors in other areas as well. Mr. Bowden also stated that due to the opaque nature of the private equity model and the limited information rights of investors, outside investors in private equity funds "often have little to no chance of detecting" these abuses on their own.

Given the findings of the SEC in its initial investigations of private equity advisors, it is deeply disappointing to see that the House is once again pursuing a broad exemption from registration, reporting, and associated ethics requirements for private equity advisors. The passage of "The Small Business

Capital Access and Job Preservation Act" would effectively remove the SEC's most effective tool for addressing the evidence of widespread investor abuses recently uncovered through their examinations. We urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information please contact AFR's Policy Director, Marcus Stanley.

Sincerely,

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PARTNERS OF AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM

All the organizations support the overall principles of AFR and are working for an accountable, fair and secure financial system. Not all of these organizations work on all of the issues covered by the coalition or have signed on to every statement.

A New Way Forward; AFL-CIO; AFSCME; Alliance for Justice; American Income Life Insurance; American Sustainable Business Council; Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.; Americans United for Change; Campaign for America's Future; Campaign Money; Center for Digital Democracy; Center for Economic and Policy Research; Center for Economic Progress; Center for Media and Democracy; Center for Responsible Lending; Center for Justice and Democracy; Center of Concern; Center for Effective Government; Change to Win; Clean Yield Asset Management.

Coastal Enterprises Inc.; Color of Change; Common Cause; Communications Workers of America; Community Development Transportation Lending Services; Consumer Action; Consumer Association Council; Consumers for Auto Safety and Reliability; Consumer Federation of America; Consumer Watchdog; Consumers Union; Corporation for Enterprise Development; CREDO Mobile; CTW Investment Group; Demos; Economic Policy Institute; Essential Action; Greenlining Institute; Good Business International; HNMA Funding Company; Home Actions.

Housing Counseling Services; Home Defenders League; Information Press; Institute for Global Communications; Institute for Policy Studies; Global Economy Project; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Institute of Women's Policy Research; Krull & Company; Laborers' International Union of North America; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Main Street Alliance; Move On; NAACP; NASCAT; National Association of Consumer Advocates; National Association of Neighborhoods; National Community Reinvestment Coalition; National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients); National Consumers League; National Council of La Raza.

National Council of Women's Organizations; National Fair Housing Alliance; National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions; National Housing Resource Center; National Housing Trust; National Housing Trust Community Development Fund; National NeighborWorks Association; National Nurses United; National People's Action; National Urban League; Next Step; OpenTheGovernment.org; Opportunity Finance Network; Partners for the Common Good; PICO National Network; Progress Now Action; Progressive States Network; Poverty and Race Research Action Council; Public Citizen; Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law.

SEIU; State Voices; Taxpayers for Common Sense; The Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development; The Fuel Savers Club; The Leadership Conference on Civil

and Human Rights; The Seminal; TICAS. U.S. Public Interest Research Group; UNITE HERE; United Food and Commercial Workers; United States Student Association; USAction; Veris Wealth Partners; Western States Center; We the People Now; Woodstock Institute; World Privacy Forum; UNET; Union Plus; Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community.

LIST OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFILIATES

Alaska PIRG; Arizona PIRG; Arizona Advocacy Network; Arizonans For Responsible Lending; Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development NY; Audubon Partnership for Economic Development LDC, New York NY; BAC Funding Consortium Inc., Miami FL; Beech Capital Venture Corporation, Philadelphia PA; California PIRG; California Reinvestment Coalition; Century Housing Corporation, Culver City CA; CHANGER NY; Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (NY); Chicago Community Loan Fund, Chicago IL; Chicago Community Ventures, Chicago IL; Chicago Consumer Coalition; Citizen Potawatomi CDC, Shawnee OK; Colorado PIRG; Coalition on Homeless Housing in Ohio; Community Capital Fund, Bridgeport CT.

Community Capital of Maryland, Baltimore MD; Community Development Financial Institution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells AZ; Community Redevelopment Loan and Investment Fund, Atlanta GA; Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina; Community Resource Group, Fayetteville A; Connecticut PIRG; Consumer Assistance Council; Cooper Square Committee (NYC); Cooperative Fund of New England, Wilmington NC; Corporacion de Desarrollo Economico de Ceiba, Ceiba PR; Delta Foundation, Inc., Greenville MS; Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF), Philadelphia PA; Empire Justice Center NY; Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), Cleveland OH; Enterprises, Inc., Berea KY; Fair Housing Contact Service OH; Federation of Appalachian Housing; Fitness and Praise Youth Development, Inc., Baton Rouge LA; Florida Consumer Action Network; Florida PIRG.

Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, Ft. Collins CO; Georgia PIRG; Grow Iowa Foundation, Greenfield IA; Howmiese, Inc., Santa Fe NM; Idaho Nevada CDFI, Pocatello ID; Idaho Chapter, National Association of Social Workers; Illinois PIRG; Impact Capital, Seattle WA; Indiana PIRG; Iowa PIRG; Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement; JobStart Chautauqua, Inc., Mayville NY; La Casa Federal Credit Union, Newark NJ; Low Income Investment Fund, San Francisco CA; Long Island Housing Services NY; MaineStream Finance, Bangor ME; Maryland PIRG; Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition; MASSPIRG; Massachusetts Fair Housing Center.

Michigan PIRG; Midland Community Development Corporation, Midland TX; Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Detroit Lakes MN; Mile High Community Loan Fund, Denver CO; Missouri PIRG; Mortgage Recovery Service Center of L.A.; Montana Community Development Corporation, Missoula MT; Montana PIRG; Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project; New Hampshire PIRG; New Jersey Community Capital, Trenton NJ; New Jersey Citizen Action; New Jersey PIRG; New Mexico PIRG; New York PIRG; New York City Aids Housing Network; New Yorkers for Responsible Lending; NOAH Community Development Fund, Inc., Boston MA; Nonprofit Finance Fund, New York NY; Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Minneapolis M.

North Carolina PIRG; Northside Community Development Fund, Pittsburgh PA; Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Columbus OH; Ohio PIRG; Oligarchy USA; Oregon State PIRG; Our Oregon; PennPIRG; Piedmont Housing Alliance, Charlottesville VA; Michigan PIRG; Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, CO; Rhode Island PIRG; Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento CA; Rural Organizing Project OR; San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority; Seattle Economic Development Fund; Community Capital Development; TexPIRG; The Fair Housing Council of Central New York; The Loan Fund, Albuquerque NM; Third Reconstruction Institute NC; Vermont PIRG; Village Capital Corporation, Cleveland OH; Virginia Citizens Consumer Council; Virginia Poverty Law Center; War on Poverty-Florida; WashPIRG; Westchester Residential Opportunities Inc.; Wigamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc., Lac du Flambeau WI; WISPIRG.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Blu; Bowden-Gill Environmental; Community MedPAC; Diversified Environmental Planning; Hayden & Craig, PLLC; Mid City Animal Hospital, Pheonix AZ; The Holographic Repatterning Institute at Austin; UNET.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 727, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule IXX, further consideration of H.R. 4 is postponed.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE ADOPTION OF MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 2, AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 2 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 727, I call up the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-

paying American jobs; and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 727, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—ENERGY AND COMMERCE

TITLE I—MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Northern Route Approval

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Findings.
Sec. 103. Keystone XL permit approval.
Sec. 104. Judicial review.
Sec. 105. American burying beetle.
Sec. 106. Right-of-way and temporary use permit.
Sec. 107. Permits for activities in navigable waters.
Sec. 108. Migratory Bird Treaty Act permit.
Sec. 109. Oil spill response plan disclosure.
Subtitle B—Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform

Sec. 121. Short title.
Sec. 122. Regulatory approval of natural gas pipeline projects.

Subtitle C—North American Energy Infrastructure

Sec. 131. Short title.
Sec. 132. Finding.
Sec. 133. Authorization of certain energy infrastructure projects at the national boundary of the United States.
Sec. 134. Importation or exportation of natural gas to Canada and Mexico.
Sec. 135. Transmission of electric energy to Canada and Mexico.
Sec. 136. No Presidential permit required.
Sec. 137. Modifications to existing projects.
Sec. 138. Effective date; rulemaking deadlines.
Sec. 139. Definitions.

TITLE II—MAINTAINING DIVERSE ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND AFFORDABILITY

Subtitle A—Energy Consumers Relief

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Prohibition against finalizing certain energy-related rules that will cause significant adverse effects to the economy.
Sec. 203. Reports and determinations prior to promulgating as final certain energy-related rules.
Sec. 204. Definitions.
Sec. 205. Prohibition on use of social cost of carbon in analysis.

Subtitle B—Electricity Security and Affordability

Sec. 211. Short title.
Sec. 212. Standards of performance for new fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units.
Sec. 213. Congress To set effective date for standards of performance for existing, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units.

Sec. 214. Repeal of earlier rules and guidelines.

Sec. 215. Definitions.

Subtitle C—Report on Energy and Water Savings Potential From Thermal Insulation
Sec. 221. Report on energy and water savings potential from thermal insulation.

TITLE III—UNLEASHING ENERGY DIPLOMACY

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Action on applications.
Sec. 303. Public disclosure of export destinations.

DIVISION B—NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Sec. 201. References.

SUBDIVISION A—LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

Sec. 1. Short title.

TITLE I—OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS

Subtitle A—Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program Reforms

Sec. 10101. Outer Continental Shelf leasing program reforms.
Sec. 10102. Domestic oil and natural gas production goal.
Sec. 10103. Development and submittal of new 5-year oil and gas leasing program.
Sec. 10104. Rule of construction.
Sec. 10105. Addition of lease sales after finalization of 5-year plan.

Subtitle B—Directing the President To Conduct New OCS Sales

Sec. 10201. Requirement to conduct proposed oil and gas Lease Sale 220 on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore Virginia.
Sec. 10202. South Carolina lease sale.
Sec. 10203. Southern California existing infrastructure lease sale.
Sec. 10204. Environmental impact statement requirement.
Sec. 10205. National defense.
Sec. 10206. Eastern Gulf of Mexico not included.

Subtitle C—Equitable Sharing of Outer Continental Shelf Revenues

Sec. 10301. Disposition of Outer Continental Shelf revenues to coastal States.

Subtitle D—Reorganization of Minerals Management Agencies of the Department of the Interior

Sec. 10401. Establishment of Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals and Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

Sec. 10402. Bureau of Ocean Energy.
Sec. 10403. Ocean Energy Safety Service.
Sec. 10404. Office of Natural Resources revenue.
Sec. 10405. Ethics and drug testing.
Sec. 10406. Abolishment of Minerals Management Service.
Sec. 10407. Conforming amendments to Executive Schedule pay rates.
Sec. 10408. Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory Board.
Sec. 10409. Outer Continental Shelf inspection fees.
Sec. 10410. Prohibition on action based on National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547.

Subtitle E—United States Territories

Sec. 10501. Application of Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act with respect to territories of the United States.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 10601. Rules regarding distribution of revenues under Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.
Sec. 10602. Amount of distributed qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues.
Sec. 10603. South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area defined.
Sec. 10604. Enhancing geological and geophysical information for America's energy future.

Subtitle G—Judicial Review

Sec. 10701. Time for filing complaint.
Sec. 10702. District court deadline.
Sec. 10703. Ability to seek appellate review.
Sec. 10704. Limitation on scope of review and relief.
Sec. 10705. Legal fees.
Sec. 10706. Exclusion.
Sec. 10707. Definitions.

TITLE II—ONSHORE FEDERAL LANDS AND ENERGY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security

Sec. 21001. Short title.
Sec. 21002. Policies regarding buying, building, and working for America.

CHAPTER 1—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMIT STREAMLINING

Sec. 21101. Short title.
SUBCHAPTER A—APPLICATION FOR PERMITS TO DRILL PROCESS REFORM
Sec. 21111. Permit to drill application timeline.

SUBCHAPTER B—ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM

Sec. 21121. Administrative protest documentation reform.

SUBCHAPTER C—PERMIT STREAMLINING

Sec. 21131. Making pilot offices permanent to improve energy permitting on Federal lands.
Sec. 21132. Administration of current law.

SUBCHAPTER D—JUDICIAL REVIEW

Sec. 21141. Definitions.
Sec. 21142. Exclusive venue for certain civil actions relating to covered energy projects.
Sec. 21143. Timely filing.
Sec. 21144. Expedition in hearing and determining the action.
Sec. 21145. Standard of review.
Sec. 21146. Limitation on injunction and prospective relief.
Sec. 21147. Limitation on attorneys' fees.
Sec. 21148. Legal standing.

SUBCHAPTER E—KNOWING AMERICA'S OIL AND GAS RESOURCES

Sec. 21151. Funding oil and gas resource assessments.

CHAPTER 2—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

Sec. 21201. Short title.
Sec. 21202. Minimum acreage requirement for onshore lease sales.
Sec. 21203. Leasing certainty.
Sec. 21204. Leasing consistency.
Sec. 21205. Reduce redundant policies.
Sec. 21206. Streamlined congressional notification.

CHAPTER 3—OIL SHALE

Sec. 21301. Short title.
Sec. 21302. Effectiveness of oil shale regulations, amendments to resource management plans, and record of decision.
Sec. 21303. Oil shale leasing.

CHAPTER 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 21401. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—Planning for American Energy
 Sec. 22001. Short title.
 Sec. 22002. Onshore domestic energy production strategic plan.

Subtitle C—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Access

Sec. 23001. Short title.
 Sec. 23002. Sense of Congress and reaffirming national policy for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.
 Sec. 23003. National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska: lease sales.
 Sec. 23004. National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska: planning and permitting pipeline and road construction.
 Sec. 23005. Issuance of a new integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement.
 Sec. 23006. Departmental accountability for development.
 Sec. 23007. Deadlines under new proposed integrated activity plan.
 Sec. 23008. Updated resource assessment.

Subtitle D—BLM Live Internet Auctions
 Sec. 24001. Short title.
 Sec. 24002. Internet-based onshore oil and gas lease sales.

Subtitle E—Native American Energy
 Sec. 25001. Short title.
 Sec. 25002. Appraisals.
 Sec. 25003. Standardization.
 Sec. 25004. Environmental reviews of major Federal actions on Indian lands.
 Sec. 25005. Judicial review.
 Sec. 25006. Tribal biomass demonstration project.
 Sec. 25007. Tribal resource management plans.
 Sec. 25008. Leases of restricted lands for the Navajo Nation.
 Sec. 25009. Nonapplicability of certain rules.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
 Sec. 30101. Establishment of Office of Energy Employment and Training.

SUBDIVISION B—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT EQUITY AND JOBS ACT

Sec. 1. Short title.
 Sec. 2. Amendment.

SUBDIVISION C—CENTRAL OREGON JOBS AND WATER SECURITY ACT

Sec. 1. Short title.
 Sec. 2. Wild and Scenic River; Crooked, Oregon.
 Sec. 3. City of Prineville Water Supply.
 Sec. 4. First fill protection.
 Sec. 5. Ochoco Irrigation District.

SUBDIVISION D—STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION; EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH

TITLE I—STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION

Sec. 101. Short title.
 Sec. 102. State authority for hydraulic fracturing regulation.
 Sec. 103. Government Accountability Office study.
 Sec. 104. Tribal authority on trust land.

TITLE II—EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH

Sec. 201. Short title.
 Sec. 202. Epa hydraulic fracturing research.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
 Sec. 301. Review of State activities.

SUBDIVISION E—PREVENTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND PROTECTING COAL MINING JOBS IN AMERICA

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Incorporation of surface mining stream buffer zone rule into State programs.

DIVISION C—JUDICIARY

Sec. 1. Short title.
 Sec. 2. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decisionmaking.

DIVISION A—ENERGY AND COMMERCE TITLE I—MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Northern Route Approval

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Northern Route Approval Act”.

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) To maintain our Nation’s competitive edge and ensure an economy built to last, the United States must have fast, reliable, resilient, and environmentally sound means of moving energy. In a global economy, we will compete for the world’s investments based in significant part on the quality of our infrastructure. Investing in the Nation’s infrastructure provides immediate and long-term economic benefits for local communities and the Nation as a whole.

(2) The delivery of oil from Canada, a close ally not only in proximity but in shared values and ideals, to domestic markets is in the national interest because of the need to lessen dependence upon insecure foreign sources.

(3) The Keystone XL pipeline would provide both short-term and long-term employment opportunities and related labor income benefits, such as government revenues associated with taxes.

(4) The State of Nebraska has thoroughly reviewed and approved the proposed Keystone XL pipeline reroute, concluding that the concerns of Nebraskans have had a major influence on the pipeline reroute and that the reroute will have minimal environmental impacts.

(5) The Keystone XL is in much the same position today as the Alaska Pipeline in 1973 prior to congressional action. Once again, the Federal regulatory process remains an insurmountable obstacle to a project that is likely to reduce oil imports from insecure foreign sources.

SEC. 103. KEYSTONE XL PERMIT APPROVAL.

Notwithstanding Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and any other Executive order or provision of law, no Presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. to the Department of State for the Keystone XL pipeline, as supplemented to include the Nebraska reroute evaluated in the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in January 2013 and approved by the Nebraska governor. The final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on January 31, 2014, coupled with the Final Evaluation Report described in the previous sentence, shall be considered to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

SEC. 104. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.**—Except for review by the Supreme Court on writ of certiorari, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to determine—

(1) the validity of any final order or action (including a failure to act) of any Federal agency or officer with respect to issuance of a permit relating to the construction or maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, including any final order or action deemed to be taken, made, granted, or issued;

(2) the constitutionality of any provision of this subtitle, or any decision or action taken, made, granted, or issued, or deemed to be taken, made, granted, or issued under this subtitle; or

(3) the adequacy of any environmental impact statement prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), or of any analysis under any other Act, with respect to any action taken, made, granted, or issued, or deemed to be taken, made, granted, or issued under this subtitle.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIM.**—A claim arising under this subtitle may be brought not later than 60 days after the date of the decision or action giving rise to the claim.

(c) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.**—The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit shall set any action brought under subsection (a) for expedited consideration, taking into account the national interest of enhancing national energy security by providing access to the significant oil reserves in Canada that are needed to meet the demand for oil.

SEC. 105. AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(1) environmental reviews performed for the Keystone XL pipeline project satisfy the requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) in its entirety; and

(2) for purposes of that Act, the Keystone XL pipeline project will not jeopardize the continued existence of the American burying beetle or destroy or adversely modify American burying beetle critical habitat.

(b) **BIOLOGICAL OPINION.**—The Secretary of the Interior is deemed to have issued a written statement setting forth the Secretary’s opinion containing such findings under section 7(b)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(1)(A)) and any taking of the American burying beetle that is incidental to the construction or operation and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline as it may be ultimately defined in its entirety, shall not be considered a prohibited taking of such species under such Act.

SEC. 106. RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TEMPORARY USE PERMIT.

The Secretary of the Interior is deemed to have granted or issued a grant of right-of-way and temporary use permit under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as set forth in the application tendered to the Bureau of Land Management for the Keystone XL pipeline.

SEC. 107. PERMITS FOR ACTIVITIES IN NAVIGABLE WATERS.

(a) **ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.**—The Secretary of the Army, not later than 90 days after receipt of an application therefor, shall issue all permits under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; commonly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899), necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the pipeline described in the May 4, 2012, application referred to in section 103, as supplemented by the Nebraska reroute. The application shall be based on the administrative record for the pipeline as of

the date of enactment of this Act, which shall be considered complete.

(b) **WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary may waive any procedural requirement of law or regulation that the Secretary considers desirable to waive in order to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(c) **ISSUANCE IN ABSENCE OF ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.**—If the Secretary has not issued a permit described in subsection (a) on or before the last day of the 90-day period referred to in subsection (a), the permit shall be deemed issued under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) or section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), as appropriate, on the day following such last day.

(d) **LIMITATION.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not prohibit or restrict an activity or use of an area that is authorized under this section.

SEC. 108. MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT PERMIT.

The Secretary of the Interior is deemed to have issued a special purpose permit under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), as described in the application filed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Keystone XL pipeline on January 11, 2013.

SEC. 109. OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLAN DISCLOSURE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any pipeline owner or operator required under Federal law to develop an oil spill response plan for the Keystone XL pipeline shall make such plan available to the Governor of each State in which such pipeline operates to assist with emergency response preparedness.

(b) **UPDATES.**—A pipeline owner or operator required to make available to a Governor a plan under subsection (a) shall make available to such Governor any update of such plan not later than 7 days after the date on which such update is made.

Subtitle B—Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform

SEC. 121. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act”.

SEC. 122. REGULATORY APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS.

Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) The Commission shall approve or deny an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a prefired project not later than 12 months after receiving a complete application that is ready to be processed, as defined by the Commission by regulation.

“(2) The agency responsible for issuing any license, permit, or approval required under Federal law in connection with a prefired project for which a certificate of public convenience and necessity is sought under this Act shall approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or approval not later than 90 days after the Commission issues its final environmental document relating to the project.

“(3) The Commission may extend the time period under paragraph (2) by 30 days if an agency demonstrates that it cannot otherwise complete the process required to approve or deny the license, permit, or approval, and therefor will be compelled to deny the license, permit, or approval. In granting an extension under this paragraph, the Commission may offer technical assistance to the agency as necessary to address conditions preventing the completion of the

review of the application for the license, permit, or approval.

“(4) If an agency described in paragraph (2) does not approve or deny the issuance of the license, permit, or approval within the time period specified under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, such license, permit, or approval shall take effect upon the expiration of 30 days after the end of such period. The Commission shall incorporate into the terms of such license, permit, or approval any conditions proffered by the agency described in paragraph (2) that the Commission does not find are inconsistent with the final environmental document.

“(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘prefired project’ means a project for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a natural gas pipeline with respect to which a prefiling docket number has been assigned by the Commission pursuant to a prefiling process established by the Commission for the purpose of facilitating the formal application process for obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity.”.

Subtitle C—North American Energy Infrastructure

SEC. 131. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “North American Energy Infrastructure Act”.

SEC. 132. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States should establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity to and from Canada and Mexico, in pursuit of a more secure and efficient North American energy market.

SEC. 133. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Except as provided in subsection (c) and section 137, no person may construct, connect, operate, or maintain a cross-border segment of an oil pipeline or electric transmission facility for the import or export of oil or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico without obtaining a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the cross-border segment under this section.

(b) **CERTIFICATE OF CROSSING.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after final action is taken under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a cross-border segment for which a request is received under this section, the relevant official identified under paragraph (2), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall issue a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment unless the relevant official finds that the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the cross-border segment is not in the public interest of the United States.

(2) **RELEVANT OFFICIAL.**—The relevant official referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) the Secretary of State with respect to oil pipelines; and

(B) the Secretary of Energy with respect to electric transmission facilities.

(3) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.**—In the case of a request for a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment of an

electric transmission facility, the Secretary of Energy shall require, as a condition of issuing the certificate of crossing for the request under paragraph (1), that the cross-border segment of the electric transmission facility be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained consistent with all applicable policies and standards of—

(A) the Electric Reliability Organization and the applicable regional entity; and

(B) any Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator with operational or functional control over the cross-border segment of the electric transmission facility.

(c) **EXCLUSIONS.**—This section shall not apply to any construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment of an oil pipeline or electric transmission facility for the import or export of oil or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico—

(1) if the cross-border segment is operating for such import, export, or transmission as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) if a permit described in section 136 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued;

(3) if a certificate of crossing for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has previously been issued under this section; or

(4) if an application for a permit described in section 136 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending on the date of enactment of this Act, until the earlier of—

(A) the date on which such application is denied; or

(B) July 1, 2016.

(d) **EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.**—

(1) **APPLICATION TO PROJECTS.**—Nothing in this section or section 137 shall affect the application of any other Federal statute to a project for which a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment is sought under this section.

(2) **NATURAL GAS ACT.**—Nothing in this section or section 137 shall affect the requirement to obtain approval or authorization under sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act for the siting, construction, or operation of any facility to import or export natural gas.

(3) **ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT.**—Nothing in this section or section 137 shall affect the authority of the President under section 103(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

SEC. 134. IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “No order is required under subsection (a) to authorize the export or import of any natural gas to or from Canada or Mexico.”.

SEC. 135. TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

(a) **REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO SECURE ORDER.**—Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **STATE REGULATIONS.**—Section 202(f) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(f)) is amended by striking “insofar as such State regulation does not conflict with the exercise of the Commission’s powers under or relating to subsection 202(e)”.

(2) **SEASONAL DIVERSITY ELECTRICITY EXCHANGE.**—Section 602(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a-4(b)) is amended by striking “the Commission has conducted hearings and made

the findings required under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “the Secretary has conducted hearings and finds that the proposed transmission facilities would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States or would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary.”.

SEC. 136. NO PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT REQUIRED.

No Presidential permit (or similar permit) required under Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, Executive Order No. 12038, Executive Order No. 10485, or any other Executive order shall be necessary for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility, or any cross-border segment thereof.

SEC. 137. MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS.

No certificate of crossing under section 133, or permit described in section 136, shall be required for a modification to the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility—

(1) that is operating for the import or export of oil or natural gas or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico as of the date of enactment of the Act;

(2) for which a permit described in section 136 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued; or

(3) for which a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment of the pipeline or facility has previously been issued under section 133.

SEC. 138. EFFECTIVE DATE; RULEMAKING DEADLINES.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Sections 133 through 137, and the amendments made by such sections, shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(b) **RULEMAKING DEADLINES.**—Each relevant official described in section 133(b)(2) shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register notice of a proposed rulemaking to carry out the applicable requirements of section 133; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register a final rule to carry out the applicable requirements of section 133.

SEC. 139. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle—

(1) the term “cross-border segment” means the portion of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility that is located at the national boundary of the United States with either Canada or Mexico;

(2) the term “modification” includes a reversal of flow direction, change in ownership, volume expansion, downstream or upstream interconnection, or adjustment to maintain flow (such as a reduction or increase in the number of pump or compressor stations);

(3) the term “natural gas” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a);

(4) the term “oil” means petroleum or a petroleum product;

(5) the terms “Electric Reliability Organization” and “regional entity” have the meanings given those terms in section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o); and

(6) the terms “Independent System Operator” and “Regional Transmission Organization” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

TITLE II—MAINTAINING DIVERSE ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND AFFORDABILITY

Subtitle A—Energy Consumers Relief

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2014”.

SEC. 202. PROHIBITION AGAINST FINALIZING CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES THAT WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not promulgate as final an energy-related rule that is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion if the Secretary of Energy determines under section 203(3) that the rule will cause significant adverse effects to the economy.

SEC. 203. REPORTS AND DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO PROMULGATING AS FINAL CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES.

Before promulgating as final any energy-related rule that is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion:

(1) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress a report (and transmit a copy to the Secretary of Energy) containing—

(A) a copy of the rule;

(B) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(C) an estimate of the total costs of the rule, including the direct costs and indirect costs of the rule;

(D)(i) an estimate of the total benefits of the rule and when such benefits are expected to be realized;

(ii) a description of the modeling, the calculations, the assumptions, and the limitations due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information associated with the estimates under this subparagraph; and

(iii) a certification that all data and documents relied upon by the Agency in developing such estimates—

(I) have been preserved; and

(II) are available for review by the public on the Agency’s Web site, except to the extent to which publication of such data and documents would constitute disclosure of confidential information in violation of applicable Federal law;

(E) an estimate of the increases in energy prices, including potential increases in gasoline or electricity prices for consumers, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule; and

(F) a detailed description of the employment effects, including potential job losses and shifts in employment, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule.

(2) **INITIAL DETERMINATION ON INCREASES AND IMPACTS.**—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall prepare an independent analysis to determine whether the rule will cause—

(A) any increase in energy prices for consumers, including low-income households, small businesses, and manufacturers;

(B) any impact on fuel diversity of the Nation’s electricity generation portfolio or on national, regional, or local electric reliability;

(C) any adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use due to the economic or technical infeasibility of implementing the rule; or

(D) any other adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use (including a short-

fall in supply and increased use of foreign supplies).

(3) **SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION ON ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.**—If the Secretary of Energy determines, under paragraph (2), that the rule will cause an increase, impact, or effect described in such paragraph, then the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall—

(A) determine whether the rule will cause significant adverse effects to the economy, taking into consideration—

(i) the costs and benefits of the rule and limitations in calculating such costs and benefits due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information; and

(ii) the positive and negative impacts of the rule on economic indicators, including those related to gross domestic product, unemployment, wages, consumer prices, and business and manufacturing activity; and

(B) publish the results of such determination in the Federal Register.

SEC. 204. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) The terms “direct costs” and “indirect costs” have the meanings given such terms in chapter 8 of the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses” dated December 17, 2010.

(2) The term “energy-related rule that is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion” means a rule of the Environmental Protection Agency that—

(A) regulates any aspect of the production, supply, distribution, or use of energy or provides for such regulation by States or other governmental entities; and

(B) is estimated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to impose direct costs and indirect costs, in the aggregate, of more than \$1,000,000,000.

(3) The term “rule” has the meaning given to such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 205. PROHIBITION ON USE OF SOCIAL COST OF CARBON IN ANALYSIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any executive order, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not use the social cost of carbon in order to incorporate social benefits of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, or for any other reason, in any cost-benefit analysis relating to an energy-related rule that is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion unless and until a Federal law is enacted authorizing such use.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “social cost of carbon” means the social cost of carbon as described in the technical support document entitled “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in May 2013, or any successor or substantially related document, or any other estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon dioxide emissions in a given year.

Subtitle B—Electricity Security and Affordability

SEC. 211. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Electricity Security and Affordability Act”.

SEC. 212. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR NEW FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC UTILITY GENERATING UNITS.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not issue, implement, or enforce any proposed or final rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) that establishes a standard of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from any new source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit unless such rule meets the requirements under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing any rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) establishing standards of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from new sources that are fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (for purposes of establishing such standards)—

(1) shall separate sources fueled with coal and natural gas into separate categories; and

(2) shall not set a standard based on the best system of emission reduction for new sources within a fossil-fuel category unless—

(A) such standard has been achieved on average for at least one continuous 12-month period (excluding planned outages) by each of at least 6 units within such category—

(i) each of which is located at a different electric generating station in the United States;

(ii) which, collectively, are representative of the operating characteristics of electric generation at different locations in the United States; and

(iii) each of which is operated for the entire 12-month period on a full commercial basis; and

(B) no results obtained from any demonstration project are used in setting such standard.

(c) **COAL HAVING A HEAT CONTENT OF 8300 OR LESS BRITISH THERMAL UNITS PER POUND.**—

(1) **SEPARATE SUBCATEGORY.**—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish a separate subcategory for new sources that are fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units using coal with an average heat content of 8300 or less British Thermal Units per pound.

(2) **STANDARD.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), in issuing any rule under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) establishing standards of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from new sources in such subcategory, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not set a standard based on the best system of emission reduction unless—

(A) such standard has been achieved on average for at least one continuous 12-month period (excluding planned outages) by each of at least 3 units within such subcategory—

(i) each of which is located at a different electric generating station in the United States;

(ii) which, collectively, are representative of the operating characteristics of electric generation at different locations in the United States; and

(iii) each of which is operated for the entire 12-month period on a full commercial basis; and

(B) no results obtained from any demonstration project are used in setting such standard.

(d) **TECHNOLOGIES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the issuance, implementation, or enforcement of a standard of performance that—

(1) is based on the use of one or more technologies that are developed in a foreign country, but has been demonstrated to be achievable at fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units in the United States; and

(2) meets the requirements of subsection (b) and (c), as applicable.

SEC. 213. CONGRESS TO SET EFFECTIVE DATE FOR STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR EXISTING, MODIFIED, AND RECONSTRUCTED FOSSIL FUEL-FIRED ELECTRIC UTILITY GENERATING UNITS.

(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section applies with respect to any rule or guidelines issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411) that—

(1) establish any standard of performance for emissions of any greenhouse gas from any modified or reconstructed source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit; or

(2) apply to the emissions of any greenhouse gas from an existing source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit.

(b) **CONGRESS TO SET EFFECTIVE DATE.**—A rule or guidelines described in subsection (a) shall not take effect unless a Federal law is enacted specifying such rule's or guidelines' effective date.

(c) **REPORTING.**—A rule or guidelines described in subsection (a) shall not take effect unless the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has submitted to Congress a report containing each of the following:

(1) The text of such rule or guidelines.

(2) The economic impacts of such rule or guidelines, including the potential effects on—

(A) economic growth, competitiveness, and jobs in the United States;

(B) electricity ratepayers, including low-income ratepayers in affected States;

(C) required capital investments and projected costs for operation and maintenance of new equipment required to be installed; and

(D) the global economic competitiveness of the United States.

(3) The amount of greenhouse gas emissions that such rule or guidelines are projected to reduce as compared to overall global greenhouse gas emissions.

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out subsection (c), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, the Comptroller General of the United States, the Director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

SEC. 214. REPEAL OF EARLIER RULES AND GUIDELINES.

The following rules and guidelines shall be of no force or effect, and shall be treated as though such rules and guidelines had never been issued:

(1) The proposed rule—

(A) entitled “Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”, published at 77 Fed. Reg. 22392 (April 13, 2012); and

(B) withdrawn pursuant to the notice entitled “Withdrawal of Proposed Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”, published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1352 (January 8, 2014).

(2) The proposed rule entitled “Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emis-

sions From New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”, published at 79 Fed. Reg. 1430 (January 8, 2014).

(3) With respect to the proposed rules described in paragraphs (1) and (2), any successor or substantially similar proposed or final rule that—

(A) is issued prior to the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) is applicable to any new source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit; and

(C) does not meet the requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of section 212.

(4) The proposed rule entitled “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”, published at 79 Fed. Reg. 34830 (June 18, 2014).

(5) The proposed rule entitled “Carbon Pollution Standards for Modified and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units”, published at 79 Fed. Reg. 34960 (June 18, 2014).

(6) With respect to the proposed rules described in paragraphs (4) and (5), any successor or substantially similar proposed or final rule that—

(A) is issued prior to the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) is applicable to any existing, modified, or reconstructed source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit.

SEC. 215. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**—The term “demonstration project” means a project to test or demonstrate the feasibility of carbon capture and storage technologies that has received Federal Government funding or financial assistance.

(2) **EXISTING SOURCE.**—The term “existing source” has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)), except such term shall not include any modified source.

(3) **GREENHOUSE GAS.**—The term “greenhouse gas” means any of the following:

(A) Carbon dioxide.

(B) Methane.

(C) Nitrous oxide.

(D) Sulfur hexafluoride.

(E) Hydrofluorocarbons.

(F) Perfluorocarbons.

(4) **MODIFICATION.**—The term “modification” has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)).

(5) **MODIFIED SOURCE.**—The term “modified source” means any stationary source, the modification of which is commenced after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) **NEW SOURCE.**—The term “new source” has the meaning given such term in section 111(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411(a)), except that such term shall not include any modified source.

Subtitle C—Report on Energy and Water Savings Potential From Thermal Insulation
SEC. 221. REPORT ON ENERGY AND WATER SAVINGS POTENTIAL FROM THERMAL INSULATION.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and relevant stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use systems for potable hot and chilled water in Federal buildings, and the return on investment of installing such insulation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(1) an analysis based on the cost of municipal or regional water for delivered water and the avoided cost of new water; and

(2) a summary of energy and water savings, including short term and long term (20 years) projections of such savings.

TITLE III—UNLEASHING ENERGY DIPLOMACY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act”.

SEC. 302. ACTION ON APPLICATIONS.

(a) DECISION DEADLINE.—For proposals that must also obtain authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the United States Maritime Administration to site, construct, expand, or operate LNG export facilities, the Department of Energy shall issue a final decision on any application for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) not later than 30 days after the later of—

(1) the conclusion of the review to site, construct, expand, or operate the LNG facilities required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONCLUSION OF REVIEW.—For purposes of subsection (a), review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 shall be considered concluded—

(1) for a project requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, 30 days after publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement;

(2) for a project for which an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, 30 days after publication by the Department of Energy of a Finding of No Significant Impact; and

(3) upon a determination by the lead agency that an application is eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 implementing regulations.

(c) JUDICIAL ACTION.—(1) The United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the export facility will be located pursuant to an application described in subsection (a) shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of—

(A) an order issued by the Department of Energy with respect to such application; or

(B) the Department of Energy’s failure to issue a final decision on such application.

(2) If the Court in a civil action described in paragraph (1) finds that the Department of Energy has failed to issue a final decision on the application as required under subsection (a), the Court shall order the Department of Energy to issue such final decision not later than 30 days after the Court’s order.

(3) The Court shall set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited consideration and shall set the matter on the docket as soon as practical after the filing date of the initial pleading.

SEC. 303. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EXPORT DESTINATIONS.

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LNG EXPORT DESTINATIONS.—As a condition for approval of any authorization to export LNG, the Secretary of Energy shall require the applicant to publicly disclose the specific destination or destinations of any such authorized LNG exports.”.

DIVISION B—NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SEC. 201. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” in any subdivision of this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that subdivision.

SUBDIVISION A—LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014”.

TITLE I—OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS

Subtitle A—Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program Reforms

SEC. 10101. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING PROGRAM REFORMS.

Section 18(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) In each oil and gas leasing program under this section, the Secretary shall make available for leasing and conduct lease sales including at least 50 percent of the available unleased acreage within each outer Continental Shelf planning area considered to have the largest undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources (on a total btu basis) based upon the most recent national geologic assessment of the outer Continental Shelf, with an emphasis on offering the most geologically prospective parts of the planning area.

“(B) The Secretary shall include in each proposed oil and gas leasing program under this section any State subdivision of an outer Continental Shelf planning area that the Governor of the State that represents that subdivision requests be made available for leasing. The Secretary may not remove such a subdivision from the program until publication of the final program, and shall include and consider all such subdivisions in any environmental review conducted and statement prepared for such program under section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

“(C) In this paragraph the term ‘available unleased acreage’ means that portion of the outer Continental Shelf that is not under lease at the time of a proposed lease sale, and that has not otherwise been made unavailable for leasing by law.

“(6)(A) In the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the Secretary shall make available for leasing any outer Continental Shelf planning areas that—

“(i) are estimated to contain more than 2,500,000,000 barrels of oil; or

“(ii) are estimated to contain more than 7,500,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

“(B) To determine the planning areas described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use the document entitled ‘Minerals Management Service Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources of the Nation’s Outer Continental Shelf, 2006’.”.

SEC. 10102. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.

Section 18(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing a 5-year oil and gas leasing program, and subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production goal for the development of oil and natural gas as a result of that program. Such goal shall be—

“(A) the best estimate of the possible increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the outer Continental Shelf;

“(B) focused on meeting domestic demand for oil and natural gas and reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy; and

“(C) focused on the production increases achieved by the leasing program at the end of the 15-year period beginning on the effective date of the program.

“(2) PROGRAM GOAL.—For purposes of the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the production goal referred to in paragraph (1) shall be an increase by 2032 of—

“(A) no less than 3,000,000 barrels in the amount of oil produced per day; and

“(B) no less than 10,000,000,000 cubic feet in the amount of natural gas produced per day.

“(3) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually, beginning at the end of the 5-year period for which the program applies, to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of the program in meeting the production goal. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and any problems with leasing, permitting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal.”.

SEC. 10103. DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMITTAL OF NEW 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) by not later than July 15, 2015, publish and submit to Congress a new proposed oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) for the 5-year period beginning on such date and ending July 15, 2021; and

(2) by not later than July 15, 2016, approve a final oil and gas leasing program under such section for such period.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF ALL AREAS.—In preparing such program the Secretary shall include consideration of areas of the Continental Shelf off the coasts of all States (as such term is defined in section 2 of that Act, as amended by this title), that are subject to leasing under this title.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 18(d)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(d)(3)) is amended by striking “or after eighteen months following the date of enactment of this section, whichever first occurs.”.

SEC. 10104. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

SEC. 10105. ADDITION OF LEASE SALES AFTER FINALIZATION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.

Section 18(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.1344(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “After” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (4), after”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The Secretary may add to the areas included in an approved leasing program additional areas to be made available for leasing under the program, if all review and documents required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) have been completed with respect to leasing of each such additional area within the 5-year period preceding such addition.”.

Subtitle B—Directing the President To Conduct New OCS Sales

SEC. 10201. REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 220 ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the exclusion of Lease Sale 220 in the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) as soon as practicable, but not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE REPLACEMENT LEASE BLOCKS AVAILABLE.—For each lease block in a proposed lease sale under this section for which the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, under the Memorandum of Agreement referred to in section 10205(b), issues a statement proposing deferral from a lease offering due to defense-related activities that are irreconcilable with mineral exploration and development, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall make available in the same lease sale one other lease block in the Virginia lease sale planning area that is acceptable for oil and gas exploration and production in order to mitigate conflict.

(c) BALANCING MILITARY AND ENERGY PRODUCTION GOALS.—In recognition that the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and the domestic energy resources produced therefrom are integral to national security, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense shall work jointly in implementing this section in order to ensure achievement of the following common goals:

(1) Preserving the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to maintain an optimum state of readiness through their continued use of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(2) Allowing effective exploration, development, and production of our Nation’s oil, gas, and renewable energy resources.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LEASE SALE 220.—The term “Lease Sale 220” means such lease sale referred to in the Request for Comments on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010–2015 and Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed 5-Year Program published January 21, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 3631).

(2) VIRGINIA LEASE SALE PLANNING AREA.—The term “Virginia lease sale planning area” means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (33 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) that is bounded by—

(A) a northern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the northernmost point of Virginia’s seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 37 degrees 17 minutes 1 second North latitude, 71 degrees 5 minutes 16 seconds West longitude; and

(B) a southern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the southernmost point of Virginia’s seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 36 degrees 31 minutes 58 seconds North latitude, 71 degrees 30 minutes 1 second West longitude.

SEC. 10202. SOUTH CAROLINA LEASE SALE.

Notwithstanding exclusion of the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area from the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a lease sale not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act for areas off the coast of South Carolina determined by the Secretary to have the most geologically promising hydrocarbon resources and constituting not less than 25 percent of the leasable area within the South Carolina offshore administrative boundaries depicted in the notice entitled “Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Administrative Boundaries Extending from the Submerged Lands Act Boundary seaward to the Limit of the United States Outer Continental Shelf”, published January 3, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 127).

SEC. 10203. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE LEASE SALE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall offer for sale leases of tracts in the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara/Ventura Basins of the Southern California OCS Planning Area as soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 2015.

(b) USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES OR ON-SHORE-BASED DRILLING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall include in leases offered for sale under this lease sale such terms and conditions as are necessary to require that development and production may occur only from offshore infrastructure in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act or from onshore-based, extended-reach drilling.

SEC. 10204. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this title, the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a multisale environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) for all lease sales required under this subtitle.

(b) ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.—Notwithstanding section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332), in such statement—

(1) the Secretary is not required to identify nonleasing alternative courses of action or to analyze the environmental effects of such alternative courses of action; and

(2) the Secretary shall only—

(A) identify a preferred action for leasing and not more than one alternative leasing proposal; and

(B) analyze the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures for such preferred action and such alternative leasing proposal.

SEC. 10205. NATIONAL DEFENSE.

(a) NATIONAL DEFENSE AREAS.—This title does not affect the existing authority of the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, to designate national defense areas on the Outer Continental Shelf pursu-

ant to section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.—No person may engage in any exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf under a lease issued under this title that would conflict with any military operation, as determined in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf signed July 20, 1983, and any revision or replacement for that agreement that is agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior after that date but before the date of issuance of the lease under which such exploration, development, or production is conducted.

SEC. 10206. EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO NOT INCLUDED.

Nothing in this title affects restrictions on oil and gas leasing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109–432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

Subtitle C—Equitable Sharing of Outer Continental Shelf Revenues

SEC. 10301. DISPOSITION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) is amended—

(1) in the existing text—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “All rentals,” and inserting the following:

“(c) DISPOSITION OF REVENUE UNDER OLD LEASES.—All rentals,”; and

(B) in subsection (c) (as designated by the amendment made by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph), by striking “for the period from June 5, 1950, to date, and thereafter” and inserting “in the period beginning June 5, 1950, and ending on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014”;

(2) by adding after subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COASTAL STATE.—The term ‘coastal State’ includes a territory of the United States.

“(2) NEW LEASING REVENUES.—The term ‘new leasing revenues’—

“(A) means amounts received by the United States as bonuses, rents, and royalties under leases for oil and gas, wind, tidal, or other energy exploration, development, and production on new areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are authorized to be made available for leasing as a result of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014 and leasing under that Act; and

“(B) does not include amounts received by the United States under any lease of an area located in the boundaries of the Central Gulf of Mexico and Western Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, including a lease issued before, on, or after such date of enactment.”; and

(3) by inserting before subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

“(a) PAYMENT OF NEW LEASING REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), of the amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States each fiscal year, 37.5 percent shall be allocated and paid in accordance with subsection (b) to

coastal States that are affected States with respect to the leases under which those revenues are received by the United States.

“(2) PHASE-IN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), paragraph (1) shall be applied—

“(i) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the first leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting ‘12.5 percent’ for ‘37.5 percent’; and

“(ii) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the second leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting ‘25 percent’ for ‘37.5 percent’.

“(B) EXEMPTED LEASE SALES.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any lease issued under subtitle B of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

“(b) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States with respect to a leased tract that are required to be paid to coastal States in accordance with this subsection each fiscal year shall be allocated among and paid to coastal States that are within 200 miles of the leased tract, in amounts that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each such State that is closest to the geographic center of the lease tract, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM ALLOCATION.—The amount allocated to a coastal State under paragraph (1) each fiscal year with respect to a leased tract shall be—

“(A) in the case of a coastal State that is the nearest State to the geographic center of the leased tract, not less than 25 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract;

“(B) in the case of any other coastal State, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 15 percent, of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract; and

“(C) in the case of a coastal State that is the only coastal State within 200 miles of a leased tract, 100 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts allocated to a coastal State under this subsection—

“(A) shall be available to the coastal State without further appropriation;

“(B) shall remain available until expended;

“(C) shall be in addition to any other amounts available to the coastal State under this Act; and

“(D) shall be distributed in the fiscal year following receipt.

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a coastal State may use funds allocated and paid to it under this subsection for any purpose as determined by the laws of that State.

“(B) RESTRICTION ON USE FOR MATCHING.—Funds allocated and paid to a coastal State under this subsection may not be used as matching funds for any other Federal program.”

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall not affect the application of section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109-432; (43 U.S.C. 1331 note)), as in effect

before the enactment of this Act, with respect to revenues received by the United States under oil and gas leases issued for tracts located in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas, including such leases issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Reorganization of Minerals Management Agencies of the Department of the Interior

SEC. 10401. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF OCEAN ENERGY AND SAFETY.

There shall be in the Department of the Interior—

(1) an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Secretary of the Interior or, if directed by the Secretary, to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for—

(i) the safe and responsible development of our energy and mineral resources on Federal lands in appropriate accordance with United States energy demands; and

(ii) ensuring multiple-use missions of the Department of the Interior that promote the safe and sustained development of energy and minerals resources on public lands (as that term is defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

(2) an Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States; and

(3) an Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on public lands and other Federal onshore lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, including implementation of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and administration of the Office of Surface Mining.

SEC. 10402. BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the “Bureau”), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V

of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Bureau all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of a comprehensive program of offshore mineral and renewable energy resources management.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall promulgate and implement regulations—

(A) for the proper issuance of leases for the exploration, development, and production of nonrenewable and renewable energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf;

(B) relating to resource identification, access, evaluation, and utilization;

(C) for development of leasing plans, lease sales, and issuance of leases for such resources; and

(D) regarding issuance of environmental impact statements related to leasing and post leasing activities including exploration, development, and production, and the use of third party contracting for necessary environmental analysis for the development of such resources.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Bureau any function, power, or duty that is—

(A) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service; or

(B) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall affect the authorities of the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or of the Forest Service under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588).

SEC. 10403. OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY SERVICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Ocean Energy Safety Service (referred to in this section as the “Service”), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Energy Safety (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Service all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of safety and environmental enforcement activities related to offshore mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations to ensure the safe and sound exploration, development, and production of mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a timely fashion.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall be responsible for all safety activities related to exploration and development of

renewable and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, including—

(A) exploration, development, production, and ongoing inspections of infrastructure;

(B) the suspending or prohibiting, on a temporary basis, any operation or activity, including production under leases held on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(1));

(C) cancelling any lease, permit, or right-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(2));

(D) compelling compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations relating to worker safety and other matters;

(E) requiring comprehensive safety and environmental management programs for persons engaged in activities connected with the exploration, development, and production of mineral or renewable energy resources;

(F) developing and implementing regulations for Federal employees to carry out any inspection or investigation to ascertain compliance with applicable regulations, including health, safety, or environmental regulations;

(G) implementing the Offshore Technology Research and Risk Assessment Program under section 21 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1347);

(H) summoning witnesses and directing the production of evidence;

(I) levying fines and penalties and disqualifying operators;

(J) carrying out any safety, response, and removal preparedness functions; and

(K) the processing of permits, exploration plans, development plans.

(d) EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the inspection force of the Bureau consists of qualified, trained employees who meet qualification requirements and adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The qualification requirements referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be determined by the Secretary, subject to subparagraph (B); and

(B) shall include—

(i) 3 years of practical experience in oil and gas exploration, development, or production; or

(ii) a degree in an appropriate field of engineering from an accredited institution of higher learning.

(3) ASSIGNMENT.—In assigning oil and gas inspectors to the inspection and investigation of individual operations, the Secretary shall give due consideration to the extent possible to their previous experience in the particular type of oil and gas operation in which such inspections are to be made.

(4) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Director shall require that an individual to be hired as an inspection officer undergo an employment investigation (including a criminal history record check).

(5) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—Individuals hired as inspectors must be able to read, speak, and write English well enough to—

(A) carry out written and oral instructions regarding the proper performance of inspection duties; and

(B) write inspection reports and statements and log entries in the English language.

(6) VETERANS PREFERENCE.—The Director shall provide a preference for the hiring of an individual as a inspection officer if the indi-

vidual is a member or former member of the Armed Forces and is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement, or retainer pay on account of service as a member of the Armed Forces.

(7) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—

(A) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—The Director shall provide that an annual evaluation of each individual assigned inspection duties is conducted and documented.

(B) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—An individual employed as an inspector may not continue to be employed in that capacity unless the evaluation demonstrates that the individual—

(i) continues to meet all qualifications and standards;

(ii) has a satisfactory record of performance and attention to duty based on the standards and requirements in the inspection program; and

(iii) demonstrates the current knowledge and skills necessary to courteously, vigilantly, and effectively perform inspection functions.

(8) LIMITATION ON RIGHT TO STRIKE.—Any individual that conducts permitting or inspections under this section may not participate in a strike, or assert the right to strike.

(9) PERSONNEL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director may employ, appoint, discipline and terminate for cause, and fix the compensation, terms, and conditions of employment of Federal service for individuals as the employees of the Service in order to restore and maintain the trust of the people of the United States in the accountability of the management of our Nation's energy safety program.

(10) TRAINING ACADEMY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a National Offshore Energy Safety Academy (referred to in this paragraph as the "Academy") as an agency of the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

(B) FUNCTIONS OF ACADEMY.—The Secretary, through the Academy, shall be responsible for—

(i) the initial and continued training of both newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors in all aspects of health, safety, environmental, and operational inspections;

(ii) the training of technical support personnel of the Bureau;

(iii) any other training programs for offshore oil and gas inspectors, Bureau personnel, Department personnel, or other persons as the Secretary shall designate; and

(iv) certification of the successful completion of training programs for newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors.

(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In performing functions under this paragraph, and subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into cooperative educational and training agreements with educational institutions, related Federal academies, other Federal agencies, State governments, safety training firms, and oil and gas operators and related industries.

(ii) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—Such training shall be conducted by the Academy in accordance with curriculum needs and assignment of instructional personnel established by the Secretary.

(11) USE OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.—In performing functions under this subsection, the Secretary shall use, to the extent practicable, the facilities and personnel of the Department of the Interior. The Secretary

may appoint or assign to the Academy such officers and employees as the Secretary considers necessary for the performance of the duties and functions of the Academy.

(12) ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with appropriate educational institutions, operators, and representatives of oil and gas workers to develop and maintain adequate programs with educational institutions and oil and gas operators that are designed—

(i) to enable persons to qualify for positions in the administration of this title; and

(ii) to provide for the continuing education of inspectors or other appropriate Department of the Interior personnel.

(B) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial and technical assistance to educational institutions in carrying out this paragraph.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Service any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

SEC. 10404. OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Office of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the "Office") to be headed by a Director of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the "Director").

(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary and relating to the administration of offshore royalty and revenue management functions.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties previously assigned to the Minerals Management Service (including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations) regarding offshore royalty and revenue collection; royalty and revenue distribution; auditing and compliance; investigation and enforcement of royalty and revenue regulations; and asset management for onshore and offshore activities.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Office any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

SEC. 10405. ETHICS AND DRUG TESTING.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall certify annually that all Department of the Interior officers and employees having regular, direct contact with lessees, contractors, concessionaires, and other businesses interested before the Government as a function of their official duties, or conducting investigations, issuing permits, or responsible for oversight of energy programs, are in full compliance with all Federal employee ethics laws and regulations under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and part 2635 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, and all guidance issued under subsection (c).

(b) **DRUG TESTING.**—The Secretary shall conduct a random drug testing program of all Department of the Interior personnel referred to in subsection (a).

(c) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue supplementary ethics and drug testing guidance for the employees for which certification is required under subsection (a). The Secretary shall update the supplementary ethics guidance not less than once every 3 years thereafter.

SEC. 10406. ABOLISHMENT OF MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE.

(a) **ABOLISHMENT.**—The Minerals Management Service is abolished.

(b) **COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Completed administrative actions of the Minerals Management Service shall not be affected by the enactment of this Act, but shall continue in effect according to their terms until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) **COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION DEFINED.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “completed administrative action” includes orders, determinations, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreements, rules, regulations, personnel actions, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, and privileges.

(c) **PENDING PROCEEDINGS.**—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the officers of the Department of the Interior under this title—

(1) pending proceedings in the Minerals Management Service, including notices of proposed rulemaking, and applications for licenses, permits, certificates, grants, and financial assistance, shall continue, notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or the vesting of functions of the Service in another agency, unless discontinued or modified under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such discontinuance or modification could have occurred if this title had not been enacted; and

(2) orders issued in such proceedings, and appeals therefrom, and payments made pursuant to such orders, shall issue in the same manner and on the same terms as if this title had not been enacted, and any such orders shall continue in effect until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(d) **PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.**—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior or any officer of the Department of the Interior under this title, pending civil actions shall continue notwithstanding the enactment of this Act, and in such civil actions, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered and enforced in the same manner and with the same effect as if such enactment had not occurred.

(e) **REFERENCES.**—References relating to the Minerals Management Service in statutes, Executive orders, rules, regulations, directives, or delegations of authority that precede the effective date of this Act are deemed to refer, as appropriate, to the Department, to its officers, employees, or agents, or to its corresponding organizational units or functions. Statutory reporting requirements that applied in relation to the Minerals Management Service immediately before the effective date of this title shall continue to apply.

SEC. 10407. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE PAY RATES.

(a) **UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS.**—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to “Under Secretaries of the Treasury (3).” the following:

“Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, Department of the Interior.”

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.**—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Assistant Secretaries of the Interior (6).” and inserting the following:

“Assistant Secretaries, Department of the Interior (7).”

(c) **DIRECTORS.**—Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Director, Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior.” and inserting the following new items:

“Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy, Department of the Interior.

“Director, Ocean Energy Safety Service, Department of the Interior.

“Director, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior.”

SEC. 10408. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ENERGY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, an Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”)—

(1) to provide the Secretary and the Directors established by this title with independent scientific and technical advice on safe, responsible, and timely mineral and renewable energy exploration, development, and production activities; and

(2) to review operations of the National Offshore Energy Health and Safety Academy established under section 10403(d), including submitting to the Secretary recommendations of curriculum to ensure training scientific and technical advancements.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **SIZE.**—The Board shall consist of not more than 11 members, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the Secretary based on their expertise in oil and gas drilling, well design, operations, well containment and oil spill response; and

(B) must have significant scientific, engineering, management, and other credentials and a history of working in the field related to safe energy exploration, development, and production activities.

(2) **CONSULTATION AND NOMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to identify potential candidates for the Board and shall take nominations from the public.

(3) **TERM.**—The Secretary shall appoint Board members to staggered terms of not more than 4 years, and shall not appoint a member for more than 2 consecutive terms.

(4) **BALANCE.**—In appointing members to the Board, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced representation of industry and research interests.

(c) **CHAIR.**—The Secretary shall appoint the Chair for the Board from among its members.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Board shall meet not less than 3 times per year and shall host, at least once per year, a public forum to review and assess the overall energy safety performance of Outer Continental Shelf mineral and renewable energy resource activities.

(e) **OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—As part of its duties under this section, the Board shall, by not later than 180 days after the date of en-

actment of this section and every 5 years thereafter, submit to the Secretary a report that—

(1) assesses offshore oil and gas well control technologies, practices, voluntary standards, and regulations in the United States and elsewhere; and

(2) as appropriate, recommends modifications to the regulations issued under this title to ensure adequate protection of safety and the environment, including recommendations on how to reduce regulations and administrative actions that are duplicative or unnecessary.

(f) **REPORTS.**—Reports of the Board shall be submitted by the Board to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and made available to the public in electronically accessible form.

(g) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Members of the Board, other than full-time employees of the Federal Government, while attending meeting of the Board or while otherwise serving at the request of the Secretary or the Director while serving away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

SEC. 10409. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES.

Section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1348) is amended by adding at the end of the section the following:

“(g) **INSPECTION FEES.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall collect from the operators of facilities subject to inspection under subsection (c) non-refundable fees for such inspections—

“(A) at an aggregate level equal to the amount necessary to offset the annual expenses of inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) by the Department of the Interior; and

“(B) using a schedule that reflects the differences in complexity among the classes of facilities to be inspected.

“(2) **OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY FUND.**—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘Ocean Energy Enforcement Fund’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’), into which shall be deposited all amounts collected as fees under paragraph (1) and which shall be available as provided under paragraph (3).

“(3) **AVAILABILITY OF FEES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, all amounts deposited in the Fund—

“(i) shall be credited as offsetting collections;

“(ii) shall be available for expenditure for purposes of carrying out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) and the administration of the inspection program under this section;

“(iii) shall be available only to the extent provided for in advance in an appropriations Act; and

“(iv) shall remain available until expended.

“(B) **USE FOR FIELD OFFICES.**—Not less than 75 percent of amounts in the Fund may be appropriated for use only for the respective Department of the Interior field offices where the amounts were originally assessed as fees.

“(4) **INITIAL FEES.**—Fees shall be established under this subsection for the fiscal

year in which this subsection takes effect and the subsequent 10 years, and shall not be raised without advise and consent of the Congress, except as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate as an adjustment equal to the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year preceding the adjustment exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year in which the claim was determined or last adjusted.

“(5) **ANNUAL FEES.**—Annual fees shall be collected under this subsection for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2013 shall be—

“(A) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

“(B) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

“(C) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

“(6) **FEES FOR DRILLING RIGS.**—Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed under this subsection for all inspections completed in fiscal years 2015 through 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2015 shall be—

“(A) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 1,000 feet or more; and

“(B) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 1,000 feet.

“(7) **BILLING.**—The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) within 60 days after the date of the inspection, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.

“(8) **SUNSET.**—No fee may be collected under this subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2024.

“(9) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of the Fund during the fiscal year.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the following:

“(i) A statement of the amounts deposited into the Fund.

“(ii) A description of the expenditures made from the Fund for the fiscal year, including the purpose of the expenditures and the additional hiring of personnel.

“(iii) A statement of the balance remaining in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

“(iv) An accounting of pace of permit approvals.

“(v) If fee increases are proposed after the initial 10-year period referred to in paragraph (5), a proper accounting of the potential adverse economic impacts such fee increases will have on offshore economic activity and overall production, conducted by the Secretary.

“(vi) Recommendations to increase the efficacy and efficiency of offshore inspections.

“(vii) Any corrective actions levied upon offshore inspectors as a result of any form of misconduct.”

SEC. 10410. PROHIBITION ON ACTION BASED ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13547.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—The Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service may not develop, propose, finalize, administer, or implement, any limitation on activities under their jurisdiction as a result of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547.

(b) **REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate identifying all Federal expenditures in fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service and their predecessor agencies, by agency, account, and any pertinent subaccounts, for the development, administration, or implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547, including staff time, travel, and other related expenses.

Subtitle E—United States Territories

SEC. 10501. APPLICATION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (a), by inserting after “control” the following: “or lying within the United States exclusive economic zone and the Continental Shelf adjacent to any territory of the United States”;

(2) in paragraph (p), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(3) in paragraph (q), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(r) The term ‘State’ includes each territory of the United States.”

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 10601. RULES REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES UNDER GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue rules to provide more clarity, certainty, and stability to the revenue streams contemplated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The rules shall include clarification of the timing and methods of disbursements of funds under section 105(b)(2) of such Act.

SEC. 10602. AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTED QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.

Section 105(f)(1) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109-432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note) shall be applied by substituting “2024, and shall not exceed \$999,999,999 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2055” for “2055”.

SEC. 10603. SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF PLANNING AREA DEFINED.

For the purposes of this Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), and any regulations or 5-year plan issued under that Act, the term “South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area” means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)) that is located between

the northern lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Virginia and the southernmost lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Georgia.

SEC. 10604. ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.

Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.**—

“(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, shall facilitate and support the practical study of geology and geophysics to better understand the oil, gas, and other hydrocarbon potential in the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area by entering into partnerships to conduct geological and geophysical activities on the outer Continental Shelf.

“(2)(A) No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, the Governors of the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia may each nominate for participation in the partnerships—

“(i) one institution of higher education located within the Governor's State; and

“(ii) one institution of higher education within the Governor's State that is a historically black college or university, as defined in section 631(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a)).

“(B) In making nominations, the Governors shall give preference to those institutions of higher education that demonstrate a vigorous rate of admission of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

“(3) The Secretary shall only select as a partner a nominee that the Secretary determines demonstrates excellence in geophysical sciences curriculum, engineering curriculum, or information technology or other technical studies relating to seismic research (including data processing).

“(4) Notwithstanding subsection (d), nominees selected as partners by the Secretary may conduct geological and geophysical activities under this section after filing a notice with the Secretary 30-days prior to commencement of the activity without any further authorization by the Secretary except those activities that use solid or liquid explosives shall require a permit. The Secretary may not charge any fee for the provision of data or other information collected under this authority, other than the cost of duplicating any data or information provided. Nominees selected as partners under this section shall provide to the Secretary any data or other information collected under this subsection within 60 days after completion of an initial analysis of the data or other information collected, if so requested by the Secretary.

“(5) Data or other information produced as a result of activities conducted by nominees selected as partners under this subsection shall not be used or shared for commercial purposes by the nominee, may not be produced for proprietary use or sale, and shall be made available by the Secretary to the public.

“(6) The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate reports on the data or other information produced under the partnerships under this section. Such reports shall be made no less

frequently than every 180 days following the conduct of the first geological and geophysical activities under this section.

“(7) In this subsection the term ‘geological and geophysical activities’ means any oil- or gas-related investigation conducted on the outer Continental Shelf, including geophysical surveys where magnetic, gravity, seismic, or other systems are used to detect or imply the presence of oil or gas.”.

Subtitle G—Judicial Review

SEC. 10701. TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any cause of action that arises from a covered energy decision must be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the covered energy decision. Any cause of action not filed within this time period shall be barred.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a cause of action brought by a party to a covered energy lease.

SEC. 10702. DISTRICT COURT DEADLINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All proceedings that are subject to section 10701—

(1) shall be brought in the United States district court for the district in which the Federal property for which a covered energy lease is issued is located or the United States District Court of the District of Columbia;

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such cause or claim is filed; and

(3) shall take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court.

(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINE.—If an interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order has not been issued by the district court by the deadline described under this section, the cause or claim shall be dismissed with prejudice and all rights relating to such cause or claim shall be terminated.

SEC. 10703. ABILITY TO SEEK APPELLATE REVIEW.

An interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court in a proceeding that is subject to section 10701 may be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit shall resolve any such appeal as expeditiously as possible and, in any event, not more than 180 days after such interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court was issued.

SEC. 10704. LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF REVIEW AND RELIEF.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS.—In any judicial review of any Federal action under this subtitle, any administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action shall be presumed to be correct unless shown otherwise by clear and convincing evidence contained in the administrative record.

(b) LIMITATION ON PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.—In any judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle, the Court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the Court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a Federal law requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation concerned.

SEC. 10705. LEGAL FEES.

Any person filing a petition seeking judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle who is not a prevailing party shall pay to the prevailing parties (including intervening parties), other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in connection with the judicial review, unless the Court finds that the position of the person was substantially

justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.

SEC. 10706. EXCLUSION.

This subtitle shall not apply with respect to disputes between the parties to a lease issued pursuant to an authorizing leasing statute regarding the obligations of such lease or the alleged breach thereof.

SEC. 10707. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED ENERGY DECISION.—The term “covered energy decision” means any action or decision by a Federal official regarding the issuance of a covered energy lease.

(2) COVERED ENERGY LEASE.—The term “covered energy lease” means any lease under this title or under an oil and gas leasing program under this title.

TITLE II—ONSHORE FEDERAL LANDS AND ENERGY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security

SEC. 21001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act”.

SEC. 21002. POLICIES REGARDING BUYING, BUILDING, AND WORKING FOR AMERICA.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—It is the intent of the Congress that—

(1) this subtitle will support a healthy and growing United States domestic energy sector that, in turn, helps to reinvigorate American manufacturing, transportation, and service sectors by employing the vast talents of United States workers to assist in the development of energy from domestic sources;

(2) to ensure a robust onshore energy production industry and ensure that the benefits of development support local communities, under this subtitle, the Secretary shall make every effort to promote the development of onshore American energy, and shall take into consideration the socioeconomic impacts, infrastructure requirements, and fiscal stability for local communities located within areas containing onshore energy resources; and

(3) the Congress will monitor the deployment of personnel and material onshore to encourage the development of American manufacturing to enable United States workers to benefit from this subtitle through good jobs and careers, as well as the establishment of important industrial facilities to support expanded access to American resources.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall when possible, and practicable, encourage the use of United States workers and equipment manufactured in the United States in all construction related to mineral resource development under this subtitle.

CHAPTER 1—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMIT STREAMLINING

SEC. 21101. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2014”.

Subchapter A—Application for Permits to Drill Process Reform

SEC. 21111. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.—

“(A) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit to drill within 30 days after receiving an application for the

permit. The Secretary may extend such period for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant. The notice shall be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, and shall include the names and titles of the persons processing the application, the specific reasons for the delay, and a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

“(B) NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

“(i) in writing, clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

“(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

“(C) APPLICATION DEEMED APPROVED.—If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application is deemed approved, except in cases in which existing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

“(D) DENIAL OF PERMIT.—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

“(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

“(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

“(E) FEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall collect a single \$6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under subparagraph (A). This fee shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

“(ii) TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall be transferred to the field office where they are collected and used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act subject to appropriation.”.

Subchapter B—Administrative Protest Documentation Reform

SEC. 21121. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PROTEST FEE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a \$5,000 documentation fee to accompany each protest for a lease, right of way, or application for permit to drill.

“(B) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall remain in the field office where they are collected and used to process protests subject to appropriation.”.

Subchapter C—Permit Streamlining

SEC. 21131. MAKING PILOT OFFICES PERMANENT TO IMPROVE ENERGY PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project (referred to in this section as the “Project”) in every Bureau of

Land Management field office with responsibility for permitting energy projects on Federal land.

(b) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of this section with—

- (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (C) the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(2) **STATE PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary may request that the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal lands to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(c) **DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (b), all Federal signatory parties shall, if appropriate, assign to each of the Bureau of Land Management field offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) **DUTIES.**—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the employee's home agency; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal lands.

(d) **ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office identified in subsection (a) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) **FUNDING.**—Funding for the additional personnel shall come from the Department of the Interior reforms identified in sections 21111 and 21121.

(f) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency whose employees are participating in the Project.

(g) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section the term “energy projects” includes oil, natural gas, and other energy projects as defined by the Secretary.

SEC. 21132. ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT LAW.

Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

Subchapter D—Judicial Review

SEC. 21141. DEFINITIONS.

In this subchapter—

(1) the term “covered civil action” means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal lands of the United States; and

(2) the term “covered energy project” means the leasing of Federal lands of the United States for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, or any other source of energy, and any action under such a lease, except that the term does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under such lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 21142. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the district court where the project or leases exist or are proposed.

SEC. 21143. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action must be filed no later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which it relates.

SEC. 21144. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as possible.

SEC. 21145. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

In any judicial review of a covered civil action, administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action or decision shall be presumed to be correct, and the presumption may be rebutted only by the preponderance of the evidence contained in the administrative record.

SEC. 21146. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

In a covered civil action, the court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct that violation. In addition, courts shall limit the duration of preliminary injunctions to halt covered energy projects to no more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction. In such cases of extensions, such extensions shall only be in 30-day increments and shall require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 21147. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES.

Sections 504 of title 5, United States Code, and 2412 of title 28, United States Code, (together commonly called the Equal Access to Justice Act) do not apply to a covered civil action, nor shall any party in such a covered civil action receive payment from the Federal Government for their attorneys' fees, expenses, and other court costs.

SEC. 21148. LEGAL STANDING.

Challengers filing appeals with the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as challengers before a United States district court.

Subchapter E—Knowing America's Oil and Gas Resources

SEC. 21151. FUNDING OIL AND GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide matching funding for joint projects with States to conduct oil and gas resource assessments on Federal lands with significant oil and gas potential.

(b) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of activities under this section shall not exceed 50 percent.

(c) **RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**—Any resource assessment under this section shall be conducted by a State, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section a total of \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

CHAPTER 2—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 21201. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2014”.

SEC. 21202. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

In conducting lease sales as required by section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)), each year the Secretary of the Interior shall perform the following:

(1) The Secretary shall offer for sale no less than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease. Acreage offered for lease pursuant to this paragraph shall not be subject to protest and shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that it shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary circumstances.

(2) In administering this section, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal lands that are available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

SEC. 21203. LEASING CERTAINTY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) is amended by inserting “(1)” before “All lands”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall not withdraw any covered energy project issued under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

“(B) The Secretary shall not infringe upon lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights of way for activities under such a lease.

“(C) No later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the current land use plan the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease under the criteria in section 2.

“(D) Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold no later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

“(E) The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

“(F) After the conclusion of the public comment period for a planned competitive lease sale, the Secretary shall not cancel, defer, or withdraw any lease parcel announced to be auctioned in the lease sale.

“(G) Not later than 60 days after a lease sale held under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease protests filed following a lease sale. If after 60 days any protest is

left unsettled, said protest is automatically denied and appeal rights of the protestor begin.

“(H) No additional lease stipulations may be added after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee, unless the Secretary deems such stipulations as emergency actions to conserve the resources of the United States.”.

SEC. 21204. LEASING CONSISTENCY.

Federal land managers must follow existing resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until such time as a new record of decision is signed.

SEC. 21205. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 21206. STREAMLINED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Section 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)) is amended in the matter following paragraph (4) by striking “at least thirty days in advance of the reinstatement” and inserting “in an annual report”.

CHAPTER 3—OIL SHALE

SEC. 21301. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security Act” or the “PIONEERS Act”.

SEC. 21302. EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL SHALE REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND RECORD OF DECISION.

(a) **REGULATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the final regulations regarding oil shale management published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 69,414) are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement those regulations, including the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations, without any other administrative action necessary.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECORD OF DECISION.**—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the November 17, 2008 U.S. Bureau of Land Management Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations referred to in subsection (a) in those areas covered by the resource management plans amended by such amendments, and covered by such record of decision, without any other administrative action necessary.

SEC. 21303. OIL SHALE LEASING.

(a) **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEASE SALES.**—The Secretary of the In-

terior shall hold a lease sale within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act offering an additional 10 parcels for lease for research, development, and demonstration of oil shale resources, under the terms offered in the solicitation of bids for such leases published on January 15, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 10).

(b) **COMMERCIAL LEASE SALES.**—No later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold no less than 5 separate commercial lease sales in areas considered to have the most potential for oil shale development, as determined by the Secretary, in areas nominated through public comment. Each lease sale shall be for an area of not less than 25,000 acres, and in multiple lease blocs.

CHAPTER 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 21401. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

Subtitle B—Planning for American Energy

SEC. 22001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Planning for American Energy Act of 2014”.

SEC. 22002. ONSHORE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

“SEC. 44. QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as ‘Secretary’), in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to lands administered by the Forest Service, shall develop and publish every 4 years a Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy. This Strategy shall direct Federal land energy development and department resource allocation in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States in accordance with Bureau of Land Management’s mission of promoting the multiple use of Federal lands as set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

“(2) In developing this Strategy, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration on the projected energy demands of the United States for the next 30-year period, and how energy derived from Federal onshore lands can put the United States on a trajectory to meet that demand during the

next 4-year period. The Secretary shall consider how Federal lands will contribute to ensuring national energy security, with a goal for increasing energy independence and production, during the next 4-year period.

“(3) The Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production objective for the development of energy resources from Federal onshore lands. Such objective shall be—

“(A) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the Federal onshore mineral estate, with a focus on lands held by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(B) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic coal production from Federal lands;

“(C) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of strategic and critical energy minerals from the Federal onshore mineral estate;

“(D) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in megawatts for electricity production from each of the following sources: wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal energy produced on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(E) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in unconventional energy production, such as oil shale;

“(F) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of oil, natural gas, coal, and other renewable sources from tribal lands for any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in facilitating energy production on its lands;

“(G) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in production of helium on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and

“(H) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of geothermal, solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources from ‘available lands’ (as such term is defined in section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108 et seq.), and including any other lands deemed by the Territory or State of Hawaii, as the case may be, to be included within that definition) that the agency or department of the government of the State of Hawaii that is responsible for the administration of such lands selects to be used for such energy production.

“(4) The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration regarding the methodology used to arrive at its estimates for purposes of this section.

“(5) The Secretary has the authority to expand the energy development plan to include other energy production technology sources or advancements in energy on Federal lands.

“(6) The Secretary shall include in the Strategy a plan for addressing new demands for transmission lines and pipelines for distribution of oil and gas across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need.

“(b) **TRIBAL OBJECTIVES.**—It is the sense of Congress that federally recognized Indian tribes may elect to set their own production objectives as part of the Strategy under this

section. The Secretary shall work in cooperation with any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in achieving its own strategic energy objectives designated under this subsection.

“(c) EXECUTION OF THE STRATEGY.—The relevant Secretary shall have all necessary authority to make determinations regarding which additional lands will be made available in order to meet the production objectives established by strategies under this section. The Secretary shall also take all necessary actions to achieve these production objectives unless the President determines that it is not in the national security and economic interests of the United States to increase Federal domestic energy production and to further decrease dependence upon foreign sources of energy. In administering this section, the relevant Secretary shall only consider leasing Federal lands available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

“(d) STATE, FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing each strategy, the Secretary shall solicit the input of affected States, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

“(e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of meeting the production goals set forth in the strategy. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and capacity installations and any problems with leasing, permitting, siting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal. In addition, the Secretary shall make suggestions to help meet any shortfalls in meeting the production goals.

“(f) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the Secretary shall complete a programmatic environmental impact statement. This programmatic environmental impact statement will be deemed sufficient to comply with all requirements under that Act for all necessary resource management and land use plans associated with the implementation of the strategy.

“(g) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—At least 60 days prior to publishing a proposed strategy under this section, the Secretary shall submit it to the President and the Congress, together with any comments received from States, federally recognized Indian tribes, and local governments. Such submission shall indicate why any specific recommendation of a State, federally recognized Indian tribe, or local government was not accepted.

“(h) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL ENERGY MINERALS DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘strategic and critical energy minerals’ means those that are necessary for the Nation’s energy infrastructure including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production and those that are necessary to support domestic manufacturing, including but not limited to, materials used in energy generation, production, and transportation.”

(b) FIRST QUADRENNIAL STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress the first Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy under the amendment made by subsection (a).

Subtitle C—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Access

SEC. 23001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act”.

SEC. 23002. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 23003. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: LEASE SALES.

Section 107(a) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the reserve in accordance with this Act. Such program shall include at least one lease sale annually in those areas of the reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas each year in the period 2014 through 2024.”

SEC. 23004. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary to—

(1) develop and bring into production any areas within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) transport oil and gas from and through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most direct manner possible to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timeline:

(1) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be approved within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved within 6 months after the submission to the Secretary of a request for a permit to drill.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the Reserve, within 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that all leaseable tracts in the Reserve are within 25

miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 23005. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue—

(1) a new proposed integrated activity plan from among the non-adopted alternatives in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

(2) an environmental impact statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and maximum development of oil and natural gas resources of such reserve.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECISION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including the integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 23006. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

SEC. 23007. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.

At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity plan issued under section 23005(a)(1) shall—

(1) require the Department of the Interior to respond within 5 business days to a person who submits an application for a permit for development of oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of such application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each such application, that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions on permit applications; and

(B) provide that the period for issuing each permit after submission of such an application shall not exceed 60 days without the concurrence of the applicant.

SEC. 23008. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) TIMING.—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be completed within 24 months of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) FUNDING.—The United States Geological Survey may, in carrying out the duties under this section, cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

Subtitle D—BLM Live Internet Auctions**SEC. 24001. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “BLM Live Internet Auctions Act”.

SEC. 24002. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by inserting “, except as provided in subparagraph (C)” after “by oral bidding”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In order to diversify and expand the Nation’s onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods. Each individual Internet-based lease sale shall conclude within 7 days.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment made by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the first 10 such lease sales and report to Congress the findings of the analysis. The report shall include—

(1) estimates on increases or decreases in such lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

- (A) the number of bidders;
- (B) the average amount of bid;
- (C) the highest amount bid; and
- (D) the lowest bid;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of such sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales which may provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation, ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers, minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion, and ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

Subtitle E—Native American Energy**SEC. 25001. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Native American Energy Act”.

SEC. 25002. APPRAISALS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “**SEC. 2607. APPRAISAL REFORMS.**

“(a) **OPTIONS TO INDIAN TRIBES.**—With respect to a transaction involving Indian land or the trust assets of an Indian tribe that requires the approval of the Secretary, any appraisal relating to fair market value required to be conducted under applicable law, regulation, or policy may be completed by—

- “(1) the Secretary;
- “(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

“(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

“(b) **TIME LIMIT ON SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND ACTION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal conducted by or for an Indian tribe pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

- “(1) review the appraisal; and

“(2) provide to the Indian tribe a written notice of approval or disapproval of the appraisal.

“(c) **FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.**—If, after 60 days, the Secretary has failed to approve or disapprove any appraisal received, the appraisal shall be deemed approved.

“(d) **OPTION TO INDIAN TRIBES TO WAIVE APPRAISAL.**—

“(1) An Indian tribe wishing to waive the requirements of subsection (a), may do so after it has satisfied the requirements of subsections (2) and (3) below.

“(2) An Indian tribe wishing to forego the necessity of a waiver pursuant to this section must provide to the Secretary a written resolution, statement, or other unambiguous indication of tribal intent, duly approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.

“(3) The unambiguous indication of intent provided by the Indian tribe to the Secretary under paragraph (2) must include an express waiver by the Indian tribe of any claims for damages it might have against the United States as a result of the lack of an appraisal undertaken.

“(e) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘appraisal’ includes appraisals and other estimates of value.

“(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall develop regulations for implementing this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving an appraisal.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 note) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title XXVI the following:

“Sec. 2607. Appraisal reforms.”.

SEC. 25003. STANDARDIZATION.

As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall implement procedures to ensure that each agency within the Department of the Interior that is involved in the review, approval, and oversight of oil and gas activities on Indian lands shall use a uniform system of reference numbers and tracking systems for oil and gas wells.

SEC. 25004. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LANDS.

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) is amended by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the first sentence, and by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **REVIEW OF MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS ON INDIAN LANDS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For any major Federal action on Indian lands of an Indian tribe requiring the preparation of a statement under subsection (a)(2)(C), the statement shall only be available for review and comment by the members of the Indian tribe and by any other individual residing within the affected area.

“(2) **REGULATIONS.**—The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall develop regulations to implement this section, including descriptions of affected areas for specific major Federal actions, in consultation with Indian tribes.

“(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, each of the terms ‘Indian land’ and ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501).

“(4) **CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in the Native American Energy Act, except section 25006 of that Act, shall give the Secretary any additional authority over energy projects on Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands.”.

SEC. 25005. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.**—Any energy related action must be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the final agency action. Any energy related action not filed within this time period shall be barred.

(b) **DISTRICT COURT VENUE AND DEADLINE.**—All energy related actions—

(1) shall be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such cause of action is filed.

(c) **APPELLATE REVIEW.**—An interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court in an energy related action may be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals shall resolve such appeal as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such interlocutory order or final judgment, decree or order of the district court was issued.

(d) **LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS.**—Notwithstanding section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, no award may be made under section 504 of title 5, United States Code, or under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, and no amounts may be obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund of the United States Treasury to pay any fees or other expenses under such sections, to any person or party in an energy related action.

(e) **LEGAL FEES.**—In any energy related action in which the plaintiff does not ultimately prevail, the court shall award to the defendant (including any intervenor-defendants), other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in connection with the energy related action, unless the court finds that the position of the plaintiff was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust. Whether or not the position of the plaintiff was substantially justified shall be determined on the basis of the administrative record, as a whole, which is made in the energy related action for which fees and other expenses are sought.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **AGENCY ACTION.**—The term “agency action” has the same meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian Land” has the same meaning given such term in section 203(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 25 U.S.C. 3501), including lands owned by Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Public Law 92-203; 43 U.S.C. 1601).

(3) **ENERGY RELATED ACTION.**—The term “energy related action” means a cause of action that—

(A) is filed on or after the effective date of this Act; and

(B) seeks judicial review of a final agency action to issue a permit, license, or other form of agency permission allowing:

(i) any person or entity to conduct activities on Indian Land, which activities involve the exploration, development, production or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity; or

(ii) any Indian Tribe, or any organization of two or more entities, at least one of which is an Indian tribe, to conduct activities involving the exploration, development, production or transportation of oil, gas, coal, shale gas, oil shale, geothermal resources, wind or solar resources, underground coal gasification, biomass, or the generation of electricity, regardless of where such activities are undertaken.

(4) **ULTIMATELY PREVAIL.**—The phrase “ultimately prevail” means, in a final enforceable judgment, the court rules in the party’s favor on at least one cause of action which is an underlying rationale for the preliminary injunction, administrative stay, or other relief requested by the party, and does not include circumstances where the final agency action is modified or amended by the issuing agency unless such modification or amendment is required pursuant to a final enforceable judgment of the court or a court-ordered consent decree.

SEC. 25006. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 is amended by inserting after section 2 (25 U.S.C. 3115a) the following:

“SEC. 3. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, the Secretary shall enter into stewardship contracts or other agreements, other than agreements that are exclusively direct service contracts, with Indian tribes to carry out demonstration projects to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on Indian forest land and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—The definitions in section 2 shall apply to this section.

“(c) **DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements described in subsection (a) to carry out at least 4 new demonstration projects that meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (d).

“(d) **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**—To be eligible to enter into a contract or other agreement under this subsection, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application—

“(1) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

“(2) that includes a description of—

“(A) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe.

“(e) **SELECTION.**—In evaluating the applications submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary—

“(1) shall take into consideration the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(e) of Public Law 108–278; and whether a proposed demonstration project would—

“(A) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

“(B) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

“(C) improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

“(D) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland; or

“(E) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

“(2) shall exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

“(f) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that the criteria described in subsection (c) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(2) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate intertribal organizations likely to be af-

fecting in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this section.

“(g) **REPORT.**—Not later than September 20, 2015, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

“(1) each individual tribal application received under this section; and

“(2) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

“(h) **INCORPORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—In carrying out a contract or agreement under this section, on receipt of a request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall incorporate into the contract or agreement, to the extent practicable, management plans (including forest management and integrated resource management plans) in effect on the Indian forest land or rangeland of the respective Indian tribe.

“(i) **TERM.**—A stewardship contract or other agreement entered into under this section—

“(1) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

“(2) may be renewed in accordance with this section for not more than an additional 10 years.”.

SEC. 25007. TRIBAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Unless otherwise explicitly exempted by Federal law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act, any activity conducted or resources harvested or produced pursuant to a tribal resource management plan or an integrated resource management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) or the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), shall be considered a sustainable management practice for purposes of any Federal standard, benefit, or requirement that requires a demonstration of such sustainability.

SEC. 25008. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION.

Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(e)(1); commonly referred to as the “Long-Term Leasing Act”), is amended—

(1) by striking “, except a lease for” and inserting “, including leases for”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “25” the first place it appears and all that follows and inserting “99 years”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of mineral resources, including geothermal resources, 25 years, except that any such lease may include an option to renew for one additional term not to exceed 25 years.”.

SEC. 25009. NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES.

No rule promulgated by the Department of the Interior regarding hydraulic fracturing used in the development or production of oil or gas resources shall have any effect on any land held in trust or restricted status for the benefit of Indians except with the express consent of the beneficiary on whose behalf such land is held in trust or restricted status.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 30101. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF ENERGY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish an Office of Energy Employment and Training, which shall oversee the hiring and training efforts of the Department of the Interior’s energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies.

(b) **DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office shall be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training, who shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Energy, Lands and Minerals Management, and shall be fully employed to carry out the functions of the Office.

(2) **DUTIES.**—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training shall perform the following functions:

(A) Develop and implement systems to track the Department’s hiring of trained skilled workers in the energy permitting and inspection agencies.

(B) Design and recommend to the Secretary programs and policies aimed at expanding the Department’s hiring of women, minorities, and veterans into the Department’s workforce dealing with energy permitting and inspection programs. Such programs and policies shall include—

(i) recruiting at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, women’s colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(ii) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(iii) placing employment advertisements in newspapers and magazines oriented toward minorities, veterans, and women;

(iv) partnering with organizations that are focused on developing opportunities for minorities, veterans, and women to be placed in Departmental internships, summer employment, and full-time positions relating to energy;

(v) where feasible, partnering with inner-city high schools, girls’ high schools, and high schools with majority minority populations to demonstrate career opportunities and the path to those opportunities available at the Department;

(vi) coordinating with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in the hiring of veterans; and

(vii) any other mass media communications that the Deputy Assistant Secretary determines necessary to advertise, promote, or educate about opportunities at the Department.

(C) Develop standards for—

(i) equal employment opportunity and the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the workforce and senior management of the Department; and

(ii) increased participation of minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses in the programs and contracts with the Department.

(D) Review and propose for adoption the best practices of entities regulated by the Department with regards to hiring and diversity policies, and publish those best practices for public review.

(c) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report regarding the actions taken by the Department of the Interior agency and the Office pursuant to this section, which shall include—

(1) a statement of the total amounts paid by the Department to minority contractors;

(2) the successes achieved and challenges faced by the Department in operating minority, veteran or service-disabled veteran, and women outreach programs;

(3) the challenges the Department may face in hiring minority, veteran, and women employees and contracting with veteran or service-disabled veteran, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses; and

(4) any other information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative

or Department action, as the Director determines appropriate.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **MINORITY.**—The term “minority” means United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American.

(2) **MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “minority-owned business” means a for-profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the United States or its trust territories, that is owned, operated, and controlled by minority group members. “Minority group members” are United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American (terminology in NMSDC categories). Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51 percent owned by such individuals or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals. Further, the management and daily operations are controlled by those minority group members. For purposes of NMSDC’s program, a minority group member is an individual who is a United States citizen with at least $\frac{1}{4}$ or 25 percent minimum (documentation to support claim of 25 percent required from applicant) of one or more of the following:

(A) Asian Indian American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh.

(B) Asian Pacific American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, Samoa, Guam, the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific, or the Northern Marianas.

(C) Black American, which is a United States citizen having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

(D) Hispanic American, which is a United States citizen of true-born Hispanic heritage, from any of the Spanish-speaking areas of the following regions: Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Basin only.

(E) Native American, which means a United States citizen enrolled to a federally recognized tribe, or a Native as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

(3) **NMSDC.**—The term “NMSDC” means the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

(4) **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “women-owned business” means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is women-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien. Evidence must indicate that—

(A) the contribution of capital or expertise by the woman business owner is real and substantial and in proportion to the interest owned;

(B) the woman business owner directs or causes the direction of management, policy, fiscal, and operational matters; and

(C) the woman business owner has the ability to perform in the area of specialty or expertise without reliance on either the finances or resources of a firm that is not owned by a woman.

(5) **SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN.**—The term “Service Disabled Veteran” must have a service-connected disability that has been determined by the Department of Veterans

Affairs or Department of Defense. The SDVOSBC must be small under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the procurement; the SDV must unconditionally own 51 percent of the SDVOSBC; the SDVO must control the management and daily operations of the SDVOSBC; and the SDV must hold the highest officer position in the SDVOSBC.

(6) **VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “veteran-owned business” means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is veteran-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien and honorably or service-connected disability discharged from service.

SUBDIVISION B—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT EQUITY AND JOBS ACT

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Section 9 of the Act entitled “An Act authorizing construction of water conservation and utilization projects in the Great Plains and arid semiarid areas of the United States”, approved August 11, 1939 (16 U.S.C. 590z–7; commonly known as the “Water Conservation and Utilization Act”), is amended—

(1) by striking “In connection with” and inserting “(a) In connection with”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to enter into leases of power privileges for electric power generation in connection with any project constructed under this Act, and shall have authority in addition to and alternative to any authority in existing laws relating to particular projects, including small conduit hydropower development.

“(c) When entering into leases of power privileges under subsection (b), the Secretary shall use the processes applicable to such leases under section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)).

“(d) Lease of power privilege contracts shall be at such rates as, in the Secretary’s judgment, will produce revenues at least sufficient to cover the appropriate share of the annual operation and maintenance cost of the project and such fixed charges, including interest, as the Secretary deems proper. Lease of power privilege contracts shall be for periods not to exceed 40 years.

“(e) No findings under section 3 shall be required for a lease under subsection (b).

“(f) All right, title, and interest to installed power facilities constructed by non-Federal entities pursuant to a lease of power privilege, and direct revenues derived therefrom, shall remain with the lessee unless otherwise required under subsection (g).

“(g) Notwithstanding section 8, lease revenues and fixed charges, if any, shall be covered into the Reclamation Fund to be credited to the project from which those revenues or charges were derived.

“(h) When carrying out this section, the Secretary shall first offer the lease of power privilege to an irrigation district or water users association operating the applicable transferred conduit, or to the irrigation district or water users association receiving water from the applicable reserved conduit. The Secretary shall determine a reasonable timeframe for the irrigation district or

water users association to accept or reject a lease of power privilege offer. If the irrigation district or water users association elects not to accept a lease of power privilege offer under subsection (b), the Secretary shall offer the lease of power privilege to other parties using the processes applicable to such leases under section 9(c) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)).

“(i) The Bureau of Reclamation shall apply its categorical exclusion process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to small conduit hydropower development under this section, excluding siting of associated transmission facilities on Federal lands.

“(j) Nothing in this section shall obligate the Western Area Power Administration or the Bonneville Power Administration to purchase or market any of the power produced by the facilities covered under this section and none of the costs associated with production or delivery of such power shall be assigned to project purposes for inclusion in project rates.

“(k) Nothing in this section shall alter or impede the delivery and management of water by Bureau of Reclamation facilities, as water used for conduit hydropower generation shall be deemed incidental to use of water for the original project purposes. Lease of power privilege shall be made only when, in the judgment of the Secretary, the exercise of the lease will not be incompatible with the purposes of the project or division involved and shall not create any unmitigated financial or physical impacts to the project or division involved. The Secretary shall notify and consult with the irrigation district or legally organized water users association operating the transferred conduit in advance of offering the lease of power privilege and shall prescribe such terms and conditions necessary to adequately protect the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and other interests of the United States and the project or division involved.

“(l) Nothing in this section shall alter or affect any agreements in effect on the date of the enactment of the Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act for the development of conduit hydropower projects or disposition of revenues.

“(m) In this section:

“(1) The term ‘conduit’ means any Bureau of Reclamation tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.

“(2) The term ‘irrigation district’ means any irrigation, water conservation or conservancy, multi-county water conservation or conservancy district, or any separate public entity composed of two or more such districts and jointly exercising powers of its member districts.

“(3) The term ‘reserved conduit’ means any conduit that is included in project works the care, operation, and maintenance of which has been reserved by the Secretary, through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

“(4) The term ‘transferred conduit’ means any conduit that is included in project works the care, operation, and maintenance of which has been transferred to a legally organized water users association or irrigation district.

“(5) The term ‘small conduit hydropower’ means a facility capable of producing 5 megawatts or less of electric capacity.”.

SUBDIVISION C—CENTRAL OREGON JOBS AND WATER SECURITY ACT

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act”.

SEC. 2. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER; CROOKED, OREGON.

Section 3(a)(72) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(72)) is amended as follows:

(1) By striking “15-mile” and inserting “14.75-mile”.

(2) In subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “8-mile” and all that follows through “Bowman Dam” and inserting “7.75-mile segment from a point one-quarter mile downstream from the toe of Bowman Dam”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “The developer for any hydropower development, including turbines and appurtenant facilities, at Bowman Dam, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, shall analyze any impacts to the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Wild and Scenic River that may be caused by such development, including the future need to undertake routine and emergency repairs, and shall propose mitigation for any impacts as part of any license application submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.”.

SEC. 3. CITY OF PRINEVILLE WATER SUPPLY.

Section 4 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058), (as amended by the Acts of September 14, 1959 (73 Stat. 554), and September 18, 1964 (78 Stat. 954)) is further amended as follows:

(1) By striking “ten cubic feet” the first place it appears and inserting “17 cubic feet”.

(2) By striking “during those months when there is no other discharge therefrom, but this release may be reduced for brief temporary periods by the Secretary whenever he may find that release of the full ten cubic feet per second is harmful to the primary purpose of the project”.

(3) By adding at the end the following: “Without further action by the Secretary, and as determined necessary for any given year by the City of Prineville, up to seven of the 17 cubic feet per second minimum release shall also serve as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping, pursuant to and in a manner consistent with Oregon State law, including any shaping of the release of the up to seven cubic feet per second to coincide with City of Prineville groundwater pumping as may be required by the State of Oregon. As such, the Secretary is authorized to make applications to the State of Oregon in conjunction with the City to protect these supplies instream. The City shall make payment to the Secretary for that portion of the minimum release that actually serves as mitigation pursuant to Oregon State law for the City in any given year, with the payment for any given year equal to the amount of mitigation in acre feet required to offset actual City groundwater pumping for that year in accordance with Reclamation ‘Water and Related Contract and Repayment Principles and Requirements’, Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards PEC 05-01, dated 09/12/2006, and guided by ‘Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies’, dated March 10, 1983. The Secretary is authorized to contract exclusively with the City for additional amounts in the future at the request of the City.”.

SEC. 4. FIRST FILL PROTECTION.

The Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058), as amended by the Acts of September 14, 1959 (73 Stat. 554), and September 18, 1964 (78 Stat. 954), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 6. Other than the 17 cubic feet per second release provided for in section 4, and subject to compliance with the Army Corps of Engineers’ flood curve requirements, the Secretary shall, on a ‘first fill’ priority basis, store in and release from Prineville Reservoir, whether from carryover, infill, or a combination thereof, the following:

“(1) 68,273 acre feet of water annually to fulfill all 16 Bureau of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011, and up to 2,740 acre feet of water annually to supply the McKay Creek lands as provided for in section 5 of this Act.

“(2) Not more than 10,000 acre feet of water annually, to be made available to the North Unit Irrigation District pursuant to a Temporary Water Service Contract, upon the request of the North Unit Irrigation District, consistent with the same terms and conditions as prior such contracts between the District and the Bureau of Reclamation.

“SEC. 7. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act—

“(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between contractors and the United States under Reclamation contracts;

“(2) amends or reopens contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

“(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or requirements that may be provided or governed by Oregon State law.”.

SEC. 5. OCHOCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

(a) EARLY REPAYMENT.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Ochoco Irrigation District in Oregon, may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner’s lands within the district. Upon discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of the construction costs allocated to all lands the landowner owns in the district, those lands shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations of the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act, including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner’s lands owned within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification provided for in subsection (b)(1) of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(c) CONTRACT AMENDMENT.—On approval of the district directors and notwithstanding project authorizing legislation to the contrary, the district’s reclamation contracts are modified, without further action by the Secretary of the Interior, to—

(1) authorize the use of water for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, in order for the district to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as authorized by Oregon State law;

(2) include within the district boundary approximately 2,742 acres in the vicinity of McKay Creek, resulting in a total of approximately 44,937 acres within the district boundary;

(3) classify as irrigable approximately 685 acres within the approximately 2,742 acres of included lands in the vicinity of McKay

Creek, where the approximately 685 acres are authorized to receive irrigation water pursuant to water rights issued by the State of Oregon and have in the past received water pursuant to such State water rights; and

(4) provide the district with stored water from Prineville Reservoir for purposes of supplying up to the approximately 685 acres of lands added within the district boundary and classified as irrigable under paragraphs (2) and (3), with such stored water to be supplied on an acre-per-acre basis contingent on the transfer of existing appurtenant McKay Creek water rights to instream use and the State’s issuance of water rights for the use of stored water.

(d) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (c), nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) modify contractual rights that may exist between the district and the United States under the district’s Reclamation contracts;

(2) amend or reopen the contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

(3) modify any rights, obligations or relationships that may exist between the district and its landowners as may be provided or governed by Oregon State law.

SUBDIVISION D—STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION; EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH

TITLE I—STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Protecting States’ Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act”.

SEC. 102. STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION.

The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

“SEC. 44. STATE AUTHORITY FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING REGULATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of the Interior shall not enforce any Federal regulation, guidance, or permit requirement regarding hydraulic fracturing, or any component of that process, relating to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities on or under any land in any State that has regulations, guidance, or permit requirements for that activity.

“(b) STATE AUTHORITY.—The Department of the Interior shall recognize and defer to State regulations, permitting, and guidance, for all activities related to hydraulic fracturing, or any component of that process, relating to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities on Federal land.

“(c) TRANSPARENCY OF STATE REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Bureau of Land Management a copy of its regulations that apply to hydraulic fracturing operations on Federal land.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make available to the public State regulations submitted under this subsection.

“(d) TRANSPARENCY OF STATE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall submit to the Bureau of Land Management a copy of any regulations of the State that require disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations on Federal land.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make available to the public State regulations submitted under this subsection.

“(e) **HYDRAULIC FRACTURING DEFINED.**—In this section the term ‘hydraulic fracturing’ means the process by which fracturing fluids (or a fracturing fluid system) are pumped into an underground geologic formation at a calculated, predetermined rate and pressure to generate fractures or cracks in the target formation and thereby increase the permeability of the rock near the wellbore and improve production of natural gas or oil.”.

SEC. 103. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study examining the economic benefits of domestic shale oil and gas production resulting from the process of hydraulic fracturing. This study will include identification of—

(1) State and Federal revenue generated as a result of shale gas production;

(2) jobs created both directly and indirectly as a result of shale oil and gas production; and

(3) an estimate of potential energy prices without domestic shale oil and gas production.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of such study to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives within 30 days after completion of the study.

SEC. 104. TRIBAL AUTHORITY ON TRUST LAND.

The Department of the Interior shall not enforce any Federal regulation, guidance, or permit requirement regarding the process of hydraulic fracturing (as that term is defined in section 44 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended by section 102 of this Act), or any component of that process, relating to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities on any land held in trust or restricted status for the benefit of Indians except with the express consent of the beneficiary on whose behalf such land is held in trust or restricted status.

TITLE II—EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act”.

SEC. 202. EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH.

In conducting its study of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources, with respect to which a request for information was issued under Federal Register Vol. 77, No. 218, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall adhere to the following requirements:

(1) **PEER REVIEW AND INFORMATION QUALITY.**—Prior to issuance and dissemination of any final report or any interim report summarizing the Environmental Protection Agency’s research on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water, the Administrator shall—

(A) consider such reports to be Highly Influential Scientific Assessments and require peer review of such reports in accordance with guidelines governing such assessments, as described in—

(i) the Environmental Protection Agency’s Peer Review Handbook 3rd Edition;

(ii) the Environmental Protection Agency’s Scientific Integrity Policy, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) the Office of Management and Budget’s Peer Review Bulletin, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) require such reports to meet the standards and procedures for the dissemination of

influential scientific, financial, or statistical information set forth in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency, developed in response to guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget under section 515(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554).

(2) **PROBABILITY, UNCERTAINTY, AND CONSEQUENCE.**—In order to maximize the quality and utility of information developed through the study, the Administrator shall ensure that identification of the possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources included in such reports be accompanied by objective estimates of the probability, uncertainty, and consequence of each identified impact, taking into account the risk management practices of States and industry. Estimates or descriptions of probability, uncertainty, and consequence shall be as quantitative as possible given the validity, accuracy, precision, and other quality attributes of the underlying data and analyses, but no more quantitative than the data and analyses can support.

(3) **RELEASE OF FINAL REPORT.**—The final report shall be publicly released by September 30, 2016.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. REVIEW OF STATE ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary of the Interior shall annually review and report to Congress on all State activities relating to hydraulic fracturing.

SUBDIVISION E—PREVENTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND PROTECTING COAL MINING JOBS IN AMERICA

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subdivision may be cited as the “Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America”.

SEC. 2. INCORPORATION OF SURFACE MINING STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE INTO STATE PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 503 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **STREAM BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to the requirements under subsection (a), each State program shall incorporate the necessary rule regarding excess spoil, coal mine waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams published by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on December 12, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 75813 et seq.) which complies with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in view of the 2006 discussions between the Director of the Office of Surface Mining and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s consideration and review of comments submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service during the rulemaking process in 2007.

“(2) **STUDY OF IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall—

“(A) at such time as the Secretary determines all States referred to in subsection (a) have fully incorporated the necessary rule referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection into their State programs, publish notice of such determination;

“(B) during the 5-year period beginning on the date of such publication, assess the effectiveness of implementation of such rule by such States;

“(C) carry out all required consultation on the benefits and other impacts of the implementation of the rule to any threatened species or endangered species, with the participation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Geological Survey; and

“(D) upon the conclusion of such period, submit a comprehensive report on the impacts of such rule to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, including—

“(i) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such rule;

“(ii) an evaluation of any ways in which the existing rule inhibits energy production; and

“(iii) a description in detail of any proposed changes that should be made to the rule, the justification for such changes, all comments on such changes received by the Secretary from such States, and the projected costs and benefits of such changes.

“(3) **LIMITATION ON NEW REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may not issue any regulations under this Act relating to stream buffer zones or stream protection before the date of the publication of the report under paragraph (2), other than a rule necessary to implement paragraph (1).”.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR STATE IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, a State with a State program approved under section 503 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior amendments to such program pursuant to part 732 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, incorporating the necessary rule referred to in subsection (e)(1) of such section, as amended by this section.

DIVISION C—JUDICIARY

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2014” or as the “RAPID Act”.

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS FOR EFFICIENT DECISIONMAKING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 5 of part 1 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subchapter II the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IIA—INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REGARDING PERMITTING

“§ 560. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decisionmaking

“(a) **CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this subchapter is to establish a framework and procedures to streamline, increase the efficiency of, and enhance coordination of agency administration of the regulatory review, environmental decisionmaking, and permitting process for projects undertaken, reviewed, or funded by Federal agencies. This subchapter will ensure that agencies administer the regulatory process in a manner that is efficient so that citizens are not burdened with regulatory excuses and time delays.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subchapter, the term—

“(1) ‘agency’ means any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or Indian tribal government;

“(2) ‘category of projects’ means 2 or more projects related by project type, potential environmental impacts, geographic location, or another similar project feature or characteristic;

“(3) ‘environmental assessment’ means a concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible that serves to—

“(A) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact;

“(B) aid an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary; and

“(C) facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary;

“(4) ‘environmental impact statement’ means the detailed statement of significant environmental impacts required to be prepared under NEPA;

“(5) ‘environmental review’ means the Federal agency procedures for preparing an environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, categorical exclusion, or other document under NEPA;

“(6) ‘environmental decisionmaking process’ means the Federal agency procedures for undertaking and completion of any environmental permit, decision, approval, review, or study under any Federal law other than NEPA for a project subject to an environmental review;

“(7) ‘environmental document’ means an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, and includes any supplemental document or document prepared pursuant to a court order;

“(8) ‘finding of no significant impact’ means a document by a Federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why a project, not otherwise subject to a categorical exclusion, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement therefore will not be prepared;

“(9) ‘lead agency’ means the Federal agency preparing or responsible for preparing the environmental document;

“(10) ‘NEPA’ means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

“(11) ‘project’ means major Federal actions that are construction activities undertaken with Federal funds or that are construction activities that require approval by a permit or regulatory decision issued by a Federal agency;

“(12) ‘project sponsor’ means the agency or other entity, including any private or public-private entity, that seeks approval for a project or is otherwise responsible for undertaking a project; and

“(13) ‘record of decision’ means a document prepared by a lead agency under NEPA following an environmental impact statement that states the lead agency’s decision, identifies the alternatives considered by the agency in reaching its decision and states whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, and if not, why they were not adopted.

“(c) PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—Upon the request of the lead agency, the project sponsor shall be authorized to prepare any document for purposes of an environmental review required in support of any project or approval by the lead agency if the lead agency furnishes oversight in such preparation and independently evaluates such document and the document is approved and adopted by the lead agency prior to taking any action or making any approval based on such document.

“(d) ADOPTION AND USE OF DOCUMENTS.—

“(1) DOCUMENTS PREPARED UNDER NEPA.—

“(A) Not more than 1 environmental impact statement and 1 environmental assessment shall be prepared under NEPA for a project (except for supplemental environ-

mental documents prepared under NEPA or environmental documents prepared pursuant to a court order), and, except as otherwise provided by law, the lead agency shall prepare the environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. After the lead agency issues a record of decision, no Federal agency responsible for making any approval for that project may rely on a document other than the environmental document prepared by the lead agency.

“(B) Upon the request of a project sponsor, a lead agency may adopt, use, or rely upon secondary and cumulative impact analyses included in any environmental document prepared under NEPA for projects in the same geographic area where the secondary and cumulative impact analyses provide information and data that pertains to the NEPA decision for the project under review.

“(2) STATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS; SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS.—

“(A) Upon the request of a project sponsor, a lead agency may adopt a document that has been prepared for a project under State laws and procedures as the environmental impact statement or environmental assessment for the project, provided that the State laws and procedures under which the document was prepared provide environmental protection and opportunities for public involvement that are substantially equivalent to NEPA.

“(B) An environmental document adopted under subparagraph (A) is deemed to satisfy the lead agency’s obligation under NEPA to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

“(C) In the case of a document described in subparagraph (A), during the period after preparation of the document but before its adoption by the lead agency, the lead agency shall prepare and publish a supplement to that document if the lead agency determines that—

“(i) a significant change has been made to the project that is relevant for purposes of environmental review of the project; or

“(ii) there have been significant changes in circumstances or availability of information relevant to the environmental review for the project.

“(D) If the agency prepares and publishes a supplemental document under subparagraph (C), the lead agency may solicit comments from agencies and the public on the supplemental document for a period of not more than 45 days beginning on the date of the publication of the supplement.

“(E) A lead agency shall issue its record of decision or finding of no significant impact, as appropriate, based upon the document adopted under subparagraph (A), and any supplements thereto.

“(3) CONTEMPORANEOUS PROJECTS.—If the lead agency determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the project will have similar environmental impacts as a similar project in geographical proximity to the project, and that similar project was subject to environmental review or similar State procedures within the 5-year period immediately preceding the date that the lead agency makes that determination, the lead agency may adopt the environmental document that resulted from that environmental review or similar State procedure. The lead agency may adopt such an environmental document, if it is prepared under State laws and procedures only upon making a favorable determination on such environmental document pursuant to paragraph (2)(A).

“(e) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall be responsible for inviting and designating par-

ticipating agencies in accordance with this subsection. The lead agency shall provide the invitation or notice of the designation in writing.

“(2) FEDERAL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—Any Federal agency that is required to adopt the environmental document of the lead agency for a project shall be designated as a participating agency and shall collaborate on the preparation of the environmental document, unless the Federal agency informs the lead agency, in writing, by a time specified by the lead agency in the designation of the Federal agency that the Federal agency—

“(A) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;

“(B) has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and

“(C) does not intend to submit comments on the project.

“(3) INVITATION.—The lead agency shall identify, as early as practicable in the environmental review for a project, any agencies other than an agency described in paragraph (2) that may have an interest in the project, including, where appropriate, Governors of affected States, and heads of appropriate tribal and local (including county) governments, and shall invite such identified agencies and officials to become participating agencies in the environmental review for the project. The invitation shall set a deadline of 30 days for responses to be submitted, which may only be extended by the lead agency for good cause shown. Any agency that fails to respond prior to the deadline shall be deemed to have declined the invitation.

“(4) EFFECT OF DECLINING PARTICIPATING AGENCY INVITATION.—Any agency that declines a designation or invitation by the lead agency to be a participating agency shall be precluded from submitting comments on any document prepared under NEPA for that project or taking any measures to oppose, based on the environmental review, any permit, license, or approval related to that project.

“(5) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—Designation as a participating agency under this subsection does not imply that the participating agency—

“(A) supports a proposed project; or

“(B) has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise with respect to evaluation of, the project.

“(6) COOPERATING AGENCY.—A participating agency may also be designated by a lead agency as a ‘cooperating agency’ under the regulations contained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2011. Designation as a cooperating agency shall have no effect on designation as participating agency. No agency that is not a participating agency may be designated as a cooperating agency.

“(7) CONCURRENT REVIEWS.—Each Federal agency shall—

“(A) carry out obligations of the Federal agency under other applicable law concurrently and in conjunction with the review required under NEPA; and

“(B) in accordance with the rules made by the Council on Environmental Quality pursuant to subsection (n)(1), make and carry out such rules, policies, and procedures as may be reasonably necessary to enable the agency to ensure completion of the environmental review and environmental decision-making process in a timely, coordinated, and environmentally responsible manner.

“(8) COMMENTS.—Each participating agency shall limit its comments on a project to areas that are within the authority and expertise of such participating agency. Each

participating agency shall identify in such comments the statutory authority of the participating agency pertaining to the subject matter of its comments. The lead agency shall not act upon, respond to or include in any document prepared under NEPA, any comment submitted by a participating agency that concerns matters that are outside of the authority and expertise of the commenting participating agency.

“(f) PROJECT INITIATION REQUEST.—

“(1) NOTICE.—A project sponsor shall provide the Federal agency responsible for undertaking a project with notice of the initiation of the project by providing a description of the proposed project, the general location of the proposed project, and a statement of any Federal approvals anticipated to be necessary for the proposed project, for the purpose of informing the Federal agency that the environmental review should be initiated.

“(2) LEAD AGENCY INITIATION.—The agency receiving a project initiation notice under paragraph (1) shall promptly identify the lead agency for the project, and the lead agency shall initiate the environmental review within a period of 45 days after receiving the notice required by paragraph (1) by inviting or designating agencies to become participating agencies, or, where the lead agency determines that no participating agencies are required for the project, by taking such other actions that are reasonable and necessary to initiate the environmental review.

“(g) ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS.—

“(1) PARTICIPATION.—As early as practicable during the environmental review, but no later than during scoping for a project requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the lead agency shall provide an opportunity for involvement by cooperating agencies in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for a project.

“(2) RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.—Following participation under paragraph (1), the lead agency shall determine the range of alternatives for consideration in any document which the lead agency is responsible for preparing for the project, subject to the following limitations:

“(A) NO EVALUATION OF CERTAIN ALTERNATIVES.—No Federal agency shall evaluate any alternative that was identified but not carried forward for detailed evaluation in an environmental document or evaluated and not selected in any environmental document prepared under NEPA for the same project.

“(B) ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED.—Where a project is being constructed, managed, funded, or undertaken by a project sponsor that is not a Federal agency, Federal agencies shall only be required to evaluate alternatives that the project sponsor could feasibly undertake, consistent with the purpose of and the need for the project, including alternatives that can be undertaken by the project sponsor and that are technically and economically feasible.

“(3) METHODOLOGIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall determine, in collaboration with cooperating agencies at appropriate times during the environmental review, the methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the analysis of each alternative for a project. The lead agency shall include in the environmental document a description of the methodologies used and how the methodologies were selected.

“(B) NO EVALUATION OF INAPPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVES.—When a lead agency determines that an alternative does not meet the

purpose and need for a project, that alternative is not required to be evaluated in detail in an environmental document.

“(4) PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.—At the discretion of the lead agency, the preferred alternative for a project, after being identified, may be developed to a higher level of detail than other alternatives in order to facilitate the development of mitigation measures or concurrent compliance with other applicable laws if the lead agency determines that the development of such higher level of detail will not prevent the lead agency from making an impartial decision as to whether to accept another alternative which is being considered in the environmental review.

“(5) EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS.—The evaluation of each alternative in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment shall identify the potential effects of the alternative on employment, including potential short-term and long-term employment increases and reductions and shifts in employment.

“(h) COORDINATION AND SCHEDULING.—

“(1) COORDINATION PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall establish and implement a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in and comment on the environmental review for a project or category of projects to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental review.

“(B) SCHEDULE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall establish as part of the coordination plan for a project, after consultation with each participating agency and, where applicable, the project sponsor, a schedule for completion of the environmental review. The schedule shall include deadlines, consistent with subsection (i), for decisions under any other Federal laws (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license) relating to the project that is covered by the schedule.

“(ii) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the schedule, the lead agency shall consider factors such as—

“(I) the responsibilities of participating agencies under applicable laws;

“(II) resources available to the participating agencies;

“(III) overall size and complexity of the project;

“(IV) overall schedule for and cost of the project;

“(V) the sensitivity of the natural and historic resources that could be affected by the project; and

“(VI) the extent to which similar projects in geographic proximity were recently subject to environmental review or similar State procedures.

“(iii) COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE.—

“(I) All participating agencies shall comply with the time periods established in the schedule or with any modified time periods, where the lead agency modifies the schedule pursuant to subparagraph (D).

“(II) The lead agency shall disregard and shall not respond to or include in any document prepared under NEPA, any comment or information submitted or any finding made by a participating agency that is outside of the time period established in the schedule or modification pursuant to subparagraph (D) for that agency's comment, submission or finding.

“(III) If a participating agency fails to object in writing to a lead agency decision, finding or request for concurrence within the time period established under law or by the lead agency, the agency shall be deemed to have concurred in the decision, finding or request.

“(C) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER TIME PERIODS.—A schedule under subparagraph (B) shall be consistent with any other relevant time periods established under Federal law.

“(D) MODIFICATION.—The lead agency may—

“(i) lengthen a schedule established under subparagraph (B) for good cause; and

“(ii) shorten a schedule only with the concurrence of the cooperating agencies.

“(E) DISSEMINATION.—A copy of a schedule under subparagraph (B), and of any modifications to the schedule, shall be—

“(i) provided within 15 days of completion or modification of such schedule to all participating agencies and to the project sponsor; and

“(ii) made available to the public.

“(F) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LEAD AGENCY.—With respect to the environmental review for any project, the lead agency shall have authority and responsibility to take such actions as are necessary and proper, within the authority of the lead agency, to facilitate the expeditious resolution of the environmental review for the project.

“(i) DEADLINES.—The following deadlines shall apply to any project subject to review under NEPA and any decision under any Federal law relating to such project (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license or any required finding):

“(1) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DEADLINES.—The lead agency shall complete the environmental review within the following deadlines:

“(A) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECTS.—For projects requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement—

“(i) the lead agency shall issue an environmental impact statement within 2 years after the earlier of the date the lead agency receives the project initiation request or a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is published in the Federal Register; and

“(ii) in circumstances where the lead agency has prepared an environmental assessment and determined that an environmental impact statement will be required, the lead agency shall issue the environmental impact statement within 2 years after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register.

“(B) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS.—For projects requiring preparation of an environmental assessment, the lead agency shall issue a finding of no significant impact or publish a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register within 1 year after the earlier of the date the lead agency receives the project initiation request, makes a decision to prepare an environmental assessment, or sends out participating agency invitations.

“(2) EXTENSIONS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS.—The environmental review deadlines may be extended only if—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The environmental review shall not be extended by more than 1 year for a project requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement or by more than 180 days for a project requiring preparation of an environmental assessment.

“(3) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMENTS.—

“(A) COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—For comments by agencies and the public on a draft environmental

impact statement, the lead agency shall establish a comment period of not more than 60 days after publication in the Federal Register of notice of the date of public availability of such document, unless—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(B) OTHER COMMENTS.—For all other comment periods for agency or public comments in the environmental review process, the lead agency shall establish a comment period of not more than 30 days from availability of the materials on which comment is requested, unless—

“(i) a different deadline is established by agreement of the lead agency, the project sponsor, and all participating agencies; or

“(ii) the deadline is extended by the lead agency for good cause.

“(4) DEADLINES FOR DECISIONS UNDER OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case in which a decision under any other Federal law relating to the undertaking of a project being reviewed under NEPA (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license) is required to be made, the following deadlines shall apply:

“(A) DECISIONS PRIOR TO RECORD OF DECISION OR FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—If a Federal agency is required to approve, or otherwise to act upon, a permit, license, or other similar application for approval related to a project prior to the record of decision or finding of no significant impact, such Federal agency shall approve or otherwise act not later than the end of a 90-day period beginning—

“(i) after all other relevant agency review related to the project is complete; and

“(ii) after the lead agency publishes a notice of the availability of the final environmental impact statement or issuance of other final environmental documents, or no later than such other date that is otherwise required by law, whichever event occurs first.

“(B) OTHER DECISIONS.—With regard to any approval or other action related to a project by a Federal agency that is not subject to subparagraph (A), each Federal agency shall approve or otherwise act not later than the end of a period of 180 days beginning—

“(i) after all other relevant agency review related to the project is complete; and

“(ii) after the lead agency issues the record of decision or finding of no significant impact, unless a different deadline is established by agreement of the Federal agency, lead agency, and the project sponsor, where applicable, or the deadline is extended by the Federal agency for good cause, provided that such extension shall not extend beyond a period that is 1 year after the lead agency issues the record of decision or finding of no significant impact.

“(C) FAILURE TO ACT.—In the event that any Federal agency fails to approve, or otherwise to act upon, a permit, license, or other similar application for approval related to a project within the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A) or (B), the permit, license, or other similar application shall be deemed approved by such agency and the agency shall take action in accordance with such approval within 30 days of the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

“(D) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—Any approval under subparagraph (C) is deemed to be final agency action, and may not be reversed by any agency. In any action under chapter 7

seeking review of such a final agency action, the court may not set aside such agency action by reason of that agency action having occurred under this paragraph.

“(J) ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.—

“(1) COOPERATION.—The lead agency and the participating agencies shall work cooperatively in accordance with this section to identify and resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review or could result in denial of any approvals required for the project under applicable laws.

“(2) LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The lead agency shall make information available to the participating agencies as early as practicable in the environmental review regarding the environmental, historic, and socioeconomic resources located within the project area and the general locations of the alternatives under consideration. Such information may be based on existing data sources, including geographic information systems mapping.

“(3) PARTICIPATING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Based on information received from the lead agency, participating agencies shall identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental, historic, or socioeconomic impacts. In this paragraph, issues of concern include any issues that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

“(4) ISSUE RESOLUTION.—

“(A) MEETING OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—At any time upon request of a project sponsor, the lead agency shall promptly convene a meeting with the relevant participating agencies and the project sponsor, to resolve issues that could delay completion of the environmental review or could result in denial of any approvals required for the project under applicable laws.

“(B) NOTICE THAT RESOLUTION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED.—If a resolution cannot be achieved within 30 days following such a meeting and a determination by the lead agency that all information necessary to resolve the issue has been obtained, the lead agency shall notify the heads of all participating agencies, the project sponsor, and the Council on Environmental Quality for further proceedings in accordance with section 204 of NEPA, and shall publish such notification in the Federal Register.

“(K) LIMITATION ON USE OF SOCIAL COST OF CARBON.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any environmental review or environmental decision-making process, a lead agency may not use the social cost of carbon.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘social cost of carbon’ means the social cost of carbon as described in the technical support document entitled ‘Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order No. 12866’, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in May 2013, revised in November 2013, or any successor thereto or substantially related document, or any other estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon dioxide emissions in a given year.

“(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of each Federal agency shall report annually to Congress—

“(1) the projects for which the agency initiated preparation of an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment;

“(2) the projects for which the agency issued a record of decision or finding of no significant impact and the length of time it took the agency to complete the environmental review for each such project;

“(3) the filing of any lawsuits against the agency seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by the agency for an action subject to NEPA, including the date the complaint was filed, the court in which the complaint was filed, and a summary of the claims for which judicial review was sought; and

“(4) the resolution of any lawsuits against the agency that sought judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by the agency for an action subject to NEPA.

“(m) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by a Federal agency for an action subject to NEPA shall be barred unless—

“(A) in the case of a claim pertaining to a project for which an environmental review was conducted and an opportunity for comment was provided, the claim is filed by a party that submitted a comment during the environmental review on the issue on which the party seeks judicial review, and such comment was sufficiently detailed to put the lead agency on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks judicial review; and

“(B) filed within 180 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which the agency action is taken, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed.

“(2) NEW INFORMATION.—The preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement, when required, is deemed a separate final agency action and the deadline for filing a claim for judicial review of such action shall be 180 days after the date of publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing the record of decision for such action. Any claim challenging agency action on the basis of information in a supplemental environmental impact statement shall be limited to challenges on the basis of that information.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create a right to judicial review or place any limit on filing a claim that a person has violated the terms of a permit, license, or approval.

“(n) CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS.—The authorities granted under this subchapter may be exercised for an individual project or a category of projects.

“(o) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this subchapter shall apply only to environmental reviews and environmental decisionmaking processes initiated after the date of enactment of this subchapter. In the case of a project for which an environmental review or environmental decisionmaking process was initiated prior to the date of enactment of this subchapter, the provisions of subsection (i) shall apply, except that, notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in determining a deadline under such subsection, any applicable period of time shall be calculated as beginning from the date of enactment of this subchapter.

“(p) APPLICABILITY.—Except as provided in subsection (p), this subchapter applies, according to the provisions thereof, to all projects for which a Federal agency is required to undertake an environmental review or make a decision under an environmental law for a project for which a Federal

agency is undertaking an environmental review.

“(q) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede, amend, or modify sections 134, 135, 139, 325, 326, and 327 of title 23, sections 5303 and 5304 of title 49, or subtitle C of title I of division A of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act and the amendments made by such subtitle (Public Law 112-141).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the items relating to subchapter II the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IIA—INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REGARDING PERMITTING

“560. Coordination of agency administrative operations for efficient decisionmaking.”.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this division, the Council on Environmental Quality shall amend the regulations contained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to implement the provisions of this division and the amendments made by this division, and shall by rule designate States with laws and procedures that satisfy the criteria under section 560(d)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date that the Council on Environmental Quality amends the regulations contained in part 1500 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to implement the provisions of this division and the amendments made by this division, each Federal agency with regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall amend such regulations to implement the provisions of this division.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

□ 1530

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here on the House floor, only a few hundred yards away from the Senate, and it feels as if we are worlds apart. In the House, we are listening to the American people who are telling us that it is time to expand American energy production.

Hardworking Americans know how important energy is in their lives. They need it to commute to and from work. It fuels the buses that take our kids to school. It powers the businesses on Main Street.

It provides jobs and improves the livelihoods of millions of Americans who are struggling to make ends meet in President Obama's economy; and, Mr. Speaker, Sunday, it will power the Jumbotron at CenturyLink Field in Seattle as the Seahawks take on the Broncos.

Unfortunately, on the other side of the Capitol, these calls to expand American energy production are falling on deaf ears. The House has passed dozens of energy bills, including a number from the House Natural Resources Committee, on which the Senate has failed to act. By doing so, they are standing in the way of American job creation, affordable energy, and increased national security.

H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act, would protect and expand American energy production by removing this administration's roadblocks and preventing unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

Mr. Speaker, since President Obama took office, total Federal offshore oil production has dropped 13 percent, Federal offshore natural gas production has dropped by nearly one-half, and the Obama administration has placed over 85 percent of America's offshore acreage off limits.

Onshore, Mr. Speaker, it is the same story. This administration has had the 4 lowest years of Federal acres leased for onshore energy production going back to 1988. It has also pledged to impose a duplicative layer of red tape on hydraulic fracturing, which would only hurt American job creation.

The Obama administration has also waged a war on coal and on coal jobs. Coal is a reliable and affordable energy resource that provides 30 percent of America's electricity and supports millions of American jobs.

Unfortunately, with one proposed regulation by the Obama administration, those jobs could disappear. Their rewrite of the stream buffer zone rule could cost 7,000 coal jobs and cause economic harm in 22 States.

But there is good news, and the good news are the provisions in these bills. These provisions are a direct response to the Obama administration's actions that have locked up our energy resources. The bill would end the regulatory delays blocking the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

After nearly 6 years of review, this is a commonsense solution that would eliminate the need for a Presidential permit, addresses all other necessary Federal permits, and limit litigation that would delay the project.

The bill would also expand offshore energy production. It would require this administration to responsibly move forward with new offshore energy production in areas that contain the most oil and natural gas resources. What a novel idea, going where the

product is, and those areas include areas off the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts.

It also requires the administration to hold oil and natural gas lease sales that have been delayed or canceled, such as offshore of Virginia. This expanded offshore production would generate over \$1 billion in new revenue to the Federal Treasury and create up to 1.2 millions of jobs long-term.

Mr. Speaker, the bill would expand onshore energy production. It would reform the leasing and permitting process to remove unnecessary delays, set clear rules for the development of U.S. oil shale resources, and establish Internet-based auctions for leases. It would also help foster expanded energy production on tribal lands.

The bill would stop the Federal Government from imposing duplicative Federal hydraulic regulations and prevent it from implementing job-destroying coal regulations. It would help protect consumers from EPA regulations that could destroy jobs and increase energy costs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill would expand production of clean, renewable hydropower by removing outdated barriers and streamlining the regulatory process. It would authorize hydropower development at existing manmade water canals and pipes at 12 Bureau of Reclamation projects.

Mr. Speaker, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act is a commonsense action plan to create over 1 million new American jobs and provide relief to hardworking Americans who are feeling the squeeze of higher gasoline and electricity prices. It would strengthen our economy and—probably more importantly in this unsettled world—increase America's energy security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would start out by saying this feels like Groundhog Day, but I have already done that when we brought up these same bills multiple times in the past. I could start, as I did the last time we considered this package of bills, by reading a statement from the last time we debated these bills and then pretend to get angry at my staff because they gave me a statement that is 8 months old, but I made that point the last time we debated this energy package on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed nearly all the provisions in this bill at least two times. Now, I think most Americans still remember high school civics. The House passes a bill; they send it to the Senate.

The Senate either takes it up or not; and, if they do, then we work out our

differences in conference committee and send it to the President for signature. We just keep sending the same bills over to the Senate under the premise that, somehow, they will do something because it has been sent multiples times from the House. It hasn't worked in the past, and it won't work in the future.

This package really also ignores reality. We are producing more natural gas than we ever have and more oil than in over 25 years. We are projected to be the number one oil producer in the world in the next few years.

Meanwhile, thanks to a worldwide glut of oil, gas prices are going down. They are the lowest they have been this time of year since 2010, except perhaps in my State, where we are getting price-gouged because we don't have a refinery.

If Republicans really cared about keeping gas prices down for American consumers, maybe they would take a serious look at the fact that we are exporting 1.6 million barrels of gasoline and diesel every day. There is no shortage.

We are exporting 1.6 million barrels a day; yet truckers are paying extraordinarily high diesel prices because we are exporting more and more diesel and saying, "Well, you have got to pay the same price they are going to pay in Europe."

Mr. Speaker, inside the Beltway here, we don't really deal with facts and statistics very much; so, today, we will take up and pass the same tired legislation for the second, third, or fourth time so any Republican Members who happen to be in a tough race can claim that they have been productive on this issue.

This is just an opportunity to check the energy box again and again so you can try to get voters to check the box for the so-called energy experts on the ballot, but we are not legislating; instead, we are wasting time and taxpayer money to put on a rerun show. If you are going to do a rerun show, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, then I am going to do the same.

Every time we have come to the floor to debate another legislative fish wrap this summer, I have brought up the same issue, Western wildfires.

Now, this poster shows Weed, California—or what is left of it. A wildfire destroyed half the town and over 150 homes. In my home State, a major fire is burning 10 miles away from the town of Estacada, threatening over 150 homes, forcing evacuations, and forcing the Governor to use the State's conflagration act to mobilize emergency resources.

In the West, there are over 50 active fires burning, one in the Willamette Forest outside of Eugene and Springfield. It is costing \$1 million a day with attempts to keep it from running toward a town. Two days ago, the Forest

Service said they have \$179 million left for suppression.

Last week alone, they spent \$150 million on suppression efforts. That means, next week, while we are out of session, they will run out of money, and they will do what they always do: they will start pulling back money from the fuel reduction, forest health, and other programs to fight the fires.

You can't stop fighting the fires. These fires are enormous, unnatural, and unprecedented in many ways. On top of that, we have a drought which might or might not have to do with climate change, which the other side of the aisle doesn't believe in, but, nonetheless, they are a fact.

Now, it doesn't have to be this way. We could do something real. We have the rarest thing in Washington, D.C.—a bipartisan—that means Democrats and Republicans are on a bill, 52 House Members, including myself, 52 Republicans on a bill—bicameral—similar bill, same bill in the Senate—supported by Democrats and Republicans, and, lo and behold, it is a bill supported by President Obama.

Maybe that is why they won't even hold a hearing on it or move it—because the President supports it—despite the fact that it would deal with a very real problem.

We aren't investing enough money in a regular fashion to get ahead of the fire problem in the West and to do the fuel reduction and the forest health we need. The agencies don't have enough in their budgets, and, every year, in fact, they overspend their firefighting budgets, and they have to cancel projects and other needed activities.

There has been no hearing on the bill. We can't find time to hold a hearing on a bill that has to do with wildfires that are burning up the West. We can't find the time; instead, we are going to pass these bills for the second, third, fourth, fifth, or sixth time. We can't find the time. We are too busy here pretending.

We have 196 Democrats who have signed a petition to overrule the Republican leadership and bring that bill to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Fifty-two Republicans are cosponsors of that bill.

Many of them have active fires burning in their districts; and will they defy their leadership and do something that is needed for Americans in the Western United States, needed for our natural resources, and needed to prevent these towns from burning down? No. They can't do that. They will not sign the petition.

So here we are. Western communities are burning. You can pretty much step outside the door and smell the smoke from here. We have a potential solution to get ahead of this problem in the future and deal better with it, but, instead, we are wasting time here today passing, yet again, bills that have al-

ready been passed and have already been sent to the Senate, but we will send them over to the Senate again, and they can put them on the same stack of paper.

If you look at these pictures, we are wasting the second-to-last day—well, now, it is the last day, actually—on repeat because we have to get home for elections.

I mean, we don't need to pass the budget for the year, the appropriations bills. We don't need to take more meaningful consideration of what we are getting into in the Middle East and spend more time on it, and we can't certainly find any time to deal with the wildfire issue. Let's just pretend.

Yet, again, you get to check a pointless box, and I don't think the American people are going to be fooled.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), my colleague from Oregon, across the Columbia River from my district.

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee who has been most helpful in our endeavors in the West on the issues of private property, water rights, improving the health of our forest, and diminishing wildfires through active forest management.

I want to thank him again for his legislation and one that a number of us have shared in helping draft, H.R. 1526, which has been part of our jobs package that we are again sending over to the Senate because they have done nothing in the area of improving forest health and management and stopping these horrible wildfires that we are all trying to deal with—because they are much more than just a budgeting issue, although that is important, it really is about how do you get ahead of these fires, have active management, generate revenues, and generate jobs.

Mr. Speaker, another bill that we are taking up again in the House is one that actually has passed twice in this House unanimously—unanimously—in the last couple of years.

This will be the third time in less than 3 years we have acted. Why are we doing that? Because, at some point, we hope to wake up the Senate to where they actually will take up this issue and pass it because it means jobs for Crook County, which has a very high unemployment rate and a very high poverty rate.

It means better water quality for fish because we changed a designation on a dam that will allow the water to come out in a better way by adding renewable, carbon friendly hydropower to be generated off this dam. It would create 50 jobs over 2 years when they do the hydro piece. The water will come out better, and it will be better for the fish.

The city of Prineville—you talk about drought—the city of Prineville has several hundred residents who cannot access city water because they don't have enough of it.

This legislation will free up 5,100 acre feet of water that will take care of the city of Prineville for some time to come and allow them to actually take care of their citizens with city water. They will pump it out downstream, and water will stay instream for—I think it is something like 20 miles upriver from Bowman Dam.

There is 80,000 acre feet of water sitting unallocated in this reservoir. We take 5,100 acre feet of it. The city is going to pay the appropriate price so there is no cost to the Treasury. It will serve 500 homes, and we have got a bunch of data centers that have come up in Prineville.

They need to make sure they have access to water for cooling. Apple and Facebook and a couple of others need access to this, and all we do is fix an errant boundary decision made many years ago that laid down the boundary of wild and scenic right across the top of the dam.

Now, there is nothing wild or scenic about a dam unless you are falling off the face of it. It was temporary, and that has been decades ago. This moves it a quarter mile downstream.

□ 1545

Beyond that, there are benefits for Ochoco Irrigation District farmers to ensure they will continue to operate their family farms for generations to come. We make sure there is enough water behind the dam for flat water recreation and fishing, which is an important part of the economy there. And we worked with the tribes and others to expedite the McKay Creek restoration project, which will result in increased water flows for redband trout and summer steelhead, a project long supported by the Warm Springs Tribe and the Deschutes River Conservancy.

Just like other bills in this package, this is a good, commonsense piece of legislation. It has achieved overwhelming—in fact, in the House, unanimous—support.

We look forward to working with the Senate, but it is hard to dance with yourself. It is just no fun. So we need a dance partner over in the Senate that will come to the table so we can take this year of work, pull it together in a package that can finally get to the President's desk.

I don't know what else you do. You try again. You never quit trying. And that is what this package of bills is all about. One more time before we leave town, trying to create jobs in America, do the right thing for the environment, and take care of problems at home, that is what this is about.

We hope the Senate will finally take a look at these bills in a meaningful

and thoughtful way and be able to come to the table with terms and work these things out.

So I commend the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee for all his work over the years, but especially for the work he and I have done together to improve forest health, improve forest jobs, improve water quality, take care of these issues that are so important to the rural West.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oregon for yielding as well as for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, once again, as we stand on the brink of a 7-week recess, we are here in this Chamber considering a package of warmed-over bills that will be dead on arrival when it reaches the Senate. It is an empty legislative vessel that has no meaningful port of destination. We are on a joyride that is going to waste the time and treasure of the American people.

That is not to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the House majority hasn't been busy during the 113th Congress. This majority has been busy unleashing a parade of horrors on the American people.

The House majority, Mr. Speaker, began by bringing to the American people sequestration, tens of billions of dollars of painful cuts to important domestic programs that will adversely impact the American people.

This House majority, Mr. Speaker, has been busy bringing us a 16-day reckless government shutdown, costing the American people \$24 billion in lost economic productivity.

Mr. Speaker, this House majority has been busy engaging in a serial flirtation with defaulting on our debt, threatening the full faith and credit of the United States of America, resulting in an increase in interest rates.

This House majority, Mr. Speaker, has been busy enacting a reckless Republican budget: \$137 billion in cuts to nutritional assistance to the American people, many of whom have gone hungry; \$260 billion in cuts to higher education; \$732 billion in cuts to Medicaid—enacted by this House majority in a reckless Republican budget.

We failed to enact a minimum-wage increase despite the fact that you have got working families living in poverty while going to work each and every day.

We failed to enact comprehensive immigration reform, fixing a broken immigration system, giving life to the American Dream for those who are otherwise now living in the shadows.

We have failed to invest in transportation and infrastructure.

We failed to renew unemployment insurance, leaving millions of Americans on the battlefield of the Great Recession.

What are we doing here on the final day?

I would just ask the American people to ponder this question: What grade should you give the House majority during the 113th Congress?

I would suggest, humbly, there are only two options: D for “disaster” and F for “failure.”

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, DOC HASTINGS, I really appreciate your leadership on energy issues and natural resources issues. It has just been incredibly important to our Congress.

I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me to bring this package here today because this is a commonsense energy approach that grows our economy, creates jobs, and ensures our energy is affordable and reliable.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, most of these, or all of them, have already been voted on at some point in time over the last couple years. It is important that we continue to push the Senate into taking up these energy bills so we can expand our economy and grow the jobs.

Too many of the rules and regulations coming out of this administration are making energy more costly and less reliable to the consumers. This is the point of this bill. The House continues to do our job with legislation, but the Senate continues to block it. I am not going to stand idly by and keep allowing that to happen.

This approach puts together bills that allow us to build up our infrastructure of abundance, streamlines permitting processes, Mr. Speaker, and provides commonsense guidance to the EPA rulemakers, all of which provides reliability and affordability for our consumers, which is an inherent cornerstone to economic success.

So what does this bill do?

It allows the United States to take advantage of the fact that we are incredibly close to being self-sufficient, no longer reliant on those outside of North America. This bill approves the Keystone pipeline, which was filed, originally, 6 years ago tomorrow. But yet 22,000 pages of studies have been completed that show that this pipeline does not pose an environmental risk to land or aquifer and will actually reduce CO₂ emissions compared to not allowing the pipeline.

Recently, Larry Summers, President Obama's former senior economic adviser, was quoted as saying: “I am very much aware of the toll that the Keystone pipeline issue has taken on the relations with a crucial U.S. ally, Canada.”

So it is even straining our relationship with our good friend Canada.

This bill also removes Federal barriers to offshore energy production, enhances onshore production by removing red tape and making sure that any regulations are reasonable.

This bill will expedite LNG exportation to our allies, allowing us to maintain a strong, strategic position in the world.

This bill will modernize the permit process for natural gas pipelines. This is important as we use more natural gas for manufacturing, electrical production, and as a transportation fuel.

There is an abundant supply of natural gas here in North America and it has been proven to be cheaper and cleaner, but I believe it is greatly underutilized. We need to make natural gas a priority, which this bill does.

Our country is blessed to have these abundant natural resources. We must do everything in our power to make sure that our policies support resource development and minimize the red tape that strangles our job creators.

I am proud to lead this effort in support of lower cost energy and more American jobs. With these policies, we can make real progress towards reducing prices at the pump and protecting families.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2. Here we are, the next day after we passed bipartisan legislation with a majority on both sides, and now today we come up with H.R. 2, which has a combination of bills that this House has already considered.

And what, we are here the last day of voting, the day before we go home to campaign, passing a bill that has zero chance of becoming law.

H.R. 2 is an affront to the bipartisan work we have done in the Energy and Commerce Committee. Over the past year, the members of our committee have worked together to craft legislation that would support the dramatic energy renaissance our country is experiencing. Unfortunately, H.R. 2 that we are considering today is not reflective of this hard work, some of the compromises we did.

Instead of working to improve the decisionmaking made by Federal agencies, H.R. 2 seeks to eliminate Federal authority.

Instead of expediting export permits, H.R. 2 opens the door to sending U.S. gas to countries that are not even our friends.

Instead of respecting the balance we worked so hard to establish between the States and the Federal Government, H.R. 2 rescinds all the authority for our government in State affairs.

It is my hope that we would stop wasting time on these bills that have no bipartisan support and work together to pass legislation in a bipartisan fashion.

We actually have addressed a number of these bills already on this House floor. Everyone, Democrat or Republican, has acknowledged that the en-

ergy sector has common ground. We may not always agree on what fuel mix we have or how to best serve our country, but we can agree that the energy sector is vital to our economy and our independence.

The bills included in H.R. 2 include bills I have cosponsored and worked hard to craft with my Republican and Democratic colleagues. It is disappointing that our leadership would use this window of opportunity to pass bills that harm our environment, create uncertainty in our economy, and ultimately delay job growth and energy development.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we work across party lines to draft legislation that solves the problems of the American people and American industry. We work to ensure that the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, is promulgating rules that make not only economic sense, but, as well, environmental sense. We work to support our natural resources sector and send American gas and refined products overseas to benefit our U.S. economy and balance of trade.

All of these things will garner bipartisan support and establish the U.S. and North America as the world energy leader. But this H.R. 2 takes away all that we have worked for for almost 2 years, and that is why I oppose H.R. 2.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), the subcommittee chairman on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the chairman for recognizing me and for his contribution to energy and other policies of our country over many years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.

I am pleased that this package of energy legislation includes legislation I introduced and that has previously passed the House, H.R. 1965, the Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act.

H.R. 2 will help ensure the successful production of onshore and offshore energy and provides the regulatory certainty energy producers need to produce American-made energy. This creates American jobs, increases revenues to State and local governments, and promotes economic development across the economy.

H.R. 2 promotes an all-of-the-above energy strategy, streamlining regulations and expediting the production of both conventional and renewable energy. It will ensure that the Bureau of Land Management has the resources they need to expeditiously process permits for all energy projects on Federal land.

□ 1600

The Obama administration has made energy production on Federal land so

burdensome and so uncertain that conventional and renewable energy producers are avoiding Federal lands in favor of State and private lands. That is where permits are approved in a timely fashion and are not subject to burdensome and obstructionist lawsuits, and projects can move forward in a stable environment.

In my home State of Colorado, a permit for an energy project can be approved in 27 days for State land projects. For a project on Federal land in Colorado, the Obama administration takes nearly a year to approve the same permit. This delay in approvals not only delays energy production, it delays job creation and revenues to State and local governments.

Energy producers should not have to choose between whether to produce energy on Federal versus State land just because of permit timelines, lawsuits, and regulations.

This legislation injects much-needed certainty into every step of the energy production process. It will ensure timely permit approvals, allow Bureau of Land Management field offices to have the resources they need for energy permits, open up offshore areas for energy production, and ensures that our Nation has a plan for our future energy needs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of this critical legislation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from California has 47½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 44 minutes remaining.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend and our leader from California for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

So this is the last day we are in session until after the elections. But rather than consider substantive legislation today—or really at any point in this session—that would have extended long-term unemployment benefits, or simplify the Tax Code, or reform our immigration system, or extend expiring tax provisions, or lower foreign trade barriers with new trade authority, or invest in our Nation's deteriorating public infrastructure, we are going home.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on of what we could and should be doing. But we are wasting what limited floor time remains debating a compilation of bad anti-environmental legislative proposals that this Chamber has already passed.

These bills will not be considered by the Senate, and they are bills that the

President has already expressed his intention of vetoing if they were to get through the Senate.

It is disappointing, but it is not surprising.

With the vote on this bill, this Chamber will have voted 218 times just this session to weaken existing laws that protect our health and our environment; 58 times this session we voted to block action on climate change; 43 times to weaken the Clean Air Act; and 75 times to weaken the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, more oil is being produced now during the Obama administration than at any point in the previous 25 years. Our dependence on foreign sources of oil is at a record low. Gasoline prices are actually stabilizing or in decline in many parts of the country.

But with this bill, we will be waiving environmental reviews and advancing more drilling in areas that pose potential harm to the environment and to other American jobs and industries, such as the tourist industry, the fishing industry, and many other industries that don't seem to be given equal weight but are certainly equally or more important than the industries that we are trying against all odds to protect.

Mr. Speaker, the climate is warming. The only place where a majority of the American people are in denial is here in this Chamber.

I have seen a poll that shows that 53 percent of all self-identified Republicans under the age of 34 think politicians who deny climate change are either—and I am quoting here; obviously, these would not be my words, but I am quoting—either “ignorant,” “out of touch,” or “crazy.”

So I will let the majority of young Republicans have the last word, Mr. Speaker. But the point is, I oppose this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well by voting “no.”

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2 is a practical bill that would lower costs for energy, create over 1 million long-term jobs, improve our energy security, and substantially reduce redtape.

This is exactly the type of bipartisan legislation Congress should be passing to revitalize our economy and create jobs.

According to an April 2014 report issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the average wait time for an environmental impact study in 2012 was running 4.6 years. This is the highest average since 1997 and includes projects with wait times of 10 to 20 years.

The World Bank and International Finance Corporation's recent Ease of Doing Business index embarrassingly

ranked the U.S. 34th in the world in the category of “dealing with construction permits.”

This is no longer a political game. This is costing the United States real dollars and good-paying jobs.

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency and other regulatory bodies are filing numerous claims to deny and delay companies from receiving permits for as long as 10 to 15 years just to break ground.

At a time when our economy is lagging and job creation is moving at a very slow pace, this is an outrage. The RAPID Act would set hard deadlines for agencies to approve or deny permits. The RAPID Act would also crack down on prolonged lawsuits, creating a window of 180 days for any claim challenging a permit decision.

This bill would also substantially streamline the process by empowering lead agencies to manage environmental reviews efficiently from start to finish to avoid waste and duplication of efforts among the bureaucratic agencies.

Mr. Speaker, simply because the leader of the Democratic Senate, HARRY REID, will not allow over 260 bills to go to the floor doesn't mean that we should refrain from continuing to do our job here. My constituents back home deserve this legislation and America needs this legislation, and we will continue to fight on a daily basis to make sure that we improve the economy and create jobs.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs), my colleague and good friend.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

H.R. 2 is yet another example of the majority's backward energy policy, which doubles-down on dirty fossil fuels instead of investing in a clean energy future. I strongly oppose it. While fossil fuels will undoubtedly be a significant part of our energy mix for years to come, they are really only one piece of a very large energy puzzle.

So rather than focusing on dead-end, shortsighted policies like these, we should be considering comprehensive energy legislation that looks at the big picture. We should be investing in cutting edge research, high-tech innovation, and new clean energy technologies. We should be increasing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric grid, and promoting sustainable energy. And we should be taking action to reduce toxic greenhouse gas emissions and finally embrace the overwhelming science of climate change.

Not only does H.R. 2 do nothing to address the serious environmental problems we face, it also creates new ones. H.R. 2 overrides the expressed will of voters in my congressional district and many other communities throughout the Nation by recklessly expanding offshore oil drilling.

We have seen time and time again the devastating environmental and economic threats posed by offshore oil drilling. That is why voters in my congressional district and California have repeatedly rejected new offshore drilling. Yet this bill ignores these wishes and explicitly requires new oil drilling off the central coast of California and in other areas.

I find it ironic that the same majority that decries “an overreaching Federal Government” seems to have no qualms about forcing new drilling upon local populations against their expressed wishes.

I have submitted several amendments to the Rules Committee to address this in this legislation and other problems with this bill, but none of them were made in order. In fact, the majority has prohibited consideration of any and all amendments. No debate, no votes.

And if these weren't enough reasons to oppose H.R. 2, the bill is also completely unnecessary because the House has already passed every single provision included in this bill.

H.R. 2 is nothing more than 13 previously passed bills stapled together with a new bill number on the top.

Even worse, this is the third time this Congress, and the fifth time in 4 years, that we are voting on the exact same offshore drilling expansion legislation.

Stapling old bills together doesn't make this a new idea.

One would think that after nearly 4 years in control of this House the majority would have come up with some new ideas by now. But sadly they just found a bigger staple machine.

H.R. 2 is simply a political gimmick and a waste of taxpayer time and money. This is no way to legislate.

Mr. Speaker, the American people expect better from us. They expect us to find common ground and work together across party lines to solve our Nation's problems. And there is certainly no shortage of problems we could be working on right now: strengthening our economy, raising the minimum wage, passing comprehensive immigration reform, making college more affordable, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure. And that list does not even include the multitude of energy challenges that this bill completely ignores.

This is what the American people are calling for. They are calling on Congress to stop the political gimmicks, they are calling on us to help create middle class jobs to support working families, and they are calling on us to get to work and build a more prosperous and sustainable energy future for our Nation.

H.R. 2 accomplishes none of these things. This bill is simply harmful energy policy and an embarrassing waste of time.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and join us in working toward a clean, more sustainable, energy future for the American people.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Nebraska, Mr. TERRY, Chairman UPTON, and Chairman HASTINGS for incorporating important provisions that I have worked on in this bill, specifically provisions that would prevent or roll back onerous EPA regulations and provisions that would greatly increase revenue sharing among gulf States, adding billions to Louisiana's coastal restoration effort to build hurricane protection to protect not just our State but energy infrastructure.

Now, we have passed these bills before, sometimes three times before, and there are over 40 jobs bills this Chamber has passed that have gone nowhere in the Senate. The bills sit on Majority Leader HARRY REID's desk. Senator REID and his colleagues like to speak of helping the middle class, but when it comes to a jobs bill they talk and we act.

Now, Louisiana and Louisiana's workers are greatly benefitting from America's energy renaissance. There are over 66 industrial projects—worth some \$90 billion—that will break ground over the next 5 years in Louisiana, creating tens of thousands of new jobs for working Americans.

The only thing that can stop these jobs is Federal regulation. For example, some proposed EPA rules would destroy 117,000 jobs in Louisiana alone. Sometimes I think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are so busy saving the Earth they will sacrifice the American family. My, my, I think we save the Earth by first saving the family.

We should be rolling out the red carpet for these jobs, not the red tape. But already the red tape has made these jobs more difficult and life more difficult for these families.

We have seen the price of utilities, gasoline, groceries, and, of course, health insurance increased under President Obama's administration.

□ 1615

Hardworking families are struggling. They pray for better jobs with better benefits. Fortunately, the energy industry is creating these jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CASSIDY. These jobs are at risk when President Obama blocked the ability to construct pipeline infrastructure or blocked exploration and production off the Outer Continental

Shelf or places hurdles in front of the exportation of liquefied natural gas and when EPA proposes job-killing regulations driving blue-collar jobs to foreign countries.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I urge the Senate to pass the dozens of job-producing bills this House has passed and that have been stalled at the majority leader's desk for months.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is yet another exercise that explains why the public has such a low opinion of Congress.

We have considered this package of bills before. The Senate will not take it up. The President and administration would not approve it. We are wasting valuable time on our last day in session before the lameduck period.

This bill delivers more benefits to big fossil fuel and mining interests. It would allow them to extract fossil fuels and minerals from our coastlines and public lands with no serious consideration of public health, the environment, or of the many other business interests that rely on a clean, healthy environment to support their continued success.

Our Nation has real challenges. We need faster, broader job growth in all regions of our country and in all sectors of our economy. We need a national energy policy that provides more energy security through efficiency and expanded use of renewable energy resources.

We need an energy policy that recognizes and deals with the challenges of climate change. We need a thoughtful path forward that enables a transition to the energy sector of the future that brings workers and communities into this new model productively and profitably.

We need to invest in our transportation and water infrastructure—infrastructure that is in need of repair, in need of rebuilding, and in need of redesign—to meet our needs into the future. The financing structure in place today and the Federal resources being devoted to these essential systems is outdated and inadequate.

We need to do more to address the lingering problems from the financial debacle that crashed the economy in 2007. Too many of our citizens are still struggling under heavy debt loads as a result of the housing bubble, the stagnant wages, student loans, unemployment, and underemployment.

Our Tax Code needs revision to spur business investment, to bring down the deficit, and to make the Code fair for all taxpayers. We need to invest in research and development, the lifeblood of innovation and progress; instead,

this legislation proposes to provide more to a sector of the economy that is already thriving.

Oil and gas production are at record levels, as are the profits of these industries. This bill continues the same old energy policy that we have been following for decades and ignores the mounting social and environmental costs associated with its continuation. This package doubles down on carbon emissions because it is a fossil fuel only policy.

With this proposal, we ask our citizens to accept greatly reduced public health and environmental protection not just to support our domestic use of these fuels, but to enhance our exports of fossil fuels.

It is sad and ironic that, during the week of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—laws that recognize all the values of public lands and resources to current and future generations and that have provided so much—that we are considering this bill.

H.R. 2 represents a narrow view of natural resources as assets to be exploited for short-term profit by this generation with little regard for our stewardship responsibility to our children and to our grandchildren. If we do not act decisively and soon, our generation's legacy will be one of shortsightedness and wasted opportunity.

We have ignored real challenges for far too long. We need to demonstrate the vision, the courage, and generosity of spirit that previous generations expressed on our behalf. We need to stop making policy in increments of months and do what we were sent here to do, govern by working together and compromising to find solutions with consideration of the present and an eye to the future with bold plans and initiatives.

Generally, I am a big fan of recycling, but H.R. 2 is only suitable for disposal. This is a deeply flawed piece of legislation. I cannot support it, and I strongly urge my colleagues to reject it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Washington for yielding and for his leadership over the years. We are going to miss him in this House, but I appreciate him leading on these energy efforts as he has over the years. I want to also thank my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), for bringing this bill forward.

This is a jobs bill, but this is also a bill about American energy security, and, Mr. Speaker, it is a bill about national security.

Let's go through each of those. First of all, this bill green-lights the Keystone pipeline. Here, you have got a

bill that has been sitting on Barack Obama's desk for 6 years, Mr. Speaker, where 40,000 jobs hang in the mix, and President Obama continues to say "no."

We are finally saying "yes" to 40,000 American jobs, a great investment in a trading partner in Canada. We can get energy from Canada that we would no longer have to get from Middle Eastern countries who don't like us, Mr. Speaker.

What this bill also does is opens up some of those vast natural resources throughout the Outer Continental Shelf that are closed right now off the coast of places like Virginia, Alaska, and, yes, even in Louisiana, where in our State we have said those extra revenue sources—that money that would be coming into our treasury—would help us reduce the national debt, but the revenue-sharing States would also be able to play a role in that.

If a State wants to help produce energy for America, they can also help our own economy. In our State, we said we want to focus on restoring our coast, putting that buffer in place that blocks future storms.

Mr. Speaker, this also helps lower gas prices at the pumps. Families who are struggling in this tough economy because of all the radical regulations coming out of the Obama administration can finally get some relief in gas prices through that energy security, again, removing the dependence we have on Middle Eastern countries and other people who don't like us.

We dealt with and started to address the threat from groups like ISIL, Mr. Speaker. Do you know that ISIL makes over \$2 million a day from the oil fields they control that funds their terrorist activities?

Let's become energy secure as a Nation and get the energy security that goes with it, the jobs that go with it and all the great access to those resources that improve our economy.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES), a hardworking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.

New technology has fueled a 21st century energy boom, but Americans are still paying way too much for everyday expenses like gas, groceries, and electricity. That is why the House has passed dozens of bills to lower energy costs and create jobs, like a bill that I introduced—and passed—called the Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act.

It passed unanimously last year. This is commonsense legislation. It would expand hydropower production in a number of Western States. It creates jobs while lowering electric prices for thousands of families.

Whether it is from approving the Keystone XL pipeline to stopping these out-of-touch regulations on our coal industry, the House is fighting to protect and grow American energy and the jobs it supports.

In fact, in Montana alone, more than 5,000 jobs depend on coal, and thousands of middle class families rely on coal-fired power for an affordable source of energy. Fifty-one percent of the electric supply in Montana comes from coal.

Construction of the Keystone pipeline will not only create thousands of good jobs, it is going to help keep energy prices low for Montana families. Let me tell you why.

I was out traveling in eastern Montana in my pickup. I visited the NorVal Electric Co-op in Glasgow, Montana. It will provide power for a future Keystone pump station on the pipeline.

If Keystone is built, NorVal will be able to keep their consumers' electric rates flat for the next 10 years, but, if it isn't, they expect that rates will grow upwards of 40 percent for those ratepayers over the course of the next decade.

These are hardworking Montana families, many of them living paycheck to paycheck, many on fixed incomes, that we will help with the Keystone pipeline.

Unfortunately, tomorrow marks the 6-year anniversary from the time the first permit to build the Keystone pipeline was filed. It took the Canadians 7 months to approve it. We are now at 6 years and waiting with this President.

The American people have waited far too long. That is why the House has passed legislation to approve its construction, but the Senate refuses to act. It is time for the Senate and the President to join us in fighting for solutions to create jobs, lower energy costs, and protect middle class American families.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

Energy is vital to every aspect of American life. Working families, retirees, and businesses large and small are all dependent upon reliable and affordable energy.

An unwelcome increase in the electric bill leaves many families no other

option but to cut elsewhere. For businesses, higher energy costs mean less money to invest in jobs or expansion. As business costs increase, so does the price of goods down the line, triggering a chain reaction felt throughout the economy.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration's policies are contributing to the rise in energy costs by discouraging exploration of domestic resources, imposing additional regulatory hurdles on energy creation, and attempting to bypass Congress to implement economically devastating policies like cap-and-trade.

Today, Congress reminds the Obama administration about what they seem to have forgotten—that America's economy is intrinsically linked to affordable energy.

This bill encourages us to expand energy production. I am particularly pleased that it includes provisions I have worked on for a long time to move forward, a lease sale off the Virginia coast.

This sale will provide necessary energy resources for our Nation, while providing a significant boost to the economy of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It also includes other important provisions, like the Judiciary-approved RAPID Act, which cuts through the government red tape impeding development of our resources.

Today's bill helps to ensure that America is an energy leader, utilizing our resources to strengthen the reliability and affordability of energy for American consumers.

We must encourage more legislation like the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act, adopting policies that seek to rebuild our economy and create more jobs.

I urge all Members to vote for this legislation that ensures our energy security while boosting our economy.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), one of my classmates.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that we have this bill on the floor today.

I am going to confine my remarks to one piece of legislation, and that is the Electricity Security and Affordability Act. This legislation has passed the House before, and it is designed to do two things. One is to reverse the extreme regulations coming out of the EPA on existing coal-fired plants and new coal-fired plants.

We all understand that the President of the United States views that the number one issue facing mankind today is climate change, and, while we all recognize that there is climate change, we do not view it as the most important issue facing man today.

Because of the President's position—his extreme views—he is dictating to

the EPA to take positions that are damaging the coal industry but, more important than the coal industry, damaging the electricity produced from coal.

□ 1630

Now, what does that mean to the American people?

Well, how many of you are aware that CO₂ emissions in America today are lower than they have been for 20 years?

America does not have to take a backseat to any country in the world. And yet, this President, with his EPA, has passed regulations that make it impossible to build a new coal plant in America and in an amount that makes it commercially feasible to do.

So here we are in America, doing a better job than any other country in the world, and yet this President, because of his extreme views, makes it impossible to build a new coal plant.

Now, I would be the first to admit that a new coal plant is not going to be built in America because our natural gas prices are very low. We are fortunate, with the shale development, that gas prices are extremely low.

But what if we find ourselves in the position that they found themselves in Europe?

Gas prices coming from Russia are so high that they started mothballing their natural gas plants to produce electricity and started building new coal plants, and last year, they imported 53 percent of the coal exports from America. So, in Europe, they have that flexibility.

But in America we don't have that flexibility. So, if gas prices go up, which they may very well do, then we can't build a new coal plant because it is too expensive and the technology is not there to meet the extreme, stringent emission standards set by EPA.

So this legislation would stop that, and it would say, EPA, you can regulate CO₂ emissions, but you can build a new coal plant if you use the best available control technology.

Now, what do we do—you know, next June EPA is coming out with a new regulation that, in effect, will federalize the electricity-generating business in America for the first time. EPA is setting standard emission caps for every State in America. We already know that in Kentucky they have identified 15 coal units that will be closed down. And guess what? When they adopted this regulation, they did not do any thorough reliability studies.

Now, we all recognize that renewables play an important role, but they cannot be the base load of electricity production in America. And if America is going to remain competitive in the global marketplace, we have to have low-cost, abundant, affordable, reliable electricity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. WHITFIELD. So all we are saying to the President is, okay, let's be reasonable. This legislation will allow EPA to regulate CO₂ emissions, but you can build a new coal plant if you use the best available control technology. And if you want to regulate existing plants, you adopt the regulation, but Congress will set the effective date.

The President is going to be gone from office when all of these regulations really start hitting, and America is going to be hit in its ability to compete in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I am going to have more to say about this bill later, but I want to comment on the comments that were just made to us by the gentleman from Kentucky.

He suggested that we don't need to do anything more about climate change because greenhouse gas emissions are falling in the United States. Well, that is not an accurate story because, while U.S. greenhouse gas emissions did fall in 2008 and 2009 during the economic recession, since that time our overall emissions have grown. Cumulatively, U.S. emissions grew, not fell, in 2010 and 2011, the most recent years for which data is available.

But the fact of the matter is that if coal is being displaced by natural gas, it is not because of any regulation; it is because the market forces are moving in that direction. It is just cheaper.

And why do we want to say that is wrong? Let the market work its will.

But unless we regulate the emissions from powerplants that cause greenhouse gases to be spewed into the air, we are neglecting the major reason we have climate change in this country today.

This bill would prevent the EPA from doing anything about the problem. Burning coal would be completely unregulated, and we would continue to add greenhouse gases to our atmosphere.

I think that this is hiding their heads in the sand, denying that there is climate change, denying that we need to do anything about it, pretending like it is not a problem. This is a disservice to the American people and the future of our economy.

Those businesses that develop the technologies for the future, which will be technologies that reduce carbon pollution, are going to be the place where the economies are going to be benefited, not those that deny the problem and do nothing about it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.

This important legislation will unleash America's energy potential, create thousands of jobs, and stop the administration from destroying tens of thousands of jobs. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Representative LAMBORN and I sponsored the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act, which is a portion of this package. This specific title of the bill stops the administration's efforts to virtually eliminate underground mining in the Eastern United States, cost thousands of jobs, and lead to skyrocketing energy costs for all Americans.

Since President Obama came into office, his Department of the Interior has tried to rewrite the stream buffer zone rule. The President's preferred rule would cost at least 7,000 direct jobs and thousands more indirect jobs. This estimate is the administration's own estimate, and it could potentially be much worse.

The President's rewrite of the rule has been ongoing now for 5 years, has cost taxpayers millions of dollars, and has been the subject of an ongoing investigation by Chairman HASTINGS and the House Natural Resources Committee.

As we have seen across the administration, the Interior Department has largely refused to turn over documents and recordings to the committee in a clear violation of the House's oversight authority. The administration is clearly holding back information that they know would be damaging to their efforts.

The House has previously passed this legislation on two separate occasions, both times on a bipartisan basis. Unfortunately, the Senate has refused to even consider the legislation either time.

I specifically want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman LAMBORN for their leadership on this issue. Without their investigation of the Department on this rulemaking process, we might not have been able to stop it from going forward. However, we will continue our oversight and make sure that the Department doesn't try to push through a rule in their final 2 years.

Again, I thank the chairman for his hard work not only this particular title of H.R. 2, but for his work and leadership on the entire package. This legislation will be a big step forward toward energy independence and security, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not a new bill to be presented on the House floor.

It is a compilation of bills that have already been proposed and passed, for the most part, on a partisan Republican basis.

People have complained on the other side of the aisle that their bills didn't go anywhere. Well, they didn't go anywhere because they didn't have support in the other body, the U.S. Senate. The President of the United States said he would veto it.

They can't pass a bill in the House with Republican votes and put it into law. So if you can't pass a law without working with the Democrats and reaching compromises, what Republicans think is the most effective thing to do is to say it over and over and over again.

Let's not forget, we know that our Republican colleagues didn't like the Affordable Care Act, sometimes known as ObamaCare, so on this House floor we voted over 50 times to repeal it.

The Republicans said we are going to repeal it and replace it. Well, we never heard what they are going to replace it with. They just wanted to repeal it. Well, they didn't repeal it when they passed the first vote, and they didn't repeal it when they passed the 50th vote. But they thought if they say it over and over and again and do it over and over again, they would get somewhere, I presume.

When psychologists talk about this, they call it perseveration, saying the same thing over and over again.

But I don't think this is a reasonable way to legislate. If they want to legislate and you don't have the power, you have to compromise. You have to talk with the President. You have to talk with the Senate majority. You have to talk with your own colleagues. But the Republicans don't want to talk to anybody except themselves over and over and over again.

Let me give you an example. Since Republicans took control of the House less than 4 years ago, they have cast over 500 antienvironmental votes. They have voted over 500 times to weaken protection for public health and the environment, to let polluters off the hook, and even to deny science.

Well, I presume they think that is a good idea. They have voted against clean renewable energy and energy efficiency. They have voted to give taxpayer dollars to oil companies. They have voted to allow more toxic mercury pollution in our air and more contaminants in our drinking water.

I suppose they think that is a good idea, but others don't agree with them nor, I think, do the American people.

They have voted repeatedly to deny the reality of climate change and block any action to cut carbon pollution. They don't want a cap-and-trade. They don't want a price on carbon. They don't want the EPA to regulate.

What is their plan? Well, their plan is to deny the existence of climate

change and pretend it is not doing any harm.

We have kept track of these votes that we consider antienvironmental, and there were over 300 antienvironmental votes last Congress, and today Ranking Member DEFAZIO and I released another report that there were over 200 more antienvironment votes in this Congress.

Now, Republicans like to complain about a mythical war on coal. It is a fantasy. But there is a war on the environment that is being waged on the floor of the House, and the bill before us today is proof of that. It contains dozens of antienvironment provisions.

All of us want prosperity and security for America. We know, many of us, that climate change is harming us today through droughts and fires and floods and more, and we know that it will endanger our children's future if we don't act.

Democrats, for the most part, have recognized the threat and we know that we can tackle it while, at the same time, growing jobs and our economy.

How do we know this? Because that was the history of the Clean Air Act. Every time we strengthened the Clean Air Act, industry opponents said it would cost too much, it would weaken our economy, it would mean lost jobs, but when we acted, we found that our air is cleaner and our economy is stronger.

Republicans take a much different approach. They refuse to admit that climate change is real because then, if they did, they would have to do something about it. Their policies embodied in this bill deny the problem and threaten our future.

Remember the health care debate? We said it is not fair to discriminate against people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield myself 2 additional minutes.

We said it is not fair to discriminate and deny, allow insurance companies to deny the chance for people with pre-existing conditions to buy insurance.

The Republicans said, Oh, yeah, we don't think that is a good idea, but they didn't have a plan to do anything about it. They were happy to let it continue.

They wanted to say it was okay for insurance companies to put caps on the amount that the policies would pay. They wanted a system where people were priced out of insurance; if they couldn't afford it, well, that is just too bad.

They deny the realities of what has been happening to millions of Americans, and now we have a health care law that is benefiting millions of Americans.

This bill is not about health care, but they are denying these environmental

problems and they are trying to keep Federal agencies from doing their job.

Powerplants are the single largest uncontrolled source of carbon pollution in the United States. EPA has proposed critically important regulations to cut carbon pollution for powerplants in a balanced, cost-effective, commonsense way.

□ 1645

These rules would cut smog, and they would stop deadly particulate pollution. They would save thousands of lives per year and avoid tens of billions of dollars in costs, but this bill eliminates EPA's authority to issue any rules. Nothing can happen.

Mr. Speaker, powerplants aren't the only source of carbon pollution. Tar sands are another big source. They produce 17 percent more carbon pollution than conventional oil, yet this bill grants a regulatory earmark to the Canadian Keystone XL pipeline, effectively exempting it from all U.S. Federal permitting requirements, including ones that apply to every other major construction project in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

This bill creates a new process to rubberstamp every other pending and future tar sands pipeline. It even exempts these massive projects from the National Environmental Policy Act by limiting the NEPA review, which was adopted by Congress overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis, to only a tiny sliver of the pipeline only where it crosses the border. There are many other anti-environmental provisions. This bill would allow the Department of Energy to veto the rules established by the EPA, even though they are not within the jurisdiction or the expertise of the Department of Energy.

This all may make sense to the oil companies, and this may be a giveaway to the Koch Brothers, but I don't think Americans would agree that this is a good bill. Energy interests should not automatically trump everything else we care about, such as raising healthy children.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will vote against this bill. We have had it on the floor too many times, and I hope that we defeat it this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my late mother used to say maybe I should be a college professor because I really do enjoy educating people, and nothing gives me more thrill than to help educate people here on the floor.

My friend says that Republicans deny what is happening to millions of people. No. Actually, there are 11 million

people who are not working today who were working when President Obama took office and who are not retired. They just gave up looking for jobs. We care deeply about those people.

When it comes to climate change, my friend says the Republicans continue to deny its existence. Climate change is real. It is a fact. Where I live it happens four times a year. It is real. We acknowledge that. It is a real thing.

Now, under this bill, my friend says that coal would be completely unregulated. He is right if he is talking about China, but here in the United States, where we are talking about real jobs, cheaper energy, and helping families who are struggling to make ends meet, we are talking about helping Americans, not the Chinese to whom we lose so many jobs.

My friend says bills don't have support in the Senate. He is right if he is talking about HARRY REID, but if HARRY REID will bring these bills to the floor, my friend is going to see Democrats either vote for them or lose their seats. They know they have to support them, because it helps real Americans.

Now, what our President and others on the other side of the aisle don't acknowledge is the fact that the policies they have supported help Big Oil. They help their friends in the crony capitalist Big Business. They help the Solyndras and those kinds of folks, but the fact is, even when President Obama proposed what he called a "jobs bill," it gutted independent oil companies and gas companies in America. Big oil companies only operate about 5 percent of the oil and gas wells in America, and 95 percent are drilled and operated by independent oil companies. They are regulated. If we really want to help America, we need to pass this bill and force HARRY REID to either deal with it or lose his position as majority leader.

My friend had previously talked about wilderness areas. National parks are suffering. Why? Because this administration and my friends across the aisle and HARRY REID want to blow money on solar companies that won't work, yet, actually, if this administration were not reducing the number of permits by 40 to 60 percent from what they were under President Clinton, then we would have all the money we would need to have the most wonderful wilderness areas and national parks that you can imagine.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GOHMERT. We are pro-people. They are pro-government, pro-regulation. Let's get back to helping the people, like the 80-year-old lady who lives outside of Carthage who told me she was born with only a wooden stove in her home. She may die with it if we

don't stop gutting the energy that we can produce.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 25 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 22 minutes remaining.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I won't take 25 minutes to rebut the statement that was just made. I yield myself 3 minutes.

I am impressed by the statement we had from a man who is trying to educate, as he says, the American people in that Republicans worry about 11 million people not working. I don't know if that number is right or wrong, but we have got millions of people without jobs today. It is because the Congress is busy passing, over and over and over again, bills to benefit the oil companies and the energy industry, and not to help people get jobs.

Now, they care so much about them, but they won't give them unemployment compensation. They care so much about them that they want to take away their food stamps. They care so much about them that they don't want to allow them to have a minimum living wage. They care so much about them that they want them to go to the lowest paying jobs they can possibly find, and if they can't find them, well, it must be their own fault.

HARRY REID is the majority leader in the Senate. The Senate allows amendments to any bill—they don't have to be germane—but in the House of Representatives, no bill or amendment can be offered unless it is germane or permitted under the rule, and the Rules Committee is controlled by the Republican leadership in the House.

If we would have been allowed to have voted on an immigration bill that passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis in the Senate, it would have passed the House, but we were denied that opportunity. If we had been allowed to vote on background checks on gun purchases so that we wouldn't find guns and assault weapons in the hands of the people who are a danger to their communities because of mental illness, or who have criminal records where they have already used guns for illegal purposes, that would have passed. Even a majority of the National Rifle Association supports that kind of measure.

Let's not be so pious as we educate the American people to say, "Oh, in the Senate, they can't even consider these things," because, in the House, we are denied every day an opportunity to talk about many things. Let me give you another example that is pertinent to this debate.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over the issue of climate change. We have not been able to get a single hearing that would bring in the scientists to tell us why

they are concerned about climate change, to tell us all the pronouncements from consensus discussions among scientists internationally and here from the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences and others as to why they think this is a problem that we have got to deal with. If you don't even allow the scientists to talk, you are purposely encouraging your own ignorance and acting upon it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is not often in life that you get a second chance, but, today, we are here to offer the Senate a second chance, a second chance to stand up and say "yes"—"yes" to these American energy solutions that, indeed, will help create jobs and lower costs for American families.

Several of the bills included in today's package were advanced through our committee, Energy and Commerce, and many were bipartisan from the very start. It includes a solution to finally build the Keystone pipeline 6 years after the application went forward.

Here we are 6 years later from when the application was first submitted. We still don't have a pipeline, and folks are still out of work. It shouldn't take 6 years to approve a pipeline, and the President's continued political delays are simply unacceptable. That is why we are taking action to ensure that this does not happen again. We have got a solution today to bring certainty to the approval process for cross-border energy projects so that we don't have to endure another Keystone-like delay in the future.

As part of the Architecture of Abundance, we are also going to need to build more interstate natural gas pipelines. Last winter, millions of customers throughout the country suffered high heating bills, along with the cold temperatures, due to inadequate infrastructure. Today, we are voting on a solution to get those much-needed pipelines in the ground safely and quickly so that we can start delivering relief from those high energy bills.

We are also working to prevent energy prices from spiking even further with solutions to stop EPA's destructive new rules on powerplants and other energy-related rules that will lead only to higher prices and, yes, to fewer jobs. Everyone is affected by energy cost increases, but they also hurt the Nation's poor and the most vulnerable.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to save consumers money is through energy efficiency, which is why we are also advancing solutions that encourage the development and use of new efficient and renewable technologies—very important.

Finally, we have a solution to not only create energy jobs here at home but also to help our allies across the world by giving them access to our abundant natural gas supply. Just this morning, a few hours ago, we heard from the Ukrainian President about the urgent need for the U.S. to act and help weaken Russia's threat to the region. Every one of us was on his feet.

He said this:

You support a Nation, meaning the United States, that has chosen freedom. In Ukraine, you don't have to build a democracy; it already exists. You need to defend it.

That is what our LNG export bill does.

Many of America's energy solutions that we are voting on today are part of the package that received, yes, strong bipartisan support in the House, but Senate Leader REID has failed to bring any of them to the floor for a vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the chairman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. UPTON. Creating jobs and keeping energy affordable is a subject that should rise above partisanship. Today, we are giving the Senate yet another shot to try to put politics aside and American families first. We welcome the Senate to join us as we say "yes" to American jobs and "yes" to American energy.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the chairman how many more speakers he has?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I will advise the gentleman that we still have several more. I will advise you when we get down to that point, but we do have several Members still waiting to speak.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act. This bill is a substantive step towards more affordable energy prices and job creation across the country.

Today's average gas price of \$3.28 is well up from the \$2.35 per gallon in 2009. Not only are gas prices up, but so too are the prices of groceries and the prices for heating and cooling your home.

Among other important measures, this bill would approve the Keystone pipeline. Friday marks 6 years of delays on Keystone by this administration. That is too long for a job-creating measure. Domestic energy production helps middle class Americans with their everyday costs.

Vote "yes" for the middle class. Vote "yes" for jobs and more affordable energy. Vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend from California that I am prepared to close if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who ought to be here rightfully as a full voting Member of the House, in my opinion.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend from California. I can't say enough about how much this Congress will miss him and how indebted we are to his outstanding service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say some closing words about this Congress. I have spent most of my time in the Congress in the minority, with my good friends on the other side in control.

I must say that this is a most unusual 113th Congress. This package of bills is a shameful way to close this Congress.

Usually, this is a time—as I have seen it under Republican Congresses—when you make room for must-pass bills, not for never-to-pass bills or sure to be vetoed bills.

Today certainly was not the time to make up for running through the 113th Congress with neither an agenda, nor legislation to show for it, perhaps to show that Congress was entitled to be paid for being here for 2 years.

Instead of some must-pass bills—and I will suggest a few—what we have heard from my good friends on the other side are some tax and other giveaway bills that add to the deficit or bills that should be stamped "special interest."

There was legislation before us that, with small changes in law, could have been passed. Had those bills passed, they never would have been considered bills of one side or the other.

For instance, the Paycheck Fairness Act simply updates, in quite small ways, the Equal Pay Act. That is the act that I administered when I chaired the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It is already on the books. Nobody wants to repeal it.

All the Paycheck Fairness Act would have done was to make small changes to bring it into the 21st century, and those changes have no ideological impact.

Or take the Federal Student Loan Refinancing Act. That begged for passage, to give students faced with debt and no jobs—this cohort of students who had the bad luck to come out of school in a bad economy—some relief. That bill surely deserved bipartisan support.

For me, however, the biggest piece of missing legislation is the reauthorized transportation bill, and I say that because that would have been the functional equivalent of the JOBS Act of 2014; instead, we are going to leave here this evening, having given nothing to the American people to assure them that there will be jobs for the 7 weeks that we are gone. That is what they most wanted. That is what we have been given least.

We are on track to beat last year's record. We are on track to become the least productive Congress in the history of our country. Closing the Congress with a bunch of never-to-pass bills that nobody envisioned would be taken up will never make up for the shameful record of the 113th Congress.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand what the gentlelady has said is that, if we had passed a transportation bill, that would have provided help for our infrastructure and provided jobs. We didn't vote for that bill even once.

The gentlelady also said we should have done a paycheck fairness law. Well, we didn't have a chance to vote on that. The Speaker of the House or the majority leader of the House wouldn't allow it to be brought to the House floor.

So many young people are struggling with student loans, and there have been proposals to deal with that, yet we were not allowed to even vote on a bill to deal with the student loan problem.

We haven't tackled the real things that people care about, and, if they care about what is in this bill today, it has been passed by the House. Why aren't we moving on and using the time on the House floor for other worthwhile purposes?

I think that is a question that the American people are going to have to think about as they go to the polls in another month, but we have had a 6-week recess. Now, we have been here for 2 whole weeks, and, now, we are going to take another recess until the election, and then we will come back for maybe another couple of weeks.

It doesn't mean you have to work too hard in the Congress of the United States to get nothing done. We are getting nothing done, and the American people are losing out.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It has been acknowledged on both sides of the aisle that this bill is a package of

bills that has passed the Senate. It has been talked about that the Senate hasn't acted on the individual bills. It has been talked about the Senate hasn't acted on a lot of bills.

As a matter of fact, the main bill we passed yesterday, the continuing resolution—which is a terrible way to run the government, by the way, when you haven't got certainty—was passed largely because the Senate had not passed one of the 13 House bills out of the Senate. How do you negotiate when you have that sort of a situation?

Here is a point that has not been made today—and maybe my friends on the other side of the aisle aren't familiar with what our Founders envisioned when they created a bicameral legislative body.

In order for our system to work, both Houses have to pass bills. Now, the American people, in their judgment—you know, they made good judgments every 2 years. Sometimes, some of us don't like what that judgment is—but, in their wisdom, they created one of the Houses that is controlled by the Democrats, and, in their wisdom, they created a House that is controlled by Republicans.

Now, just by the very definition of that, clearly, you are going to have two different views—clearly, you are going to have two different views. I acknowledge that, and I doubt if anybody on the other side would dispute that too.

When we talk about sending bills that we think are important from here over to the Senate—and, by the way, I should add that within this package of bills were a number of bills that came out of the House Natural Resources Committee that I have the privilege to chair. Every one of them, every one of them passed with bipartisan support. That means there are Democrats that voted for it.

Here is the issue: if the Senate, then, has a different view on these topics than we do, then fine. Pass a bill. Pass a bill. If there is a difference between the House version and the Senate version, we have a means to work that out. It is called going to conference, but the fact is the Senate hasn't passed anything.

So how do you go to conference? The only way that we find that we could make our point over and over and over again is to say, "Okay. We will send it over." Maybe somebody, somebody in the other body will finally get the message and say, "Maybe we ought to pass it."

Finally, I just want to make another point too. I had the privilege of serving on the Rules Committee for 12 years, and, yes, the Rules Committee, in a larger body like the House, does set the rules for debate.

When the Democrats were in the majority, they set the rules for debate that we criticized. Obviously, they are

criticizing us because we are setting the rules for the debate, but my friend from California said that the Senate doesn't work that way with rules. They work by unanimous consent, that anybody can offer an amendment on any bill.

Well, that may be, that may be how the Senate rules work, but, when it is manipulated by the majority leader, all that goes away. It is a process that—I admit I don't know a whole lot about the Senate rules—but it is a process called filling the amendment tree, amendments to be offered, and the majority leader fills the tree, and nobody has an amendment.

It has gotten so bad, so bad over there in the last 6 years that the junior Senator from Alaska, the junior Senator from Alaska who has been there for 6 years has not had an opportunity to offer one amendment on the floor, and the junior Senator happens to be a member of the majority party. You talk about openness. There is no openness that way.

We feel in this body here that the best way to make the case by debating bills that we think are important for the American people—jobs bills, energy bills, energy security bills—the best way to do that is to continue to send the same stuff over to the Senate. Maybe, maybe—because hope springs eternal, at least from my perspective—they will take one of these up.

All they have to do, by the way, is take up one of these bills and change it and send it back over here, and we will negotiate the difference, but they haven't even done that. You see, that was never acknowledged during this whole debate of defense of what the Senate has or has not done, but, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what has happened, and that is why we are where we are.

Mr. Speaker, this is, once again, a very good bill that deals with energy and energy security and American jobs. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this bill. I believe in energy independence, as do the people I represent at home, and accordingly am supportive of opening up these offshore areas—but I do not think this should occur without the concurrence and input of coastal states that might be affected were something to go wrong. This fits with what I have consistently heard from people up and down the coast.

Not all decisions must be made in Washington, and the idea of a drilling rig going up just a few miles from our coast without having to acknowledge any degree of state input to me is the codification of Washington control. Some may be for a drilling rig these few thousands of feet from their local beach, others may be against it . . . but in keeping with the principal of federalism, that decision needs to be made by those affected—not an unelected government worker in DC.

Toward that end, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3051, the Coastal States Extension Act of

2013, which would give states the final say on oil and natural gas leases out to twelve nautical miles from the current three nautical mile limit. States no longer have a direct economic tie as you move beyond the line of sight and in this regard, I thought my bill a reasonable compromise between drill and no drill interests. This would give states the flexibility to consider what is best for their economies in terms of the balance between tourism, drilling, fisheries and other considerations. Texas, for instance, already has control of oil and natural gas leases out to nine nautical miles and the model there has worked well. It has not hampered drilling. I testified before the Rules committee the last time this bill came up, but unfortunately, this idea was not attached as an amendment to the bill we had before us and the current bill before us tonight is unamendable. I would have supported the bill if my proposal had been included and I hope we can include it in the future.

Toward that end, I look forward to working with the Committee on Natural Resources to find a way forward on striking a more favorable balance between states' rights and energy independence.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we consider H.R. 2, "the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act." I thank the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. TERRY, for his initiative on this bill.

Title III of this bill includes H.R. 2850, "the Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act" that was reported out of the Science Committee last year.

The EPA has been conducting a "Study of the Potential Impact of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources" since 2010.

Unfortunately, the EPA's track record of sloppy and secret science and rushed conclusions suggest this study will be yet another attempt to justify new regulations to derail our shale gas revolution and the manufacturing renaissance.

The Science Committee language in Title III of this bill addresses a fundamental flaw in EPA's hydraulic fracturing study design. Specifically, the current study is focused on a search for possible problems with hydraulic fracturing instead of identifying what is likely or probable.

EPA's own Science Advisory Board has repeatedly recommended that the Agency focus on probabilities and uncertainties in its work.

The Science Committee provision addresses those concerns, and requires EPA to follow basic, objective scientific processes in carrying out its study. It also requires peer review of any final or interim report before its release.

Problems with this study underscore EPA's lack of transparency and serious flaws in its peer review process. EPA's conclusions are used to justify billions of dollars in regulations. Science that supports public regulations should be public, not secret.

The Science Advisory Board was created to provide independent scientific advice to Congress and the EPA. However, EPA has hijacked this process.

EPA cherry-picked the reviewers. Among the 22 member Advisory Board panel that the EPA created to look at EPA's hydraulic fracturing research, no member had experience in hydraulic fracturing or had an understanding of current industry practices.

The scientific panel that reviews EPA studies should be balanced and unbiased. And the data behind EPA regulations should be available for independent scientific review. These principles cannot be compromised.

I hope to bring H.R. 4012, "the Secret Science Reform Act," and H.R. 1422, "the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013," to the floor this fall to address these systemic problems.

The provisions in H.R. 2 are an important first step in ensuring the EPA adheres to these principles in their report on hydraulic fracturing.

More comprehensive EPA scientific reform is the next step we must take in the public's interest. We cannot afford to wait.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering once again a range of bills to give away public resources to Big Oil, strip environmental and public health protections, and prioritize drilling over all other uses, including recreation and conservation, on federal lands.

Let's look at the facts. Oil and gas production has reached near historic highs in the United States. Our dependence on foreign oil has dropped from 57 percent in 2008 to 29 percent today. The provisions in this bill—which would block the proposed carbon standard to protect public health, order federal agencies to pretend that climate change has no impact on our communities, and limit oversight on drilling projects on federal lands—will not improve our energy security. They will endanger our health and resources.

There is nothing new in today's debate. This package includes the same old ideas that the Majority has been pushing, without result, since 2011. Rather than working together for the American people, they are recycling the same partisan agenda. Our constituents deserve better. I urge a no vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 727, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am opposed in its original form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Schneider moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2 to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION D—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 1. POLICING EXCESSIVE SPECULATION IN ENERGY MARKETS.

The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44

as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

"SEC. 44. REVENUES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TREASURY ACCOUNT.—The Secretary of the Treasury (in this section referred to as the 'Secretary') shall establish an account in the Treasury of the United States.

"(b) DEPOSIT INTO ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS ACT.—The Secretary shall deposit into the account established under subsection (a) \$10,000,000 of the total of the amounts received by the United States each fiscal year under leases issued under this Act or any plan, strategy, or program under this Act.

"(c) AVAILABILITY AND USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amounts in the account established under subsection (a) shall be made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its existing authorities to limit excessive speculation in energy markets.

"(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority provided in paragraph (1) may be exercised only to such extent, and with respect to such amounts, as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts."

SEC. 2. PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY.

Any lease issued pursuant to this Act shall specify that United States oil, petroleum products, and natural gas shall not be exported to any nation, corporation, or person that—

(1) provides material support to al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or other terrorist organizations;

(2) is a state sponsor of terrorism; or

(3) steals America's military technology or intellectual property through cyber-attacks such as Russia and China.

SEC. 3. NO EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR CORPORATIONS THAT RELEASE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM PETROLEUM COKE.

Section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)), as amended by section 2111 of division B of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) NO EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR CORPORATIONS THAT RELEASE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM PETROLEUM COKE.—Subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) shall not apply to any corporation or other person that owns petroleum coke stored at a petroleum coke facility, or owns or operates such a facility, that—

"(i) releases toxic air pollutants that harm air quality or contaminate drinking water; and

"(ii) is located within 5 miles of a school, hospital, or nursing home."

Mr. SCHNEIDER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

□ 1715

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the underlying bill and to the policy direction that this legislation would take us in.

As I read this legislation, I asked myself a simple question: What in this bill will improve the everyday lives of my constituents? What will help make our country and our communities stronger? Unfortunately, the answer is nothing.

This bill would roll back commonsense safeguards that protect the communities I represent and the Great Lakes upon which we depend from harmful pollutants emitted from powerplants.

This bill would reduce the quality of our drinking water and threaten the safety of the air we breathe. This bill would deny the necessity of combating climate change through the regulation of greenhouse gases, even as the communities I represent and the communities around our country have been ravaged by unprecedented severe weather events that can only be attributed to the effects of climate change.

This bill does not seek to create a healthier environment for our children; instead, it sacrifices our ability to pass to future generations their rightful legacy of a clean, healthy, and dynamic natural world.

For these and other related reasons, I offer an amendment to this legislation. This amendment would seek to limit the release of toxic air pollutants around schools, hospitals, and nursing homes from the massive storage of petroleum coke in populated areas.

This toxic dust, when improperly stored, can easily become an airborne pollutant which the EPA has shown to cause severe health effects to the heart and lungs.

It would ensure that we safeguard our strategic resources by denying U.S. oil and gas exports from being sold to any country, company, or individual that supports or harbors terrorist organizations, including ISIS or al Qaeda. Denying our enemies these critical resources is in the vital national security interest of the United States.

Finally, this amendment would empower the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to combat energy speculation which manipulates fuel prices and distorts markets, harming consumers at the gas pump.

Increasing these efforts will bolster transparency for consumers while discouraging bad actors from gaming energy markets for financial gain.

Like many of my colleagues in this Chamber, I want to pursue an energy policy that utilizes an all-of-the-above strategy, including renewable energy and innovative technologies to save consumers money at the pump and lower their home energy costs.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation does not achieve this goal and, in fact, would do harmful damage to our environment and the health of our communities. My amendment would be a step forward rather than several steps backward in the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is probably my last opportunity to respond to a Democratic motion to recommit, and I have heard a whole gamut of them in the time that I have had the privilege to do that, and I kind of surmise, from reading the motion to recommit, that he is talking about energy and energy supply.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what the underlying legislation is all about. My friends on the other side of the aisle talked about how oil and gas production has gone up in the United States—increased in the United States—which it has.

But, Mr. Speaker, he left out the important part: it is not because of this administration, it is in spite of this administration's actions, because all of that activity is increasing on State and private lands where they don't have the burdensome regulation from the Federal Government inhibiting that growth.

However, the focus of this legislation is to do exactly the same thing which happened on private and State lands on Federal lands because, if you have a problem with supply, what is the best way to respond to that? You increase the opportunity for supply.

What does that do to the marketplace? In the long run, it tends to lower prices. Who benefits? American people, American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I just simply want to say these motions to recommit have been procedural motions. They have been political motions over time, not that that isn't something we deal with on the floor, but, once again, it is a motion that, I think, is not worthy of passing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject—reject—the motion to recommit

and vote for the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1801

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BISHOP of New York. In its current form, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Bishop of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end of division I the following new title:

TITLE VIII—STOP CORPORATIONS FROM OUTSOURCING AMERICAN JOBS

SEC. 801. CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 45S. CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the insourcing expenses credit for any

taxable year is an amount equal to 20 percent of the eligible insourcing expenses of the taxpayer which are taken into account in such taxable year under subsection (d).

“(b) ELIGIBLE INSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible insourcing expenses’ means—

“(A) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States, and

“(B) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

“(2) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES.—The term ‘eligible expenses’ means—

“(A) any amount for which a deduction is allowed to the taxpayer under section 162, and

“(B) permit and license fees, lease brokerage fees, equipment installation costs, and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, other similar expenses.

Such term does not include any compensation which is paid or incurred in connection with severance from employment and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, any similar amount.

“(3) BUSINESS UNIT.—The term ‘business unit’ means—

“(A) any trade or business, and

“(B) any line of business, or functional unit, which is part of any trade or business.

“(4) EXPANDED AFFILIATED GROUP.—The term ‘expanded affiliated group’ means an affiliated group as defined in section 1504(a), determined without regard to section 1504(b)(3) and by substituting ‘more than 50 percent’ for ‘at least 80 percent’ each place it appears in section 1504(a). A partnership or any other entity (other than a corporation) shall be treated as a member of an expanded affiliated group if such entity is controlled (within the meaning of section 954(d)(3)) by members of such group (including any entity treated as a member of such group by reason of this paragraph).

“(5) EXPENSES MUST BE PURSUANT TO INSOURCING PLAN.—Amounts shall be taken into account under paragraph (1) only to the extent that such amounts are paid or incurred pursuant to a written plan to carry out the relocation described in paragraph (1).

“(6) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—Any amount paid or incurred in connection with the on-going operation of a business unit shall not be treated as an amount paid or incurred in connection with the establishment or elimination of such business unit.

“(c) INCREASED DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT.—No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed exceeds the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the last taxable year ending before the first taxable year in which such eligible insourcing expenses were paid or incurred. For purposes of this subsection, full-time equivalent employees has the meaning given such term

under section 45R(d) (and the applicable rules of section 45R(e)), determined by only taking into account wages (as otherwise defined in section 45R(e)) paid with respect to services performed within the United States. All employers treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of this subsection.

“(d) CREDIT ALLOWED UPON COMPLETION OF INSOURCING PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the taxable year during which the plan described in subsection (b)(5) has been completed and all eligible insourcing expenses pursuant to such plan have been paid or incurred.

“(2) ELECTION TO APPLY EMPLOYMENT TEST AND CLAIM CREDIT IN FIRST FULL TAXABLE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF PLAN.—If the taxpayer elects the application of this paragraph, eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the first taxable year after the taxable year described in paragraph (1).

“(e) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘United States’ shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.”

(b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of such Code is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(37) the insourcing expenses credit determined under section 45S(a).”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:—

“Sec. 45S. Credit for insourcing expenses.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) APPLICATION TO UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS.—

(1) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS.—

(A) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make periodic payments to each possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system in an amount equal to the loss to that possession by reason of section 45S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Such amount shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(B) OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make annual payments to each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system in an amount estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of section 45S of such Code if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to any possession of the United States unless such possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary of

the Treasury, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payment to the residents of such possession.

(2) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—No credit shall be allowed against United States income taxes under section 45S of such Code to any person—

(A) to whom a credit is allowed against taxes imposed by the possession by reason of such section, or

(B) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in paragraph (1)(B).

(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

(A) POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term “possession of the United States” includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(B) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this section, the term “mirror code tax system” means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

(C) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this section shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from sections referred to in such section 1324(b)(2).

SEC. 802. DENIAL OF DEDUCTION FOR OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 280I. OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any specified outsourcing expense.

“(b) SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSE.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘specified outsourcing expense’ means—

“(A) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States, and

“(B) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

“(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms ‘eligible expenses’, ‘business unit’, and ‘expanded affiliated group’ shall have the respective meanings given such terms by section 45S(b).

“(B) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—A rule similar to the rule of section 45S(b)(6) shall apply for purposes of this section.

“(C) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) APPLICATION TO DEDUCTIONS FOR DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION.—In the case of any portion of a specified outsourcing expense which is not deductible in the taxable

year in which paid or incurred, such portion shall neither be chargeable to capital account nor amortizable.

“(2) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘United States’ shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

“(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations which provide (or create a rebuttable presumption) that certain establishments of business units outside the United States will be treated as relocations (based on timing or such other factors as the Secretary may provide) of business units eliminated within the United States.”

(b) LIMITATION ON SUBPART F INCOME OF CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—Subsection (c) of section 952 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) EARNINGS AND PROFITS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this subsection, earnings and profits of any controlled foreign corporation shall be determined without regard to any specified outsourcing expense (as defined in section 280I(b)).”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:—

“Sec. 280I. Outsourcing expenses.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IX—STOP CORPORATIONS FROM MOVING OVERSEAS TO AVOID PAYING TAXES

SEC. 901. MODIFICATIONS TO RULES RELATING TO INVERTED CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(b) INVERTED CORPORATIONS TREATED AS DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7701(a)(4), a foreign corporation shall be treated for purposes of this title as a domestic corporation if—

“(A) such corporation would be a surrogate foreign corporation if subsection (a)(2) were applied by substituting ‘80 percent’ for ‘60 percent’, or

“(B) such corporation is an inverted domestic corporation.

“(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

“(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

“(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

“(B) after the acquisition, either—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation, or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership, or

“(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

“(3) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—A foreign corporation described in paragraph (2) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group. For purposes of subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii) and the preceding sentence, the term ‘substantial business activities’ shall have the meaning given such term under regulations in effect on May 8, 2014, except that the Secretary may issue regulations increasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute substantial business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

“(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—Such regulations shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

“(5) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(A) the employees of the group are based in the United States,

“(B) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States,

“(C) the assets of the group are located in the United States, or

“(D) the income of the group is derived in the United States,

determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (3) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under

such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Clause (i) of section 7874(a)(2)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “after March 4, 2003,” and inserting “after March 4, 2003, and before May 9, 2014.”

(2) Subsection (c) of section 7874 of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsections (a)(2)(B)(ii) and (b)(2)(B)(i)”, and

(ii) by inserting “or (b)(2)(A)” after “(a)(2)(B)(i)” in subparagraph (B),

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or (b)(2)(B)(i), as the case may be,” after “(a)(2)(B)(ii)”,

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsections (a)(2)(B)(ii) and (b)(2)(B)(i)”, and

(D) in paragraph (6), by inserting “or inverted domestic corporation, as the case may be,” after “surrogate foreign corporation”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after May 8, 2014.

SEC. 902. TAX BENEFITS DISALLOWED IN CASE OF INVERTED CORPORATIONS.

In the case of a foreign corporation treated as an inverted domestic corporation under section 7874(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended by this Act), such Code shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of, and amendments made by, this division (other than this title) had never been enacted.

Add at the end of the bill the following:

DIVISION VI—PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS JUMPSTART AGENDA

SEC. 101. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall, as if pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 377), the Paycheck Fairness Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 102. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 377, the Speaker shall, as if pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1010), the Fair Minimum Wage Act. The

first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 103. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 1010, the Speaker shall, as if pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4582), the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 104. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 4582, the Speaker shall, as if pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1286), the Healthy Families Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered

on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 105. Immediately upon disposition of H.R. 1286, the Speaker shall, as if pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII of the Rules of the House, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3461), the Strong Start for America's Children Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 106. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX of the Rules of the House shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 377, H.R. 1010, H.R. 4582, H.R. 1286, or H.R. 3461 pursuant to this Division.

SEC. 107. It shall not be in order in the House to consider any measure or motion waiving the requirements of this Division.

Mr. BISHOP of New York (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage.

Mr. Speaker, my straightforward amendment adds three important provisions to the underlying bill that, unfortunately, continue to be ignored by the majority.

First, this amendment declares that any company engaged in the offshoring of American jobs will be ineligible for Federal tax breaks.

I think that every Member of Congress can agree that if a company

wants to ship domestic jobs overseas, U.S. taxpayers should not be expected to pick up the tab; yet H.R. 4, as currently written, does nothing to prevent outsourcers from receiving Federal tax breaks. My amendment addresses this egregious omission.

Second, the amendment prevents hardworking American families from subsidizing so-called inverted domestic corporations. It is important to remember that an inverted domestic corporation is a business that used to be incorporated in the United States but whose leaders have chosen to incorporate overseas.

These businesses typically reincorporate on foreign soil in order to avoid domestic taxes by finding tax shelters on unregulated shores of places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Since 2012, these corporate bad actors have been banned from contracting with many agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, NASA, and the GSA; still, American taxpayers are subsidizing this corporate tax evasion to the tune of billions of dollars per year.

I commend my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), for their leadership in introducing legislation responding to the rapidly increasing frequency of inversions by limiting tax breaks to corporations carrying them out by tightening section 7874 of the IRS Code.

This Congress has the opportunity to make clear that it will not tolerate Tax Code manipulators taking advantage of tax breaks and sticking the middle class with the bill.

Finally, my amendment allows the House to move the economy forward by bringing up for consideration components of the Democratic jump-start agenda: pay equity, an increased minimum wage, student loan refinancing, paid family sick leave, and early childhood education.

These policies have the overwhelming support of the American people and are needed if we are to take seriously the goal of strengthening the middle class and making it possible for families to get their slice of the American Dream. Unsurprisingly, the House has taken no action on addressing any of these pressing issues, but we can today, by passing this amendment.

Rather than take up these important issues, the Republican majority instead prepares to adjourn the House for a 54-day recess. This impending recess is in addition to the 38-day recess from August 1 to September 8 from which the House just returned.

In fact, the U.S. House of Representatives will have been in session for a grand total of 8 days in the 101-day span between August 1 and November 12. The American people sent us here to work and find solutions facing their family each and every day. This is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, more work needs to be done. Let's pass this amendment and actually get to work on addressing the mounting and diverse needs of our constituents. The time for political games is over, and the time for action is now.

I urge a "yes" vote on the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, the motion to recommit does not solve the problem that the gentleman talked about. There is one thing that will solve the problem that the gentleman talked about, and it is about lowering corporate rates and going to a territorial system, which all other countries in the world who have been successful in stopping this problem have done.

America has not led. America has fallen behind. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has led. He has a draft that seeks to solve this problem. There hasn't been any leadership from the House Democrats. There hasn't been any leadership on the issue from Senate Democrats, and there certainly hasn't been any leadership from the White House.

Everything in this bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, is bipartisan, meaning Democrats and Republicans have supported it. Everything in this bill, Mr. Speaker, will help Americans create American jobs. There is no reason not to support this bill, except what is happening in November.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the motion to recommit and vote "yes" on this American job-creating bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 4, if ordered; the motion to recommit on H.R. 2; and passage of H.R. 2, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 218, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

YEAS—191

Barber	Bass	Becerra
Barrow (GA)	Beatty	Bera (CA)

Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene

NAYS—218

Aderholt
Amash
Amodel
Bachmann
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)

Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy

Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swaikwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp

Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan

Bachus
Barton
Capito
Conaway
Davis (CA)
DesJarlais
Hall
Hastings (FL)

Messrs. HANNA, FARENTHOLD, CULBERSON, TIPTON, TURNER, and Mrs. HARTZLER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Ms. MCCOLLUM changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 512, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 253, nays 163, not voting 15, as follows:

Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Johnson (GA)
Lamborn
Lee (CA)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Rush

Sánchez, Linda T.
Shuster
Southernland
Thornberry
Wasserman
Schultz
Wenstrup

Adherholt
Amash
Amodel
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Olson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer

[Roll No. 513]

YEAS—253

Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce

NAYS—163

Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps

Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Castor (FL)	Honda	Pascarell
Castro (TX)	Horsford	Pastor (AZ)
Chu	Hoyer	Payne
Cicilline	Huffman	Pelosi
Clark (MA)	Israel	Perlmutter
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Pingree (ME)
Clay	Jeffries	Pocan
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Polis
Clyburn	Johnson, E. B.	Price (NC)
Cohen	Jones	Quigley
Connolly	Kaptur	Rangel
Conyers	Kelly (IL)	Richmond
Cooper	Kennedy	Roybal-Allard
Costa	Kildee	Ruppersberger
Courtney	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Crowley	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Cummings	Langevin	Sarbanes
Davis (CA)	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Davis, Danny	Larson (CT)	Schiff
DeFazio	Levin	Schrader
DeGette	Lewis	Schwartz
DeLauro	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
DelBene	Lofgren	Scott, David
Deutch	Lowenthal	Serrano
Dingell	Lowey	Sewell (AL)
Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Sherman
Doyle	(NM)	Sires
Duckworth	Lujan, Ben Ray	Slaughter
Edwards	(NM)	Smith (WA)
Ellison	Lynch	Speier
Engel	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Carolyn	Takano
Esty	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Fattah	McCollum	Tierney
Foster	McDermott	Titus
Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Tonko
Fudge	McNerney	Tsongas
Gabbard	Meeks	Van Hollen
Grayson	Meng	Vargas
Green, Al	Michaud	Veasey
Green, Gene	Miller, George	Vela
Grijalva	Moore	Velázquez
Gutiérrez	Moran	Visclosky
Hahn	Nadler	Waters
Hanabusa	Napolitano	Waxman
Heck (WA)	Neal	Welch
Higgins	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (FL)
Himes	O'Rourke	Yarmuth
Hinojosa	Owens	
Holt	Pallone	

NOT VOTING—15

Bachus	Hastings (FL)	Sánchez, Linda
Barton	Lee (CA)	T.
Capito	McKeon	Wasserman
Conaway	Miller, Gary	Schultz
DesJarlais	Nunnelee	Wenstrup
Hall	Rush	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1844

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL HECK

(Mr. MCCARTHY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our friend and colleague from Nevada, Congressman JOE HECK, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

As you all know, while the gentleman from Nevada has been serving in Congress, he has also been working as a physician and member of the U.S. Army Reserve. Since 1991, he has been

called to duty three times, most recently in Iraq in 2008. His accomplishments and service to our country in a variety of fields are truly remarkable.

On behalf of this House, I would like to offer Doctor, Congressman, General HECK our warmest and most sincere congratulations.

AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 222, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

YEAS—193

Barber	Cuellar	Higgins
Barrow (GA)	Cummings	Himes
Beatty	Davis (CA)	Hinojosa
Becerra	Davis, Danny	Holt
Bera (CA)	DeFazio	Honda
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Horsford
Bishop (NY)	Delaney	Hoyer
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Huffman
Bonamici	DelBene	Israel
Brady (PA)	Deutch	Jackson Lee
Braley (IA)	Dingell	Jeffries
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Brownley (CA)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.
Bustos	Duckworth	Kaptur
Butterfield	Edwards	Keating
Capps	Ellison	Kelly (IL)
Capuano	Engel	Kennedy
Cárdenas	Enyart	Kildee
Carney	Eshoo	Kilmer
Carson (IN)	Esty	Kind
Cartwright	Farr	Kirkpatrick
Castor (FL)	Fattah	Kuster
Castro (TX)	Foster	Langevin
Chu	Frankel (FL)	Larsen (WA)
Cicilline	Fudge	Larson (CT)
Clark (MA)	Gabbard	Levin
Clarke (NY)	Gallo	Lewis
Clay	Garamendi	Lipinski
Cleaver	Garcia	Loebach
Clyburn	Grayson	Lofgren
Cohen	Green, Al	Lowenthal
Connolly	Green, Gene	Lowey
Conyers	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Cooper	Gutiérrez	(NM)
Costa	Hahn	Lujan, Ben Ray
Courtney	Hanabusa	(NM)
Crowley	Heck (WA)	Lynch

Maffei	Payne	Shea-Porter
Maloney,	Pelosi	Sherman
Carolyn	Perlmutter	Sinema
Maloney, Sean	Peters (CA)	Sires
Matheson	Peters (MI)	Slaughter
Matsui	Peterson	Smith (WA)
McCarthy (NY)	Pingree (ME)	Speier
McCollum	Pocan	Swalwell (CA)
McDermott	Polis	Takano
McGovern	Price (NC)	Thompson (CA)
McIntyre	Quigley	Thompson (MS)
McNerney	Rahall	Tierney
Meeks	Rangel	Titus
Meng	Richmond	Tonko
Michaud	Roybal-Allard	Tsongas
Miller, George	Ruiz	Van Hollen
Moore	Ruppersberger	Vargas
Moran	Ryan (OH)	Veasey
Murphy (FL)	Sanchez, Loretta	Vela
Nadler	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Neal	Schiff	Walz
Negrete McLeod	Schneider	Waters
Nolan	Schrader	Waxman
O'Rourke	Schwartz	Welch
Owens	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)
Pallone	Scott, David	Yarmuth
Pascarell	Serrano	
Pastor (AZ)	Sewell (AL)	

NAYS—222

Aderholt	Garrett	McHenry
Amash	Gerlach	McKinley
Amodei	Gibbs	McMorris
Bachmann	Gibson	Rodgers
Bachus	Gingrey (GA)	Meadows
Barletta	Gohmert	Meehan
Barr	Goodlatte	Messer
Benishek	Gosar	Mica
Bentivolio	Gowdy	Miller (FL)
Bilirakis	Granger	Miller (MI)
Bishop (UT)	Graves (GA)	Mullin
Black	Graves (MO)	Mulvaney
Blackburn	Griffin (AR)	Murphy (PA)
Boustany	Griffith (VA)	Neugebauer
Brady (TX)	Grimm	Noem
Bridenstine	Guthrie	Nugent
Brooks (AL)	Hanna	Nunes
Brooks (IN)	Harper	Olson
Broun (GA)	Harris	Palazzo
Buchanan	Hartzer	Paulsen
Bucshon	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Burgess	Heck (NV)	Perry
Byrne	Hensarling	Petri
Calvert	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Camp	Holding	Pitts
Campbell	Hudson	Poe (TX)
Carter	Huelskamp	Pompeo
Cassidy	Huizenga (MI)	Posey
Chabot	Hultgren	Price (GA)
Chaffetz	Hunter	Reed
Clawson (FL)	Hurt	Reichert
Coble	Issa	Renacci
Coffman	Jenkins	Ribble
Cole	Johnson (OH)	Rice (SC)
Collins (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Collins (NY)	Jolly	Roby
Cook	Jones	Roe (TN)
Cotton	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Cramer	Joyce	Rogers (KY)
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (MI)
Crenshaw	King (IA)	Rohrabacher
Culberson	King (NY)	Rokita
Daines	Kingston	Rooney
Davis, Rodney	Kinzinger (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Denham	Kline	Roskam
Dent	Labrador	Ross
DeSantis	LaMalfa	Rothfus
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Royce
Duffy	Lance	Runyan
Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Ryan (WI)
Duncan (TN)	Latham	Salmon
Ellmers	Latta	Sanford
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Scalise
Fincher	Long	Schock
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Schweikert
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin
Fleming	Lummis	Sensenbrenner
Flores	Marchant	Sessions
Forbes	Marino	Shimkus
Fortenberry	Massie	Shuster
Fox	McAllister	Simpson
Franks (AZ)	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (MO)
Frelinghuysen	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Gardner	McClintock	Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton

NOT VOTING—16

Barton
Bass
Capito
Conaway
DesJarlais
Hall

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1853

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 191, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

YEAS—226

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer

Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxo
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Southernland
Stivers
Wasserman
Schultz

McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge

NAYS—191

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum

Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen

NOT VOTING—14

Barton
Capito
Conaway
DesJarlais
Hall
Hastings (FL)

Lee (CA)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Neal
Nunnelee
Rush

□ 1900

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on today's votes because I was absent to attend a funeral. Had I been present: on rollcall No. 510 on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall No. 511 on H. Res. 727, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall No. 512 on recommitting H.R. 4 with instructions, I would have voted "nay;" on rollcall No. 513 on H.R. 4, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall No. 514 on recommitting H.R. 2 with instructions, I would have voted "nay;" on rollcall No. 515 on H.R. 2, I would have voted "aye."

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL LYNTON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the resignation of France A. Córdova of Indiana on March 13, 2014, is filled by the appointment of Michael Lynton of California. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 707) condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 707

Whereas there is clear evidence of increasing incidents and expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world;

Whereas the United States Department of State released this week the International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 and noted in the Executive Summary, “Throughout Europe, the historical stain of anti-Semitism continued to be a fact of life on Internet fora, in soccer stadiums, and through Nazi-like salutes, leading many individuals who are Jewish to conceal their religious identity.”;

Whereas anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in 2014 around the world, including countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and North America, include incidents of murder at Jewish sites, violent attacks and death threats against Jews, as well as gun violence, arson, graffiti, anti-Semitic cartoons, and other property desecration at Jewish places of worship and communal activity;

Whereas a survey by the Anti-Defamation League of attitudes towards Jews in more than 100 countries around the world, released in May 2014 found that over a quarter of the people surveyed (26 percent) hold anti-Semitic views, a stunning indicator of the stubborn resilience of anti-Semitic beliefs, even in countries where no Jews reside;

Whereas anti-Semitic attitudes in the Middle East and North Africa (74 percent) far surpass those in any other region;

Whereas the finding that 70 percent of those around the world who harbor anti-Semitic attitudes have never met a Jew shows how deeply embedded stereotypes of Jews that developed over centuries are in the consciousness of many countries and societies;

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League survey also found that a majority of people surveyed overall have either not heard of the Holocaust or do not believe it happened as has been documented by factual accounts and recorded by history;

Whereas this month Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban erected a monument commemorating the Nazi Occupation of Hungary that white washes the Hungarian government's role in deporting over 400,000 Jews, most of whom died in Auschwitz;

Whereas President Barack Obama said in his remarks at the USC Shoah Foundation Dinner on May 7, 2014, “. . . if the memories of the Shoah survivors teach us anything, it is that silence is evil's greatest co-conspirator. And it's up to us—each of us, every

one of us—to forcefully condemn any denial of the Holocaust. It's up to us to combat not only anti-Semitism, but racism and bigotry and intolerance in all their forms, here and around the world. It's up to us to speak out against rhetoric that threatens the existence of a Jewish homeland and to sustain America's unshakeable commitment to Israel's security”;

Whereas in 2004, Congress passed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which established an Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, headed by a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism;

Whereas the United States Government has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitism through its bilateral relationships and through engagement in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States (OAS);

Whereas during Israel's July 2014 Operation Protective Edge aiming to stem the rocket fire and terrorist infiltrations by Hamas, Jews and Jewish institutions and property have been attacked in Europe and elsewhere, including attempts to invade a synagogue in Paris, fire-bombings of synagogues in France and Germany, assaults on Jewish individuals, and swastikas spray-painted in a heavily Jewish area of London and also in Rome's historic Jewish quarter;

Whereas anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been on display at demonstrations against Israel's actions in Gaza around the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, including—

(1) placards held at many demonstrations across the globe comparing Israeli leaders to Nazis, accusing Israel of carrying out a “Holocaust” against Palestinians, and equating the Jewish Star of David with the Nazi swastika, and

(2) demonstrations that have included chants of “Death to Jews”, “Death to Israel”, or expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians;

Whereas Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's continued anti-Israel incitement, including stating that Israel's defense against Hamas rocket fire is “barbarism that surpasses Hitler”, sparks unwarranted anger towards Jews and endangers the Turkish Jewish community and Jews around the world;

Whereas the Governments in France, Germany, and Italy, the three countries where the majority of incidents have occurred, have strongly condemned anti-Semitism as unacceptable in European society, including French President Hollande and Prime Minister Valls, German Chancellor Merkel, and the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Italy collectively, have all made clear statements that such attacks on their Jewish communities are intolerable, and they have matched those words with strong law enforcement;

Whereas some civil society leaders have set strong examples, including the condemnation by the Union of Mosques of France, on behalf of their 500 mosques, called the attacks “morally unjust and unacceptable”, and stated, “nothing can justify any act that could harm our Jewish compatriots, their institutions or their places of worship” and, in Germany, the largest circulation paper, Bild, featured statements against anti-Semitism from politicians, business leaders, civic leaders, media personalities and celebrities with “Never Again Jew Hated” on the front page; and

Whereas Congress supports freedom of expression and the right to criticize any government or its policy and has played an essential role in shining a spotlight on the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere;

(2) decries and condemns the comparison of Israel to Nazis perpetrating a Holocaust or genocide as an insult to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and an affront to those who survived and their children and grandchildren, the righteous gentiles who saved Jewish lives at peril to their own lives and to those who bravely fought to defeat the Nazis;

(3) applauds those foreign leaders, especially in France, Italy, and Germany, who have condemned anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action against anti-Semitism in their countries, to do so;

(4) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism;

(5) pledges to support and expand Holocaust educational programs at home and abroad to increase awareness, counter prejudice, and enhance efforts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust; and

(6) urges the Secretary of State to—

(A) maintain the fight against anti-Semitism as a United States foreign policy priority and to convey United States concern in bilateral meetings;

(B) ensure that the instruments of United States public diplomacy including President Barack Obama's emissary to the Organization of the Islamic Conference pursue ways to address the issue of anti-Semitism where data show it is needed most;

(C) ensure high-level United States participation in the 2014 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe high level event marking the 10th anniversary of the 2004 OSCE Berlin Declaration against anti-Semitism;

(D) urge governments to ensure that adequate laws are in place to punish anti-Semitic violence and hate crimes as well as establish mechanisms to monitor, investigate and punish perpetrators;

(E) continue robust United States reporting on anti-Semitism as a human rights and religious freedom issue by the Department of State and the Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism;

(F) provide necessary training and instruction for personnel posted in United States embassies and missions to analyze and report on anti-Semitic incidents as well as the response of governments to those incidents and to hate crimes in general;

(G) ensure that United States efforts to train law enforcement personnel and prosecutors abroad incorporate tools to address anti-Semitism and other bias motivated incidents;

(H) deepen engagement with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and support its specialized efforts to monitor and address anti-Semitism, including through support for its law enforcement and civil society training programs; and

(I) redouble his commitment to oppose all efforts to prevent any individual from freely exercising their religion without fear of prosecution or violence.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas there is clear evidence of increasing incidents and expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world;

Whereas on April 30, 2014, the United States Department of State released the International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 and noted that, "Throughout Europe, the historical stain of anti-Semitism continued to be a fact of life on Internet fora, in soccer stadiums, and through Nazi-like salutes, leading many individuals who are Jewish to conceal their religious identity.";

Whereas anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in 2014 around the world, including countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and North America, include incidents of murder at Jewish sites, violent attacks and death threats against Jews, as well as gun violence, arson, graffiti, anti-Semitic cartoons, and other property desecration at Jewish cemeteries, places of worship, and communal activity;

Whereas a survey by the Anti-Defamation League of attitudes towards Jews in more than 100 countries around the world, released in May 2014 found that over a quarter of the people surveyed (26 percent), and nearly three quarters of those surveyed in the Middle East (74 percent) hold anti-Semitic views, a stunning indicator of the stubborn resilience of anti-Semitic beliefs, even in countries where few Jews reside;

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League survey also found that a majority of people surveyed overall have either not heard of the Holocaust or do not believe it happened as has been documented by factual accounts and recorded by history;

Whereas President Barack Obama said in his remarks at the USC Shoah Foundation Dinner on May 7, 2014, "... if the memories of the Shoah survivors teach us anything, it is that silence is evil's greatest co-conspirator. And it's up to us—each of us, every one of us—to forcefully condemn any denial of the Holocaust. It's up to us to combat not only anti-Semitism, but racism and bigotry and intolerance in all their forms, here and around the world. It's up to us to speak out against rhetoric that threatens the existence of a Jewish homeland and to sustain America's unshakeable commitment to Israel's security";

Whereas in 2004, Congress passed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which established an Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, headed by a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism;

Whereas the United States Government has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitism through its bilateral relationships and through engagement in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States (OAS);

Whereas in recent decades there has been a clear and troubling pattern of increased violence against Jewish persons and their property, purportedly in connection with increased opposition to policies enacted by the Government of Israel;

Whereas during Israel's 2014 Operation Protective Edge aiming to stem the rocket fire

and terrorist infiltrations by Hamas, Jews and Jewish institutions and property were attacked in Europe and elsewhere, including attempts to invade a synagogue in Paris, fire-bombings of synagogues in France and Germany, assaults on Jewish individuals, and swastikas spray-painted in a heavily Jewish area of London and also in Rome's historic Jewish quarter;

Whereas anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been on display at demonstrations against Israel's actions in Gaza throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, including—

(1) placards comparing Israeli leaders to Nazis, accusing Israel of carrying out a "Holocaust" against Palestinians, and equating the Jewish Star of David with the Nazi swastika, and

(2) demonstrations that have included chants of "Death to Jews", "Death to Israel", or expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians;

Whereas the Governments in France, Germany, and Italy, the three countries where the majority of incidents have occurred, have strongly condemned anti-Semitism as unacceptable in European society and have all made clear statements that such attacks on their Jewish communities are intolerable, and they have matched those words with strong law enforcement;

Whereas some civil society leaders have set strong examples, including the condemnation by the Union of Mosques of France, on behalf of their 500 mosques, called the attacks "morally unjust and unacceptable", and stated, "nothing can justify any act that could harm our Jewish compatriots, their institutions or their places of worship";

Whereas the largest newspaper in circulation in Germany, Bild, featured statements against anti-Semitism from politicians, business leaders, civic leaders, media personalities and celebrities with "Never Again Jew Hatred" on the front page; and

Whereas Congress has played an essential role in illustrating and counteracting the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere;

(2) decries and condemns the comparison of Israel to Nazis as an insult to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and an

affront to those who survived and their children and grandchildren, the righteous gentiles who saved Jewish lives at peril to their own lives and to those who bravely fought to defeat the Nazis;

(3) applauds those foreign leaders who have condemned anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action against anti-Semitism in their countries, to do so;

(4) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism as part of the broader policy priority of fostering international religious freedom;

(5) supports expanded Holocaust educational programs that increase awareness, counter prejudice, and enhance efforts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust; and

(6) urges the Secretary of State to—

(A) maintain combating anti-Semitism as a United States foreign policy priority;

(B) ensure that the instruments of United States public diplomacy, including the United States Representative to the Organization of Islamic Conference, are utilized to effectively combat anti-Semitism;

(C) ensure high-level United States participation in the 2014 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) high level event marking the 10th anniversary of the 2004 OSCE Berlin Declaration against anti-Semitism;

(D) urge governments to ensure that adequate laws are in place to punish anti-Semitic violence against persons and property;

(E) continue robust United States reporting on anti-Semitism by the Department of State and the Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism;

(F) provide necessary training and instruction for personnel posted in United States embassies and missions to analyze and report on anti-Semitic violence against persons and property as well as the response of governments to those incidents;

(G) ensure that United States Government efforts to train law enforcement personnel and prosecutors abroad incorporate tools to address anti-Semitic violence against persons and property; and

(H) strongly support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's specialized efforts to monitor and address anti-Semitism, including through support for its law enforcement and civil society training programs.

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILIES OF JAMES FOLEY AND STEVEN SOTLOFF, AND CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 734, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 734

Whereas James Foley and Steven Sotloff were highly respected journalists whose integrity and dedication were a credit to their profession;

Whereas James Foley and Steven Sotloff embodied the spirit of our Nation's First Amendment liberties, including the freedom of the press;

Whereas James Foley and Steven Sotloff made significant contributions to our Nation through their courageous reporting of events in Libya, Syria, and elsewhere; and

Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is a terrorist organization responsible for committing barbaric acts against United States citizens, religious and ethnic minorities, and those who do not subscribe to ISIL's depraved, violent, and oppressive ideology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the terrorist acts of ISIL, including the barbaric and deplorable murders of James Foley and Steven Sotloff;

(2) salutes James Foley and Steven Sotloff for their unwavering and courageous pursuit of journalistic excellence under the most difficult and dangerous of conditions;

(3) mourns the deaths of James Foley and Steven Sotloff; and

(4) offers condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

—

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4323. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO KERMIT WOMACK

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer special birthday wishes to someone very important to me, my father, Kermit Momack.

Dad turns 80 years old tomorrow, and it is a special honor to recognize him for his many outstanding accomplishments.

He is a 35-year veteran of the National Guard in Missouri and Arkansas. As an accomplished broadcaster, owning and operating five broadcast stations in Arkansas, his "old school" philosophy of community-involvement radio is legendary. He is also a dedicated cattleman.

Mr. Speaker, Dad is also a great family man. He raised seven children and taught them the important and valuable lessons of life, and he should know because, as a child in humble circumstances, Dad won a three-State FFA public speaking contest and a scholarship to pay his way through college.

Dad, on the eve of your 80th birthday, I want America to know the importance you have meant to your family, the communities you serve, the Nation, and this grateful Congressman. Happy birthday.

—

CLINICAL RESEARCH EFFORTS

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the valuable and lifesaving contributions of America's clinical research efforts and to urge my colleagues to support my resolution to make September clinical research innovation month.

Innovation and scientific research are critical to ensuring America's future competitiveness. San Diego understands this and has become a hub for innovation and technology.

Clinical research organizations are components of our leading innovation sector in San Diego and across the country. They are fundamental to the development of drugs, biologics, and medical devices that are changing the face of health care in America.

Mr. Speaker, last year alone, clinical research efforts led to over 85 new drugs approved by the FDA, aiding in the fights against cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and many other ailments.

Clinical research connected to the veterans hospital in San Diego is looking for the best ways to treat our brave men and women as they return home.

The lifesaving innovations coming out of clinical research are helping people across the country live longer and healthier lives, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in establishing clinical research innovation month.

THE ISLAMIC STATE IN THE LEVANT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to overstate the threat posed by ISIL. Former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan Ryan Crocker recently stated:

I call it al Qaeda version 6.0. They are far better organized, equipped, and funded. They are more experienced and more numerous, and, for the first time since 9/11, a determined and capable enemy has the space and security to plan complex, longer-range operations.

We are presented few good options in confronting ISIL. However, failing to confront this brutal terrorist group is not one of them.

The combat component of this strategy must be executed by local forces. Yesterday, the House passed a bipartisan resolution that reinforces this principle. The measure authorizes neither U.S. troops in a combat role nor additional taxpayer funding.

It does allow the Department of Defense to seek to reprogram existing funds for training, and it also includes new oversight provisions to ensure the administration's plan is managed within the confines of the law.

Mr. Speaker, this action is a step forward in helping the region take on and defeat ISIL, which is fundamental to U.S. national security.

—

RECOGNIZING UNION CITY POLICE CHIEF BRIAN FOLEY

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Union City Police Chief Brian Foley as he retires at the end of September after almost 30 years of service.

Brian grew up in California before graduating from California State University, Chico, with a degree in business administration. In 1986, Brian joined the Union City Police Department, fulfilling a dream of becoming a police officer.

He worked for the Union City Police Department in a variety of areas, including crime scene investigator, homicide detective, and SWAT team member. His hard work and skills propelled him into leadership roles such as SWAT team leader, sergeant, captain, and—since January 2012—chief.

On behalf of the residents of Union City and the 15th Congressional District, I want to thank Chief Foley for his years of dedicated and courageous service. He has played a key role in helping to keep the streets of Union City safe, and he will be sorely missed.

I also wish Brian well as he enters the next phase of his life. I am sure he

is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children. After so many years of hard work for the people of Union City, this opportunity is well-deserved.

RECOGNIZING DR. BINDUKUMAR KANSUPADA OF YARDLEY, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Dr. Bindukumar Kansupada of Yardley, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a member of the Eighth Congressional District, my constituent, and my good friend.

As a cardiologist, successful businessman, and faithful community servant, Dr. Kansupada has been an incredible asset for the health and well-being to the families that call the Delaware Valley home.

As a member of both my physician's advisory and Indian American communities, Dr. Kansupada's talents and experience have been a vital part of my legislative and outreach efforts as we work together to provide Bucks County families with the type of patient-centered health care solutions that keep our communities happy and healthy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Dr. Kansupada a personal friend of mine, and I look forward to partnering with him in the future so that Bucks County continues to be a great place to live, to work, to raise a family, and to grow old in.

CONDEMNING THE RISE OF GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous passage today of H. Res. 707, we send a clear, strong, and bipartisan message condemning the rising tide of anti-Semitism around the world.

In 2014 alone, we have seen an increasing number of murders at Jewish sites, of violent attacks, and death threats against Jews. There has been a disturbing increase of anti-Semitism throughout Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, including in Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Britain, France, and Germany.

We must ensure that the world views such actions for what they are—the vile and hate-fueled persecution of an entire people—rather than an acceptable expression of frustration with political events in the Middle East or anywhere else.

Tragically, 70 years after 6 million Jewish men, women, and children were

murdered simply for being Jews, many Jews in Europe again face violent anti-Semitism and must live in constant fear.

Anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been on display at demonstrations against Israel throughout the United States and the world. Make no mistake, this is a new face on a very old hatred. Disagreeing with Israeli policy is no excuse for anti-Semitism.

I want to thank my colleagues, but I want to thank especially PETER ROSKAM, NITA LOWEY, and KAY GRANGER for leading this effort with me; and I want to thank NANCY PELOSI, STENY HOYER, KEVIN MCCARTHY, ED ROYCE, and ELIOT ENGEL who helped bring this important bipartisan piece of legislation to the floor.

□ 1915

JIHADISTS KILLING AMERICAN SOLDIERS

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, an article today by Andrew McCarthy that I want to read in part:

Meanwhile, back in Afghanistan . . . Bill Roggio reports that jihadists have killed four American soldiers. Three were killed in a suicide bombing in Kabul and the Taliban have claimed responsibility. A fourth was killed in a so-called “green-on-blue” assassination. He was an American there to train “moderate Islamist allies” at a military base in western Afghanistan, and one of these Afghans shot him dead and wounded two others before finally being killed.

It was the fourth green-on-blue attack this year. The last one, in August, claimed the life of Major General Harold Greene, the highest ranking American officer since the Vietnam war to be killed in combat—being murdered by a jihadist in an Afghan military base while training moderate Islamists . . . Roggio observes the Taliban “have devoted significant efforts to stepping up attempts to kill” U.S. and allied forces.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. We don't need to be helping the so-called moderate jihadists.

And with that, I will insert the full article into the RECORD.

[From the National Review Online, Sept. 18, 2014]

TRAINING ‘MODERATE ISLAMISTS’—FOUR MORE AMERICANS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

(By Andrew C. McCarthy)

Meanwhile back in Afghanistan . . . the Long War Journal's Bill Roggio reports that jihadists have killed four American soldiers. Three were killed in a suicide bombing in Kabul for which the Taliban have claimed responsibility. A fourth was killed in a so-called “green-on-blue” assassination—i.e., he was an American there to train our “moderate Islamist allies” at a military base (in Western Afghanistan), and one of these Afghans shot him dead and wounded two others before finally being killed.

It was the fourth green-on-blue attack this year. I wrote here about the last one, in Au-

gust, which claimed the life of Major General Harold Greene, the highest ranking American officer since the Vietnam War to be killed in combat—being murdered by a jihadist in an Afghan military base while training moderate Islamists is quite appropriately considered combat (although being murdered at an American base while preparing to deploy for combat against jihadists is considered “workplace violence”). As Bill explains, green-on-blue attacks are down, from a high of 44 in 2012, mostly because of the U.S. draw-down and reduced “partnering” with the “moderate” Afghan forces (because doing so has proven perilous). Nevertheless, Bill observes that the Taliban “have devoted significant efforts to stepping up attempts to kill” U.S. and allied forces. Mullah Omar has bragged that the Taliban “cleverly infiltrated the ranks of the enemy” in accordance with a plan hatched in 2011. As I've noted before, the Taliban knows our forces are leaving and wants to make it appear that they are chasing us out of the country.

Although the Taliban has never stopped conducting jihadist terror attacks against our forces, President Obama released five Taliban commanders from Guantanamo Bay in May, enabling their return to the anti-American jihad. And now, as American forces retreat from Afghanistan, our soldiers will be assigned to train more “moderate Islamists” in Syria—which apparently will not be a combat mission . . . unless the trainees go green-on-blue.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR RETURN OF AUSTIN TICE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy. I have a constituent who is missing in Syria. He is the son of Marc and Debra Tice. His name is Austin Tice.

On August 11, 2012, he celebrated his 31st birthday in Syria. On August 13, he was reported missing. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, and he was there pursuing his career in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, his parents are gravely concerned, and we are asking anyone with any information concerning this young man, Austin Tice, to please contact the FBI hotline at 1 (800) 225-5324, repeating 1 (800) 225-5324. My number is (202) 225-7508.

I would like to now have a moment of silence for his return.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM MCMANUS

(Mr. GALLEGO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to Bill McManus, William McManus, who has announced his retirement as the chief of the San Antonio Police Department in the seventh largest city in the country.

Chief McManus has been on board in San Antonio for some 8 years, but he brought with him 30 years of experience in law enforcement in such areas as diverse as narcotics, tactical positions, criminal investigations, internal investigations, the full range of experience.

As a result of his service in San Antonio, their police department is more well-respected, more well-trained than ever in San Antonio's history.

Chief McManus I first met when he was testifying before the legislature and I served as chair of the committee on criminal jurisprudence.

I know well his passion for law enforcement and his passion for people. We will miss him dearly at the city, but we wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING JAZZ LEGEND JOE SAMPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and mourn a great American in my district. His name is Joe Sample. He made people happy by the wonderful jazz that he played.

Born in 1939, in his high school he joined with fellow students and created the Jazz Crusaders. In doing so, he enjoyed a wonderful career that saw him working with people such as Miles Davis, George Benson, Jimmy Witherspoon, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Steely Dan, and the Supremes. He incorporated jazz in many things that he did, but he also understood gospel, blues, Latin, and the classical form.

In talking to his family this week, and to his family and his wife, I give them my deepest sympathy.

He said he was proud of his gospel music album.

We are saddened that he has lost his life in his battle against lung cancer. I am delighted to salute him as a great American who shared his talent with young people, who was kind to those with whom he grew up, who made Texas proud, and certainly is renowned throughout this great community of Houston and the Nation.

Starting the piano at 5, Joe Sample never left his love of music and always tried to share it and be a representative of the value of what music is to children and the American people.

I ask this Congress to acknowledge with me this great hero, Joe Sample, a musician, an American, someone who we can be proud of that lived good in this country.

MAKE OUR ENERGY MORE RELIABLE AND MORE AFFORDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed a commonsense approach to make our energy more reliable and more affordable. Our vote today would create jobs and secures our energy future by making us dependent on North American resources, not OPEC, Venezuela, or others.

I am proud to lead this effort in support of lower energy costs and more American jobs. With commonsense policies like these, we can make real progress toward reducing prices at the pump and protecting families from higher monthly electric bills. Lower energy costs also mean lower prices for groceries and other consumer goods; and by producing more American energy, we can create more American jobs. These are the issues that families struggle with at the kitchen table every night and keep you awake at night.

But House Republicans have put forward a positive bipartisan solution to strengthen our energy policy that will allow us to begin fostering the development and use of our own energy resources. Today the House acted. We passed commonsense energy legislation that takes advantage of our abundant North American energy and puts our country on a path to better infrastructure.

This approach is simple. It is a package of 13 bills the House has already passed on a bipartisan basis, including three of which were even voice-voted. They are not controversial.

For instance, this bill includes the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act that would expedite and modernize the Federal review process for natural gas pipeline permits to help facilitate the construction of new pipeline infrastructure. This bill passed with 26 Democratic votes.

It also includes H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, sponsored by my good friend CORY GARDNER from Colorado. This would speed up the approval of liquid natural gas exports. We have an abundant supply of natural gas here in the United States, an abundance of which will allow other countries to become dependent upon us for their energy needs.

Now, our Energy and Commerce Subcommittee, several of us on the Republican side went to North Dakota last year to visit the oilfields. We flew in at night. When you fly over western North Dakota at night, it looks like you are flying over a birthday cake with lots of candles. Those candles are flaring off natural gas because the price is so low and it is so plentiful that it just makes better economic sense to burn it off. So we need to find additional resources and uses for the natural gas. They are already there: exporting, transpor-

tation. We just need to focus more on those.

Just today we heard in a joint meeting of Congress from the President of Ukraine. He talked about the security in his own country and the strong partnership with the United States. Can you imagine how much weaker Russia would be if Ukraine was more dependent or would use North American U.S. natural gas resources?

Former Obama National Security Adviser General Jim Jones testified before the Senate that Vladimir Putin uses energy as a weapon. I believe that we would be using our energy resources as our weapon. And by expediting the permitting processes for liquified natural gas terminals, it would allow us to export natural gas to countries like Ukraine and our European partners and Japan.

These policies to develop natural gas would further cement U.S. leadership in the world and grow our economy and create jobs here at home.

Secondly, this package includes the Electricity Security and Affordability Act. That would protect an affordable and diverse electricity portfolio by providing reasonable alternatives to the EPA's greenhouse gas emissions rule. It would require the EPA to develop practical solutions for new coal-fired powerplants, including just saying that you can't implement a rule until the technology exists.

Doesn't that make sense to have a rule that the technology can actually comply with instead of making a rule where there is no technology allowing you to comply with it? I wonder if there is another agenda behind that.

Lastly, this bill includes H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, which would approve the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Tomorrow marks the sixth birthday or anniversary of the filing of that permit—6 years. We have liberated continents and put a man on the Moon in less time than it has taken to review this permit and approve it. It not only has strong bipartisan support in the House, it is one of the few issues that enjoys broad bipartisan coalition in the Senate as well.

We can't get this done because the President lacks the leadership to make a decision. He would rather make a decision based on politics, continuing to delay the decision until after the next election. It is just now the third election.

Consider these few things about the Keystone pipeline that come directly from this administration's environmental impact statement on the Keystone pipeline.

It would create over 42,000 jobs directly related to the construction of the pipeline project and downstream jobs.

During the construction of the pipeline, it would contribute \$2 billion in

wages to the economy in the United States—\$2 billion.

The administration acknowledged that by not building the Keystone pipeline, we had actually increased carbon emissions by 28 to 41 percent.

Many people come up to me and say, I don't get how it would reduce. The reality is, the alternative is, the pipeline that Canada is building to the east and to the west will then be exported. So that oil then is put on a ship, tanker, at least for the west it will be shipped directly to China. Maybe even the east coast pipeline will go down into the Panama Canal and over to the east.

So when you use the energy taken to ship it to China and then refined in China with less pollution controls and emission controls in their refineries than we have in the United States, you will actually be increasing the CO₂ carbon emissions.

□ 1930

Now, like every other piece of legislation in this package, this is stuck in the Senate and being held hostage by the majority leader. Time is of the essence before the clock runs out on this Congress. So this package of energy bills to grow our economy actually does HARRY REID a favor.

Instead of having to schedule 13 different bills, Mr. Speaker, he only has to bring up one. We have nearly 400 bills that this House Chamber has sent to him that have not been acted upon. Let's make it easier, package them together, and if he passes ten of the bills like this then maybe we are making some real progress.

The Senate floor wants the comprehensive package and to hold one vote to meet our national energy needs and grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ran to make our country energy independent, to have the level of security, national security, when you can be in control of your own economy and destiny. In my view, the cornerstone of a dynamic economy is your own energy and your own resources. You compare the countries that have the resources that they can control themselves and not be dependent on others and you see the strongest economies in the United States. This is the cornerstone. It creates jobs, it creates security. And I just don't understand why our majority leader—the majority leader in the Senate—won't bring these great bills to the Senate floor. In fact, I think he is scared they are going to pass, and they will. They have a great deal of support.

So let's say "yes" to American energy, "yes" to more affordable energy in the United States.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Indiana to say a little bit more on how we secure America's energy.

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you for yielding, Congressman TERRY.

I rise today in support of American energy and the families that it supports.

Mr. Speaker, American families are struggling. Many are living paycheck to paycheck as the price of everything continues to rise: a gallon of gas, a gallon of milk, electrical costs. And do you know who the rising electrical costs will affect the most? American's seniors on a fixed income and the poor.

Here in the House we have solutions, like investing and expanding American energy production. It creates jobs on which families can depend and lowers costs at home and for businesses.

Mr. Speaker, my father was a United Mine Worker in Illinois for over 30 years. It was hard work, but it was a good-paying job and provided for our family, and we are proud of the work my dad did. It afforded me the opportunity to pursue an education and become the first person in my family to receive a 4-year college degree. I went on to medical school and became a surgeon. His job as a coal miner made the American Dream possible for me. This is what America is about.

In my home State of Indiana, over 80 percent of our electricity comes from coal. My district is home to nine coal mines, every mine in the State, and they employ thousands of Hoosiers. Next door, in southern Illinois, more coal mines, which employ Hoosiers. Coal not only keeps the lights on in Indiana, but it puts food on the table for Hoosier families.

I have been to several coal mines recently, went down in the coal mine—because I like going down in coal mines since I did it when I was a kid—and talked to the hardworking men and women who every day are working these jobs. And I keep hearing the same thing, Mr. Speaker: Washington regulations are crushing our business and I am afraid for my job, what that may mean to my family.

The fact is that coal is being mined cleaner and safer than it ever has. Despite what this administration would have you believe, the coal industry has made great strides in protecting our environment while providing low energy costs for their consumers.

But every time they invest their own money to improve their mines, this administration moves the goalpost. They do this without consideration of how many jobs they are eliminating in southwest Indiana and other coal-producing States. How this impact on the energy prices consumers pay has an effect on Indiana's families.

In my district, two coal-fired power plants are closing because of this administration's energy policies.

It is not just coal jobs that are being threatened. Indiana's manufacturing jobs are beginning to feel the impact of these harmful energy regulations. You see, manufacturing makes up around 28 percent of our gross State product. We

are a huge manufacturing State; in fact, the highest percentage of gross State product in the country.

Indiana also leads the Nation in manufacturing employment, and low-cost energy is part of the reason.

But the plants in my district are telling me they may not be able to survive when Washington continues to squeeze them more and more. How can Alcoa, with 3,000 jobs, stay open in my district if their energy costs double or triple?

We can bring more manufacturing to the United States, Mr. Speaker, more jobs—which is what this is about—if we just get Washington, D.C., out of the way of American businesses.

Yesterday, in a committee hearing, I asked the EPA to visit my district and, for that matter, other coal-producing States, to hear our story and listen to what my constituents have to say. While we wait for their response, the House is working.

I am proud to have supported H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act. This comprehensive package that has already been outlined by Congressman TERRY included the best energy ideas that the House has produced this Congress. The most important piece of this legislation is it will ensure every American access to affordable, reliable energy.

This legislation approves the Keystone pipeline, the most studied pipeline in history, which even the President's own State Department has determined will not negatively impact the environment.

This project is critical to our future generations to address their future energy needs, but, unfortunately, this administration has been blocking his project for years for politics. While they turn their back on our Nation's energy needs, they have been implementing new regulations that have been costing our Nation billions of dollars. It just doesn't make sense.

Part of H.R. 2 includes Representative BILL CASSIDY's Energy Consumers Relief Act, which ensures congressional oversight of energy-related rules costing more than \$1 billion.

This commonsense bill will allow Congress to have oversight of some of those billion dollar regulations that are crushing American consumers across the Nation and that probably won't meet our standards once they are looked at by Congress. They are just costing too much, with no benefit other than an ideological approach for the administration. We need to get back to science and common sense.

H.R. 2 also included legislation that helps speed up the permitting process on Federal lands, protects our Nation's electrical grid, and protects coal mining jobs.

Most of these bills had already passed the House and are sitting over in the Senate waiting for action. They are

waiting for a vote. In fact, they are waiting for a hearing, waiting for a debate amongst our Senators about the energy solutions the House has passed.

I understand that the Senate at this point—or at least one party in the Senate—may not agree with these ideas, but let's have a discussion about it. Let's hear your ideas in the Senate to lower our Nation's energy costs. The House has spoken. This is what our constituents expect of us, Mr. Speaker, an honest, vigorous debate about the issues facing our Nation.

Doing nothing is not an energy policy, and it is no way to legislate.

I hope our friends across the Capitol and the President are watching and learning from the House's example.

Mr. Speaker, finally, in closing, I want to say we need to tap our energy resources. We are on the verge of an energy renaissance in the United States, a manufacturing renaissance. What does this mean? Low-cost energy, American jobs, putting families back to work. And that is what we all want, that is why we are here, that is why we ran for office, Mr. Speaker, to help people. It provides for lower costs. We are doing it in a cleaner way than we ever have.

Mr. Speaker, let's not look right in the face of success in creating jobs and look the other way.

I am hopeful that the Senate will take up some of the House-passed bills, including this one, before the end of the year. If not, Mr. Speaker, the next Congress in this House will act again to show the American people we want lower costs for their energy, we want good-paying jobs, we want manufacturing in America, and we will act again and, hopefully, the Senate in the next Congress can see it to where they will step forward and act.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you, Mr. BUCSHON.

You mentioned manufacturing and how important it is to your State. The reality is also that manufacturing is reliant on affordable and reliable energy.

I am the chairman of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee under Energy and Commerce. We did a series of hearings, Mr. Speaker, on manufacturing in the United States. We had industries of all sorts testify in front of our committee. I left that series of hearings very optimistic about manufacturing in the United States, because what we are seeing is many manufacturers returning to the United States.

There was one common theme to every one of the manufacturers that were moving to the United States or returning to the United States, and it was affordable and reliable energy. Many of them use natural gas, whether it is the steel industry that is having a resurgence right now—by the way, a beginning job in the steel industry—

and, yes, they are looking for workers right now—\$77,000.

That is the middle class that is being hammered right now. We need to create those jobs, expand those jobs, but you need affordable and reliable energy.

So what is this administration doing? They pass a rule on existing electrical generation plants, existing plants, not ones yet to be built, and they say you have to lower your emission rates to the level of using natural gas. So when we talk about Mr. BUCSHON and Mrs. BROOKS, who is going to come up here and talk about the impact on coal and jobs, that is the war on coal. They aren't using "don't use coal"; they just put the number of emission particulates below what you can get if you use coal.

But, now, here is what happens in a State like Nebraska. The State of Nebraska has older coal-fired plants, most of them are smaller, in our rural areas of Nebraska. They won't be able to afford to pay for all of the changes that have to occur to meet that. And, by the way, this rule is not even finalized yet, but when it becomes finalized these plants have until June 30, 2016. We are in September of 2014. That is less than 2 years that they have to prepare.

That is why some of these rules are just so ridiculous and so obvious in how they are attacking our energy sector and making affordability and reliability a question mark.

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, JEFF DUNCAN.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on energy, and for having this opportunity to discuss with the American people the things you are talking about, the impact of the rules and regulations the Obama administration has put forward with coal-fired power plants.

In my State of South Carolina, with the number of power plants that we have that are coal-fired generated, we will see rates go up. And, as you say, they have got until 2016. Well, the Obama administration will leave office in 2016, and that is when you are really going to see the impact of rates going up in States like South Carolina, Nebraska, and others that use coal. The Obama administration won't feel the impact and the pressure from the voters because they will no longer be in office.

But let me tell you about a winning message, and that is jobs, energy, and the Founding Fathers, things we have talked about this week as we passed this energy package.

Jobs. Let's unleash and unbridle that innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in America. Let Americans create jobs with the understanding that government creates jobs, but the government creates government jobs.

□ 1945

Americans create American jobs, and they do that through energy. Energy is a segue to job creation, and, if you dispute that fact, go to North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, or Louisiana. Look at the jobs that are created there. There are low unemployment rates, even negative unemployment rates, in North Dakota.

It is an energy-driven economy. Jobs and energy. Energy is a segue to job creation. Our Founding Fathers unleashing that entrepreneurial spirit, understanding the American Dream, understanding limited government, free markets, and individual liberties.

We do that by simple things like approving the Keystone pipeline to bring that friendly Canadian oil down to the refineries where we have capacity in this country, working with our best and largest trading partner to the North.

It just makes sense as you approach American energy independence. If we as a Congress can't approach American energy independence, why not North American energy independence, working with the Canadians and also looking south to Mexico, which just did away with the nationalization of their energy sector, privatizing more and more of Pemex and the other energy resources, opening up the Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreement area in the western gap? A million and a half acres are now open to production on the Mexican and U.S. sides of the western gap.

In South Carolina, we want offshore energy production. I want to applaud the Palmetto Policy Forum for a study they just put out that shows the economic impact. When people think about energy jobs and offshore, they think about the guys in the hard hats and the oily uniforms turning the drill on the derrick.

But guess what? It is all the jobs that are created onshore to support that effort offshore. Those are the pipefitters and the welders and the widgetmakers and the auto body mechanics and the supply vessels and the heating and air repair guys that go out to the rigs and repair the heating and air and the refrigeration and other things that are going on out there because it is a way of life.

Those guys are onshore, at home, and they are eating at their local restaurants and tipping their waitresses and going to their churches and tithing. They are joining the United Way and the chamber of commerce and sponsoring those ball teams.

It is a trickle down. The first domino that falls is for us to allow offshore drilling.

The bill we passed this week does a lot. I want to applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee, but I also want to applaud DOC HASTINGS and the Natural Resources Committee.

It increases offshore production, increases onshore production. It opens up that Federal land that is currently off the table for oil and gas production, but also wind, solar, and transmission lines and all the things that happen, that is now off the table on Federal land out West.

Look at a map of the West. There are a lot of sunny areas out there in the desert; but guess what? You own it. Your taxpayer dollars set it aside. It is Federal lands, but it is off-limits. Even if you believe in solar and wind power, you can't have that on Federal land because it is off the table for that type of production as well.

This prevents duplicative hydraulic fracturing regulations. Guess what? We have got an abundance of natural gas in this country, and we are finding more and more every day onshore. We can build LNG terminals.

We heard a great speech from the President of Ukraine today. If we could export LNG from America to Ukraine, lessen Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas and also export the technology that we have for fracturing, they want that technology because they want to lessen their dependence on Russian gas.

It is because of a word that he mentioned over and over today, Mr. Speaker, and that was "freedom." Freedom. Freedom from Russian gas and that dependence. Europe wants it because they are dependent on Russian gas as well.

Let's export the LNG, the gas that we are producing in abundance in this country, and let's help our allies in Europe and Ukraine.

All that we do, all the bills that we talked about, we have had an absent Senate when it comes to energy independence, and we have had an absent White House when it comes to energy independence, other than supporting Solyndra and other green initiatives and wasting taxpayer dollars.

We need real things that work. It takes 24/7 base load power in this country to make the engines of the economy work. 24/7. What does that mean? Base load power, what does that mean? That means when you flip the light switch and the lights come on; and, when the companies that are manufacturing products all over this great land cut those machines on, this power supply is available to turn the engines of the economy, producing American jobs, producing American manufacturing items.

That happens with 24/7 base load power that comes from coal, natural gas, hydro, that comes from nuclear power, all of the things we should support while we continue to work on the necessary components for wind and solar to actually work, and that is the storage capacity because wind and solar is intermittent.

The sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow, but I will

tell you what works, and that is the proven technologies of oil and gas, nuclear, hydro, the things that we are talking about in the bills we passed today that actually work.

Jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers. Let's put Americans to work. Let's unleash that innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. Let's have an energy-driven economy, and we can do it.

South Carolina wants to be a part of that. Nebraska is already a part of that. Indiana—I have talked with Indiana folks that are here. South Carolina wants to be a part of that as well.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you. I appreciate that.

I now yield to Mrs. BROOKS from Indiana.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Thank you to the gentleman from Nebraska for bringing together my colleagues, with tremendous energy—my colleagues who have the energy to talk about this package of bills that will encourage investment in our infrastructure, lower energy prices, and create good-paying jobs for millions of Americans.

My home State of Indiana is especially well-positioned to take advantage of Chairman UPTON's and what they are calling in Energy and Commerce the "architecture of abundance" that is embodied in the bill that we just voted on and passed.

Last week, the commissioner of Indiana's Department of Environmental Management testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee that, in fact, 28,000 Hoosiers are employed in the coal industry and that our State sits on top of a 300-year supply of this abundant resource.

By rolling back the disastrous proposed EPA regulations on coal-fired gas plants, this bill will save Hoosiers 32 percent on their electric rates and keep our businesses competitive.

As the Nation's leading manufacturing State, Indiana heavily contributes to the oil and gas extraction business by producing the equipment that makes the energy renaissance possible.

In fact, the industry already contributes \$16.6 billion to the Hoosier economy, while supporting over 136,000 jobs. H.R. 2 will expedite LNG export applications and approve the Keystone pipeline, initiatives that we know would add billions of annual GDP to our economy and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.

Make no mistake, I also fully understand the value that renewable resources play in our energy mix. My district alone is home to two ethanol plants, a wind farm, and a newly-opened solar plant.

Renewables bolster Indiana's local economies while supporting 53,000 Hoosier jobs. This is a massive growth sector in our State, and H.R. 2 would continue to promote the development of

alternative sources of energy for the benefit of our economy and the environment.

The Congressman from Nebraska's bill makes pipelines more feasible; and, as the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service found, "pipelines provide safer, less expensive transportation than railroads" that currently carry gas and oil.

Pipelines mean fewer spills, less emissions from vehicles transporting fuel, and better access to natural gas which produces 30 percent less emissions than petroleum.

Republicans are committed to a responsible environmental policy that protects our children from pollutants and preserves our pristine wildlife for generations to come.

However, American ingenuity and technological advancements have allowed U.S. energy-related carbon emissions to fall to their lowest levels in nearly two decades, showing we can tap into our vast natural resources while still being responsible stewards of our environment.

Indiana Governor Mike Pence and 14 other Governors recently wrote to the President:

The economic health of our Nation depends on accomplishing a balanced energy and environmental policy.

Madam Speaker, that is exactly what this bill does. I hope the President listens, and I applaud the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you, Representative BROOKS. You had mentioned something that we really haven't injected into this particular conversation, and that is the renewables.

I am proud that our local power district has 30 percent of their energy produced by wind, a renewable source. I personally think that solar is going to be, over time, a significant part of a portfolio, but maybe not in the way that many people think because many people think of filling the desert with these solar panels.

The reality is that technology today is to be integrated into buildings. Think of your office building's windows generating power. That is exciting technology that is in the research labs right now, so we need to include that.

I am glad you brought it up because people listening may think that we only want fossil—but it is just that fossil fuels are under attack—and you need a diverse portfolio; otherwise, you really jeopardize your economy. If you are just only on oil and you only get it from overseas, you can see where you are in jeopardy.

I just wanted to thank you for bringing that up.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Thank you. And the diverse all-of-the-above energy policy, if we use renewables in addition to oil and gas, that creates even more jobs, and I applaud you for your effort

to always think about the environment as well.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you.

I want to yield to the gentleman from Georgia. I don't know if you are a Bulldog or not, but you are in Congress.

I now yield to ROB WOODALL, the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my friend from Nebraska. We are all Bulldogs in Georgia, even those folks who went to the trade school in downtown Atlanta known as Georgia Tech. We are Bulldogs at heart.

I want to thank you for leading this hour tonight because, so often, when folks think about what we do here, they are thinking about Republican this, Democrat that, partisan this, partisan that. Folks get mired down in philosophical debates.

What you have done here tonight is get into the core of what I think we all, as Americans, care about. We are talking about energy security. We are talking about an all-of-the-above energy strategy that lowers energy prices, puts more money in the pockets of every single family through lower prices, and creates job opportunities not just in your State or my State, but all across this country, and, Madam Speaker, that provides us with energy security.

I grew up in the seventies. I remember the gas lines. I remember sitting outside. That was our great President from the State of Georgia that was presiding in those days, and I will never forget President Reagan's first inaugural address.

He was talking about the challenges that we were facing as Americans. He was talking about the big dreams that it was going to take to overcome those challenges. He conceded that they were big dreams, but he said, "Why shouldn't we dream those dreams?" Because, after all, we are Americans, we are Americans.

What my friend from Nebraska said about the oil exploration in Canada really struck me. We have this debate about whether or not we should build a pipeline to bring Canadian energy down into America to provide American jobs, American construction, American manufacturing, and there are those who say, "Well, no, don't do it because it would be better if that oil stayed in the ground."

That is not a choice. That is not an option that is anywhere in this House or that is anywhere within our jurisdiction. The gentleman pointed out exactly the truth of the matter which is, if we don't do it, somebody else will. If we don't do it, somebody else will.

There is not a nation on the planet that is going to burn that oil more responsibly than we will, and I love that about us. Madam Speaker, I love that about us, that no one will do it better than we will.

This bill is H.R. 2. We reserve those numbers for the most important things that we do. I don't know if folks know that, Madam Speaker.

Those top 10 numbers in the bill calendar are reserved for the biggest and best thing that we do, but, because people think this is such a partisan institution, they might think we save those numbers for the "Republicans are the Greatest Act." They might think we save those numbers for the "It's Our Way or the Highway Act." Nonsense. We save those numbers for the things that matter to everyone.

My friend from Nebraska can correct me if I am wrong, but we have packaged together a collection of bills that have passed this House. We put them together in H.R. 2, and every single bill in that package passed with a bipartisan vote.

Mr. TERRY. It is true.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I want you to hear that. We had a chance here. Republicans run this show. If we wanted to just jam something through, we could, but, when we talk about energy independence, we are not talking about Republicans and Democrats. We are talking about Americans.

□ 2000

We are talking about every family in this country. And what the gentleman from Nebraska has done is put together those commonsense ideas that have been agreed upon by both sides of the aisle—bipartisan votes, every one—and said let's not let this year expire without doing those things that we can do, agreeing on those things on which we can agree.

Mr. TERRY. May I interrupt you on that point because it is interesting.

When I am back home—and maybe you get this—we get input from our constituents. And one of the most frequent ones is: Why don't you do the bills that you do agree on?

In essence, that is what this bill does because we have had 30, 40, 50 Democrats involved in the bills and voting for them; and so this is an amalgamation of bipartisan bills, but yet we had less Democratic support for today's bill than we did as individual bills, and I think maybe there is a little bit of politics being played.

Mr. WOODALL. You may not know, Madam Speaker, but my friend from Nebraska is the author of the Northern Route Approval Act. It is one of those bills that passed here with a bipartisan majority, and it is in this package. It is in this underlying package.

We talk about this as if it is an energy bill. Because it is H.R. 2, it is the energy bill. But that very same language that my friend has authored and led through this House of Representatives is included in the Study Committee package known as the JOBS bill, JOBS Act, that collection of bills that will put Americans back to work,

that will grow the economy, that will do those things that are on the minds of every single American family.

Too often we talk about energy issues as if they are separate from those issues; and what my friend knows and what he has been leading in this hour tonight, Madam Speaker, is that energy issues are jobs issues. Energy issues are family issues. Energy issues are issues to every single American citizen.

Never before in my lifetime have I had the hope that we would get the hands that have been around the American neck by those who supply us with energy. We have that opportunity.

I was listening to my friend from Indiana talk about coal. We are the Saudi Arabia of coal in America, the Saudi Arabia of coal. And the administration is trying to singlehandedly tie the hands of the energy industry not to exploit—and I mean "exploit" in the best possible sense of the word; I mean "exploit" in the utilize, in the harness, in the grow sense of the word—taking that off the table. That is not an environmental decision. That is a jobs decision, and we feel that in each and every one of our districts.

Madam Speaker, there are a lot of ways to run this institution. You can run this institution with the iron fist that says "my way or the highway," or you can run this institution with those commonsense ideas that speak to every single American family.

Folks think this is an election year, I say to my friend from Nebraska, and they think that that brings out the worst in this body. What I want to say to you, under your leadership, these bills that we see here tonight, these bills that were packaged in H.R. 2, that most preeminent number in priority here at the House of Representatives, what you are leading is that language, that bill, that opportunity that puts America first and being a Republican or a Democrat way, way down the list.

I think that is what folks are looking for. I think good policy is good politics. I think doing the right thing for the right reason is better than having the right commercial at the right time.

It matters, and it matters to me that we have leaders like you who carry that message. I am grateful to you for leading the hour tonight. I am grateful to you for including me in it, and I am grateful to you for yielding me the time.

Mr. TERRY. And I am grateful you stayed long enough to speak tonight. You did a great job, and I really appreciate all of the work and effort you do to secure America's future.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, energy, again, is the cornerstone of our economy. Sometimes we speak rather scientifically. We don't speak in the terms of how does it really affect me, not as a Member of Congress, but, you know, we represent 600,000 or 700,000

people in our districts. What we are trying to do is secure America's future. If we focus on energy, we secure it in so many different ways.

I hear from my constituents that they are frustrated at the increase of food prices in the grocery store, the continuous up-and-down swings of gasoline at the pump. The costs per family for just transportation fuel has gone from 6 percent of their income to now 11.6 percent, just in the last 6 years. Those are the type of things that really make it more difficult for our families in our districts. So a solid, encompassing energy policy helps alleviate those cost frustrations of every family.

Many people will say, You talk about affordability and reliability. What are you talking about? How does it actually make things more affordable? What is reliability?

Well, if your electric bill is going to go up, if you have an existing powerplant that can't meet the new rule where the plans have to be submitted in June of 2016, so what they will have to do is either close that plant or invest, some are talking anywhere from 100 to \$500 million or more to comply to this rule. What do you think happens when that power district spends \$500 million? They pass that on to the consumers. Your electric bills will go up.

We met with our electric generators over the break, and they told me that some of these, they are just going to have to shut down these smaller powerplants.

What happens to those communities? They can't invest \$100 million or more into those, so they just close them down, go onto the market and bid for the energy that is out there.

But when you have—and a new GAO report just came out recently, or some report, that they expect even more powerplants to close because of these rules. So when you have more communities and districts bidding against each other, the price is going to go up for that electricity as well.

So you have kind of got it both ways. If you comply to the rule, you are going to raise costs. If you just close the powerplant, the rates are going to go up.

What we are trying to do here is just figure out a pathway where we don't have to have this level of disruption and price increases by these rules. And what we are saying here is, come forward with a better rule that gives us more time and a bright pathway so that we don't make a financial impact to our families.

So the bottom line here, Madam Speaker, is, if we secure our own energy future, our country will continue to be the greatest country in the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The Chair will remind all

persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

MILITANT ISLAMISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON) for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to start by commending the Congressman from Nebraska. Having invested across borders in many different countries around the world, I believe that good-paying American jobs come mostly from competitiveness.

In order for our companies to be competitive and produce good-paying American jobs, we need competitive energy prices. Therefore, I support this bill and think that it can produce lots of great jobs in America. I, for one, drive an automobile made by Americans in America.

Yesterday, I voted "no" on the proposal to train and arm Syrian rebels. I did so because I am convinced that we and our allies need to come together and unite behind a much broader and very long-term plan with the goal of ending militant Islamism across the globe once and for all. In my opinion, anything less, such as reacting crisis by crisis, like playing Whac-A-Mole, is doomed to failure.

To begin, we must accept the realities of the challenges we face and the generational nature of the threat. We can easily agree that ISIS today is the most visible and immediate threat of militant Islamic extremism. It is a clear and present danger to the Middle East region and, yes, beyond. We can all agree, ISIS must be eliminated. But moving forward, it would be a mistake and, I think, a missed opportunity to focus solely on ISIS. ISIS is only one part of a widespread metastasizing cancer of hatred, intolerance, and violence.

We are facing a cancer of militant Islamism, with cells under various names in dozens of countries. In planning the elimination of ISIS, we, with a coalition of the willing, must do so, recognizing it as part of an overall global disease. Success requires a broad, diverse, and longstanding international coalition committed to defeating the cancer of militant Islamism once and for all.

Now America is uniquely qualified to provide the leadership, including the airpower and mission command structure; but this time, the funding, military equipment, and ground forces must be provided by others.

Too many times in the past, the United States has borne an extremely

disproportionate part of these burdens. This time it must be understood that U.S. forces are not going to be the combat boots on the ground, nor will the American taxpayer be paying the bill.

It is time for our allies, especially the Arab and Muslim nations, those most significantly and most immediately threatened, to step up. They need to provide the resources, especially the ground forces that are needed in this conflict. And coalition plans and action plans going forward must be guided by an overarching strategic vision of a world someday, somehow free of militant Islamism. That must be our cause.

Success will begin but not end with the containment, isolation, and, over time, elimination of ISIS and other militant cells, wherever and whenever they arise.

One by one, Islamic militant organizations must be eradicated around the world. They must be eliminated from the Middle East, from the Near East, sub-Saharan and north Africa, and south Asia. Any additional cancer cells or seeds of cancer in Europe, the U.S., or elsewhere must also be eliminated.

The coalition must also follow the money and take actions to halt all financing for militant jihadists from banks, oil revenues, and states sponsoring terrorism. The coalition must be united long term behind a goal of a world where today's oppression, intolerance, violence, brainwashing, and genocide give way to liberty, religious and ethnic tolerance, and opportunity for all, regardless of one's sex, faith, or ethnicity.

The coalition must also address the root causes of the cancer, something we have been avoiding up until now, something that presents an additional challenge of monumental proportions. This means correcting conditions that become recruitment tools for jihadist organizations.

Impoverished areas, especially those with disadvantaged Muslim populations, must evolve to where they can provide information, education, skills training, and economic opportunities for their young people to counter environmental conditions that are so ripe for radicalization by radical jihadists.

These challenges are huge, even generational. Handouts are not the answer, in my view. The coalition must address these issues with the nations involved and with moderate Muslim leaders, providing assistance wherever possible. Ultimately, the battle for the hearts and minds must be won by voices of moderation and opportunity in rejection of extremist voices who offer only hatred and bloodshed.

□ 2015

Schools and hospitals and, yes, even mosques must condemn and combat violence and militant jihad.

Moderate Muslim leaders must be encouraged to speak out against extremism.

This does require courage. And as moderate Muslims emerge, the coalition must stand ready to defend and support them against those who would try to silence their voices.

Over time, any and all teachings of hatred and intolerance must be brought to an end.

As with cancer in our bodies, the worst thing to do is to deny it, ignore it, minimize it, or hope that it will just go away on its own. Or fail to call it by its proper name. And when a cancer metastasizes, we must accept that we cannot cut it out in one location.

For decades, we have been fighting the cancer of militant Islamism sort of like playing Whac-A-Mole. Whenever an Islamic threat pops up of radical nature, be it in the Near East or in the Middle East, New York, London, Nigeria, Sudan, Southeast Asia, or elsewhere, be it an organized effort or even a lone wolf, we react to it and try to smash it away, only to see another Whac-A-Mole pop up soon after in a different location.

After decades of rising Islamism, the Middle and Near East regions have seen leadership voids filled by Islamic radicals. As despots are threatened or driven out by revolutions or internal civil wars, the resulting voids are being filled by others, many of whom are bad players. Often the new leaders are worse than those they replace.

Transforming nations from totalitarian rule to a sustainable form of representative governance poses huge challenges, as we have seen in recent years.

This challenge will not end with the elimination of ISIS. Am I overstating my concerns? I don't think so.

I am convinced that America must lead the civilized world and accept the nature and breadth and complexity of global militant Islamism and call it by its name. And lead a coalition resolved to stay the course and end this cancer once and for all.

We must stop kicking this cancer down the road to jeopardize future generations.

It is neither naive nor idealistic to suggest that the world must unite behind the long-term goal of ending radical global militant Islamism. Because the alternative is simply not acceptable.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GREEN THE ECONOMY: SAVE THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. When it comes to climate change, we are facing a stark choice in America. We can

do nothing and see if it happens or we can do something, protect our children, and actually grow jobs and our economy.

If you believe climate change is not happening, if you are a denier of climate change, you do not need to listen any further.

But I do have a wall that I would like to put your name on. I call it the Wall of Climate Denial. Heck, let's put this wall on the National Mall. And I would like to invite all my colleagues across the aisle to put their names on it. And that way our children and grandchildren can visit this wall decades from now and see for themselves who acted on climate change and who stood in the way.

If we act, we can start to change course, and that wall would only be a monument to a way of thinking that was on the wrong side of science.

If we do not act, it will be a monument to those responsible for the massive loss of human life and economic productivity. It will also be, if we do not act, likely, a wall that is underwater.

Global climate change is one of the greatest challenges that we face. And I agree with the previous speaker: there is no question one of the most immediate threats that we face in our country right now is defeating and wiping from this Earth ISIL.

But one of the longest-term threats to our own energy security and our existence is global climate change.

Last September, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report which states with a 95 percent certainty that human activities are responsible for climate change.

This report was based on a rigorous review of thousands of scientific papers published by over 800 of the world's leading scientists making it clear that if we do not act on climate change, if we don't take the necessary steps to halt this change, the repercussions for humans across this globe and the environment will be catastrophic.

We need to move forward now at this moment to take the necessary steps to combat the warming of our planet before these impacts become inevitable.

I represent the East Bay in California, where people understand the effects of climate change and are willing to do whatever is necessary to take the big steps, do the big things, take some risk to address this and grow our economy.

We are facing big energy challenges in this country and around the world. But we know that our old, dirty methods are not sustainable.

We know that the dynamics of the energy marketplace are shifting. Far from being stagnant and hopeless, we are now seeing an unprecedented amount and an unprecedented pace of change that was unpredictable even a few years ago.

For instance, renewables are penetrating at a remarkable rate, with growth in wind alone outpacing natural gas in 2012.

Our responsibility is to make sure that our country is prepared for whatever changes the markets may experience.

Overreliance on a limited range of technologies and finite resources is unreasonable. We know that the United States consumes 25 percent of the world's oil. But, at best, we only have 3 percent of the U.S. oil reserves. This is not a problem that we can drill our way out of. That is only a short-term bridge.

Our strength will lay in our ability to transition to new, cleaner, more sustainable resource energy future.

We must be competitive and not let ourselves get behind. As Washington bickers, our competitors are pulling out every imaginable stop to capitalize on the booming clean-energy economy.

It is time for us to get serious about creating green energy policy to enable us to compete more globally.

A recent article in The New York Times over the weekend pointed out how far ahead our European friends are. Germany will soon be getting 30 percent, 30 percent of their power, from renewable sources. By contrast, in 2013, renewable sources of energy accounted for only about 10 percent of the United States' energy consumption and 13 percent of electricity generation.

Are we any less capable than Germany of harnessing the energy from the wind and the sun?

I believe, Madam Speaker, we are not. We are not less capable. But right now, we might be less willing.

Step one in addressing climate change is admitting that it is a problem. Too often in Washington we see this false choice, this debate that if we accept climate change as a problem, then it is going to kill jobs, and we should do, therefore, nothing about it.

But if we don't accept climate change as a problem, we will never be singing off the same sheet of music. Once we sing off the same sheet of music, we can start to take the steps necessary to address that climate change is indeed a problem.

There is overwhelming consensus among scientists across our globe that it is a problem.

Here is what we know: the current warming trend is a particular concern because it is very likely that it is based on human-induced activities.

The heat-trapping nature of carbon dioxide and other gases was demonstrated in the mid-19th century. Ice cores drawn from Greenland, Antarctica, and tropical mountain glaciers show that the Earth's climate responds to changes in solar output, and the Earth's orbit, and in greenhouse gas levels. They also show that in the past, large changes in climate happened very

quickly, geologically speaking—in tens of years, not millions or thousands.

How about sea-level rise? Global sea level rose about 17 centimeters, that is just under 7 inches, in the last century.

As far as global temperature rise, all three major levels of global surface temperatures showed that the Earth has warmed since 1880. Most of this warming occurred since 1970, with 20 of the warmest years having occurred since 1981, and with 10 of the warmest years occurring in the past 12.

The oceans are also rising and warming. The oceans have absorbed much of this increased heat, with the top 700 meters of ocean showing a warming of 0.302 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969.

Extreme events, the number of record high temperature events in the United States, have been increasing, while the number of record low temperature events has been decreasing, since 1950. The U.S. has also witnessed increasing numbers of intense windfall events.

So once we can address and accept that climate change is occurring, we can end this false debate of, do we do anything or do we do something?

And I submit to America that if we do something, not only can we address climate change, save the world, protect our children, we can actually create jobs.

My district is home to several businesses and initiatives that are fighting to green our economy and combat global warming but that are also economically successful.

In my district, we have a program called i-GATE, or the Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence. I-GATE is a regional incubator in the Tri-Valley specializing in growing green technology startups. With a network that includes two national laboratories, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, with over 7,000 scientists, investors, and advisers, and leading universities and corporate partners, i-GATE has created a unique ecosystem for growing the startups that are working to address our biggest energy challenges.

The startups that i-GATE incubates are working to create better lithium ion batteries, provide region- and crop-specific information to farmers on how climate change could change and affect their crop revenue, and create low-cost diagnostics to screen for life-threatening diseases.

We also have an interesting company that I had the opportunity to visit at their ribbon-cutting called Siluria Technologies. It is in Hayward, California. And they are pioneering the commercial production of fuels and chemicals made from clean, abundant natural gas and renewable methane.

Since its opening in 2013, Siluria has already demonstrated how their technology can be employed to produce gas-

oline, an achievement that paves the way for the first such commercial facilities producing liquid fuels in 2017.

This year, Siluria unveiled a first-of-its-kind development for producing cleaner fuels from natural gas and renewable methane.

This accomplishment is an important milestone in moving forward. It represents the last scale upstep prior to full commercialization of Siluria platform technology.

Then there is UltraCell. James Kaschmitter, a former employee of Lawrence Livermore National Lab, founded the company UltraCell in Livermore, California. They are designated as a veteran-owned small business, making compact high power, long endurance, off-grid portable power.

I also want to tell you the story of a small business in Dublin, California. I visited this small business when they put solar panels on their rooftop just a few weeks ago.

Now, their business owner is admittedly a pretty conservative guy. And so I asked him, I said: "You're putting solar on your rooftop. You know, solar is often affiliated with addressing climate change and investing in renewables, and sometimes conservatives don't always agree with that."

Well, the business owner told me: "ERIC, this is going to reduce my energy bill, which is about the equivalent cost of a supermarket, by hundreds of thousands of dollars every year."

□ 2030

He used a small company in my district called Cool Earth Solar which also came out of our national laboratories; so they used federally-funded research dollars that were put into our national laboratories, and then they transferred that out to the private market and created this technology that a small conservative business owner is using in my district to save money so he can create more jobs. We can green the economy, save the world, and protect our planet for our children.

Cool Earth Solar joined with the Livermore Valley Open Campus and Sandia National Laboratories in a public-private partnership to make solar energy more affordable and accessible. Sandia National Laboratories researchers, with the laboratory's solar energy program, are testing and helping bring to market their innovative technology which uses cheaper and fewer materials to capture solar energy so that it is more affordable for small business owners, like the one in Dublin at All American Label, so that they can save money and create more jobs.

Then there are the two national laboratories. Sandia National Laboratories is home to the Combustion Research Facility. The Combustion Research Facility is a public-private partnership, and I stress these public-private partnerships because the Federal Government cannot do this alone.

We could spend the money on the basic research to get this to the marketplace, but we need faithful, committed actors in the private sector to make this successful. It is a public-private collaboration with industry, including General Motors, Cummins, ExxonMobil, and Caterpillar.

The facility focuses on the advanced combustion strategies required by industry to develop a new generation of high-efficiency clean engines.

Then there is the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory which is also in my district, and it is home to the National Ignition Facility, also known as NIF. NIF is the largest and most energetic inertial confinement fusion device built to date, and it is the largest laser in the world. Fusion holds the promise of providing a practically limitless supply of clean energy to the world.

Across the country, there are other national laboratories, including Argonne National Laboratory, which is the home to the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research.

This world class research is working towards developing new technologies that move beyond lithium ion batteries and store at least five times more energy than today's battery, at one-fifth the cost. Then there is the Idaho National Laboratory, managing the Feedstock Process Demonstration Unit.

Look at this: across America, different laboratories are harnessing their local resources. The PDU provides an industrial-scale research system for testing feedstock formulation processes, collecting process data, and producing larger quantities of formulated feedstocks for conversion testing, a key step to getting a new biofuel to the market.

There are also very interesting ventures across America taking place in a bipartisan way to address climate change. Launched in October 2013, the Risky Business project focuses on quantifying and publicizing the economic risks from the impacts of a changing climate.

Risky Business was cochaired by a bipartisan group of leaders, Hank Paulson, Michael Bloomberg, and Tom Steyer. The Risky Business project has found that our economy is vulnerable to an overwhelming number of risks from climate change and that the current path will only make these risks worse.

Climate change is our planet's way of charging compound interest. They find that the longer we wait to pay down our climate debt, the more it will cost the American economy, and the harder it gets to adapt. There is no such thing, they find, as "business as usual" and that the only path forward for businesses and individuals is to act now to reduce these risks.

Their assessment found that, if we act immediately, we can still avoid

some of the worst impacts and significantly reduce the odds of costly, catastrophic climate outcomes, but only if we start changing our business and public policy decisions today.

They are calling on American business leaders and investors to get into the game, to get into the game of climate investment. America's businesses are fully capable of rising to this challenge of climate change, and we must do more now, just as we are seeing done in Germany.

This is not a problem for another day. The investments that we are making today, this week, this month, this year will determine our economic future.

They point to short-term problems and long-term problems. In the short term, we are going to see the cost of coastal property and infrastructure. Within the next 15 years, higher sea levels combined with a storm surge will likely increase the average annual cost of coastal storms along the Eastern coast and the Gulf of Mexico by \$2 billion to \$3.5 billion. Adding in potential changes in hurricane activity, the likely increase in annual losses grows to about \$7.3 billion.

How about agriculture? California is the largest agriculture State in the country. A defining characteristic of agriculture in the United States is its ability to adapt, but the adaptation challenge going forward for certain farmers in specific counties in the Midwest and in the South will be significant.

Without adaptation, some midwestern and southern counties could still see a decline in yields of more than 10 percent over the next 5 to 25 years should they continue to sow corn, wheat, soy, and cotton, with a 1 in 20 chance of yield losses of these crops of more than 20 percent.

Most importantly, energy. Greenhouse-driven changes in temperature will likely necessitate the construction of up to 95 gigawatts of new power generation capacity over the next 5 to 25 years, the equivalent of roughly 200 average coal or natural gas-fired power plants, costing residential and commercial ratepayers up to \$12 billion a year.

Then there are the large-scale losses to coastal property and infrastructure. If we continue on this current path, by 2050, between \$66 billion and \$106 billion worth of existing coastal property will likely be below sea level nationwide, with \$238 billion to \$507 billion worth of property below sea level by 2100.

Who is standing in the way of climate change action? We know who they are. We know this family. Koch Industries spent over \$25 million in campaign contributions by the end of 2013.

They have spent over \$84 million in lobbying as of the end of 2013. Americans for Prosperity does not have to

fully disclose spending since, technically, it is a not-for-profit entity; so the numbers are actually truly unknown.

The Koch brothers have funneled \$67 million to groups who deny climate change and actively try to delay policies and regulations aimed at stopping global warming.

The Koch brothers run oil refineries and control thousands of miles of pipeline, giving them a massive personal financial stake in the fossil fuel industry.

Koch-owned Flint Hills Resources, a subsidiary, owns refineries in Alaska, Minnesota, and Texas that process more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil daily. The company owns a 3 percent stake in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, 4,000 miles of oil and products pipelines in the United States, and an 80,000 barrels per day refinery in Rotterdam.

In addition, Koch Industries has held multiple leases on the polluting tar sands of Alberta, Canada, since the 1990s, and the Koch Pipeline Company operates the pipelines that carry the tar sands from Canada into Minnesota and Wisconsin, where Koch's Flint Hills Resources owns oil refineries.

It is time that we have real campaign finance reform in this country. It is time that we pass a constitutional amendment that reverses the decision in Citizens United. It is time that we take the influence that Koch Industries has on policymakers to standing up for climate change.

It is also time that we end this false debate. Let's accept that climate change is truly happening. Let's believe in the science, the overwhelming majority of scientists who accept that it is happening. Let's move past that debate.

Once we move past that debate, let's have the real debate: What do we do next? How do we address climate change without killing jobs in America? How do we invest in our own energy resources?

It is often said that, "Well, if the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, there is not much you can do with renewables." Well, there is great research taking place in our national laboratories and in the private sector to better store renewables, to use fuel storage methods for our renewables. Let's look at better investments and fuel storage renewables.

We have a unique opportunity in this country to do something. The cost of doing nothing is too great. The cost of doing nothing means leaving our children a future that is more insecure. The cost of doing nothing means spending more money in defense because we don't have our own energy resources that we can draw from, making us more vulnerable to people across oceans who aren't necessarily our allies to receive our energy resources.

The cost of doing nothing means our entire planet could one day be under water. We have an opportunity to do something. We can green our economy. We can create jobs.

My district is not unique. There are great minds across our country who can answer this call for action. There are great minds who can create jobs in every district in this country through wind, solar, fuel storage, and other alternatives to dirty fossil fuels. I believe in an all-of-the-above energy approach.

We should not just pull the plug immediately on fossil fuels; but, if we don't look forward, as our ally Germany is doing—30 percent renewable consumption by the end of 2014, 30 percent. If we don't look forward in that way, we will pay a steep, steep price.

Let's build that climate wall—I hope there aren't many names on it. Let's build that wall of climate denial. If you truly believe we should do nothing, if you believe the answer is to just cover our eyes, put our fingers in our ears, bury our heads in the sand, and just reject all of the science, that wall will likely be under water.

But America is too great. America has always responded to changing science and has always harnessed our own resources. I believe we can seize on this opportunity. We can green our economy, save the world, and leave a better planet for our children.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BOSNIA TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week Congressman TRENT FRANKS and I had an important meeting with Reis Emeritus Dr. Mustafa Cerić, the former Grand Mufti of the Islamic community of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Cerić is internationally recognized and renowned as a man of peace, a leader in interreligious dialogue. For example, in 2008, he led the Muslim delegation to the Catholic-Islamic Forum, and he did that kind of work on many, many occasions.

Last week, we talked about Bosnia since the conflict and the genocide of the 1990s, about where Bosnia is today and where it needs to go.

□ 2045

I would like to share with my colleagues what Reis Cerić had to say. Dr. Cerić briefed and updated us on Bosnia's struggle to hold itself together, build its economy, and integrate into NATO and the European Union.

He talked about a country where, 19 years after Srebrenica and the horrific

genocide that occurred there and the Dayton Peace Accords, ethnic divisions remain strong and, in many ways, have hardened as a generation has grown up in a system that classifies people into one of three ethnic communities—Bosniak, Serb, or Croat—and in a system that diminishes the rights of anyone that doesn't belong to one of those communities, including Jews and Roma.

In Bosnia today, only ethnic Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats can be elected to the legislature—the House of Peoples—or to the Presidency. This structurally-embedded discrimination is a legacy of the Dayton Peace Accords brokered under American watch.

While this design was probably necessary at the time to stop the genocide and aggression, in today's time and expanding Europe, it clearly violates our basic values of freedom and equality.

As a result, in Bosnia today, all persons are not equal and—based on race, religion, and ethnicity—entire segments of the population are excluded from full political participation.

The Dayton Peace Accords were a tourniquet to end the genocidal conflict in 1995. However, that is all they were really intended to be. Dayton was never intended to operate as Bosnia's Constitution, certainly not for 19 years.

As a result of Dayton's severe limitations on its democracy, Bosnia cannot be fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures. Without amending the Dayton Accords to respect basic human rights and political rights of one person-one vote, Bosnia will never even be a candidate for the European Union.

So a question mark hangs over Bosnia's future, as ethnic activists continue to agitate to partition the country and threaten daily to secede, taking large swaths of ethnically-cleansed territories with them. Such action might lead to a revival of hostilities.

What further aggravates the condition is a sustained campaign of mischaracterization and outright denial of genocide by some government officials of the Republika Srpska, the smaller of Bosnia's two entities.

Milorad Dodik, the President of the Republika Srpska, is publicly calling for the naming of public squares, roads, and boulevards after indicted war criminals such as Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic; yet Dayton provides no mechanism by which Bosnia, Madam Speaker, can be fully democratized.

Significant leadership by Bosnian leaders is going to be absolutely necessary to break through the stalemate created by ethnic interests, and, of course, the United States must do its part to ensure that the Bosnian dream of a robust democracy, respect for the fundamental human rights, and rule of law is reached. I respectfully submit that delay is denial and that the Bosnians deserve better.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a special responsibility to Bosnia. We could have done more for them in the 1990s. I know, I was here.

I held hearing after hearing, traveled to the former Yugoslavia repeatedly, joined by other colleagues like FRANK WOLF, trying to get this country to stand up and assist those who were being victimized by an invasion; instead, we left it to the Europeans in the 1990s, and, unfortunately, it was a train wreck.

We could have lifted the arms embargo on Bosnia earlier, which may have prevented the genocide.

I would note, parenthetically, that I was the sponsor of legislation to lift the egregiously-flawed arms embargo that hindered both the Croats' and the Bosnians' ability to defend against aggression.

Only after the tragic and preventable Srebrenica genocide in early July 1995—and thanks to the leadership of some of us in the House and Senate—did our government swing into action and broker the peace deal.

Bosnians, Madam Speaker, of every ethnicity and faith look to the United States to help move the country forward. I agree with Reis Cerić that, without American leadership and help to evolve the Dayton Accords toward a democratic constitution, the situation will likely fester and get worse.

Madam Speaker, in the 1990s, throughout the darkness of the Balkan war, Reis Cerić was a powerful, persistent, reasonable, and dynamic voice for peace, human rights, the rule of law, and accountability for genocide.

Reis Cerić is a good friend of mine and truly an inspiring man of God.

TAX-PAYER-FUNDED ABORTION

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to address another issue before the House today.

Madam Speaker, 5 years ago, about 5 feet from where I am standing right now, President Obama told lawmakers and the American public in a specially called joint session of Congress on health care reform that, "Under our plan, no Federal dollars will be used to fund abortion."

That was September 9, 2009. In an eleventh hour ploy to garner support from a remnant of pro-life congressional Democrats absolutely needed for passage of ObamaCare, the President issued an executive order on March 24, 2010, that said:

The Affordable Care Act maintains current Hyde amendment restrictions governing abortion policy and extends those restrictions to newly-created health insurance exchanges.

It turns out, Madam Speaker, that those ironclad promises made by the President himself are absolutely untrue.

Agree or disagree with public funding of abortion—and a significant majority of Americans oppose it—but no one

likes to be misled. Today, as I think many of my colleagues know, a growing number of Americans are recognizing that abortion is violence against children and hurts women.

Abortion methods rip, tear, and dismember or chemically poison the fragile bodies of unborn children. There is nothing benign, compassionate, or just about an act that utterly destroys a baby and often physically, psychologically, or emotionally harms the mother.

At its core, Madam Speaker—and this has been missed by many, especially in the media—the Hyde amendment has two parts. It prohibits funding for abortion, but it also prohibits funding for any insurance plan that includes abortion, except in the cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

Remember, the President stood here and then, in his executive order, said that the act maintains the Hyde amendment restrictions governing abortion and extends those restrictions to the newly-created health insurance exchanges. That is what the executive order said, and yet, now, we know that is absolutely untrue.

A comprehensive Government Accountability Office report released this week documents massive new public funding for abortion in the President's new health care law.

Like so many of the President's promises that litter the political landscape, GAO has found that, in 2014, taxpayers are funding over 1,000—let me repeat that—1,000 ObamaCare health plans that subsidize abortion on demand—even late-term abortion—decimating the Hyde amendment that the President said he would honor.

Again, if you fund the insurance plan, the purchase of a plan, it is a violation of the Hyde amendment that the President said that he would extend to the newly-created health insurance exchanges.

According to the Government Accountability Office, in their findings, every ObamaCare taxpayer-funded health insurance plan in my own State of New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Hawaii pays for abortion on demand, every one of them.

In New York, a whopping 405 out of 426 ObamaCare plans subsidize abortion on demand. In California, it is 86 plans out of 90; in Massachusetts, 109 out of 111; in Oregon, 92 out of 102; in Washington, 23 of the 34 plans; and so it goes.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, their April 2014 estimate, Madam Speaker, between 2014 and 2024, taxpayer subsidies to buy ObamaCare health plans will total \$855 billion, making taxpayers unwittingly, wherever they live, complicit in abortion.

GAO has also found that even an accounting trick embedded in ObamaCare

requiring premium payers to be assessed a separate, monthly abortion surcharge is being completely ignored. The surcharge would have added some modicum of transparency so individuals would know whether they are purchasing a pro-life or pro-abortion health insurance plan.

Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska summed up the plain meaning—the absolutely plain meaning—of the law when he said that you have to write two checks, one for the abortion coverage and one for the rest of the premium.

According to the GAO, none of the 18 insurance companies they interviewed are billing the abortion surcharge separately. None. So much for the rule of law.

Last year, Members of Congress and some staff were barred from any further participation in the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan, the FEHB, and compelled on to ObamaCare exchanges.

After months of misinformation, obfuscation, and delay, I finally learned that, of the 112 plans offered on the exchange for my family, 103 of those plans pay for abortion on demand, a clear violation of the Smith amendment, a Hyde-like amendment that I first sponsored on the floor back in 1983 and has been the law of the land for all of these years, except for 2 years during the Clinton administration.

Madam Speaker, Americans throughout the country have raised very serious questions that they find it nearly impossible to determine whether the plan that they are purchasing finances or subsidizes the killing of unborn children—there is little or no transparency—hence the request by several Members of Congress, including our distinguished Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER, that the Government Accountability Office investigate.

As the November 15 open enrollment approaches for ObamaCare, we have no reason now to believe that the President's promise of this most transparent government in history will give consumers basic information about the abortion coverage.

First, we were told it wouldn't be in there—again, a promise made right from this podium, Madam Speaker—and then by way of executive order; and, now, we can't even find out, clearly and unmistakably, which plans include abortion and which do not.

To end President Obama's massive new funding of abortion on demand, Madam Speaker, last January, the House of Representatives passed my bill—a totally bipartisan bill—overwhelmingly known as the No Taxpayers Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act.

Madam Speaker, when our friend and colleague on the other side of this building, HARRY REID, was a Member of the House, he was as pro-life as Henry

Hyde. Now, as a majority leader, he refuses to even allow H.R. 7 and its companion bill offered by Senator WICKER to come up for a vote.

With respect to the distinguished Senator and on behalf of the weakest and the most vulnerable, the unborn children and those who will be hurt by abortion—their moms—I respectfully ask that he reconsider and post the legislation for a vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2100

UNITED STATES TAX CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the recognition. I appreciate you staying with me into the evening tonight.

I wish I could tell you I was bringing you good news, but I am bringing you some bad news. It is bad news that you have already heard. I have the most recent Tax Foundation rankings of international tax competitiveness.

We talk so much about jobs and the economy. We talk about how to make a difference in the lives of middle class families. We talk about jobs that are moving overseas. We talk about whether or not we are going to grow this economy. This is the ranking of the most competitive Tax Codes in this country.

I want you to think about, Madam Speaker, what those things are that we can do to be more competitive in this country.

We could lower everyone's wages. That would make it cheaper to build things in this country. I think that is an awful idea.

We could ignore environmental regulations. That would make things easier and cheaper to build in this country. That is an awful idea.

One of the things we could do, though, is deal with our tax system, a tax system that, so says the Tax Foundation, is the 32nd worst tax system of the 34 OECD countries—32nd worst in tax competitiveness.

Now, they are looking at everything. They are looking at individual taxes. They are looking at corporate taxes. You go way over here on the end, Madam Speaker, you get to the international tax rules rank. That is how well we work with the rest of the world with our tax system. America ranks dead last.

Why do I bring that up, Madam Speaker? I bring it up because I am reading from our Treasury Secretary, Jack Lew, his comments at the Urban Institute last week. He's talking about American corporations moving their

headquarters overseas. Not moving a factory overseas, but moving their international headquarters overseas. And he says this:

This practice allows the corporation to avoid their civic responsibilities while continuing to benefit from everything that makes America the best place in the world to do business.

Worst place in the world to do business, that is what the Tax Foundation tells us.

I read on from Jack Lew's speech. He said:

The best place in the world to do business: our rule of law, our intellectual property rights, our support for research and development, our universities, our innovative and entrepreneurial culture, our skilled workforce.

Again, speaking about the practice of moving your headquarters overseas, he says:

This may be legal, but it is wrong, and our laws should change. By effectively renouncing their citizenship, these companies are eroding America's corporate tax base.

That means all other taxpayers will have to shoulder their responsibility.

I go again to a Tax Foundation chart, Madam Speaker. It is a chart of what the rate is. And you can't see what the individual corporate tax rates are, but what you can see is the green lines here. That is the average corporate tax rate. Around the world, it is 25 percent.

You see another green line, that is the weighted average by the size of the economy. That of course gives more weight to the larger economies on the planet. That goes up to 29 percent.

And at the bottom of this chart, Madam Speaker, you see in red the United States of America, with the absolute highest corporate tax rate in the world. By our own design—and I say "our own." I have not gotten to vote on a corporate Tax Code, Madam Speaker, since I have been in this Chamber for 3½ years, but by our design as a nation we have created the absolute worst place to do business on the entire planet.

Our Treasury Secretary calls companies who observe that and make changes because of that so that our grandmothers and our grandfathers and our pension programs and everyone who relies on the success of those companies in order to meet their fixed income demands so that those companies can succeed, he calls that a shirking of civic responsibility.

I am on the floor tonight, Madam Speaker, to suggest that it is not those companies that observed that America is the worst on the planet and move elsewhere that are shirking their responsibilities. It is those of us in this Chamber, those of us on Capitol Hill, those of us in Washington, D.C., who are responsible for this corporate tax road, it is we who are shirking our civic responsibilities because we can do better.

I know it is getting late, Madam Speaker, and I hate to take you through the math, but when we talk about tax codes and why they are so bad, it is the math that matters. This is the tax liability for a corporation doing business in the United States of America.

Let's say you earned \$1,000. You are going to pay a 35 percent rate. You are going to add State taxes to that rate as well. It is going to be about 39.1 percent, on average, about \$391 out of every \$1,000. So at the end of the day, you are going to be able to take home \$609 to pay your salaries, to invest in your business, to grow your company—\$609. That is an American company doing business in America.

How about a Canadian company doing business in Canada? Same \$1,000 worth of income. They are paying a 15 percent tax rate at the national level. They are also having a provincial tax rate added to that, totals to about 26.5 percent, \$265. They are taking home \$735.

You earn \$1,000 worth of income as an American company doing business in America, you take home \$609. You earn \$1,000 in income in a Canadian company doing business in Canada, you take home \$735.

I know what you are thinking, Madam Speaker. You are thinking that's apples to oranges. One is doing business in America; one is doing business in Canada. Let's look further.

Let's say we take those same two companies, that one American company, that one Canadian company, and let's say they are both doing business in the United States of America. They earn \$1,000. They pay \$391 in taxes. They are at the highest corporate tax rate in the world. That American company takes home \$609.

Go to the Canadian company doing business in America. They earn that same \$1,000. They pay that same highest corporate tax rate that America has, the highest in the world. They take home \$609. Whether you are the U.S. company or the Canadian company, you do business in America, you pay the same tax.

I know what you are thinking, Madam Speaker. You are saying, Well, what is the argument here? What is the issue that we have to come together and solve? It is this issue right here, Madam Speaker.

Let's say you are not doing business in America. Let's say you are doing business in Canada. We are going to take that same American company, we are going to take that same Canadian company, and we are going to look at what happens when they are doing business in Canada.

That American company earns \$1,000. It pays the Canadian Government \$265. The Canadian company raises \$1,000, and they pay the Canadian Government \$265. But it is what happens next

that makes America one of the worst tax codes in the world.

When you try to bring that \$735 you have left over back to America, you pay American taxes on top of what you have already paid Canada.

So the U.S. corporation doing business in Canada earns \$1,000; they end up with \$650 at the end of the day. The Canadian company doing \$1,000 worth of business in Canada pays their taxes, ends up with \$735 at the end of the day. That is why companies are moving overseas. They do exactly the same business in exactly the same place as all of their international competitors, but simply because their headquarters is based in America, they pay more.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. And because of the way we have chosen to tax our companies, a methodology that has been rejected by most of the rest of the world, we punish every single company that chooses to stay in America employing Americans.

We have been talking about it in terms of Burger King and Tim Hortons. I don't know if you are a Burger King fan, Madam Speaker. I don't know if you are a Tim Hortons fan. I love them both. I love them both. And the suggestion has been made that when Burger King and Tim Hortons are going to get together and the headquarters is going to be located in Canada instead of America, that that is somehow an unpatriotic decision being made by Burger King.

I want you to see the revenue by category that this new Burger King-Tim Hortons merger is going to have. This acquisition by Burger King is going to have about 20 percent of the revenue coming from America, about 67 percent of the revenue coming from Canada, about 13 percent coming internationally.

I go back to this chart, Madam Speaker, where I said, What if you are doing business in Canada? If you are an American company, you take home less, not a little less, but more than 10 percent less. If you are a Canadian company, you take home more. Same amount of business, same country of business location, but because your headquarters is somewhere different, you take home less money.

Well, if you are Burger King and you are in this Tim Hortons acquisition, you are making most of your money in Canada, so what are you supposed to do?

If I ask the White House, they would tell me I am supposed to stay in America and put up with the absolute worst Tax Code the country has ever seen, this country has ever seen, but also the worst tax code anywhere on the planet.

This is America for Pete's sakes. We can do better.

It is not that Burger King is choosing to leave America; it is that America is running Burger King out. And that, that responsibility lies with us here in this Chamber.

It is an arcane issue called a worldwide tax system versus a territorial tax system. When you are in a worldwide tax system—and there are only seven countries left in the world that do this—you double-tax your companies. You charge them a tax based on the country in which they earned the money, and then if they bring that money back to America, you charge them another tax on top of that.

Most nations on this planet, most nations with First World economies, they use what is called a territorial tax system. That means whatever country you raise the money in, you pay the tax in; and when you bring that money back to your home country, you are not double-taxed one more time.

This is the issue we ought to be talking about. We shouldn't be talking about patriotism. We should be talking about common sense as it relates to having America compete in a global economy.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, if we have the absolute worst tax code in the world, if we have the absolute highest corporate tax rate in the world, if we have the least competitive international tax system in the world, what do you think is going to happen to international businesses when they make their decision about whether or not to locate in America? They decide no. They decide no.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk just a little bit about what President Obama has said. It is called corporate inversion. When you move your headquarters from America, you acquire a different company overseas, you make that your international headquarters, it is called a corporate inversion. You may have seen that in the news. Here is what President Obama had to say about it:

Even as corporate profits are higher than ever, there is a small but growing rub of big corporations that are fleeing the country to get out of paying taxes.

Fleeing the country to get out of paying taxes.

President Obama goes on. He says,

I say "fleeing the country," but they are not actually doing that. They are not going anywhere. They are keeping their business here, but they are moving their headquarters. They don't want to give up the best universities, the best military, the advantages. They just don't want to pay for it, so they are technically renouncing their U.S. citizenship.

Well, that sounds very similar to what I read from Jack Lew a little bit earlier. That is the party line coming out of the White House.

I go on. President Obama says:

These businesses are playing by the rules, but these companies are cherry-picking the rules and it damages our Nation's finances. It makes it harder to invest in things like job training.

He says:

I am not interested in punishing these companies, but I am interested in economic patriotism.

As a government, we have crafted the most punishing tax code on the face of this Earth. We have created the longest list of disincentives to locate your business in our country that is available anywhere on the planet today. And the question the President is asking is: I don't want to punish these companies, but where is their economic patriotism?

Madam Speaker, where is our economic patriotism? The Tax Code is something we created. Do you believe for a moment if the 435 of us in this Chamber got together to write the Tax Code today we would write the absolute worst tax code available anywhere on planet Earth? I don't think so. If we designed this Tax Code from scratch, we would have done something very different, but this is where we would have ended up.

I will close with this from the President:

Now, the problem is this loophole. They are using it in our tax laws, but it is actually legal. My attitude is I don't care if it is legal; it is wrong.

I don't care if it's the law of the land, I don't care if it's the law, they shouldn't do it anyway.

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When I think about the law, Madam Speaker, I don't know where you go, but I go to the courts for answers. And it is interesting that this idea of economic patriotism—this isn't the first time we have heard it—it has been argued in court time and time again.

I quote from the Second Circuit, affirmed by the Supreme Court:

Anyone may so arrange his affairs that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which best pays the Treasury. There is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes.

We have had the suggestion: economic patriotism, you should pay more, you should pay more. It is not our fault, it is the Congress; it is not our fault, it is the government; it is your fault as the job creator out in America, you should be doing something different.

We saw this again, another Second Circuit case:

Over and over again the courts have said that there is nothing sinister in so arranging one's affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible. Everybody does so, rich or poor alike, and all do right. For nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands. Taxes are enforced extractions, not voluntary contributions. To demand more in the name of morals is mere cant. Taxes are extractions, not voluntary contributions.

Madam Speaker, I want to say to all of my colleagues, everybody in the administration: If you don't believe you are paying enough in taxes, we can give you an address to the Treasury Department where you can mail your check. Taxes are extractions. If you are interested in a voluntary contribution, I can tell you where to mail your check.

Tax law exists to provide certainty, not just certainty to employers, but also to investors, also to entrepreneurs, also to families, also to employees, to those folks who show up to work day in and day out. The law provides us with certainty.

We, as a government, have created the worst tax environment on the planet in which to do business, and the leader of our government wants to blame the companies that have stuck with us day in and day out for the last 50 years. The wonder isn't that companies are leaving us today, Madam Speaker; the wonder is that companies didn't leave us long ago. It is a punishing environment to do business in America.

So what is the solution? Because, Madam Speaker, you know I am not going to come down here and identify a problem and not talk to you about how to solve it. But before I get to my solutions, I want to talk to you about President Obama, whom I have quoted tonight; what Secretary of Treasury Jack Lew, whom I quoted tonight, what they have to say about the solution, and it is this: the best way to level the playing field is through tax reform that lowers the corporate tax rate, closes wasteful loopholes, and simplifies the Tax Code for everybody. I am with him 100 percent—with him 100 percent. What the President has said here, I support 100 percent.

That is not what he is saying on the campaign trail. On the campaign trail he is saying: any business that tries to do what is best for its employees, what is best for its shareholders, and what is best for its customers is unpatriotic. If they choose to try to improve the lot of their customers, their shareholders, and their employees that somehow there is an obligation to subject yourself to what this Congress and this White House, this country, has created, a monstrosity of a tax code.

Maybe Jack Lew had a different idea as Treasury Secretary. He says:

Only tax reform can solve the problems in our Tax Code that lead to inversions.

I know what you are thinking, Madam Speaker. You are wondering if I brought the wrong slides to the floor tonight. You are wondering if I made some sort of terrible mistake. Because I have been talking about how President Obama said it was unpatriotic, how he said it was their fault, how he said they ought to fix it, they ought to stay. And Jack Lew said it is their fault, they have a duty, they ought to fix it, and they ought to stay.

No. These are the very same men saying something entirely different. Because they know, not on the campaign trail, but in the serious rooms where they are talking about serious policy, that the only way to take America into this next century, the only way to make us the most competitive Nation on the planet, the only way

to get those jobs back in America, back from overseas, is fundamental Tax Code reform.

Burger King can't do fundamental Tax Code reform, only the Congress can. Tim Hortons can't do fundamental Tax Code reform, only the Congress can. Warren Buffett can't do fundamental tax reform, only this Congress can. We can and we should. In fact, our Ways and Means chairman, DAVE CAMP, Madam Speaker, has tried.

Let me go on and just get the other side of the issue from folks here on Capitol Hill. I quoted folks in the White House and the administration. House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER says this, talking about all these statements about unpatriotic behavior:

Instead of dividing people for political advantage, the President can endorse our push for comprehensive tax reform or convince Senate Democrats to act. Let's solve the real problem here.

Because it is the real problem here: the worst tax code on the planet. We have done this to ourselves.

House Ways and Means chairman, DAVE CAMP:

Everyone agrees that tax reform is the only solution that will both keep companies from moving their headquarters out of the United States and, more importantly, encourage more businesses to grow, hire, and increase wages for American workers.

Folks, that is what it is about: grow, hire, increase wages for American workers. It is not about passing a mandatory minimum wage. That is going to kill jobs. It is going to increase some people's salaries at the expense of others. It is not about doing away with environmental protections. We support environmental protections.

Obviously, there are some regulations that make no sense, but those regulations that protect us, we need those. It is not going back to the time when rivers were on fire and our environment was at risk. The answer is in fundamental Tax Code reform so that we can grow, so that we can hire, so that we can increase American wages.

And over on the Senate side, Chairman RON WYDEN, Democratic Senate Finance Committee Chairman RON WYDEN, says this:

America should not be part of a race to the bottom. It is clear that America must establish a more efficient and competitive corporate tax rate.

People wonder why it is we can't get things done here, Madam Speaker. You and I wonder why it is we can't get more done. It is because when folks are on the campaign trail, they tell one story. They tell a story that divides us. They tell a story that tells us who to blame. They tell a story about the big corporations who happen to provide a lot of jobs to a lot of American families. But that is not the story they tell. They tell the story of greed and perversion in the Tax Code.

But when they get down to serious policy conversations, when they get off

the campaign trail and start talking about what really makes a difference, they all agree fundamental tax reform makes the difference.

Now, how are we going to get there? We have seen the shenanigans that go on that prevent us from going there, we have seen the desperate need that requires that we get there. How are we going to get there?

Well, Madam Speaker, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness has been clear on this topic. This is President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness:

We have to view our corporate tax rates as part of our national package for attracting job-creating investment.

I will give you a hint, Madam Speaker. If you want your corporate tax rates to be part of a package for attracting jobs in national investment, you don't want them to be the worst in the world, you want them to be the best in the world. The President's Council knows this.

Our system of corporate taxation hurts business competitiveness and American workers and it cries out for reforms. The President's Council says our corporate Tax Code hurts American workers and business competitiveness. They don't conclude that businesses are evil and greedy and out to stick it to American taxpayers. They conclude that businesses are struggling and trying, but it is our Tax Code that is the albatross around their neck:

A growing body of research also shows that in a world of mobile capital, workers bear a rising share of the burden of the corporate income tax in the form of reduced employment opportunities and lower wages.

Madam Speaker, I am going to read that again, because we don't have that conversation enough. These are not my words, these are the words of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness:

A growing body of research also shows that in a world of mobile capital, workers bear a rising share of the burden of the corporate income tax in the form of reduced employment opportunities and lower wages.

The United States of America, worst international competitiveness anywhere on the planet, worst international tax code anywhere on the planet. The United States of America, highest corporate tax rate anywhere on the planet, largest disincentive to do business anywhere on the planet.

The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness:

These giant corporate tax rates don't punish corporations, they punish American workers.

My friends, Madam Speaker, we don't have corporations that pay taxes, we have corporations that raise prices. We don't have corporations that pay taxes, we have corporations that lower wages. We don't have corporations that pay taxes, we have corporations that lower return on capital. Corporations don't

pay taxes, they collect taxes. They collect them from the people who buy their products, they collect them from their employees in those lower wages, they collect them in lower returns to capital—their shareholders, our seniors on those fixed incomes. High corporate tax rates don't punish corporations, they don't punish employers, they punish employees, they punish middle class American families.

Madam Speaker, the President's Council recommended a move to that territorial tax system I talk about. They recommended eliminating this vestige of an older time where capital was not so mobile, a vestige only seven countries in the world still use. We are the largest economy to still use it. It disadvantages us more than it does anybody else. The President's Council recommends eliminating that territorial tax system, not double-taxing. It says:

The current worldwide system makes investing . . . in the United States more expensive from a tax point of view than reinvesting them abroad, where they are not subject to additional corporate income tax.

Think about the lunacy of that, Madam Speaker. In the name of so-called "helping the American economy" by bringing in more revenue through higher tax rates, what we do to American companies is discourage them from bringing money home and investing it here, and instead encourage them to keep the money overseas and invest there.

I don't know what you are thinking of when you are thinking of investment. I am thinking of building a new factory, I am thinking of expanding productivity of your workers, I am thinking of those things that grow economies.

The President's Council says our Tax Code encourages those things to happen for other people's citizens. I want to encourage those things to happen for our citizens. Corporate tax reform is the answer.

Madam Speaker, I am going to close in a place that makes me happy. I told you I had bad news when I got down here to start. I did have bad news. The bad news is we have tied one arm of the American economy behind America's back. We have burdened ourselves with the worst Tax Code the world has ever seen, and we are demanding that American companies follow our disastrous model or else face the accusation that they are somehow unpatriotic. That has been the White House's solution to a slow economy and rapid job deterioration.

Madam Speaker, what you can't see on this poster is Ronald Reagan's solution to some of those very same challenges. Because when he was elected in 1980, he faced some of those very same economic challenges that we are facing here today. And Ronald Reagan came together with the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, led by Democrats, and passed fundamental tax reform for the last time it was passed in this country—1986—last large tax reform that we had in this country. They said he couldn't do it. They said he couldn't do it, Madam Speaker. They said it was too big.

He did two things that this White House, this administration, has not done, and that I implore them to do, Madam Speaker—two things.

Number one, he didn't just talk about it, he released a proposal of his own. He didn't just release one proposal, his Treasury Department released two proposals. Our Treasury Department giving speeches on why it is a corporation's fault, Ronald Reagan's Treasury Department offering solutions; two entire fundamental tax reform proposals for the Congress to examine, improve, and pass.

Ronald Reagan said this, Madam Speaker. He said:

Just as sure as Ruth could hit home runs and Rose can break records, during this session of the Congress, America's tax plan will become law. But it's going to take all of us and all of you letting the folks in Washington know that you want this change made.

He led, Madam Speaker. I thank you for your leadership, I ask my colleagues for their leadership, and, together, we can make sure that American jobs come first and the American economy is first in the world.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPITO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today and for the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CONAWAY (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today and for the balance of the week on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2651. An act to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; in addition, to the Committee on Homeland Security for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills

of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4751. An act to make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4809. An act to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 19, 2014, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7245. A letter from the Director, Issuance Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection [Docket No.: FSIS-2011-0012] (RIN: 0583-AD23) received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7246. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Litchi and Logan Fruit From Vietnam Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0116] (RIN: 0579-AD51) received September 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7247. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Modification of the Handling Regulations for Yellow Fleshed and White Types of Potatoes [Docket No.: AMS-FV-14-0026; FV14-946-1 FIR] received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7248. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Issued Under the Export Apple Act; Exempting Bulk Shipments to Canada From Minimum Requirements and Inspection [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0022; FV14-33-1 FIR] received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7249. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0057; FV14-987-3 IR] received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7250. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0027; FV14-985-3 FIR] received September 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7251. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) in the Atlantic Region [Docket No.: 120706221-2705-02] (RIN: 0648-XD369) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7252. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Changes to Existing Conservation Program Regulations [Docket No.: NRCS-2014-0006] (RIN: 0578-AA60) received August 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7253. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department anticipates it will be prepared to commence chemical agent destruction operations at the Pueblo Chemical Depot chemical demilitarization site in Pueblo, Colorado, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1512(4); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7254. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Clyde D. Moore II, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7255. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report known as "World Wide Threat Report"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7256. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-8349] received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7257. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Environmental Compliance Record-keeping Requirements [Docket No.: FR-5616-

F-02] (RIN: 2506-AC34) received September 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7258. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Adjustable Rate Mortgage Notification Requirements and Look-Back Period for FHA-Insured Single Family Mortgages [Docket No.: FR-5744-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ20) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7259. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Handling Prepayments: Eliminating Post-Payment Interest Charges [Docket No.: FR-5360-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ17) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7260. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Obsolete Community Planning and Development (CPD) Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5798-F-01] (RIN: 2506-AC36) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7261. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — OCC Guidelines Establishing Heightened Standards for Certain Large Insured National Banks, Insured Federal Savings Associations, and Insured Federal Branches; Integration of Regulations [Docket ID: OCC-2014-001] (RIN: 1557-AD78) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7262. A letter from the Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting the Centers' final rule — Specifications for Medical Examinations of Coal Miners [Docket No.: CDC-2014-0011; NIOSH-276] (RIN: 0920-AA57) received August 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7263. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7264. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Eighteenth Report on the Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16523 Public Law 109-58, section 1810; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7265. A letter from the Deputy Director — ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act [CMS-9939-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AR42) received August 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7266. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Post-marketing Safety Reports for Human Drug

and Biological Products; Electronic Submission Requirements [Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0334] (RIN: 9010-AF96) received September 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7267. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disposal of Controlled Substances [Docket No.: DEA-316] (RIN: 1117-AB18) received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7268. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Suvorexant into Schedule IV [Docket No.: DEA-381] received August 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7269. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Ambient Standards for Nitrogen Oxides and for Ozone [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0659; FRL-9916-43-Region-8] received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7270. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Redesignation of Phoenix-Mesa Area to Attainment of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0686; FRL-9916-12-Region 9] received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7271. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0271; FRL-9916-50-Region 7] received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7272. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Infrastructure SIP for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide Primary Standards [EPA-R02-OAR-2013-0527; FRL-9916-49-Region 2] received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7273. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sulfentrazone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0712; FRL-9915-47] received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7274. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; South Coast 1-Hour and 8-Hour Ozone [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0185; FRL-9915-86-Region 9] received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7275. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plan Revisions; State of California; South Coast VMT Emissions Offset Demonstrations [EPA-R095-OAR-2013-0823; FRL-9915-85-Region 9] received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7276. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit a Prevention of Significant Deterioration State Implementation Plan Revision for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM_{2.5}); California; North Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0589; FRL-9916-04-Region 9] received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7277. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Kasugamycin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0297; FRL-9911-57] received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7278. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Oklahoma: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2013-0785] received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7279. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0727; FRL-9914-19] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received August 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7280. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Indiana PSD Increments [EPA-R05-2012-0567; FRL-9914-94-Region 5] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7281. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Two Operating Permits and a Consent Agreement for the Potomac River Generating Station from the State Implementation Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0511; FRL-9915-06-Region 3] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7282. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revision to the Maintenance Plans for the Richmond 1990 1-Hour and Richmond-Petersburg 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Areas to Remove the Stage II Vapor Recovery Program [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0142; FRL-9914-49-Region 2] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7283. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0499; FRL-9914-54-Region 3] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7284. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Finding of Failure to Submit a PSD State Implementation Plan Revision for PM_{2.5} [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0517; FRL-9914-95-Region 5] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7285. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide and 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0708; FRL-9914-90-Region 10] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7286. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Commonwealth of Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0160; FRL-9914-70-Region 3] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7287. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluopicolide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0225; FRL-9914-37] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7288. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Emergency Vehicle Rule — SCR Maintenance and Regulatory Flexibility for Nonroad Equipment [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-1032; FRL-9914-63-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR46) received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7289. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Residual Risk and Technology Review for Flexible Polyurethane Foam Production [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0510; FRL-9914-30-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR58) received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7290. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives; Extension of Compliance and Attest Engagement Reporting Deadlines for 2013 Renewable Fuel Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0575; FRL-9914-88-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS29) received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7291. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the

Commission's final rule — Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries [WC Docket No.: 13-184] received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7292. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Caseville and Pigeon, Michigan; Harbor Beach and Lexington, Michigan [MM Docket No.: 01-229] [RM-10257] [RM-11285] [RM-11291] [MM Docket No.: 01-231] [RM-10259] [RM-11285] received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7293. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees (RIN: 3084-AA98) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7294. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Environmental Issues Associated with New Reactors [NRC-2013-0212] received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7295. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Specific Environmental Guidance for Light Water Small Modular Reactor Reviews [NRC-2013-0211] received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7296. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 140812660-4660-01] (RIN: 0694-AG26) received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7297. A letter from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification on Uses of Electronic Export Information [Docket Number: 140626542-4542-01] (RIN: 0607-AA52) received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7298. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report on Russian Sanctions: Restriction on Certain Military End Uses and End-Users; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7299. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of Understandings Reached at the 2005, 2012, and 2013 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Plenary Meetings and a 2009 NSG Inter-Sessional Decision; Additions to the List of NSG Participating Countries; Correction [FR Doc. 2014-18064] (RIN: 0694-AD58) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7300. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 09-14 informing of an intent to sign the

Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7301. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7302. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to the Department of the Treasury specific licenses as required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7303. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7304. A letter from the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7305. A letter from the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7306. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2012 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7307. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7308. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Debarment and Suspension Program (RIN: 1090-AA94) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7309. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System (RIN: 1090-AB02) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7310. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations (RIN: 0648-BC90) received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7311. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925839-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD449) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7312. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 140106011-4338-02] (RIN: 0648-XD441) received September 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7313. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD379) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7314. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended; TN Visas from NAFTA Countries (RIN: 1400-AD29) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7315. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a letter regarding H.R. 1233 and H.R. 5170; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7316. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Lower Mississippi River Mile 94.0 to Mile 95.0; New Orleans, LA [Docket: USCG-2014-0531] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7317. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Seafood Festival Fireworks, Fox River, Menasha, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0748] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7318. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulfstar 1 SPAR, Mississippi Canyon Block 724, Outer Continental Shelf on the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0242] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7319. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special

Local Regulation and Safety Zone; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone [Docket Number USCG-2014-0717] (RIN: 1625-AA08; 1625-AA00) September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7320. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Detroit Offshore Grand Prix, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0729] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7321. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Wrightsville Channel; Wrightsville Beach, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0200] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7322. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone, Change of Enforcement Period, Chesapeake Bay; Between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0296] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7323. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone: Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts [USCG-2014-0708] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7324. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation, Hydrocross, Lake Dora; Tavares, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0691] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7325. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Diego Tri-Rock Triathlon; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0600] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7326. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Vigor Industrial Ferry Construction, West Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0805] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7327. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Tarague Basin; Andersen AFB, GU [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0732] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7328. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones, Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0874] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received

September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7329. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Urban Shield 2014, South San Francisco Bay, Oakland, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0658] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7330. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Shallowbag Bay; Manteo, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0723] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7331. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lucas Oil Thunder on the River; Thompson Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0611] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7332. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0176; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-066-AD; Amendment 39-17951; AD 2014-16-27] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7333. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0254; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-047-AD; Amendment 39-17910; AD 2014-15-98] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7334. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ocean Dumping: Cancellation and Modification of Final Site Designations [EPA-R06-OW-2014-0234; FRL-9914-59-Region 6] received August 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7335. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Home Adaptation Grants for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans with Certain Vision Impairment (RIN: 2900-AP12) received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7336. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Substitution in Case of Claimant (RIN: 2900-AN91) received September 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7337. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updating Certain Citations in

VA Medical Regulations (RIN: 2900-AP04) received September 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7338. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Examination of Returns and Claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of tax liability (Rev. Proc. 2014-53) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7339. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act [TD 9690] (RIN: 1545-BM38) received August 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7340. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Rev. Proc. 2011-16 (Rev. Proc. 2014-51) received September 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7341. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Investment in group trusts by certain Puerto Rico retirement plans and by certain insurance company separate accounts (Rev. Rul. 2014-12) received September 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7342. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Extension of the Expiration Date for State Disability Examiner Authority to Make Fully Favorable Quick Disability Determinations and Compassionate Allowances [Docket No.: SSA-2014-0045] (RIN: 0960-AH69) received September 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7343. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Law Enforcement Support Activities (RIN: 0596-AB61) received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

7344. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2014 Edition Release 2 Electronic Health Record (EHR) Certification Criteria and the ONC HIT Certification Program; Regulatory Flexibilities, Improvements, and Enhanced Health Information Exchange (RIN: 0991-AB92) received September 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7345. A letter from the Deputy Director — ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Modifications to the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program for 2014 and Other Changes to the EHR Incentive Program; and Health Information Technology: Revisions to the Certified EHR Technology Definition and EHR Certification Changes Related to Standards [CMS-0046-F and CMS-0052-F] (RINs: 0938-AR71 and 0938-AS30) (RINs: 0991-AB89 and 0991-AB97) received September 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to

the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7346. A letter from the Designated Federal Official, World War One Commission, transmitting a periodic report for the period ended 6/30/14; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Oversight and Government Reform.

7347. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of the National Drug Control Policy, transmitting 2014 National Drug Control Strategy, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 1504; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Homeland Security, Natural Resources, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of July 29, 2014]

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4709. A bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-605 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

[Submitted September 18, 2014]

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5077. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide guidance and clarification regarding issuing new and renewal permits, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-604). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 5525. A bill to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require the disclosure of political intelligence activities, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for restrictions on former officers, employees, and elected officials of the executive and legislative branches regarding political intelligence contacts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 5526. A bill to emphasize manufacturing in engineering programs by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation, to designate United States manufacturing universities; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 5527. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 5528. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5529. A bill to establish a worker adjustment assistance program to provide assistance and job retraining for workers who have lost their jobs due to unplanned closures of coal and coal dependent industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 5530. A bill to require that hunting activities be a land use in all management plans for Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to the extent that such use is not clearly incompatible with the purposes for which the Federal land is managed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 5531. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit the 2-year phase-in for changes in hospital wage index classification from rural to urban without requiring waiver of a wage index increase, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5532. A bill to improve the Compliance, Safety, Accountability initiative of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 5533. A bill to promote apprenticeships for credentials and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 5534. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to increase assistance for States, water systems, and disadvantaged communities; to encourage good financial and environmental management of water systems; to strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to enforce the requirements of the Act; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5535. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to provide grants to States and units of local government for the video recording of custodial interrogations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5536. A bill to encourage States to provide for enhanced sentencing penalties

for persons convicted of committing, or attempting to commit, an act of domestic violence in the presence of minor children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5537. A bill to require the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the interoperability of computer systems used by hospitals to store and access electronic health records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5538. A bill to establish a grant program to empower relatives, friends, and co-workers of domestic violence victims to create safety plans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Ms. SCHWARTZ):

H.R. 5539. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to exempt from manufacturer transparency reporting certain transfers used for educational purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5540. A bill to establish a grant program for stipends to assist in the cost of compensation paid by employers to certain recent college graduates and to provide funding for their further education in subjects relating to mathematics, science, engineering, and technology; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FARR (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 5541. A bill to promote the provision of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. COTTON):

H.R. 5542. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the term of a marketing assistance loan and the deadline for repayment of a farm ownership, operating, or emergency loan when the purchaser of the agricultural commodity subject to the marketing assistance loan declared bankruptcy before paying the farmer for the commodity; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5543. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 5544. A bill to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 5545. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 5546. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to identify, declare, and respond to marine disease emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5547. A bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5548. A bill to provide for the establishment of clean technology consortia to enhance the economic, environmental, and energy security of the United States by promoting domestic development, manufacture, and deployment of clean technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to include in income the unrepatriated earnings of groups that include an inverted corporation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5550. A bill to provide for a reduction in the amount that may be awarded to a unit of local government under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) for a unit of local government that funds an amount that is greater than 18 percent of its operating budget using revenue generated from collecting fines and other fees related to violations of traffic laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LONG, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 5551. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and an opportunity to review the ultrasound before giving informed consent to receive an abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Mr. PASITOR of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 5552. A bill to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the "Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5553. A bill to provide access to information and loan modifications for successors in interest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 5554. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit distributions from 529 accounts for medical expenses of account owners who are veterans with disability ratings of greater than 50 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 5555. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from requiring race or ethnicity to be disclosed in connection with the transfer of a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas):

H.R. 5556. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of patient encounters in ambulatory surgical centers in determining meaningful EHR use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 5557. A bill to reform the verification and reporting processes for the health care premium and cost-sharing subsidies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5558. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the Medicare accountable care organization (ACO) program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. LOEBACK):

H.R. 5559. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions relating to energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5560. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program for undergraduate students with financial need to assist such students in completing degrees at institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 5561. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate high priority corridors on the National Highway System in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr.

GARAMENDI, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. McKEON, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. WATERS, Ms. NAHN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD):

H.R. 5562. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the "Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 5563. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor to award special recognition to employers for veteran-friendly employment practices; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 5564. A bill to establish a program that promotes reforms in workforce education and skill training for manufacturing in States and metropolitan areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5565. A bill to provide for institutional risk-sharing in the Federal student loan programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5566. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to restore National SMART Grants for a certain number of award years; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5567. A bill to carry out pilot programs to improve skills and job training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 5568. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award interest-free student loans to certain students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5569. A bill to include community partners and intermediaries in the planning and delivery of education and related programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5570. A bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 5571. A bill to provide an increased allocation of funding for assistance in persistent poverty counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 5572. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 5573. A bill to establish the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5574. A bill to abolish the Chemical Corps of the Army and to transfer to the Ordnance Corps of the Army the functions of and members previously assigned to the Chemical Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 5575. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to carry out projects to reduce railway noise levels that adversely impact schools located in urbanized areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 5576. A bill to establish USAccounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 5577. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees for Federal Direct Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5578. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payment of interest on certain refinanced student loans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 5579. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 5580. A bill to prioritize funding for the National Institutes of Health to discover treatments and cures, to maintain global leadership in medical innovation, and to restore the purchasing power the NIH had after the historic doubling campaign that ended in fiscal year 2003; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5581. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to provide for a net benefit review of certain covered transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 5582. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Naugatuck River Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 5583. A bill to provide for the treatment and extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MAFFEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 5584. A bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5585. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to provide greater access to in-State

television broadcast programming for cable and satellite subscribers in certain counties; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 5586. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide that the first sale doctrine applies to any computer program that enables a machine or other product to operate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESTY, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 5587. A bill to reduce opioid misuse and abuse; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5588. A bill to assess the State by State impact of Federal taxation and spending; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 5589. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing, maintaining, and improving veteran student centers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 5590. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5591. A bill to enhance transportation programs in order to connect people to jobs, schools, and other essential services through a multimodal transportation network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 5592. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to include certain areas within the frontier and remote area levels designations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5593. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to enhance security clearance investigation procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 5594. A bill to suspend from the visa waiver program any country that has identified passport holders fighting with an Islamist extremist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 5595. A bill to reform the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARCIA (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 5596. A bill to provide borrowers of Federal Family Education Loans with the repayment terms available to borrowers of Federal Direct Loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 5597. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from issuing or enforcing certain requirements for schools relating to food; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. JONES, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 5598. A bill to require the Bureau of Land Management to incorporate the needs, uses, and input of affected communities, and to obtain the concurrence of affected communities, before taking any travel management action affecting access to public lands, including access to mining claims or access using motorized vehicles or nonmotorized means, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 5599. A bill to clarify that the use of electronic signatures and records in SBA loan and related financing programs is permitted; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5600. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish rules for franchisee eligibility for financial assistance under certain small business programs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5601. A bill to provide amounts from the recent settlement between the Department of Justice and Bank of America for assistance under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5602. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21350 Avalon Boulevard in Carson, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 5603. A bill to provide for the conveyance of the Lake Fannin Tract of the Caddo National Grasslands in Fannin County, Texas, to the County, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 5604. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to revise the management plan for the conservation pool in Lake Texoma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 5605. A bill to disapprove an amendment to the Sentencing Guidelines relating

to sentences for drug offenses which was transmitted to Congress by the United States Sentencing Commission on April 30, 2014, including any retroactive effect for that amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5606. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require homemade firearms to have serial numbers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 5607. A bill to establish the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to review Federal Government policy on human trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5608. A bill to take certain land in the State of Nevada into trust for the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JONES, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 5609. A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HURT (for himself and Mr. BARROW of Georgia):

H.R. 5610. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide privacy protections that enable certain individuals to remove their profiles from the healthcare.gov website, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 5611. A bill to provide for temporary emergency impact aid for local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5612. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reduce the testing requirements for part A of title I of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5613. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that liquid over-the-counter medications are packaged with appropriate dosage delivery devices and, in the case of such medications labeled for pediatric use, appropriate flow restrictors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5614. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5615. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the tip tax credit to employers of cosmetologists and to promote tax compliance in the cosmetology sector; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 5616. A bill to promote and enhance urban agricultural production and agricultural research in urban areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESTY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. MENG, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 5617. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "widow" and "widower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BARBER, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 5618. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve the management and accountability within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide oversight of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 5619. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that for purposes of computing the annuity of certain law enforcement officers, any hours worked in excess of the limitation applicable to law enforcement availability pay shall be included in such computation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5620. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. HOLT):

H.R. 5621. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a transit accessibility innovation program, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COOPER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 5622. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5623. A bill to establish a National Parents Corps Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 5624. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Multimodal Freight Funding Formula Program and a National Freight Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program to improve the efficiency and reliability of freight movement in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico):

H.R. 5625. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 5626. A bill to provide uniform authority for executive departments to use funds from the disposal of Federal real property and to establish a pilot program in certain agencies for the use of public-private agreements to enhance the efficiency of Federal real property; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAFFEI (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 5627. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require the Public Printer to adjust the fonts used in documents printed by the Government Printing Office if adjusting the fonts will reduce printing costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5628. A bill to prohibit accessing pornographic web sites from Federal computers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 5629. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms.

KUSTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. PETERS of California):

H.R. 5630. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1976 to fill Inspector General vacancies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 5631. A bill to authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project, Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 5632. A bill to reform and update the flat rent structure for public housing; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5633. A bill to authorize grants for the support of caregivers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5634. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the public disclosure of crop insurance premium subsidies made on behalf of Members of Congress and their immediate families, Cabinet Secretaries and their immediate families, and entities of which any such individual or combination of such individuals is a majority shareholder, and to require the public disclosure of the underwriting gains earned by private insurance provider and the business expenses covered by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 5635. A bill to amend chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to annually submit to Congress a report on all disaster-related assistance provided by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 5636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to cut and reduce excess and duplicative tax assessments and paperwork for entrepreneurs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 5637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for discharge of consumer indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 5638. A bill to allow railroad employees to remain on duty as necessary to clear a blockage of vehicular traffic at grade crossings; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5639. A bill to strengthen the disclosure requirements for creditors under the Truth in Lending Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 5640. A bill to amend the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act to modernize the for-

mula and terms for allocations to prevent homelessness for individuals living with HIV or AIDS; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 5641. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5642. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the eligibility disqualification for certain convicted felons; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 5643. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the public safety and community policing grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 5644. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 5645. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. WALDEN):

H.R. 5646. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. YOHIO, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 5647. A bill to promote transparency, accountability, and reform within the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5648. A bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. YOHIO, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 5649. A bill to promote transparency, accountability, and reform within the United Nations Human Rights Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5650. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National Academy of Inventors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption to

the employer health insurance mandate for small businesses which are experiencing hardship; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. GALLEG0):

H.R. 5652. A bill to provide for fiscal responsibility by the Federal Government through the use of accountability laws; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5653. A bill to provide for recipients of community development block grant funds to return such funds to the Treasury of the United States without prejudice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5654. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for increased and improved public access to motor vehicle safety information, enhanced tools and accountability for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and protection of motor vehicle consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5655. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 5656. A bill to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5657. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that eligible product developers have competitive access to approved drugs and licensed biological products, so as to enable eligible product developers to develop and test new products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STUTZMAN (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 5658. A bill to revise the definition of "manufactured home" under the Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to clarify the exclusion of certain recreational vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 5659. A bill to reduce Federal, State, and local costs of providing high-quality drinking water to millions of Americans residing in rural communities by facilitating greater use of cost-effective well water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5660. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for a limitation on the time for the use of contributions or donations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 5661. A bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 5662. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 5663. A bill to provide for a competitive grant program for apprenticeship and internship programs through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5664. A bill to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to modify a high priority project in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 5665. A bill to promote transparent, collaborative, and cost-effective national ambient air quality standards for ozone under the Clean Air Act and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 5666. A bill to strengthen United States-Israel science and technology cooperation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 5667. A bill to exempt small mortgage originators from certain licensing requirements and debt-to-income requirements for qualified mortgages; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PERRY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 5668. A bill to suspend the provision of United States foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5669. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the loss of nationality by native-born or naturalized citizens due to affiliation with designated foreign terrorist organizations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr.

GRAYSON, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5670. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to implement security measures in the electronic tax return filing process to prevent tax refund fraud from being perpetrated with electronic identity theft; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5671. A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr.

GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SCHOCK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. YODER):

H.J. Res. 126. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to control entitlement spending; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BARTON, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.J. Res. 127. A joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the self-described "Islamic State" and its direct affiliates and subsidiaries, and the Government and the people of the United States and making provisions to prosecute the same; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. GALLEG0):

H. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANCE:

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring Admiral Ben Moreell and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H. Res. 734. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 735. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that

recently proposed measures that will reduce transparency and public participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) should be disapproved by United States representatives to the IAIS; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Ms. SINEMA):

H. Res. 736. A resolution affirming the importance of the Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to the United States Armed Forces and national security on its 60th anniversary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 737. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that performance-based contracts for energy savings are a budget-neutral means to support the Federal Government in reducing its energy consumption without increasing spending while simultaneously supporting United States based jobs and economic development; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 738. A resolution recognizing the self determination of Gibraltar to determine its status as a British Overseas Territory; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG:

H. Res. 739. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day of Non-Violence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H. Res. 740. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 2014 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OLSON:

H. Res. 741. A resolution disapproving of the President's expression of intent to expand amnesty to undocumented immigrants through Executive order after the 2014 congressional midterm elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OLSON:

H. Res. 742. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that it is unconstitutional for the President of the United States to continue to provide deferred action for childhood arrivals in enforcement of the immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. HOLT):

H. Res. 743. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 22, 2014, as National Adult Education and Fam-

ily Literacy Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POSEY:

H. Res. 744. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Republic of Argentina's continued participation in the Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G20) nations should be conditioned on its adherence to international norms of economic cooperation and the rule of law; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H. Res. 745. A resolution expressing the sense of the House that a Contract with America should restore American competitiveness; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Natural Resources, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H. Res. 746. A resolution expressing support for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as they seek to hold government officials accountable, prepare for elections at the state, entity, and cantonal level, and consider constitutional or other reforms to enhance the country's prospects for European and Euro-Atlantic integration; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

318. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, relative to Joint Resolution V petitioning the Congress of the United States to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 5 and 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 5526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 5527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CAMP

H.R. 5528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, and Amendment XVI to the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 5530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Sec. 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 5534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Per Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes. Per the Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 5541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, "... Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . ."

and specifically, Article I, Sec. 8, Cl. 2, "... to regulate commerce . . ."

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5543

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 5544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution—"Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with Foreign nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;" and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution—"Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, of in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 5545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8. "... Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 5546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 (relating to the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.)

Article I; Section 8; (relating to the power of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;)

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 5549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 5551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 5552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 5554.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 5555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 5556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 5557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 5558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass

legislation regarding income taxes. Article I of the Constitution provides that "Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes ..." (Section 8, Clause 1). Further clarifying Congressional power to enact an income tax, voters amended the Constitution by popular vote to provide that "Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived..." (Sixteenth Amendment).

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 5561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 5562.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution, which reads: "The Congress shall have Power ... To establish Post Offices and post Roads"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which reads: "The Congress shall have Power ... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 5563.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 5564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I. Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States ..."

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States ..."

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 5567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 5568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 5570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 5571.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 5572.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 5573.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5574.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article 1, Section 8 Clause 15 which grants Congress the power to make rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 5575.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have Power [. . .] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States . . ."

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 5576.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 Section 8 of Article 1:

The Congress shall have the power to Pay a collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense a General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 5577.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5578.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of, and the Sixteenth Amendment to, the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5579.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of, and the Sixteenth Amendment to, the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5580.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5581.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution—The Commerce Clause

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5582.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5583.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, the Commerce Clause

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States. . .

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 5586.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 8 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5587.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5588.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, To make all Laws which shall be necessary and—proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 5589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 (Clauses 1, 12, 13, and 14) of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes for the purpose of spending; to raise and support armies; to provide and maintain a navy; and to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 & 8 Clause 1

Article 1 & 8 Clause 3

Article 1 & 8 Clause 18

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GARCIA:

H.R. 5596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 5597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively." The power to completely control what school children eat for breakfast or lunch is not an enumerated power of Congress and therefore a decision best left to the States.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and

nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

Currently, the federal government owns approximately 29 percent of all land in the United States. The U.S. Constitution specifically addresses the relationship of the federal government to these lands. Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2—the Property Clause—gives Congress full authority over federal property including the National Park System. The U.S. Supreme Court has described Congress’s power to legislate under this Clause as “without limitation.” This bill falls squarely within the express Constitutional power set forth in the Property Clause.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce); and

Article I, section 8, clause 18 (relating to all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers).

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and

Article 1, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce); and

Article 1, section 8, clause 18 (relating to all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers).

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 5603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 5604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 5605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Per Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 5607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article. I. Section. 8. Clause, 18. and Article. IV. Section. 3. Clause. 2.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 5609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18

By Mr. HURT:

H.R. 5610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 5614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5615.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 5616.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 5617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 8 and Amendment XIV Sections 1 and 5

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 5618.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 5619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power ... To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 5620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defence of the United States.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 5621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 5622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7, and Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 5624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Spending Authorization

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Necessary and Proper Regulations to Effectuate Powers

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 5625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 5626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 5627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The Congress shall have the Power To ...make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof." — Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 5629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 5630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 5631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Constitution of the United States, which states the Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 5632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of US Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of US Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of US Constitution

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of US Constitution

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 5638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congressional power to provide for public financing of campaigns arises under the General Welfare Clause, Art. I, Sec. 8, of the Constitution.

In *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 91 (1976), the Supreme Court upheld the congressional power to enact public financing of presidential elections under this Clause. The Supreme Court stated with regard to the provisions in the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 establishing a presidential public financing system, "In this case, Congress was legislating for the 'general welfare'—to reduce the deleterious influence of large contributions on our political process, to facilitate communication by candidates with the electorate, and to free candidates from the rigors of fundraising."

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1—promoting the general welfare.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 5646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution provides Congress "power to lay and collect taxes."

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 5655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. The Constitution's Commerce Clause allows Congress to enact laws when reasonably related to the regulation of interstate commerce.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 5658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall have the power ... to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states and among the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 5659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall have the power ... to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states and among the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 5661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 5662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 5663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have a Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the Congress shall have the power for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 5664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 5667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the Power "To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization ..."

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.J. Res. 126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.J. Res. 127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, "Congress shall have Power ... To declare War."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 15: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 139: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 274: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 366: Mr. GARCIA and Mr. REED.

H.R. 385: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 386: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 401: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 445: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 460: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 485: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 494: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 499: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 525: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 578: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 596: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 609: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 640: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 645: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 690: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 713: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 719: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 725: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 790: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 792: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 855: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 942: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 958: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 962: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1009: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1015: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1070: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1074: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BARR, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1125: Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 1250: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1252: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1271: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1284: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1318: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1339: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1380: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1386: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 1428: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1440: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1507: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1538: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1553: Mr. PETERS of California and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1556: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1563: Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. ESTY, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1601: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1620: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1630: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1666: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1714: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1731: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1738: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1783: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1795: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1821: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1827: Mr. COHEN and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1830: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1852: Mr. PETRI and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1998: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2144: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2147: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2241: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 2315: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 2329: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2330: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2342: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2350: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 2362: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 2453: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2457: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2468: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2500: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 2510: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2523: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2529: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2536: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 2543: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2591: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2638: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2651: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2662: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2676: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2738: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2745: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2780: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2821: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2831: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

- H.R. 2835: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2847: Mr. CUMMINGS
H.R. 2851: Ms. DELBENE and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
- H.R. 2856: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. HORSFORD.
- H.R. 2901: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANCE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. COOK.
- H.R. 2907: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 2918: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 2921: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 2959: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
- H.R. 2994: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. BUCSHON.
- H.R. 3040: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 3063: Mr. GARCIA.
- H.R. 3116: Mr. MESSER.
- H.R. 3135: Mr. ISRAEL.
- H.R. 3240: Mr. LATTA, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. JOYCE.
- H.R. 3367: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. DENHAM.
- H.R. 3369: Ms. MATSUI.
- H.R. 3382: Mr. SIMPSON.
- H.R. 3398: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HANNA.
- H.R. 3401: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 3408: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 3461: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. FOSTER.
- H.R. 3486: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
- H.R. 3508: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3532: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
- H.R. 3643: Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 3650: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
- H.R. 3662: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 3708: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. COOK.
- H.R. 3710: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
- H.R. 3717: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MICA, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
- H.R. 3723: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 3740: Ms. BONAMICI.
- H.R. 3782: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
- H.R. 3833: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 3850: Mr. GARCIA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 3877: Mr. MORAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 3938: Mr. GARCIA.
- H.R. 3970: Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 3991: Mr. CRAWFORD.
- H.R. 4060: Mr. COSTA.
- H.R. 4110: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 4128: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 4136: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 4158: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
- H.R. 4172: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. SCHOCK.
- H.R. 4178: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
- H.R. 4187: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4190: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
- H.R. 4212: Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 4223: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 4234: Ms. TSONGAS.
- H.R. 4237: Mr. JOLLY.
- H.R. 4249: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
- H.R. 4300: Mr. NUNES and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 4344: Mr. WELCH.
- H.R. 4351: Mr. JEFFRIES.
- H.R. 4365: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 4377: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. KEATING, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 4383: Mr. NOLAN.
- H.R. 4407: Mr. GUTHRIE.
- H.R. 4432: Mr. PERRY.
- H.R. 4440: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
- H.R. 4446: Mr. McKEON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. JONES, and Mr. COBLE.
- H.R. 4447: Mr. SALMON.
- H.R. 4510: Ms. WATERS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
- H.R. 4511: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
- H.R. 4515: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4521: Mr. CASSIDY.
- H.R. 4525: Mr. O'ROURKE.
- H.R. 4526: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 4538: Mr. CONNOLLY.
- H.R. 4567: Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. NOLAN.
- H.R. 4574: Mr. ELLISON.
- H.R. 4577: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
- H.R. 4582: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 4595: Mr. LOEBSACK.
- H.R. 4607: Mr. DOGETT.
- H.R. 4611: Mr. LANGEVIN.
- H.R. 4612: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 4625: Mr. CUELLAR.
- H.R. 4637: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. JONES, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 4647: Mr. KLINE.
- H.R. 4679: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mrs. LOWEY.
- H.R. 4682: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 4714: Mr. POLIS.
- H.R. 4717: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. NOLAN.
- H.R. 4726: Mr. HARPER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 4740: Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 4741: Ms. TITUS.
- H.R. 4772: Mr. FINCHER.
- H.R. 4793: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. SINEMA.
- H.R. 4807: Mr. JOLLY.
- H.R. 4813: Mrs. HARTZLER.
- H.R. 4814: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 4824: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. FOSTER.
- H.R. 4837: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. CLEAVER.
- H.R. 4843: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
- H.R. 4857: Mr. NEAL.
- H.R. 4878: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
- H.R. 4880: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 4886: Mr. KINGSTON and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 4920: Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 4929: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 4930: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. JOYCE.
- H.R. 4960: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 4964: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. JEFFRIES.
- H.R. 4966: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
- H.R. 4969: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 4977: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
- H.R. 4981: Mr. JEFFRIES.
- H.R. 4998: Mr. NADLER.
- H.R. 5012: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. ENYART, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. MENG, and Ms. BONAMICI.
- H.R. 5024: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 5025: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 5051: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 5055: Mr. GALLEGO.
- H.R. 5059: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. SCHOCK.
- H.R. 5069: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 5071: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. DAINES.
- H.R. 5083: Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
- H.R. 5087: Mr. NADLER.
- H.R. 5088: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
- H.R. 5098: Mr. PERRY.
- H.R. 5110: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 5113: Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 5119: Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 5126: Mr. WELCH and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 5128: Mr. PETERS of California.
- H.R. 5130: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KIND, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5159: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 5160: Mr. ROSS.
- H.R. 5168: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
- H.R. 5182: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HASTINGS, of Florida, and Mr. FARR.
- H.R. 5190: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 5194: Mr. MULVANEY.
- H.R. 5207: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
- H.R. 5211: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COLE, and Ms. GABBARD.
- H.R. 5212: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 5213: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GALLEGO.
- H.R. 5217: Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 5226: Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 5227: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Ms. JENKINS.
- H.R. 5231: Mr. COBLE.
- H.R. 5232: Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 5240: Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. PAYNE.
- H.R. 5242: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. MENG and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
- H.R. 5252: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
- H.R. 5262: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
- H.R. 5263: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 5264: Mr. KIND and Mr. REED.
- H.R. 5267: Mr. FARR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr.

McNERNEY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 5269: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 5270: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 5271: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5277: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 5283: Ms. CHU and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5285: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 5294: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5306: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 5313: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 5323: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5334: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5336: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 5340: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 5343: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 5352: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5362: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 5363: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 5364: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. CHU, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 5369: Mr. McKEON, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5379: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 5382: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 5392: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 5403: Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. PETRI, Mr. HURT, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. DENT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 5408: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 5409: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 5413: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 5439: Mr. DINGELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MAFFEI, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 5441: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FRELING-

HUYSEN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5445: Mr. POCAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5451: Mr. HONDA and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5456: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 5459: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 5460: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5463: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 5470: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 5474: Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD.

H.R. 5477: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 5478: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 5480: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 5481: Mr. STEWART and Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 5483: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BARR, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 5484: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 5485: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 5486: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5503: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 5508: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5516: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 5520: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 5524: Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.J. Res. 56: Mr. BERA of California.

H.J. Res. 125: Mr. MORAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. NUGENT.

H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H. Res. 208: Ms. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS.

H. Res. 231: Mr. GARCIA, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. MEEKS.

H. Res. 239: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 276: Mr. GARCIA.

H. Res. 281: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Res. 412: Mr. MEEKS.

H. Res. 428: Mr. McALLISTER and Mr. PETERSON.

H. Res. 456: Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H. Res. 536: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 571: Mr. GARCIA.

H. Res. 614: Mr. HURT.

H. Res. 619: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H. Res. 620: Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H. Res. 658: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H. Res. 668: Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. POLIS.

H. Res. 688: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VELA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 707: Mr. YODER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TERRY, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NUNNELEE, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MESSER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARBER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Res. 711: Mr. TONKO, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 716: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H. Res. 723: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 724: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H. Res. 730: Mr. FARR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 731: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 733: Ms. SPEIER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII

100. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky, relative to a resolution endorsing the passage of the Joint Resolutions pending in both houses of Congress to confer Honorary Citizenship to General Bernardo de Galvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Galvez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE—Thursday, September 18, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores peace in human hearts, thank You for Your many blessings. Guide our lawmakers so that they will discern Your purposes and become instruments of Your providence. Today, help them to speak words that will leave them without regret. May they play their part in these momentous times so that their labors will withstand the scrutiny of history and the judgment of posterity. May Your Spirit rule in our lives, teaching us to sacrifice our comforts for the good of others. Use us today as ambassadors of Your will.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks, the Senate will be in recess subject to the call of the Chair for the joint meeting with the President of Ukraine.

When the Senate reconvenes, it will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

At 1 p.m. the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution. There will be up to 4½ hours of debate prior to a series of rollcall votes followed by several voice votes on executive nominations. Senators should expect the votes to begin around 5 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. President, in ancient Greece the keeping of history was considered so important that Clio, daughter of Zeus, was believed responsible for recording all that occurred on Earth—everything.

In the Senate we don't have Greek gods in charge of keeping our records, but we do rely on the superhuman efforts of a group of official reporters who transcribe every word we say. It is a hard, hard job. Official reporters have to accustom their ears to all sorts of accents from across our country, find ways to spell newly invented words, try to listen to what I don't say very loudly, and all the other issues they have to deal with, and they have to suffer through talking filibusters. In fact, they may be the only people who dislike filibusters more than I do.

Today I recognize just one of those hard-working official reporters—the chief reporter of debates of the Senate Jerry Linnell, who is retiring at the end of this month. For 32 years Jerry has been a staple here in the Senate, ensuring that the words of Senators past and present are correctly recorded for the American people. While he has been here, he has witnessed many events. He has seen five different Presidents occupy the White House, worked with eight different majority leaders, transcribed speeches on everything from the Berlin Wall to Senator Byrd's legendary lectures on the history of the Senate.

I wish Jerry all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I have no doubt that he and his wife Jane will keep busy spending time with their 7 children and 11 grandchildren. And, of course, Jerry will have his Washington Nationals to follow.

It has been a pleasant respite for me to spend time with Jerry talking about baseball. He takes trips around the country that make me so envious—watching different teams in different stadiums. I think he has watched a baseball game in almost every Major League Baseball stadium in America, and I am very envious of that.

The Senate is a better place because of Jerry's 32 years here. I, along with every other Member of this body, thank Jerry for his many years of service.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, yesterday the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution to keep our government from shutting down for the next 3 months. In addition to keeping the government operating, this measure includes provisions important to our national security, such as funding to combat ISIS—an evil organization—by training and equipping vetted Syrian opposition forces and aid to fight the spread of Ebola.

It is not perfect; that is for sure. But no legislation is. In this era of radical ideologies and endless obstruction, the funding resolution before us is infinitely better than the alternatives—another shutdown of our government.

I think it speaks volumes that Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, the Republican leader, and I are supporting this legislation. That should say a lot to the American people. As every Senator knows, the funding bill we approve must first have passed the House of Representatives, and it did that. Breaking up the legislation the House sent us is not a viable option at this juncture. We need to complete our work on the House-passed resolution as soon as possible. We have an agreement in place to vote on this measure no later than 5:30 p.m. this evening. With the cooperation of Senators, we could vote even earlier today.

There is one final unanimous consent request.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko into the House Chamber for the joint meeting today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it frequently happens when we head into a recess that we have to say a reluctant farewell to some member of the Senate family. So before I yield the floor, I wish to say a word of thanks to Jerry Linnell, who has been a fixture here for more than 3 decades as an official reporter of debates and for the past 15 years as a somewhat hidden fixture up on the fourth floor as the chief reporter.

It is a tough job having to listen to the rest of us drone on every day, and

as chief reporter Jerry has had the unenviable task of reviewing every single word we have said.

In his trademark suspenders, Jerry is a friendly and unmistakable presence up on the fourth floor, guiding his team through their daily rounds and maintaining a level of professionalism and integrity that has always been a key characteristic of the office.

It is a proud group. Back in the 1930s Senator Huey Long is said to have donated his own personal Bible to the office so they would have a handy reference when he quoted from it. It quickly became a tradition for new reporters to sign it when they were hired and then once they left.

In a sign of how dedicated these reporters are, only 35 names have been entered in the Bible over the past 80 years. So it is a very venerable fraternity, one that has its roots in article I of the Constitution. We thank Jerry for his many, many years of dedicated, honorable service.

I know Jerry and his wife Jane look forward to spending more time with their many children and grandchildren. After listening to us for all those years, I think he deserves it.

You have done your time. You have done it well. The entire Senate family thanks you, Jerry, all the best.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair in order to attend a joint meeting of Congress.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:39 a.m. recessed subject to the call of the Chair, and the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mike Stenger, the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address delivered by His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

(The address delivered by the President of Ukraine to the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

Whereupon, at 11:11 a.m., the Senate, having returned to its Chamber, reassembled and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BOOKER).

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and

with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2779

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to ask that Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to come together and unanimously pass legislation to address the threat of American citizens fighting for ISIS and bringing our statutory system into the 21st century to protect the national security interests of our Nation.

As the American people are now painfully aware, the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, has emerged as the new face of the radical terrorist threat that has bedeviled the West in recent decades. This virulent jihadist group—so extreme they got kicked out of Al Qaeda, which I will note is not easy to do—is rampaging across Syria and Iraq in a campaign of oppression and genocide, including the relentless targeting and murder of Christians, of Jews, of Muslim minority sects, Yazidis—indeed, any who do not share their radical Sunni theology.

While other terrorist organizations have been content with a parasitic relationship with state sponsors of terrorism—notably Syria and Iran—ISIS has a new agenda, which is to establish its own state or caliphate. They now control a territory about the size of Indiana with oilfields they can exploit on the black market to the tune of some \$1.5 million a day. Their ranks have grown in the last 3 months alone from roughly 10,000 to now more than 30,000.

Unlike some regional jihadists, ISIS also represents a direct and growing threat to our citizens here at home, and increasingly to our homeland itself. Just this week there were news reports of an online posting urging individual jihadists in the United States to attack targets such as Times Square, the Las Vegas strip, and even locations in my home State of Texas, with homemade pipe bombs. This is not the first time we have heard such threats, but we have to take them seriously. ISIS has made no secret that its goal is not simply to establish a caliphate in the Middle East; its desire is to impose Sharia law on the Muslim population and to exterminate any religious minorities, and that desire is not confined by geography. When the leader of ISIS, Abu al-Baghdadi, was released from a detention camp in Iraq in 2009, he reportedly remarked to Army COL Kenneth King, "See you in New York." This danger, this evil intends to come home to America.

ISIS has in recent weeks graphically demonstrated their eagerness to murder American civilians by beheading two journalists, gruesomely dem-

onstrating on the world stage their hatred for America. This is not a situation where if we simply leave ISIS alone, they will leave us alone. This is a case where America's national security interests demand a serious response, which should be both to attack ISIS directly and take them out in its claimed caliphate, as well as to defend against the attacks ISIS is planning to execute here at home.

The Obama administration's approach to this crisis has unfortunately lacked a clear focus on that issue. It doesn't help that ISIS is surrounded by regional chaos borne out of a Syrian civil war, and ISIS has exploited the inherent political weakness in Iraq. However, while both the crisis in Syria and the upheaval in Baghdad are unfortunate, concerning situations, we cannot allow resolving them to become preconditions to any military action we might need to take against ISIS.

All too often, the Obama administration proposals threaten to become embroiled in the midst of these political crises. For example, they have made training and equipping the Free Syrian Army a cornerstone of their plan to fight ISIS. But just this week, the leader of the Free Syrian Army reportedly announced he would not participate in the fight against ISIS unless we pledged to join in his fight against Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

While this is certainly understandable from his perspective, resolving the Syrian civil war is not our mission nor the job of the military and we should not be making the Free Syrian Army, whose focus is Assad, central to the American plan of defending our Nation against the jihadist threat of ISIS.

The administration's ISIS policy is also marked by internal confusion that further demonstrates a lack of focus on what should be our clear mission. The President has repeatedly insisted that there will be no American boots on the ground in Iraq and Syria, as he wants any action to be led by others, even while he increases U.S. personnel in the country by a few hundred here and a few hundred there. Earlier this week, his top general, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted there were circumstances under which he would change his advice to the President to recommending ground troops—a suggestion that was subsequently echoed by the Chief of Staff of the Army and even Vice President BIDEN. The American people need and deserve greater clarity on what exactly our military mission is, and how what the President envisions relates to the advice his Department of Defense is giving him.

The disconnect between what we know or do not know about the Americans fighting for ISIS in Iraq and Syria is equally concerning. Estimates range from about one dozen, according to one Pentagon spokesman, to Secretary of

Defense Chuck Hagel's reassertion of about 100 Americans fighting with ISIS in this week's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Either way, Secretary Hagel agreed with my characterization of the risks posed that Americans will take U.S. passports after fighting with ISIS, after training with ISIS, to come back and commit unspeakable acts of terror here at home. Secretary Hagel agreed that risk was significant. It seems only prudent to address that threat.

I am, therefore, going to be asking for unanimous consent for the Senate to pass the Expatriate Terrorist Act of 2014, which will make fighting for ISIS, taking up arms against the United States, an affirmative renunciation of American citizenship.

I should note the Expatriate Terrorist Act is very similar to the bipartisan legislation proposed by Senators Joe Lieberman and Scott Brown in 2010 to address Americans who were joining Al Qaeda overseas, notably the radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, or here at home Faisal Shahzad, who attempted to blow up a car bomb in Times Square.

The Expatriate Terrorist Act thus has applicability beyond the immediate threat of ISIS. It is an important adjustment of our existing laws governing the renunciation of citizenship. To reflect the threat posed by non-nation terrorist groups, as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said concerning the Brown-Lieberman legislation:

United States citizenship is a privilege. It is not a right. People who are serving foreign powers—

Or in this case, foreign terrorists—are clearly in violation of that oath which they swore when they became citizens.

The Expatriate Terrorist Act of 2014 is only a very modest change to current law. It is one small step in a larger and necessary effort to refocus our ISIS strategy that I urge President Obama to consider immediately.

We also urgently need to address the question of border security on our southern border so our failure to defend ourselves does not become a weakness that ISIS and other terrorists exploit to carry out unspeakable acts of terror here at home.

The American people expect Republicans and Democrats to join together to speak in one uniform voice when it comes to protecting the national security and when it comes to protecting the lives of Americans here at home.

If we do not pass this legislation, the consequence will be that Americans fighting alongside ISIS today may come home tomorrow with a U.S. passport, may come home to New York or Los Angeles or Houston or Chicago. Innocent Americans may be murdered if the Senate does not act today.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 554,

S. 2779. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. This bill has not been brought before the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over these issues. This bill affects fundamental constitutional rights and should be given the full deliberation of the Senate.

Legislation that grants the government the ability to strip citizenship from Americans is a serious matter raising significant constitutional issues. Again, we have not had the opportunity to fully consider and register a significant bill.

In addition, objections to this bill are detailed in two letters, both dated September 2014. The letters are from the bipartisan Constitution Project and the American Civil Liberties Union.

I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On September 5, 2014, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced the Expatriate Terrorist Act (ETA). According to Senator Cruz, the bill is a common sense counterterrorism tool that would strip U.S. citizenship from Americans who fight with or support foreign terrorist organizations working to attack the United States. In fact, the ETA serves virtually no practical purpose, raises serious constitutional concerns, and would do nothing to keep America safe. I urge you to oppose it.

Like previous iterations of the same idea, the ETA would amend 8 U.S.C. §1481(a), which sets out limited circumstances under which U.S. citizens can be denaturalized or expatriated. The bill would add the following to the short list of predicate acts that can result in loss of citizenship: 1) taking an oath of allegiance to a foreign terrorist organization; 2) joining a foreign terrorist organization's armed forces while they are fighting the United States; and 3) "becoming a member of, or providing training or material assistance to," a foreign terrorist organization that the person knows or has reason to know will engage in hostilities or terrorism against the U.S.

Senator Cruz has said repeatedly that his bill works an "affirmative renunciation" of U.S. citizenship. To the extent he means to suggest that, under the ETA, a person would automatically lose citizenship simply by engaging in the above conduct, he is wrong. The ETA does not and could not achieve that result.

Citizenship is a constitutional right, and the Constitution prohibits the government from revoking a person's citizenship against his will under any circumstances. As the Supreme Court has explained, "the intent of the Fourteenth Amendment, among other things, was to define citizenship . . . [and] that definition cannot coexist with a congressional power to specify acts that work a renunciation of citizenship even absent an

intent to renounce. In the last analysis, expatriation depends on the will of the citizen rather than on the will of Congress and its assessment of his conduct." As a constitutional right, citizenship can be knowingly and voluntarily waived, but it cannot be taken away from an individual absent such a waiver. Thus, to revoke a person's citizenship the government must prove not only that he committed an expatriating act prescribed in section 1481(a), but also that he did so voluntarily and with the specific intent to relinquish his citizenship.

Given these requirements, the ETA will almost certainly result in no additional expatriations. Unless Senator Cruz expects citizens subject to expatriation proceedings freely to admit that they joined or supported a foreign terrorist group specifically intending to renounce their U.S. citizenship, no one will in fact be expatriated. I doubt that government officials would believe it an efficient use of resources to try, especially given the broad reach of existing laws that already provide harsh penalties for U.S. citizens who engage in acts of terrorism.

The ETA also raises serious constitutional concerns. The ETA makes membership in or "providing training or material assistance to" certain foreign terrorist organizations a predicate act to expatriation. There are two constitutional problems with this provision. First, neither "training" nor "material assistance" is defined. Similar language in 18 U.S.C. §2383B was ruled unconstitutionally vague until Congress added specific definitions. Because Congress has not done so here, this provision of the ETA suffers from the same constitutional flaw.

Second, unlike other crimes currently listed in section 1481(a) that can result in loss of citizenship (see section 1481(a)(7)), Senator Cruz's addition does not require proof of a conviction as a prerequisite. As the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee explained in opposing similar past attempts to amend section 1481(a):

"[T]he language of 1481(a)(7) expressly requires a conviction as a necessary prerequisite to denaturalization or expatriation proceedings. This requirement protects the constitutional right of due process, since one cannot actually be said to have committed the acts specified in §1481(a)(7)—each of which are crimes against the United States—until and unless those acts have been proven to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. As the Supreme Court expressly held in *Kennedy v. Mendoza-Martinez*, Congress cannot deprive an individual of his or her citizenship as a "punishment" absent the procedural safeguards of a criminal trial."

Congress has precious little time left before adjourning until November to decide how and under what authority to address the situation in Iraq and Syria. Members should spend this time debating these grave questions, not preoccupied with needless and likely unconstitutional legislation. In the event that Senator Cruz moves forward with the Expatriate Terrorist Act, I urge you to oppose it.

Sincerely,

DAVID COLE,
Hon. George J. Mitchell Professor in Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law Center; co-chair of the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION,

Washington, DC, September 17, 2014.

Re Oppose Cruz Bill S. 2779, Expatriate Terrorists Act; S. 2779 Is Unnecessary and Dangerous.

DEAR SENATOR: The American Civil Liberties Union urges you to refrain from cosponsoring—and oppose if offered—S. 2779, the Expatriate Terrorists Act, which is sponsored by Senator Ted Cruz. The bill would strip U.S. citizenship from Americans who have not been convicted of any crimes, but who are suspected of being involved with designated foreign terrorist organizations. S. 2779 is dangerous because it would attempt to dilute the rights and privileges of citizenship, one of the core principles of the Constitution. As the Supreme Court explained in 1967 in *Afroyim v. Rusk*, “the Fourteenth Amendment was designed to, and does, protect every citizen of this Nation against a congressional forcible destruction of his citizenship, whatever his creed, color, or race. . . . [It creates] a constitutional right to remain a citizen in a free country unless he voluntarily relinquishes that citizenship.” The bill is also unnecessary because existing laws already provide significant penalties for U.S. citizens who engage in acts of terrorism.

The Supreme Court has consistently found that citizenship is a fundamental constitutional right that cannot be taken away from U.S.-born citizens unless voluntarily renounced. An already overbroad federal statute, 8 U.S.C. §1481, provides that an American can lose his or her nationality by performing either of the following broad categories of acts with the intention of relinquishing his or her nationality:

acts that affirmatively renounce one's American citizenship, such as taking an oath of allegiance to a foreign government or serving as an officer in the armed forces of a foreign nation; or

committing crimes such as treason or conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government, or bearing arms against the United States, “if and when [the citizen] is convicted thereof by a court martial or by a court of competent jurisdiction.”

The Expatriate Terrorists Act would add a new category of expatriating acts—“becoming a member of, or providing training or material assistance to, any designated foreign terrorist organization.” This implicates several constitutional concerns.

First, the material assistance provision added by the bill would treat suspected provision of material assistance as an act that affirmatively renounces one's American citizenship. Thus, unlike treason or conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government, this provision would not require a prior conviction. It would only require an administrative finding by an unspecified government official that an American is suspected of providing material assistance to a designated foreign terrorist organization with the intention of relinquishing his or her citizenship. This provision would violate Americans' constitutional right to due process, including by depriving them of citizenship based on secret evidence, and without the right to a jury trial and accompanying protections enshrined in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. In sum, the bill turns the whole notion of due process on its head. Government officials do not have the power to strip citizenship from American citizens who never renounced their citizenship and were never convicted of a crime.

Second, the material assistance provision suffers from the same constitutional flaws

that plague other material support laws, and goes far beyond what the Supreme Court has held is constitutionally permissible when First and Fourth Amendments rights are at stake. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court disappointingly ruled in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* that teaching terrorist groups how to negotiate peacefully could be enough to be found guilty of material support. That logic might apply to criminal conduct; it should not cause an American to lose his or her citizenship.

For these reasons, the ACLU urges you to refrain from cosponsoring S. 2779, and oppose it if it is offered for a vote. Please contact Arjun Sethi if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

LAURA MURPHY,
Director, Washington
Legislative Office.

ARJUN SETHI,
Legislative Counsel,
Washington Legislative
Office.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I would note that the objection from my friend from Hawaii observed that this legislation has not gone through the Judiciary Committee, and that is true. It is true, of course, because the Senate is expected to adjourn this week as Senators return to their home States to campaign for elections.

If it were to go through the Judiciary Committee, it would mean it would not pass in time to prevent Americans fighting right now with ISIS from coming back and murdering other Americans. There is an urgency and exigency to this situation.

This is also legislation the Senate considered before. As I noted, it was bipartisan legislation. Joe Lieberman, Scott Brown, Hillary Clinton are all in one accord.

It is unfortunate the Democratic Senators chose to object to this, to prevent this commonsense change in law. I would note when it comes to constitutional concerns, I don't know if anyone in this Senate has been more vigorous or more consistent in terms of defending the constitutional rights of Americans than I have endeavored to be during my short tenure.

I will yield to no one in passion for defending constitutional liberties, but I note there is an existing law that has been on the books for many decades covering the renunciation of U.S. citizenship.

It is current law right now that if someone goes and joins a foreign nation and takes up arms against America, that act has long been recognized as constituting a constructive renunciation of U.S. citizenship. As for the question of due process, existing law provides due process that an individual who goes and takes up arms with ISIS—and all this does is treat ISIS, a nonstate terrorist group, on the same

footing as taking up arms with a foreign nation against America. It is a recognition of the changed circumstances of this world that many of the gravest threats facing this country are not coming from nation states but are coming from terrorist groups that sadly some Americans are choosing to join forces. The existing law has considerable due process protection such that anyone who is determined to have affirmatively renounced his or her citizenship has a right to challenge that in Federal district court and a full proceeding under existing due process standards to have that matter resolved.

The question is very simple: Would any reasonable person want an American who is right now in Iraq, who is right now training with ISIS, who is right now taking up arms, who is right now participating in crucifying Christians, who is right now beheading children, who is right now participating in beheading two American journalists, who is right now standing arm in arm with virulent terrorists who have pledged to take jihad to America—would anyone in good conscience of either party want that person to be able to come back and land at La Guardia Airport with a U.S. passport and walk unmolested onto our streets? The obvious answer is no.

It saddens me we could not see Republicans and Democrats come together, and it saddens me that in an election year the Democratic Senator, who is up for reelection, chose to block this commonsense legislation rather than to work together to protect the American citizens.

I hope in time we see less election-year politics and more service to the men and women whom all of us are obliged to protect.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

UKRAINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Earlier we had an opportunity to hear from Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko. Ukraine is a friend of the United States and it has looked to the West to meet naked Russian aggression.

As President Poroshenko's speech reminded us, there are objectives that bind our countries, such as the pursuit of freedom and representative government. Let's make it clear. We stand with Ukraine. We stand with the Ukrainian people in their struggle against external aggression and we stand with them in their struggle to secure the same kinds of rights and liberties each of us enjoy in America.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. On a different matter, today the Senate will consider

House legislation to fund the government and address the threats of Ebola and ISIL.

These are important issues. Many Members on both sides plan to support this legislation. I know others have some concerns too. I understand those concerns. I share some of them, but while no bill is perfect, I believe this legislation is worth supporting.

I would like to thank my fellow Kentuckian, Representative HAL ROGERS, for his leadership and work on this bill because it does a lot of important things and all without raising discretionary spending. It would reauthorize important counternarcotics operations that help keep our children and communities safe and it would extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act until December, giving us a chance to secure a permanent extension.

It would block some of the administration's discretionary policies against Kentucky coal and help address the administration's veterans crisis by providing more resources to address the backlog and investigations into potential wrongdoing that is a positive step toward the more comprehensive reforms Republicans would like to see.

Critically, the legislation would provide authorization to train and equip a moderate Syrian opposition ground force, a key component of the President's efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat ISIL.

While I am concerned about the ability of the coalition to generate sufficient combat power to defeat ISIL within Syria, I do support the President's proposal to begin the program. The authorization is of limited duration and it now contains important reporting requirements that will allow Congress to assess and oversee this program to measure whether the mission is actually being accomplished.

The Ebola crisis is another area where the President deserves congressional support. As you know, he recently announced several messages to contain the spread of the disease in Africa and prevent it from reaching our shores.

Accordingly, the bill contains additional resources to support research and bolster our Nation's effort in assisting Africa to manage this growing crisis.

In summary, this isn't perfect legislation, but it begins to address many of our constituents' top concerns without raising discretionary spending. It positions us for better solutions in the months to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 35 minutes for the purposes of engaging in a colloquy with my colleagues on the issue of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, tomorrow is the sixth anniversary of the application for approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Six years. Six years ago, September 19, 2008, the TransCanada company applied for a permit for approval to cross the Canadian border to build the Keystone XL Pipeline from Hardisty, Canada, down to Cushing and ultimately the gulf coast, to provide not only oil from Canada but to move oil from States such as my State of North Dakota, of light, sweet Bakken crude, oil from Montana, to our refineries here in the United States. Six years ago, that application was filed, effective tomorrow. So we are here today to talk about the need not only for a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline but for approval of this vitally important project.

The reality is we can make this country energy secure, energy independent, working with our closest friend and ally, Canada. But to do it we not only need to develop all of our resources, our energy resources in this country, and work with Canada as they develop their energy resources, but we need the infrastructure to safely, effectively, efficiently, dependably move that energy to where it is needed, to our consumers.

That is what the Keystone XL Pipeline project is all about. This is truly about building the roads, the rails, the pipelines, the transmission, the energy infrastructure we need as a vital part of our energy plan for this country. We have bipartisan support. We have 57 Senators who support this legislation—57. The reality is I think by next year we will have 60.

So while we sit here and wait—now for 6 years, effective tomorrow 6 years, waiting for a decision from the President on the Keystone XL Pipeline—ultimately I believe this decision will be made by the American people, as it always is and as it always should be. Because I believe that after these elections in November as we go into next year we will not only have 57 Senators who support this project, we will have over 60.

Then Congress will pass legislation, a bill that we have submitted, a bipartisan bill we have pending before this body right now. We will pass it. We will attach it to something the President will not veto. The House has already passed this legislation. Because over 70 percent, I think in the most recent poll, of the American people want this project. They want this project approved.

So here after 6 years—we are going to talk about some of the history of this and all of the work we have done. But before I do that, I want to turn to my colleague from Wyoming, somebody who is incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to energy, somebody who has worked on energy in all different as-

pects, somebody who truly understands that, look, for the benefit of the American people to build our energy future we not only need to produce that energy, we need the infrastructure to transport it safely, effectively, and well.

I wish to call on the Senator from Wyoming for his remarks on this sixth anniversary of the application, waiting for approval, waiting for a decision from the administration on the Keystone XL Pipeline, for his thoughts and for his comments. I turn to the good Senator from Wyoming.

Can the Senator give us his thoughts as to why this project is still awaiting a decision from the administration, after the President told us, told our caucus last year, at a caucus we had here in an adjacent room, that we would have a decision by the end of 2013, why we are here still awaiting a decision on behalf of the American people?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I appreciate and want to salute the significant leadership we have seen on this issue from the Senator from North Dakota. He has been a stalwart fighter, very focused on this issue, and focused on putting together a bipartisan coalition of supporters. Americans want the jobs, they want the energy, they want action. We have an opportunity, but we have been waiting 6 long years.

The Senator from North Dakota is absolutely right. It was at a meeting in the Republican conference where the President of the United States came in. I asked the specific question: When will we expect an answer so we can get moving with the jobs and the energy that the American people are asking for?

President Obama said: Well, by the end of the year. He said that almost a year and a half ago. It was the end of the year 2013 that the promise was going to be fulfilled. Now here we are halfway—beyond halfway—through 2014. Nothing yet. Not a thing from the White House, a White House held hostage by environmental extremists who are trying to block important jobs and important energy and this important project.

We are here in the Senate today and the majority leader is ready to close this place down until after the elections. He closed it down—if you count the number of days from the beginning of August, all through August, a few days in session in September, but most of September not in session, and then all of October up through the election, you are talking 3 months, with the Senate in session for just 2 weeks. It is embarrassing. Where is the accountability? We are sure not getting it from the majority leader. The majority leader ought to bring this for a vote today. But he is not going to. He is going to shut down the Senate today, making sure these jobs are not there, that the

energy is not there for the American people. The Keystone XL Pipeline bipartisan support is an excellent example of a project that could help us from the standpoint of energy security, from the standpoint of economic growth, the standpoint of helping our economy getting people back to work.

But yet the majority leader is not going to allow a vote today, 6 years in the waiting on this specific important project. I would say to my friend and colleague from North Dakota, I know our friends and colleagues from Oklahoma and Georgia are here on the floor. I want to hear their comments as well. I salute the Senator from North Dakota for his continued leadership, for his focus, and for continuing to work to make America better, in terms of jobs, in terms of the economy, and in terms of energy. I know the Senator will not stop until we finally get this project approved, completed, and constructed.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank the Senator from Wyoming for his diligence and for his work. This is a bipartisan issue. We have legislation now with 57 supporters that is pending before this body. In fact, we have passed this legislation. We actually had passed very similar legislation, different only in the respect that it called on the President to make a decision—this was back in 2012. I think we had 73 votes on this issue. The difference is, the pending bill we have provides congressional approval because the President once again delayed the decision when we passed legislation calling on him to make the decision earlier. So now we have come back with binding legislation, after doing congressional research. This bill makes the decision congressionally under the commerce clause that gives Congress the ability to oversee commerce with foreign nations.

Simply what this does is we say to our closest friend and ally, Canada—TransCanada is a Canadian company—that: Yes, you can cross the border with this pipeline, which is the latest, greatest technology we have for pipeline transport.

Let me show one other chart here, so people understand. When we are talking about pipelines, oil and gas pipelines in this country, this gives you a little sense of the pipelines we have—thousands of pipelines, millions of miles of pipelines that move oil and gas around the country, from where it is produced to the consumers who very much need it. So that gives you a sense of all of the pipelines we have.

Now we are talking about one that has the latest and greatest technology that we are seeking to get approved. To put this into some context, the project we are seeking to have approved is the Keystone XL Pipeline. The reason XL is because the Keystone Pipeline is this pipeline here, which goes from

Hardisty up in Alberta down to the Pankota, IL, area as well as Cushing. That is the Keystone Pipeline. So I want to make sure there is no confusion. That is the Keystone Pipeline. That was approved in 2 years and built in 2 years.

So in 2006 the TransCanada company—I was Governor of North Dakota at that time. You can see it runs right through North Dakota. Obviously these things are immensely important. We are now the second largest oil-producing State in the Nation. We produce over 1 million barrels of oil a day—light sweet crude, second only to Texas. We have to get that to our markets and to refineries.

I started working on these projects when I was Governor. In 2006, TransCanada applied for approval of the Keystone Pipeline. Originally that was supposed to carry 640,000 barrels a day. I think it now carries 750,000 barrels a day. That application was applied for in 2006. It was approved in 2008. The pipeline was built and came online 2 years later. So 2 years to permit, and 2 years to build—4 years total.

When TransCanada applied for a second permit in 2008 for a sister pipeline, Keystone XL, it seemed pretty logical that it was going to be approved, particularly when the initial project had been approved in 2 years, built in 2 years. This is the actual pipeline infrastructure we have. When they wanted to build the sister pipeline, 830,000 barrels a day, it seemed kind of pretty logical they would go through the process and get it approved.

On September 19, 2008, they applied for that approval to move oil from Hardisty, pick up additional oil in North Dakota, Montana, take it down to Cushing and down to the refineries in the gulf, and get oil over to the refineries in Louisiana. September, 19, 2008. Tomorrow is September 19, 2014. Six years later, no decision.

I wish to turn to my colleague, the senior Senator from the great State of Oklahoma. Cushing is a hub for oil from all over the country. It is vital that we are able to move oil in and out of there, because that is a huge transition point between where we produce oil, including our region, but from all over the country and Canada and move it to refineries where it is distributed throughout the country. So we need to be able to move product in and out of Cushing, which is truly a hub for the Nation. That is exactly what this pipeline does.

I would turn to the senior Senator from Oklahoma. I would ask him: Why in the world, given what I have described here—we have thousands of pipelines, millions of miles of these pipelines. We have to get product from where it is produced to refineries and to our consumers. We cannot put it all on rail or you create incredible congestion that leads to accidents and backlogs in shipping of other products. This

is the latest, greatest technology for pipelines, for the transport of oil.

Why in the world—what rationale would there be not to approve this pipeline?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say first of all to leave that chart up, because it shows very clearly that I might have the biggest dog in this fight. I do not know. But I will say that Cushing, OK, has more pipelines coming through, throughout the United States, than any other city in America. That is where they all come through.

A few minutes ago the Senator from Wyoming was talking about what the President said less than a year ago, that he was going to be cooperating, we are going to do this thing, it will be the best thing for America. He has not done it. But I will tell you what is worse than that. This right here: because of this pipeline, the hub we have in Cushing, OK—the President went to Cushing, OK; this was about a year ago—over 2 years ago he did—he went there to affirm to the American people that he is going to do all he can to make sure this pipeline becomes a reality. Read this, I ask my friend from North Dakota. It says:

I am directing my administration to make this project a priority, to go ahead and get it done.

He has made this—I am not going to use the L word because it sounds disrespectful, and I lose credibility when I do that. He is saying something that is not true. He moved from that, and he has done everything since that time to destroy the pipeline.

That was when they were talking about the southern leg. Well, obviously the southern leg is not a problem because the southern leg does not cross an international border, so the President couldn't stop that even if he wanted to. So he was taking credit for that, but he is certainly underestimating the people of Oklahoma. In fact, nobody showed up when he was there. So that portion between Canada and Cushing is where the problem began.

I am going to throw out something very briefly. I also did this yesterday on the floor, but I think it is important.

There is a new surge of opposition to this that wasn't there before this happened. Tom Steyer is a very fine person, I am sure—I don't know him—but Tom Steyer has put up \$100 million—his words, not mine—\$50 million of his own money, to do two things. One is to resurrect global warming, which is dead. If we read the polls today, people have caught on. It is now No. 14 out of 15 of the environmental concerns, according to all the polling data. So he is trying to bring that up again. The second thing he is trying to do is stop the Keystone Pipeline.

I say to my friend from North Dakota, and I don't want to sound disrespectful, but \$50 million of that is his

own money, and he has that out there right now. I am going to quote him:

It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections.

Fifty million of his own money.

We are looking at a bunch of . . . races. . . . My guess is that we'll end up being involved in 8 or even more races.

The Keystone Pipeline would create 42,000 jobs and tens of thousands more. If you look at my State of Oklahoma, about one-third of all those jobs are in the State of Oklahoma.

Keystone is just the tip of the iceberg. When we look at this chart, we can see all of the domestic energy resources that are being developed around the country right now. We are going through a shale revolution, and the only thing getting in its way is the Federal Government.

Look at this next chart. I can remember back when people considered the only oil States to be west of the Mississippi, the Western United States. But with the Marcellus coming through, you could argue—and I have seen the argument in the State of Pennsylvania, for example—it provides the second-most jobs in that State. Yet they need to be aware that this is what is happening in the United States.

If we look at this map, it shows what we could do if we also had the Federal lands included in that. In fact, one of the shocking things we hear when we talk about the Federal lands is that in the past 6 years—and that is since President Obama has been there, and he has done everything he could to retard the progress of oil and gas since he came to office. The production on State lands is up 61 percent—that is in 6 years, up 61 percent—and natural gas is up 33 percent. However, on Federal lands—land the President can affect—oil production is down 6 percent. How can production be up 61 percent on State lands and down 6 percent on Federal lands? I think that shows the commitment that is there.

ICF International is a well-respected consulting firm. It is not Republican or Democratic. They recently released a report that says U.S. companies will need to invest \$641 billion over the next 20 years in infrastructure to keep up with growing oil and gas production. What does that mean for jobs? According to the analysis, spending on these new pipelines alone will create 432,000 new jobs. It goes on and on talking about this.

I asked the same question: How could it be—6 years ago I thought that this was a piece of cake, that this was going to be done. What is the argument against it? There are people who fight against fossil fuels. That is alive and well. But they know they are going to be producing it anyway, and if it goes to China—and there are already discussions; that is public record—if it gets to China, they are going to have to go through the refining process, and they

don't have any restrictions on emissions in China. So the argument is that if they do it, there are going to be more emissions—if they find that to be so offensive—than if we do it here in the United States where we have the capability to produce and have the jobs here.

When I go back to Oklahoma, people say: What are the arguments against it? I try to explain the argument they are using, but they don't buy it. Of course, I am in Oklahoma talking to normal people.

Anyway, good luck. We are going to do all we can do to make this a reality. We are going to win this eventually, but I am afraid we have the opposition of this administration, and unless we get that turned around, we will have to wait for another President.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would like to thank the Senator from Oklahoma and pick up on a point he made very well. He made a number of points that are extremely compelling, but one of the points he made is that overall, since about 2008, 2009, that area, our oil production in America is up 40 percent. So people say: Well, we are producing 40 percent more oil than we did in 2008, the end of 2008, so that is good. That is reducing the amount of oil we have to import into this country. We were below 50 percent. Now we are closing in on 60 percent and more oil that we produce. Together with Canada and Mexico, we are up over 75 percent, in terms of the oil that we consume, we produce in this country or get, as I say, from our closest allies and working on getting to 80 percent.

Well, people would say that is very good, but the Senator from Oklahoma made a very important point. Understand that is because we are up 60 percent in oil production on private land—on private land. We are actually down in terms of our production on public land; we are down between 6 and 7 percent. So when you net the two, we are up about 40 percent, but that is because we are up about 60 percent on private land.

I will give an example of how that works on the ground. In North Dakota 90 percent of the land is privately owned, so our oil production is growing tremendously. As I said, we are at about 1.1 million barrels a day and on our way to 1.4 million barrels a day in a few more years.

In Alaska, on the other hand, production is going down because their land is 90 percent public land and a very small percentage is private land. They can't get the permits and they can't build the infrastructure, so the amount of oil they produce is declining. The Alaskan pipeline can carry 2 million barrels of oil a day. It is down to less than 600,000 and declining. This is at a time when we are still getting oil from the Middle East and we are dealing with entities like ISIL, with terrorism, and with in-

stability. How can we continue to be dependent on getting oil from the Middle East when we can produce that oil right here in our country and in Canada? I would ask the good Senator from Oklahoma to comment for a moment on the technology that is enabling us to do so.

Hydraulic fracturing—I think the first well hydraulically fractured in this country was in about the 1950s in Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. My friend is correct. It was 1948 in Duncan, OK.

Mr. HOEVEN. So I ask my friend from Oklahoma to talk for a minute about the technology and what that means for the future of this country and energy security.

Mr. INHOFE. Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling are to be credited for this shale revolution we are going through now. We hear this administration—knowing the American people want to use this abundance of good, clean, natural gas and oil—sounding supportive of that, but he has done everything he can to retard our efforts to continue to use, as we have since 1948, hydraulic fracturing.

This is interesting because the first Director of the EPA who was chosen and confirmed during the Obama administration was Lisa Jackson. I asked her the question live on TV during one of our committee hearings—I said: Hydraulic fracturing—people are creating problems with this. Yet we have never had a problem, and it all started in my State of Oklahoma. Has there ever been a documented case of groundwater contamination with hydraulic fracturing?

Her answer, I say to my good friend from North Dakota, was no.

So we have the Obama administration saying there is no problem with it. Yet they are doing everything they can to federalize jurisdiction over hydraulic fracturing, with the idea that would make it much more difficult to take advantage of this revolution we are in the middle of.

Mr. HOEVEN. I again thank the Senator from Oklahoma.

Since 1948, with the first well hydraulically fractured—there have been no cases of contamination since 1948. We are now using this hydraulic fracturing with the latest new greatest technology where, on one pad, on one what we call eco-pad, we will now drill down as many as 18 wells. These wells will have—we go 2 miles underground, and then we drill laterals 3 miles long. Eighteen wells all on one site. Think of how much we have reduced the environmental footprint with that technology. Think of how much less ground disturbance there is. You are covering 1,280 acres. In the old days—and again maybe my friend from Oklahoma would like to think of how many wells they would have had to drill and how much infrastructure and well derricks

and pumpers they would have to have all over the landscape, and now we do it on one pad covering 1,280 acres going out 3 miles in all directions from one eco-pad. So it is not just about energy, I would say to my friend from Oklahoma, it is also better environmental stewardship.

Mr. INHOFE. It is also about technology. All of the environmentalists or extreme environmentalists who are trying to stop or fighting this war against fossil fuels, they ought to be rejoicing that we have this technology now.

When we talk about the number of wells, it is now past 1 million wells that have been drilled using hydraulic fracturing. By their own admission, there has never been one documented case of groundwater contamination. So the answer is that there is no reason not to do it.

This is our opportunity to be independent. We could be independent in a matter of weeks if we had the opportunity to export.

It is not just private land, it is private and State land. All of the increase we have had, the 63 percent we talk about, is all private and State land. How is it possible that increase could take place on State land while on Federal land it goes down 6 percent? That tells the whole story.

Mr. HOEVEN. I have one more question for my friend from Oklahoma before I turn to my good friend from the State of Georgia.

Answer, please, if you would. As we produce this energy domestically—so we are producing energy here, we are creating jobs, we are creating economic activity, we are creating revenue without raising taxes from a growing economy. We are helping national security because we are not getting oil from the Middle East or Venezuela or places that are hostile to our interests. Now we are talking about environmental stewardship. We are talking about minimizing the footprint with these new technologies. Why would we not want to move that product as safely as possible, with the latest, greatest type of pipeline, with the best technology and the most safeguards? Why isn't that an environmentally sound decision as well?

Mr. INHOFE. I have often said and many of the people who are very conscious about the environment—as I am and others—have said this is the answer. I remember years ago when I was very young, I worked in the oilfields. I can remember there were small wells all over and, of course, at that time there wasn't an effort. Now they have cleaned things up, and nothing is greater in terms of the technology that has come along for the environment than what we have experienced.

When we think about what is happening all over the world—I am glad the Senator mentioned this—with ISIS

and all of these problems we have right now, I believe we are facing a greater threat right now militarily than we have before. And that is where a lot of our energy is coming from, and it doesn't have to.

A good friend of the Senator and a good friend of mine named Harold Hamm—he is from Oklahoma, but he does a lot of work up there—I asked him a question in relation to the President repeatedly saying: Well, if we were to go ahead and develop this on Federal lands, it would take 10 years before that would reach the economy.

I was going to be on an unfriendly TV show, and I called up Harold Hamm and I said: Harold, I am going to ask you a question, and be careful in the way you answer it because I am going to use your name and your answer on nationwide TV. If you were set up someplace like New Mexico on Federal land that had not been touched before, how long would it take that first barrel of oil to reach the economy?

Without hesitating, he said: Seventy days.

I said: Seventy days? Well, that is 10 weeks, not 10 years.

Then he went on to say what would happen each week for those 10 weeks. I have never been refuted since we used that.

In addition to all the arguments we are using, just think about what our oil independence, our energy independence could be in this country. It is all there for the taking. This is the key element to make that a reality.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma, who has been a leader in energy for so many years.

This morning we were addressed by the President of Ukraine. Look at their situation. Because they haven't developed their own energy resources and because they don't have their own infrastructure, they are now dependent—Ukraine is dependent, along with most of the European Union, on Russia for their energy.

They get more than one-third of their energy from Russia. So at the same time that Russia is invading Ukraine, the European Union is reluctant to stand with the United States and our other allies on strong sanctions to prevent that type of aggression. Why? Because they get their energy from Russia.

So when we talk about building the infrastructure we need in this country to work with our closest friend and ally, Canada, to make sure we are energy secure and that we do not need to get energy from places such as the Middle East or Venezuela or other places that may have interests that are antithetical to ours, think about how important it is for the security of our country with what is going on in the Middle East with ISIL, and see what is going on in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and Russian aggression.

So I turn to our colleague from Georgia, who has also been a staunch supporter of this project, and ask him what is going on in terms of national security, the situation we face today, and why in the world would we not be building—not only producing our energy resources in this country but deploying these new technologies we are talking about that produce energy with better environmental stewardship and building the infrastructure to move it to our refineries and move it to our consumers.

Why are we waiting 6 years for a decision that would enable us to do that very thing on behalf of the American people?

Mr. ISAKSON. I am pleased to join with the distinguished Senator from the State of North Dakota, and I am pleased to join with the Senator of Oklahoma.

I am pleased to speak as an American from a State that is a net consumer, not producer, of energy. The Senator's State is a great producer of energy. Senator INHOFE's State is a great producer of energy. Georgia is a great consumer. We don't have a lot of oil or natural gas or coal, but I am here because I have a lot of experience in my lifetime—a lot of it with national security issues and with economic issues. Our ability or our failure to approve the Keystone Pipeline and fracking is, very simply, professional malpractice.

I wish to refresh everybody's memory. This is the sixth anniversary of a letter to the President of the United States. Do we know what it is the 35th anniversary of? The Arab oil embargo.

I was a real estate salesman in 1970 when something called the misery index was developed. Does the Senator know what the misery index was? We had double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment, and double-digit interest rates. Why? Because the Arab oil embargo in the middle 1970s brought America to its knees.

This real estate agent salesman used to have to wait for 2 hours in a line at an ExxonMobil station with a \$10 bill to get my ration of gasoline in the 1970s. Why? Because we depended on the Middle East and OPEC to supply us with energy.

We sit here on the cusp of being a net producer of energy. We can use it in our national defense, we can use it in our national security, and we can use it in our economy. If we produced the energy that we know we have available to us, and if we bring in the energy safely and environmentally soundly, as we know we have available to us, we can rule our foreign policy and our economy based on our own strength and not as dependents on anybody else.

Thirty-five years ago is not just a time of the misery index, but it was a time of failed U.S. foreign policy. Remember, it was the late 1970s when the Iranians took the American Embassy

hostage in Iran and for 445 days held the strongest military power in the world hostage. Why? In large measure because they controlled petroleum to our country. So it is a national security threat.

When the President of the Ukraine spoke today, he didn't say this, but I will say it: If America was producing the oil and energy it could with the Keystone Pipeline and with fracking, if we were exporting to foreign countries, we could replace Russia in a heartbeat and be the net supplier of energy to the Ukraine and to Germany.

So it is important to the national security of our country and the employment of our people and the soundness of our economy that we do hydraulic fracking for our natural gas in Haynesville and Marcellus, and that we bring the pipeline oil from Canada-Keystone XL Pipeline in to Houston and refine that petroleum with gasoline and energy for our people.

The pipeline, to the Senator from North Dakota, is very interesting. I ran the State Board of Education in Georgia for years. By law we couldn't build a public school in Georgia if it was within 2,000 feet of an underground pipeline. It is hard in Atlanta, GA, to find a piece of land that isn't within 2,000 feet of an underground pipeline. Today America's energy and petroleum flows rapidly and safely and environmentally soundly in pipelines.

If we weren't using pipelines and we were bringing it on railcars or trucks, we would be producing carbon out the kazoo because those engines would burn petroleum to get the petroleum to Houston. By using the pipeline, it is safe, it is sound, and it is secure.

I think it is basically professional malpractice for this country to fail to approve the Keystone Pipeline or fracking because it hurts our national defense, it makes us dependent on people we shouldn't be dependent on, it hurts our economy, and one day the misery index could come back. If it comes back, it will be because we are held hostage by our own failed policy, not because somebody held us hostage because they were strong.

I want a strong America. I want an America that has strong leadership. I don't want to be a part of any professional malpractice. I want to be a part of seeking the best for our American people—bringing energy to our American people, and being the most competitive economy in the world today.

I appreciate the distinguished Senator from North Dakota for yielding me the time.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the distinguished Senator from Georgia for his strong support and his clear understanding of why we need this project and for putting the focus on national security.

In poll after poll two-thirds of Americans support this project. I think in

the final analysis the American people will make a decision here. If the President after 6 years refuses to make a decision, clearly his strategy is to defeat this project with endless delays, just defeat by delay. So here we are in year 6 of the application process.

I would turn to my colleague from Georgia and ask his thoughts on this body's ability to step up and make the decision and approve this project on behalf of the American people. What does the Senator foresee? We have 57 who have signed on now. I believe we will get to 60. What is the Senator's sense of our ability to get this done for the American people?

Mr. ISAKSON. If, before we left today and had a final vote on the CR, the majority leader would let a vote come to the floor to get 60 votes to go ahead and move forward on the Keystone Pipeline, in my belief it would happen. For all the reasons I stated and what the American people want and all the reasons the Senator stated, I quite frankly do not understand why one single person in this administration would hold back the Keystone Pipeline.

Correct me if I am wrong, but the State Department has five times approved it; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is absolutely correct. We have the dates of the approval of five different environmental impact statements right here, all finding no significant environmental impact.

Mr. ISAKSON. So that is No. 1.

No. 2, there is no question that being independent in energy makes us a stronger country in terms of our national defense and our foreign policy; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is correct.

Mr. ISAKSON. No. 3, we will have more jobs, more employment, less inflation, and a more vibrant economy if we were developing this petroleum; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is correct.

Mr. ISAKSON. Then I think, knowing the quality and the intellect of the 100 Members of the Senate, there is no doubt that if the leader would bring that vote to the floor today, we would get more than 60 votes to move America forward and say: This Congress is ready to act. We are not in professional malpractice; we in fact are doing good for the American people. We want energy and we want it now.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the good Senator from Georgia.

I understand that our time has expired. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to wrap up this colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. On the facts and on the merits—which is how we have to make decisions for the American people—this is a project about energy, producing energy here at home so we don't have

to get it from the Middle East. We know what is going on with the Middle East with ISIL and other organizations that are creating huge problems and that are a danger not only to this country but to the world.

It is about energy here at home and working with our closest friend and ally, Canada. It is about jobs. The State Department itself says more than 40,000 jobs are created with this project. It is about economic activity, a \$5.3 billion project and not one penny of Federal spending, just private investment. It is about national security, as we have talked about.

But it is also about congestion on our rails. It is about making sure we don't try to move all this oil on rail so we have so much congestion, we have accidents, and we have seen that happen. It is about harvest and moving ag products from the heartland throughout the country. It is about using the latest, greatest technology to make sure we produce more energy more dependably and with better environmental stewardship than without the project.

Six years. It is time for this body to step forward on behalf of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MATTERS OF WAR AND PEACE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I don't think we should adjourn and go home with matters of war and peace in front of us.

This Senator certainly intends to support the appropriations bill, the continuing resolution necessary to keep the government functioning. But one of the issues in this continuing resolution is the authorization in order to start training the Free Syrian Army in Saudi Arabia, and this Senator certainly supports that.

But the issues beyond just that training are very much in front of us, which involves the United States protecting our national security by going after ISIS—or ISIL or whatever you want to call them. It is the group that has already declared war on us. Day by day we see their efforts, and then we hear their statements that they want to fly the black flag of ISIS over the White House. What more do we need to know about the national security being threatened?

Today in a joint session we heard a very inspiring and emotional speech by the President of Ukraine. He so poignantly pointed out how Russia has invaded eastern Ukraine, and it is the Russian Army against the Ukrainian Army. We certainly should be helping them as well, as we are, but it needs to be more.

So, too, the national security of the United States is definitely threatened by ISIS. As I have said over and over,

I believe the President has the constitutional authority to strike ISIS in Syria, as he already has in northern Iraq, and that is under his constitutional duty as Commander in Chief. But this is not going to be a strike for a few days; this is going to be a long effort to degrade and defeat—to use the President's words—this threat to America.

So here the Congress of the United States is going to adjourn in the middle of September; and, as I calculate, starting tomorrow it is 55 days until we would return. We need to be talking about war and peace. We need to be talking about the Congress exercising its constitutional authority to give the authority to the President for this long-term effort. The Senate has heard our colleague Senator TIM Kaine of Virginia speak very passionately about this. He believes it very firmly. I only disagree with Senator Kaine to the point that I believe the President has the authority to strike now to protect the interests of the United States—and I expect President Obama will do that. I am talking about in Syria.

It is clear the President has already appropriately started the attacks, and has done it very well and successfully in the Kurdish region and other regions of northern Iraq, and that will continue as the President feels he has the authority, and I happen to agree. But when it comes to Syria—and that is where the head of the ISIS snake is; and if you are going to kill the snake, you have to go to where the head is and chop it off—I think it is a mistake for us to go home. I think it sends a very bad message not only to our countrymen, but it sends a very bad message to our allies and to our enemies. The opposite message would be sent if we would discuss these matters and come together with a resolution of an authorization for the use of military force and to have that clearly stating that the United States is unified to go after this insidious, evil, brutal, uncivil kind of force. It would send a message of unity not only to our allies, to this country of ours, but to our enemies.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, what is the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak until I conclude. It may go over that time, but not by much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND ISIL

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much, Madam President.

I am here because I want to respond to the colloquy that was held on the Keystone Pipeline, but before I go there, I do want to make remarks about the very important vote we are going to be taking today both to keep the government open and to give the President the ability to train and equip vetted Syrian moderates so they can help us take the fight to ISIL.

It is my privilege to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee. I have served on it for a very long time, and yesterday we had an important hearing where the Secretary of State laid out the President's plans for how we are going to meet this threat posed by ISIL.

I have to say, before I explain the three options you have as an American as far as which option you embrace, I think I need to lay out the view of this organization ISIL or ISIS. There are different ways to describe them. They are an outgrowth of Al Qaeda in Iraq, which came about because of the catastrophic Iraq war that was based on false premises, that put us in the middle of a civil war, and created the worst sectarian tensions. One of my proudest moments was voting no on that.

Then the Bush administration said Saddam Hussein was involved with 9/11, that he had nuclear weapons, and none of it was so. None of it was so. As a result we got in the middle of this war.

We were told it would last 6 months, and then a year went by, another year, years, years, years, and it became one of our longest wars, and 4,000-plus Americans dead, tens of thousands wounded, some with very serious wounds—they will never get over them—and I would say well over \$1 trillion that drew us into a terrible recession when we had previously had surpluses. What a nightmare. So that is the beginning of ISIL, an outgrowth of Al Qaeda.

There were two authorizations for the use of military force that I got to vote on. One of them was right after 9/11 when I voted to go after bin Laden and Al Qaeda and any other affiliate organization that would come out of Al Qaeda. That is one I voted for. That is why I believe the President has the authority, based on that document, to move forward and take the fight to ISIL.

The other authorization for use of force was permission to go into Iraq and go after Saddam Hussein. I voted no on that.

I think it is important to the American people to remember why we are facing trouble, but it is what it is. There are some who say—because there are three approaches here—do nothing. There are some who say do nothing. My view is: How can we possibly do nothing in the face of a group that has beheaded two innocent freelance journalists? How can you do nothing in the face of a group that sells 14-year-old

girls as slaves? How can you do nothing in the face of a brute, ISIL, who, if they don't sell a 14-year-old as a slave and they let her live, give her to a warrior as a reward? How do we sit back and do nothing?

We saw what they did to minorities, the Yazidis. They said: Either you convert, flee, or we will kill you.

We cannot sit back. They did it to Christians, Yazidis. They did it to Turkmen. They have taken hostages including more than 40 Turkish hostages. We don't even know the count or what are the nationalities, but we know their intent. This is a quote from them, that they are going to make sure their thirst for American blood is quenched. This is a sick situation, and to the people who say do nothing, I say to them: I understand your concern for unintended consequences, but don't count me in your camp, because I cannot do that.

I am so cautious when it comes to voting to go to war. I know it is not easy. We don't know every single thing that can happen, what can go wrong. Things do go wrong. But my view is in this case if I were to sit back and say I am too afraid, I am too nervous, that is exactly the wrong signal to send a group of terrorists such as this. I have never seen a group like this. So one path is to do nothing.

The other path is to start up the Iraq war all over again. Colleagues in this Chamber, pounding the table: Troops on the ground. Send our American troops back. No way, no way. I am not going to send our troops back to the middle of a civil war. What we are going to do is another way—President Obama's strategy, which is the moderate strategy here. It is to take our intelligence, our strategy, our Air Force assets, and make sure those in the region who have the most at stake—remember, ISIL has killed more Muslims than anybody else—that they will be the boots on the ground. We see that strategy is working in Iraq.

It is early. We don't know how it is all going to go. But we have started this strategy where they will take back key pieces of territory—a dam, very important—and we seem to be able to coordinate well with the Kurds and the Iraqi forces.

Clearly our President is right when he says this is about the whole world. The whole world has to care about this, because this is about, truly, civilization, and every civilized person has to stand up against this. What the President is doing with the Secretary of State and our Vice President is they are building coalitions. For the first time we see the Arab nations coming forward.

So when I vote today for the continuing resolution, I want it to be clear to my constituents—and they are not all going to agree with me, I know

that—that I am in favor of this strategy. I am in favor of training the moderate Syrians to take the fight to ISIL on the ground. And I can tell you because I was in Turkey in August—I had the privilege of meeting with the head of one of the moderate Syrian organizations. His comments were very strong that ISIL is absolutely going against the moderate Syrians. So it is very important that the moderate Syrians are able to fight back against ISIL. That is what we are voting for today, to allow the President to vet, train, and arm the moderate Syrian opposition to the Syrian President and also in that regard go after ISIL.

I know everything is complicated in life and nothing is the perfect solution, but if I could say rhetorically, what is wrong is to do nothing. What is wrong is to go back into the Iraq war. What is right is to organize the world through a coalition, use the American assets—because no one can do what we can do—but on the ground in the combat mission, utilize the regional forces.

I wanted to be clear today where I stand. There are three choices, and I choose the path President Obama has put together. I think the vote in the House was a very important vote yesterday because it showed there is a majority of Democrats and Republicans who can come together.

Following that, we were in the House this morning to hear the President of Ukraine. It was very touching and very moving. President Poroshenko laid out in the most beautiful language, I thought, because of its simplicity, the beauty of freedom and what they are fighting for. What I loved so much about it was the fact that his speech united everybody in the room. There wasn't one group that sat down or didn't stand up to express their appreciation for what his countrymen are going through.

I hope we can get behind this President in this fight against the terror group that is probably the best-funded terror group ever in existence, the most barbaric I have ever seen. I hope there will be a good vote today. I think that would send a very important message that we are sincere and will bring more people to our coalition.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I said I was going to talk about an issue I know the Presiding Officer and I don't agree on. I have total respect for her view. The people of her State are so lucky to have her fighting their fight on energy. The people of my State have a disagreement. We are very fearful about climate change. So we are also worried about the health impact of the tar sands.

I am going to make a few comments about why I think we should disrupt the process that is happening now with

Keystone. It is a well-established process for considering projects such as this. The purpose of the review process isn't just to waste time. It is to determine whether the construction of the Keystone tar sands pipeline is in fact in the national interest. This is important. It is a major project.

In the past, Republicans have attempted to circumvent the review process for Keystone by creating shortcuts that in my opinion put our families' health at risk.

I want to show you a chart. It shows you that tar sands oil is one of the filthiest kinds of oil on the planet.

Let's look at a place in Texas where we see the tar sands oil being refined. This is Port Arthur. We have had visits from the Port Arthur community, and they said, please, we want to bear witness to the fact that this is what it looks like when these tar sands are burned. It hurts the health of our people. Residents along the gulf coast are suffering from asthma, respiratory illness, skin irritation, and cancer, and to get to the gulf coast the tar sands will be transported by pipeline through communities in environmentally sensitive areas in six States. It will pass through key sources of drinking water.

Look what happened in West Virginia when they couldn't drink the water there. It was a nightmare.

We have had experience with tar sands. People talk about how the pipeline is one thing, but it is what goes through it that is critical, and what is going to go through it if it gets built is the dirtiest, filthiest kind of water we know.

What happens in places such as Detroit and Chicago, where they store the byproduct known as petcoke—take a look at this. This is what it looks like. It looks like filthy, dirty pollution, and unfortunately for the people, that is what it is.

When the wind is blowing, we see black clouds containing concentrated heavy metals. Children playing baseball have been forced off the field to seek cover to avoid the black dust that pelts their homes and cars. Petcoke dust is a particulate matter, which is the most harmful of all air pollutants. Why? Its particles are so small, they lodge in your lungs and cause terribly severe asthma attacks, aggravate bronchitis and other lung diseases, and reduce the body's ability to fight infections. Asthma affects 12 out of every 26 people—and 7 million of those are children.

If I could, I would ask the people in the gallery how many of them have asthma or know someone who has asthma. I know a lot of them would raise their hands. It is ubiquitous. We don't need more asthma.

There are other ways to go, and my State and other countries are proving it. We can move to clean energy. We need to have a comprehensive human

health impact on the tar sands that would go through that pipeline because human health is important. If you can't breathe, you can't work. It is as simple as that. If you can't breathe, you can't go to school and get an education. If you can't drink the water, it is a serious problem.

While my Republican friends come down and say: Let's bypass all of this evidence and move forward, that is a dangerous idea. It is a dangerous idea.

I went to China about a year ago. You cannot see one foot in front of the other in China. That is how bad the air is because they don't care about the environment. They say: Oh, we don't need rules; we don't need regulations. Build, build, build. Do it, do it, do it, do it. Go and get it out of the ground.

There are moments we need to look at what we are doing. We are doing great right now on energy. Under this President we have become more energy efficient. Yes, there are places to drill, there are places to get energy, but it has to be clean and it has to be good.

We have just come out of the hottest August ever known to humankind since we began keeping the records in the 1800s. Climate change is so real, the only place they don't know it is here is the United States Senate. They don't know. Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil. Everything is great. Everything is good.

My colleague from Vermont is brilliant on this point, and we know the Keystone tar sands pipeline will create 17 percent more carbon than domestic oil. This is a dirty, filthy oil that is the equivalent of adding 5.8 million new cars to the road, or eight new coal powerplants.

The State Department has concluded that the annual carbon pollution from just the daily operation of the pipeline will be the equivalent to adding 300,000 new cars on the road. If we do this, we will go backward on climate change. We cannot afford to do it.

I know people get impatient with decisionmaking—whether it is deciding how to take the fight to ISIL—and I am glad I have a deliberative President who didn't just say: Do this and this. He thought about it and came up with an idea for a coalition to do it right. When you are looking at something such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, which is going to vastly increase the importation of this filthy, dirty oil, we ought to take our time.

My very last point. I am so proud to chair the Environment and Public Works Committee. Four former Republican EPA Administrators who served under Presidents Nixon, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush spoke out on the need to address the danger of climate change.

Really, this is not about bipartisanship. Ninety-seven percent of scientists tell us climate change is real and caused by human activity. Please, let's

take our time. When we are faced with a project that will set us back—the dirtiest, dirtiest oil—a picture is worth a thousand words, and this is not what I want to leave to our children.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank Senator BOXER not only for her remarks today but for her years and years of commitment to the environmental committee and pointing out the danger of climate change and the toxicity in our air.

ISIS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the dangerous and brutal extremist organization called ISIS, the terrorist army, which in recent months has overrun vast swaths of Iraq and Syria and is a serious threat to the stability of the region, and, in fact, to the international community.

But before I do that, I also want to say that ISIS is not the only major problem facing our country. It would be a real tragedy if, in our legitimate concerns about the dangers of ISIS, we continue to ignore the very serious problems that are taking place right here in the United States of America and impacting tens of millions of working families.

There are crises here at home we have ignored for too long. Real unemployment today is 12 percent, youth unemployment is 20 percent. We can't ignore it. The minimum wage nationally is at a starvation wage of \$7.25 an hour. We cannot ignore that reality. We have to raise the minimum wage.

Women earn 77 cents to the dollar that men earn. That is unfair. We cannot ignore the issue of pay equity. We have to address that issue.

Senator BOXER was just on the floor talking about the planetary crisis of global warming and the fact that virtually the entire scientific community is united in telling us that global warming is real. It is significantly caused by human activity. It is also causing devastating problems in our country and around the world. We cannot continue to ignore the crisis of global warming.

Last week many of us voted to overturn the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision that allows billionaires the ability to spend unlimited sums of money to buy elections which will benefit candidates who support the rich and the powerful. My point is that while we address the very serious problems in the Middle East—and these are very serious problems—we cannot take our eye off the very serious problems facing tens of millions of Americans.

The issue involving ISIS, in my view, is enormously complex. Just one example is Syria. The Assad government is a dictatorship which has killed many

thousands of its own people and has even used, we believe, chemical weapons against its own citizens—and these are the good guys. The decisions we make now in Syria, in Iraq, and in the Middle East must be made with great thoughtfulness.

As you know, President Obama has been attacked time and time again because he publicly stated a while ago that “we don’t have a strategy yet” for dealing with ISIS. Frankly, I applaud the President for trying to think through this incredibly complicated issue and not making rash decisions which would make a very bad and dangerous situation even worse and more dangerous.

I remember back in 2002—I was in the House of Representatives then—when George W. Bush and Dick Cheney said they did have a strategy. They were tough, they were forceful, they acted boldly, they acted swiftly, but, unfortunately, what they did was dead wrong. In fact, it was the worst foreign policy blunder in the recent history of America and opened up a can of worms we are trying to deal with today.

Frankly, I must say I am not impressed with all of the tough talk. I want smart policy that will work and that will, in fact, lead to the destruction of ISIS, not sound bites that may be effective in a political campaign.

I will take a few moments to lay out some of my concerns. First, President Obama is absolutely right when he said this struggle will not be successful unless there is a strong international coalition. Let's be clear: ISIS is a terrorist threat not only to the United States but to Britain, France, Germany, countries throughout Europe, and, in fact, to nations throughout the world.

More importantly, ISIS, which wants to establish a new caliphate, which includes many countries across a large geographical area, is a major threat in the region to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Jordan, and other countries.

I very much appreciate the hard work that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have undertaken in trying to put together an international coalition that will effectively fight ISIS. We all know how difficult that effort is, but at this point it appears to me the kind of coalition we need has yet to come together.

In my view, ISIS will never be defeated unless the countries in the region—the people in the region, the Muslim world, including Sunni and Shiite nations—stand up to this threat.

I know how hard President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry are trying, but we are nowhere near where we need to be in terms of building this coalition at this moment.

It may surprise many people to know that Saudi Arabia—a country run by an autocratic royal family worth hundreds of billions of dollars and one of

the wealthiest families in the world—is a country which was the world's fourth largest defense spender in 2014. Most people don't know that. According to a Reuters article from earlier this year—and I quote—“Saudi Arabia beat Britain to become the world's fourth largest defense spender in 2013.” In other words, Saudi Arabia is now spending more money on arms and the military than is the United Kingdom.

The article goes on to cite a report by London's International Institute for Strategic Studies which estimated Saudi Arabia was spending over \$59 billion, a figure researchers said was extremely conservative, pushing it above Britain at \$57 billion or France at \$52 billion. Once again, Saudi Arabia is spending more on their military than is Britain or France.

Another article from Bloomberg provides additional details on Saudi Arabia's military strength. It cites that “in 2011, the U.S. Government signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia valued at \$29 billion.” That is the end of the quote from Bloomberg. But according to Military Balance, “The Royal Saudi Air Force has more than 300 combat capable aircraft, including 81 F-15 C and D fighter aircraft, 172 advanced F-15 S Typhoon and Tornado fighters capable of ground attack, dozens of C-130 transport aircrafts.” This is what the Saudi Arabian Air Force has.

Let me also quote from an article in Forbes which details the strength and numbers of many of the militaries in the Mideast. The article notes:

Countries in the region have more than enough power to destroy the Islamic State. Turkey has an army of 400,000. Iran has nearly as many in the army and paramilitaries. Iraq has a nominal army of nearly 200,000 and some 300,000 police. Saudi Arabia has nearly 200,000 army, national guard, and paramilitary personnel. Syria's military, though degraded by war, numbers some 110,000, plus paramilitaries. Jordan has 74,000 in the army. The Kurdish Peshmerga numbers in the tens of thousands. All of these but Iraq and Kurdistan have some air force ground attack capabilities.

Furthermore, not only are countries in the region not stepping up in the fight against ISIS but, believe it or not, several of these gulf states are empowering ISIS and Al Qaeda-related groups through their financial contributions. A recent article in the Washington Post noted:

Kuwait, a U.S. ally whose aid to besieged Syrian civilians has been surpassed only by the United States this year, is also the leading source of funding for al-Qaeda-linked terrorists fighting in Syria's civil war.

Now, think back not so long ago when the United States of America went to war to push Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait and restore the royal ruling family. Today we find that “Kuwait is the leading source of funding for al Qaeda-linked terrorists fighting in Syria's civil war.”

The article goes on to state:

... the amount of money that has flowed from Kuwaiti individuals and through organized charities to Syrian rebel groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra totals in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Kuwait is hardly alone in this effort. As Treasury Department Under Secretary Cohen stated:

A number of fundraisers operating in more permissive jurisdictions—particularly in Kuwait and Qatar—are soliciting donations to fund extremist insurgents, not to meet legitimate humanitarian needs.

On and on it goes.

Why is all of this of enormous consequence? The answer is pretty obvious. The worst action we can take now is to allow ISIS to portray this struggle as East versus West and Muslim versus Christians, as the Middle East versus America. That is exactly what they want and that is exactly what we should not be giving them. In other words, this is not just a question of whether young men and women in Vermont or in North Dakota or in any other State of this country should be putting their lives on the line to defend the billionaire families of Saudi Arabia when Saudi Arabian troops are not in the struggle. This is not just whether the taxpayers of our country and not the billionaire ruling families of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and other countries should be paying for this war; more importantly, it is an understanding that at the end of the day, this war will never be won by the United States alone but it must be won by the people in the region.

Should we, as the most powerful military in the world, be of help to those people struggling against ISIS? The answer is obviously yes. Along with the international community, we should be strongly supportive of those countries in the region that are standing up to ISIS. And I personally believe President Obama is absolutely right in his efforts to judiciously use airstrikes which, at this point, have shown some success. But at the end of the day, in my view, the United States of America cannot and should not lead this effort. We must be supportive of other countries in the region who are standing and fighting against the ISIS terrorist organization, but this fight will have to be fought by countries in the region that are, in fact, most threatened by ISIS. They cannot stand aside. They cannot say: Hey, go for it, United States. Thank you, American taxpayers. But we in Saudi Arabia—no, we don't want our young people involved in this war. We don't want our airplanes involved in the attacks. We don't want our billions to go into this war. Thank you, America. It is really nice of you to do that. By the way, while you do that, we may play both sides of the issue and some families may actually fund terrorist organizations. But we really do appreciate your stepping to the plate because we are not doing that.

So that is where we are today. It is a very complicated, difficult situation. Again, I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for trying to work through this. But this is what I worry about: I worry very much that supporting questionable groups in Syria—so-called moderates who are outnumbered and outgunned by both ISIS and the Assad government—I worry very much that getting involved in that area could open the door to the United States, once again, being involved in a quagmire, being involved in perpetual warfare. And what happens when the first American plane gets shot down or the first American soldier is captured? What happens then? I am hearing from some of our Republican colleagues who are already talking about the need for U.S. military boots on the ground. That is what they are talking about today, and that concerns me very, very much.

So I am going to vote against this continuing resolution because I have very real concerns about the United States getting deeply involved in a war we should not be deeply involved in. At the end of the day, if this war against this horrendous organization called ISIS is going to be won, it will have to be Saudi Arabia, it will have to be Iraq, it will have to be the people of Syria, it will have to be the people of that region saying: No, we are not going to accept an organization of terrorists such as ISIS. And we should be there to help, as should the United Kingdom, as should Britain, as should France, as should Germany. This has to be an international coalition. But the last thing we need is the United States being the only major military power involved in this war.

So I thank the Chair, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, what is the order before the Senate?

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 124) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3851

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have an amendment to the joint resolution that has already been filed at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3851.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike "30 days" and insert "29 days".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3851

Mr. REID. There is now a second degree amendment which has also been filed at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3852 to amendment No. 3851.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "29" and insert "28".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3853

Mr. REID. I have a motion to commit H.J. Res. 124 with instructions which has been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 3853.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike "not later than 30 days after the enactment of this joint resolution" and insert "By October 31, 2014".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3854

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3854 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "October 31" and insert "October 30".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3855 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3854

Mr. REID. I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3855 to amendment No. 3854.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike “30” and insert “29”.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., John E. Walsh, Mazie Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Heidi Heitkamp, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Carl Levin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under Rule XXII be waived.

Mr. REID. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline under rule XXII for first-degree amendments to H.J. Res. 124 be at 2 p.m. this afternoon and that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be at 3:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to table an amendment to the joint resolution, as provided under the previous order, be in order during time for debate and, if made during the debate, the vote on the motion to table occur immediately after all debate time has been used and yielded back on H.J. Res. 124; further, that if a budget point of order is made, the motion to waive be considered made and the vote on the motion to waive occur following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.J. Res. 124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. There will be up to 4 hours 30 minutes equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

I now suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today to bring to the floor H.J. Res. 124. It is the continuing funding resolution for fiscal year 2015.

Let me explain where we are. We are in the closing hours before the Senate takes the recess before the fall elections. In the middle of all that, on October 1, our fiscal year begins. If we don't have a bridge between now and December 11 or around that, we could face a government shutdown. We do not want a government shutdown. We want to make sure we provide funding and make sure the government will not be shut down and that after the election we can return and do due diligence and pass this in a more comprehensive way.

Our job as the Appropriations Committee in Congress is to put money in the Federal checkbook each year to keep the Federal Government functioning. The American people want their government to work as hard as they do. They want us to combat the threats against the United States of America. They want us to honor our commitments to our veterans. They want us to meet the compelling human needs of the American people, and they want us to have an opportunity ladder so the American people can have a fair shot.

What we do is, we provide funding one year at a time. September 30 is our fiscal New Year's Eve. October 1 is the first day of the fiscal year. If Congress leaves before we pass the continuing resolution, the government could shut down. We don't want another government shutdown. I believe there is support on both sides of the aisle not to do that.

We know from last year that it was a terrible situation. Thousands of Federal workers were paid not to work. Other personnel, such as FBI agents, had to work for IOUs, even using their own money to put gas in their car as they pursued the people who wanted to undermine us. We know we don't want a government shutdown.

What is our goal for this continuing resolution? To avoid a government shutdown but to do more than that. To do no harm to existing programs so that we can meet our compelling human needs, the national security needs of the United States of America, and continue those public investments in innovation that make America the exceptional Nation and often the indispensable Nation.

It allows us also to lay the groundwork for an omnibus funding bill in December which will be a comprehensive funding bill including all 12 appropriations.

Also, it gives the President the fiscal resources to protect the Nation, to deal

with ISIL, to make sure we support the needs of Ukraine and NATO, and also to work on a global basis to stamp out Ebola.

What I want to say to my colleagues, who will look at this bill and scrutinize it, is the continuing resolution is only from now until December 11.

Remember, it is a temporary stopgap bill. Also, it is at current levels of funding. So I want to say that there are no new programs and there is no new funding. As I said, it meets these needs.

I worked very closely with my House counterpart, the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. HAL ROGERS, the chair of the Appropriations Committee in the House. We worked very hard to do bills where we thought we could bring individual ones to the Nation. Well, it did not work out that way because one party stopped me from bringing bills to the floor. I am sorry we do not have that omnibus, but poison-pill riders kept the Senate from considering appropriations bills on the floor and also the demand for 60-vote thresholds. That is a debate for another day.

So where are we in this continuing resolution? As I said, it keeps the government running through December 11, operating at the same amount of money as fiscal year 2014, with the same items and the same programs and the same restrictions. People might say: Have things not changed since last year? There are some technical adjustments that we do, but we just simply are extending what we have.

Again, what we do here is help the President, though, with what has changed—the three alarming threats that are facing us. No. 1, there is this growing threat of an organization called ISIL. People say: Are you talking about ISIS? No, I am talking about ISIL, because it goes beyond Syria—the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. What we have in here is the authority for the President to use title 10 of the United States Code.

What that does is allow the President to train and equip, with proper vetting, the moderates in the Syrian rebel forces. We also are supporting our President as he works with NATO and tries to deal with the Russian threat to Ukraine. Then there is another grim and ghoulish thing going around in Africa and spreading, which is Ebola. What we are doing here is providing the President with the resources to help Africa fight this problem. At the same time, while we are fighting in Africa, we make sure that NIH, FDA, and CDC have the resources to fight the issues here.

I could elaborate on this bill more. I want everyone to know that the CR is bicameral. It has already passed the House. It is bipartisan. I have worked with my counterpart in the other party, Senator SHELBY, who really has

worked in a very rigorous way here, bringing the principles of fiscal conservatism and flexibility so we have this.

But I know there are other Senators who want to debate. I want them to have the opportunity to debate this bill. I will have more to say when there are not others waiting.

I want to yield the floor, but before I do, I am going to thank Senator SHELBY for the cooperation of his staff. We have not always agreed on the content or every line item. He is a very staunch fiscal conservative. But out of it all, working with civility, due diligence, and absolute candor, I think we have been able to bring a bill to the floor. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will pass this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, this afternoon I rise in support of this continuing resolution which is now before the Senate. Overall, it is a relatively clean bill that carries forward current levels for discretionary spending and avoids another government shutdown. It contains a minimal amount of what we call anomalies or deviations from a straight continuation of previous-year funding.

The anomalies it does contain are limited in duration and subject to re-litigation when we return after the break. The bill is also consistent with the total level of discretionary spending enacted in the Bipartisan Budget Act for the fiscal year 2014. But most significantly, this legislation will authorize assistance to elements of the Syrian opposition to help confront the threat presented by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL.

While I believe action against this menace is long overdue, it is unfortunate, I believe, that the action once again requires the involvement of our military and our resources. This authority for training and equipping appropriate moderate elements in Syria is no panacea. We should remember this. We should not expect quick and easy progress in turning the tide against this new terrorist threat that has developed in the region while this administration withdrew and hoped for the best.

History and our experience in the region tell us that this will not be the last time Congress will struggle with this issue. Even if we can identify, train, and equip a large number of fighters in a relatively short period of time, there will come a time when more will be required to defeat this enemy. It will not be of a short duration. It is unfortunate, I believe, that the President has chosen to ignore the fact, thereby avoiding an honest discussion with the American people.

Nevertheless, I believe today it is important that we give the moderates in

the region a fighting chance. If proper training and equipment can do that, we should support it until it becomes clear that we must pursue other means to achieve our goals. When that time comes, I expect Congress to have a full and open debate on that issue. But for now, Congress, I believe, has the responsibility to carefully track what the administration is doing with any funds that it reprograms for this assistance and how this fits into a broader regional strategy there.

The language in this bill will ensure that the administration provides the information to the Congress that we need to do our job. Once again, support for this continuing resolution will achieve two very important goals: one, avoiding a government shutdown, and maintaining spending levels currently in the law—very important. For these two reasons, I will be supporting the bill.

During the break that we are about to go on, and when we return in November, Senator MIKULSKI, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, and I will be working closely on an omnibus bill to put in place funding for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is my hope that we will be able to, once again, reach an agreement and complete the work of the committee before this Congress adjourns. I believe that this is an achievable goal as long as both sides come to the table with reasonable expectations. We have done it before. I expect that we can do it again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, we have before us one of the most important duties of the Senate and the Congress; that is, to decide whether we will be involved in war. I think it is inexcusable that the debate over whether we involve the country in war—another country's civil war—that this would be debated as part of a spending bill and not as part of an independent free-standing bill.

It was debated as a free-standing bill yesterday in the House. There was a free-standing amendment.

It takes 15 extra minutes. One might wonder why the Senate—the most deliberative body of the world—does not have 15 minutes to debate separately a question of war. It will be thrown into an amendment or a bill over spending. Instead of having a debate over war, we will have a debate over spending. I think this is a sad day for the Senate. It goes against our history. It goes against the history of the country. Therefore, I have asked that the amendment that I will set before the Senate will separate the votes so we will have a debate over war and then we will have a debate over spending.

I have an amendment at the desk that would cue up the two separate votes on this legislation and allow the

Senate to vote on the inclusion of the Syria language as a separate question.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to call up my amendment No. 3856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I want to acknowledge, first of all, the longstanding views on foreign policy of the Senator from Kentucky and also on this process. What I want to say is that, No. 1, the Senate bill and the authorization in title 10 we have here takes us only to December 11. So this is temporary. What we hope is that the appropriate committees have additional legislation they are working on so that we can really look at other matters, such as a greater authorization on the war and the greater refinement of title 10.

So I acknowledge that there is much to be debated. I say to my colleague from Kentucky, we have allowed 4½ hours to debate. Quite frankly, if the Senator has views on it, I look forward to hearing those views. So the objection is not meant to be pugnacious at all. But in the way that the leadership has agreed to move this bill, that is where we stand. I look forward to hearing the debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, if there is a theme that connects the dots in the Middle East, it is that chaos breeds terrorism. What much of the foreign policy elite fail to grasp, though, is that intervention to topple secular dictators has been the prime source of the chaos. From Hussein to Assad to Qadhafi, it is the same history—intervention to topple the secular dictator. Chaos ensues and radical jihads emerge. The pattern has been repeated time and time again.

Yet what we have here is a failure to understand, a failure to reflect on the outcome of our involvement in Arab civil wars. They say nature abhors a vacuum. Radical jihadists have again and again filled the chaotic vacuum of the Middle East. Secular dictators, despots who, frankly, do terrorize their own people, are replaced by radical jihadists, who seek terror not only at home but abroad.

Intervention, when both choices are bad, is a mistake. Intervention, when both sides are evil, is a mistake. Intervention that destabilizes the Middle East is a mistake. Yet here we are again, wading into a civil war. I warned a year ago that involving us in Syria's civil war was a mistake, that the inescapable irony is that some day the arms we supply would be used against us or Israel. That day is now.

ISIS has grabbed up from the United States, from the Saudis, and from the

Qataris weapons by the truckload. We are now forced to fight against our own weapons, and this body wants to throw more weapons into the mix. Even those of us who have been reluctant to get involved in Middle Eastern wars feel, now that American interests are threatened, that our consulate and our embassy are threatened. We feel that if ISIS is left to its own devices maybe they will fulfill what they have boasted of and attack our homeland.

So, yes, we must now defend ourselves from these barbarous jihadists. But let's not compound the problem by arming feckless rebels in Syria who seem to be merely a pit stop for weapons that are really on their way to ISIS. Remember clearly that the President and his Republican allies have been clamoring for over a year for airstrikes against Assad. Assad was our enemy last year. This year he is our friend. Had all of those air strikes, though, occurred last year in Syria, today ISIS might be in Damascus. Realize that the unintended consequences of involving ourselves in these complicated, thousand-year-long civil wars lead to unintended consequences. Had we bombed Assad last year, ISIS would be more of a threat this year. ISIS may well be in Damascus had we bombed Assad last year.

Had the hawks been successful last year, we would be facing a stronger ISIS, likely in charge of all Syria and most of Iraq.

Intervention is not always the answer and often leads to unintended consequences.

But some will argue no, no, it is not intervention that led to this chaos, we didn't have enough intervention. They say if we had only given the rebels more arms, ISIS wouldn't be as strong now. The only problem is the facts argue otherwise.

We did give arms and assistance to the rebels through secret CIA operations, through our allies, through our erstwhile allies. We gave 600 tons—let me repeat that—we gave 600 tons of weapons to the Syrian rebels in 2013 alone. We gave 600 tons of weapons and they cry out and say we haven't done enough?

Perhaps they are giving them to people who don't want to fight. Perhaps the fighters from ISIS are taking the weapons we give to the so-called moderate rebels. It is a mistake to send more arms to the Syrians.

According to the U.N. records, Turkey alone, in the space of a 4-month period, sent 47 tons in addition to the 600 tons of weapons. They sent 29 tons in 1 month. But there are rumors that the Turks are not quite that discriminating, that many of these weapons either went directly or indirectly to the very radical jihadists who are now threatening us.

If you want to know are there any weapons over there, are there enough

weapons, is it a lack of weapons that causes the moderate Syrian rebels to be not very good at fighting, well, there are videos online of the Free Syrian Army, the army our government wants to give more arms to. We see them with Mi-8 helicopters, we see them with shoulder-launched missiles, and yet we see them lose battle after battle.

We see American-made TOW anti-tank weapons in the hands of Harakat al-Hazm, a so-called moderate group. The Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia has been providing weapons such as this to the rebels. It also detailed millions of dollars in direct U.S. aid to the rebels.

We have not been sitting around doing nothing. Six hundred tons of weapons have already been given to the Syrian rebels. What happened during the period of time we gave 600 tons of weapons to the moderate rebels in Syria? ISIS grew stronger.

They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result. We gave 600 tons of weapons to the rebels and they got weaker and weaker and ISIS grew stronger.

Perhaps by throwing all of these weapons into the civil war, we actually degraded Assad's ability to counter them. So perhaps Assad might well have taken care of the radical jihadists and he can't because of the weapons. Perhaps we have created a safe haven.

The other night the President said in his speech that it will be a policy of his administration to leave no safe haven for anyone who threatens America. It sounds good, except for the past 3 years we have been creating a safe haven for ISIS. ISIS has grown stronger because we have been arming the resistance that ISIS is part of.

A New York Times article reports that Qatar has used a shadowy arms network to move shoulder-fired missiles to the rebels. According to Gulf News, Saudi Arabia has also partnered with Pakistan to provide a Pakistan version of a Chinese shoulder-launched missile. It doesn't sound like a dearth of weapons, it sounds like an abundance of weapons.

Iraqi officials have accused Saudi Arabia and Qatar of also funding and arming ISIS at the same time.

Kuwaitis—a Sunni majority country bordering Iraq—have funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to a wide range of opposition forces throughout Iraq and Syria, according to the Brookings Institute.

According to the New York Times, over 1 year ago the CIA began training Syrian rebels in nearby Jordan, thousands of them, delivering arms and ammunition. Over this period of time, what has happened? ISIS has grown stronger. Perhaps sending more weapons into the Syrian civil war is not working.

The New York Times also reports huge arms and financial transfers from Qatar to the Syrian rebels beginning as early as 3 years ago. No one really knows where this is all going to end, where are these arms going to wind up.

Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center noted that the transfer of Qatari weapons to targeted troops has the same practical effect of transferring the weapons to al-Nusra, a violent jihadist group.

Let me repeat. Jane's defense analysts say that if you give the weapons to moderate—the so-called moderate rebels—it is the same as giving it to al-Nusra.

The New York Times further detailed that even Sudan has been sending anti-tank missiles and other arms to Syria. It is hard to argue there are not enough weapons floating around over there.

So the idea that these rebels haven't been armed is ludicrous. It is also ludicrous to believe that we know where all the money and all the arms and all the ammunition will wind up or who will benefit from these arms.

Why? Because we don't even know who these groups are, even if we think we do. The loyalty shifts on a daily basis. The groups have become amorphous with alleged moderates lining up side-by-side with jihadists, not to mention that, guess what, some of these people don't tell the truth.

Finally, moderates have been now found to sell their weapons. In fact, there are accusations by the family of Steve Sotloff—who was recently killed by the barbarians—that he was sold by the moderate rebels to the jihadists.

The Carnegie Endowment says there are no neat, clean, secular rebel groups. They don't exist. They reiterate that this is a very dirty war with no clear good guys on either side.

The German Ambassador to the United States has acknowledged this. The Germans are arming the Kurds. They are not sending anything into Syria. It is a mess, and they are concerned that the weapons they send into Syria will wind up in the wrong hands.

Many former officials are very forthright with their criticism. According to the former ambassador to Iraq and Syria, our ambassador says: We need to do everything we can to figure out who the non-ISIS opposition is because, frankly, we don't have a clue.

Think about this. We are voting or obscuring a vote in a spending bill to send \$500 million worth of arms to Syria, to people who we say are the vetted moderate Syrian rebels. Guess what. One of the men with the most knowledge on the ground, who has been our ambassador to Syria, says we don't have a clue who the moderates are and who the jihadists are. And even if they tell you they are the moderates, they say: Oh, we love Thomas Jefferson. Give us a shoulder-fired missile. We love Thomas Jefferson.

Can you trust these people?

The rebels are all over the map. There are said to be 1,500 groups. It is chaos over there. We will be sending arms into chaos.

The largest coalition is the Free Syrian Army. I say largest coalition—really, all the Islamic fronts, al-Nusra, ISIS, Al Qaeda are all much bigger than the Free Syrian Army—but the biggest group that we give to is the Free Syrian Army, which currently has three different people who claim to lead the Free Syrian Army. We don't even know who is in charge of the Free Syrian Army. They voted out one guy, in another guy, and he didn't even know they were voting.

There are estimates that half of the Free Syrian Army has defected, many to al-Nusra, Al Qaeda, and to ISIS. These are the people your representatives are going to vote to send arms to. Half of them have defected. Half of them are now fighting with the jihadists. We have proven time and again that we don't know how to vet these leaders.

Two groups that were initially provided U.S. aid and help last year are good examples. A top official of Ahrar al-Sham, one of the largest rebel groups at the time, announced publicly that he now considers himself to be allied with Al Qaeda.

Just yesterday, our most recent ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford, said the moderate forces have and will tactically ally with Al Qaeda, with Al Qaeda-linked al-Nusra.

Listen carefully. Your representatives are sending \$500 billion to people who will tactically ally with Al Qaeda.

I asked Secretary Kerry: Where do you get the authority to wage this war?

He says: From 2001.

Some of the people fighting weren't born in 2001. Many of the people who voted in 2001 are no longer living.

We voted to go to war in Afghanistan—and I supported going into that war because we were attacked and we had to do something about it. But the thing is, that vote had nothing to do with this—absolutely nothing to do with this.

You are a dishonest person if you say otherwise. That sounds pretty mean-spirited. Hear it again. You are intellectually dishonest if you argue that something passed in 2001, to deal with the people who attacked us in 9/11, has anything to do with sending arms into Syria. It is intellectually dishonest—and to say otherwise, you are an intellectually dishonest person.

I said it yesterday: Mr. President, what you are doing is illegal and unconstitutional.

The response from Secretary Kerry was: We have article II authority to do whatever we want.

It is absolutely incorrect. We give power to the Commander in Chief to

execute the war, but we were explicit that the wars were to be initiated by Congress.

There was debate over this. There were reports of Thomas Jefferson's opinion about how this was the legislative function. There were letters in the Federalist Papers from Madison talking how they precisely took this power from the Executive and gave it to the legislative body.

We hear: Oh, we will do something in December.

What happens between now and December? An election.

The people of this body are petrified, not of ISIS, but of the American voter. They are afraid to come forward and vote on war now. We should have a full-throated discussion of going to war, but we shouldn't put it off until December.

Secretary Kerry was asked: Will there be Sunni allies in this war on the ground, fighting to overturn ISIS? The ones, precisely—maybe who may have been funding it, which is Saudi Arabia—who should be the first troops in line, receiving the first volley, should not be U.S. GIs, they should be Saudi Arabians, Qataris, Kuwaitis, and Iraqis—but they should not be Americans.

According to the Washington Free Beacon, some of the people we have been supplying and some of the people we continue to supply arms to aren't so excited about Israel.

Surprise.

One of them remarked: Their goal is to topple Assad, but when they are done with Assad, their goal is to return all Syrian land occupied by Israel.

Mark my words. I said the great irony here would be that someday our dollars and our weapons would be used against us and Israel. They will.

We will be fighting—if we get over there with troops on the ground—against arms that we supplied to feckless rebels, that were immediately snatched and taken by ISIS. We will be fighting our own weapons.

Mark my own words, if these people get a chance, they will attack Israel next.

These are among the many problems I have in arming the Syrian opposition. Who are we really arming? What would be the result? Where will the arms end?

There are too many here who believe the answers to these questions when all indicators are otherwise—or maybe even when it is unknowable—they continue to believe something that frankly is not provable and not true.

I am a skeptic of this administration's policies, but this is a bipartisan problem. This is not a Republican or a Democratic problem, this is a bipartisan problem.

I do share the administration's belief that the radical jihadists in this region are a threat to America, but they need to think through how we got here. Rad-

ical jihad has run amok in the Middle East because intervention has toppled secular dictators. There weren't radical jihadists doing much of anything in Libya until Gadhafi was gone. He kept them in check.

Was Gadhafi a great humanitarian? No. He was an awful despot. But his terror was on his own people, not the United States.

The people in charge—if we can say anybody is in charge in Libya—their terror is to be exported. Some of them are fighting in Syria.

Where I differ with this administration is whether to arm the same side as the jihadists. We will be in a war on the same side as the jihadists. They said: Oh, no. We can make it a three-way war.

War is very confusing, but imagine: We will be in the middle of a three-way war where many analysts say when you are in the trenches with the so-called moderates that our money is going to buy arms for—when they are in the trenches, they are side by side with al-Nusra; they are side by side with Al Qaeda. Do we want our money and arms being sent to support troops that are fighting alongside Al Qaeda?

Here is the great irony. The use of force resolution they predicate this whole thing upon from 2001 says that we can fight terrorism. They have interpreted that to be Al Qaeda and associated forces. Guess what. The moderate rebels are fighting with Al Qaeda. We could use the 2001 use of force authorization, as Secretary Kerry understands it, to attack the same people we are giving the weapons to.

Think about the insanity of it. We are giving weapons to people fighting in trenches with Al Qaeda. If we interpret the use of force resolution as Secretary Kerry does, under that formulation we could attack the very people we are giving the weapons to. It is absurd. We shouldn't be fighting alongside jihadists.

This administration and its allies have really been on both sides of this civil war. It is messy; it is unclear. There are bad people on both sides. We need to stay the heck out of their civil war. I have opposed them for reasons that I think are becoming clear and I think the American people will understand. It is not that I am against all intervention. I do see ISIS as a problem. ISIS is now a threat to us. But I see our previous policy as having made it worse.

I supported the decision to go into Afghanistan after 9/11. There are valid reasons for war, but they should be few and far between. They should be very importantly debated and not shuffled into a 2,000-page bill and shoved under the rug.

When we go to war, it is the most important vote any Senator will ever take. Many on the other side have been better on this issue. When there was a

Republican in office, there were loud voices on the other side. I see an empty Chamber.

There will be no voices against war because this is a Democratic President's war. The hypocrisy of that should resound in this nearly empty Chamber. Where are the voices on the other side who were so hard on George Bush who, by the way, actually did come to Congress? And we voted on an authorization of force. Agree or disagree, but we did the right thing. But now we are going to fight the war for 3 or 4 months, see how it is going, see how the election goes, and then we are going to come back and maybe we will talk about the use of authorization of force, maybe we will have amendments.

Colin Powell wrote in his autobiography:

War should be the politics of last resort. And when we go to war, we should have a purpose that our people understand and support.

I think that is well thought out. I think he had it right. America should only go to war to win. We shouldn't go to war sort of meandering our way through a spending bill. War should only occur when America is attacked, when it is threatened or when our American interests are threatened or attacked.

I spent about a year—and I will probably spend a couple more years—trying to explain to the American people why Secretary Clinton made terrible decisions in Benghazi not defending the consulate—not the night of, not the day after, not the talking points—the 6 months in advance when security was requested. This is one of the reasons it persuades me that, as reluctant as I am to be involved in Middle Eastern wars, we have to do something about it. We either have to leave Iraq or we have to protect our embassy and protect our consulate. I think there are valid reasons for being involved, and I think we are doing the right thing but just in the wrong way.

If we want to have less partisan sniping about war, if we want to unify the country, think back to December 8, 1941. FDR came before a joint session of Congress and he said, this day "which will live in infamy," and he united the country. People who had previously been opposed to war came forward and said: We can't stand this attack. We will respond. We will be at war with Japan.

He didn't wait around for months. He didn't wait and say: Let's wait until the midterm elections, and then we will come back maybe in a lame-duck—if there is a lame-duck—and maybe we will discuss whether the Japanese should be responded to.

War is a serious business, but we make it less serious by making it political, hiding and tucking war around. By tucking war away into a spending

bill we make it less serious. We don't unify the public. Then, as ISIS grows stronger or they are not quelled by sending arms to feckless allies in Syria, what happens? Then they come back again and again. There is already the drumbeat. There are already those in both parties who insist that we must have American GIs on the ground. I am not sending American soldiers—I am not sending your son, your daughter or mine—over to the middle of that chaos.

The people who live there need to stand up and fight. The Kurds are fighting. They seem to be the only people who are really capable of or willing to fight for their homeland. The Iraqis need to step up and fight. It is their country. If they are not going to fight for it, I don't think we need to be in the middle of their fight.

Am I willing to provide air support? Am I willing to provide intelligence and drones and everything we can to help them? Yes. We have been helping them for 10 years. We have a lot invested. So I am not for giving up, but it is their war and they need to fight. And I expect the Saudis to fight, and the Qataris and the Kuwaitis.

Even our own State Department says there is no military solution here that is good for the Syrian people and that the best path forward is a political solution. Is someone going to ultimately surrender? Is one side going to wipe out the other?

Part of the solution here is that civilized Islam needs to crush radical Islam. Civilized Islam needs to say to radical Islam: This does not represent our religion. The beheading of civilians, the rape and killing of women does not represent Islam.

The voices aren't loud enough.

I want to see civilized Islam on the front page of the newspaper and international TV saying what they will do to wipe out radical Islam. I want to see them on the frontlines fighting. I don't want to see them sipping tea or in the discotheque in Cairo. I want to see them on the frontlines fighting a war to show the Americans and to show the world that there is a form of civilized Islam that doesn't believe in this barbarity.

The United States should not fight a war to save face. I won't vote to send our young men and women to sacrifice life and limb for a stalemate. I won't vote to send our Nation's best and brightest to fight for anything less than victory.

When American interests are at stake, it is incumbent upon those advocating for military action to convince Congress and the American people of that threat.

Too often the debate begins and ends with a conclusion. They say: Well, our national interest is at stake. That is the conclusion. The debate is: Is the national interest at stake? Is what we are going to do going to work? I would

think we would debate for days and this Chamber would be full.

Before I came here, I imagined that when war was discussed, everybody would be at their desk and there would be a discussion for hours on end on whether we would go to war. Now it seems to be some sort of geopolitical chess game or checkers: Let's throw some money. What is \$500 million? Which is yet another problem around here.

But when we go to war, the burden of proof lies with those who wish to engage in war. They must convince the American people and convince Congress. Instead of being on television, the President should have been before a joint session of Congress—and I would have voted to authorize force. But it needs to be done according to the Constitution.

Not only is it constitutional, but there is a pragmatic or a practical reason why the President should have come to us. It galvanizes people, it brings people together. Both sides vote for the war, and it is a war of the American people—not a war of one man. Until there is a vote—if there ever is one—this is one man's war.

Our Founding Fathers would be offended, would be appalled to know that one man can create a war. We were very fearful of that. We came from Europe with constant war, where brothers fought cousins and fathers fought sons, where everybody was related and they fought continuously. We didn't want a king. We wanted the people, through the Congress, to determine when we went to war.

This President was largely elected on that concept. I didn't vote for the President, but I did admire, when he ran first for office that he said no President should unilaterally take a country to war without the authority of Congress. That is what President Obama said. He was running against the wars of the previous administration. People voted for him for that very reason, but he became part of the problem. He now does everything that he criticized. It is what the American people despise about politics.

When they say we have a 10-percent approval rating—Republicans or Democrats—it is because of this hypocrisy, because we don't obey the law, because we don't engage in important debate, and because we stuff war and shuffle war into a spending bill.

Bashar al-Assad is clearly not an American ally. He is an evil dictator. But the question is: Will his ouster encourage stability or will it make the Middle East less stable? With his ouster, will that mean ISIS replaces him? What are the odds that the moderate rebels, who have lost every battle they have ever engaged in, will be the rulers in Damascus? If we succeed in degrading Assad where someone can get to him, we will have ISIS. We will have

ISIS in charge of Syria. It will be worse. We have to ask: Are these Islamic rebels our allies?

I am reminded of the story of Sarkis Al-Zajim. He lived in a city called Maaloula, Syria. They speak Aramaic there. It is one of the few remaining villages in the Middle East where they speak the language that Jesus spoke.

As the marauding Islamic rebels came into town on the same side of the war—who knows who funded them or where they got the arms—but when the Islamic rebels came and marauded into town, Sarkis Al-Zajim stood up. He is a Christian. He lives and sides with Assad. Most of the Christians side with Assad. So Sarkis Al-Zajim lives in Maaloula, speaks Aramaic, stands up, and says: “I am a Christian, and if you must kill me for this, I do not object to it!” And these were his last words.

I don’t know who these rebels were, but they are fighting on the same side that we are arming and we don’t know who they are.

Our former Ambassador to Iraq and Syria says we have no clue who the non-ISIS rebels are. So for all we know, the rebels that killed Sarkis Al-Zajim could well be part of the so-called vetted opposition.

When they win, will they defend American interests? Will they recognize Israel? If we want to have a good question, why don’t we ask the vetted moderate Syrians how many will recognize Israel. I am guessing it is going to be a big goose egg. There is not one of those jihadists—there is not one of those so-called moderate rebels that will recognize Israel. And if they win, they will attack Israel next. Several of the leaders have already said they would. Will they acknowledge Israel’s right to exist? Will they impose Sharia law?

Sharia law has the death penalty for interfaith marriage, death penalty for conversion—apostasy—and death penalty for blasphemy.

In Pakistan right now—a country that billions of our dollars flow to, that the vast majority of the Senate loves and will send billions more of our dollars to if they can get it from us—in Pakistan, Asia Bibi sits on death row. She is a Christian. Do you know what her crime was? They say blasphemy. She went to drink from a well and the well was owned by Muslims. As she was drawing water from the well they began hurling insults. Then they began hurling stones. They were stoning her and beating her to death with sticks. The police came, and she said, thank God. They arrested her and put her in jail because the Muslims said that she was saying something about their religion. Heresy is life in prison, death. These are the countries we are sending money to.

The other side up here will argue: Well, we are only sending it to the moderates in Pakistan; otherwise, the

radicals will take over. Well, the moderates are the ones with Asia Bibi on death row. I wouldn’t send a penny to these people. Why would we send money to people who hate us? Maybe we should just have a rule: No money to countries that hate us.

Will these rebels, whom we are going to vote to give money to, tolerate Christians or will they pillage and destroy ancient villages such as Sarkis Al-Zajim’s church and village?

The President and his administration haven’t provided good answers because they don’t exist. As the former Ambassador said: They don’t have a clue.

Shooting first and aiming later has not worked for us in the past. The recent history of the Middle East has not been a good one. Our previous decisions have given results that should cause us to be quite wary of trying to do the same again.

I would like President Obama to reread the speeches of Candidate Obama. There is a great disagreement between the two, and Candidate Obama really seemed to be someone who was going to protect the right of Congress to declare war, but it hasn’t been so.

Our Founding Fathers understood that the executive branch was the branch most prone to war, and so with due deliberation our Founding Fathers took the power to declare war and they gave it to Congress exclusively.

President Obama’s new position as President, which differs from his position as candidate, is that he is fine to get some input when it is convenient for us—maybe after the election—but he is not really interested enough to say that it would bind him or that he would say we need attacks now and come to us tomorrow and ask for permission. He thinks “maybe whenever it is convenient and you guys get around to it.”

Secretary Kerry stated explicitly that his understanding of the Constitution is that no congressional authorization is necessary. I say, why even bother coming back in December? They kind of like it. They like the show of it. They understand it might have some practical benefit. But it is theater and show. If you are going to commit war without permission, it is theater and show to ask for permission. The President said basically article II grants him the power to do whatever he wants. If so, why have a Congress? Why don’t we just recess the whole thing? Oh, that is right, that is what we are getting ready to do. It is election season.

The President and his administration view this vote just as a courtesy but not as a requirement. Even if Congress votes against it, he said he would do it anyway. He already has authority; why would it stop him?

Article I, section 8, clause 11 gives Congress and Congress alone the power to declare war. If Congress does not ap-

prove this military action, the President must abide by the decision.

But it worries me. This President worries me, and it is not because of ObamaCare or Dodd-Frank or these horrific pieces of legislation. As I travel around the country, when people ask me “What has the President done? What is the worst thing he has done?” it is the usurpation of power, the idea that there is no separation of powers or that he is above that separation. If you want to tremble and worry about the future of our Republic, listen to the President when he says: Well, Congress won’t act; therefore, I must. Think about the implications of that.

Democracy is messy. It is hard to get everybody to agree to something. But the interesting thing is that had he asked, had he come forward and done the honorable thing, we would have approved—I would have approved an authorization of force. It would have been overwhelming had he done the right thing, but he didn’t come forward and ask. He didn’t come forward and ask when he amended the Affordable Care Act. He didn’t come forward and ask when he amended immigration law. And he is not coming forward to ask on the most important decision we face in our country; that is, a decision to go to war.

Our Founders understood this and debated this. This is not a new debate. Thomas Jefferson said the Constitution gave “one effectual check to the dog of war by transferring the power to declare war from the Executive to the Legislative body.”

Madison wrote even more clearly:

The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature.

There was no debate. Our Founding Fathers were unanimous. This was our power. To do it when it is convenient after the election is to abdicate our responsibility and is to make a serious discussion a travesty.

There is no debate more significant than this, and we are going to stuff it in a bill. We are going to stuff it in a 2,000-page bill and not talk about it, not vote on it individually. Our leaders must be held accountable. If we don’t, there will be no end to the war. The ridiculous and the absurd must be laid to rest. We have all heard it before.

Toppling Qadhafi led to a jihadist wonderland in Libya. Toppling Hussein led to chaos in Iraq with which we are still involved. Toppling Assad will lead to more chaos and greater danger to America from the jihadists.

The moss-covered, too-long-in-Washington crowd cannot help themselves: War, war, what we need is more war. But they never pay attention to the results of the last war. Their policies and the combination of feckless disinterest, fraudulent redlines, and selective combativeness have led us to this point.

Yes, we must confront ISIS, in part for penance for the President’s role in

their rise. But while we do so to protect our interests here and abroad, what we need is someone to shout: War, war, what are we fighting for?

Amidst the interventionists' disjointed and frankly incoherent rhetoric, amidst the gathering gloom that sees enemies behind every friend and friends behind every enemy, the only consistent theme is war. These barnacled enablers have never met a war they didn't like. They beat their chests in rhythmic ode to failed policies. Their drums beat to policies that display their outrage but fail to find a cure. Unintended consequences drown and smother the possibility of good intentions.

Must we act to check and destroy ISIS? Yes—and again yes—because of the foolishness of the interventionists. But let's not mistake what we must do. We shouldn't give a free pass to forever intervene in the civil wars of the Middle East. Intervention created this chaos. Intervention aided and abetted the rise of radical Islam. Intervention has made us less safe in Libya and in Syria and in Iraq.

To those who wish unlimited intervention and boots on the ground everywhere, remember the smiling poses of politicians pontificating about so-called freedom fighters and heroes in Libya, in Syria, and in Iraq, unaware that the so-called freedom fighters may well have been allied with kidnapers and killers and jihadists. Are these so-called moderate Islamic rebels in Syria friends or foes? Do we know who they really are?

As the interventionists clamor for boots on the ground, we should remember that they were wrong about Iraq, they were wrong about Libya, and they were wrong about Syria. When will we quit listening to the advocates who have been wrong about every foreign policy position of the last two decades? When does a track record of being consistently wrong stop you from being a so-called expert when the next crisis comes up? We should remember that they were wrong, that there were no WMDs, that Hussein, Qadhafi, and Assad were not a threat to us. It doesn't make them good, but they were not a threat to us. We should remember that radical Islam now roams the countryside in Libya and in Syria and in Iraq. We should remember that those who believe war is the answer for every problem are wrong. We should remember that the war against Hussein, the war against Qadhafi, and the war against Assad have all led to chaos. That intervention enhanced the rise of radical Islam and ultimately led to more danger for Americans.

Before we arm the so-called moderate Muslims in Syria, remember what I said a year ago: The ultimate irony you will not be able to overcome is that someday these weapons will be used to fight against Americans. If we

are forced onto the ground, we will be fighting against those same weapons that I voted not to send a year ago.

We will fight ISIS, a war that I accept as necessary largely because our own arms and the arms of our allies—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar—have enabled our new enemy ISIS. Will we ever learn?

President Obama now wishes to bomb ISIS and arm the Islamic rebels' allies at the same time. We are on both sides of a civil war. The emperor has no clothes. Let's just admit it. The truth is sometimes painful.

We must protect ourselves from radical Islam, but we should never ever have armed radical Islam, and we should not continue to arm radical Islam. To those who will say, "Oh, we are just giving to the moderates, not to the radicals," it is going and stopping temporarily with the moderates and then on to ISIS. That is what has been going on for a year. Somehow they predict that something different will occur. We have enabled the enemy we must now confront.

Sending arms to so-called moderate Islamic rebels in Syria is a fool's errand and will only make ISIS stronger. ISIS grew as the United States and her allies were arming the opposition. So, as we have sent 600 tons of weapons, ISIS has grown stronger. You are going to tell me that 600 tons of more weapons will defeat ISIS?

The barnacled purveyors of war should admit their mistakes and not compound them. ISIS is now a threat. Let's get on with destroying them. But make no mistake—arming Islamic rebels in Syria will only make it harder to destroy ISIS.

Thank you. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the provision in the continuing resolution before us authorizes the President to train and equip friendly forces whose interests and objectives are aligned with ours so that they can fight on their own behalf, much as we have done elsewhere in the world—for example, a number of African countries which we have helped support their own freedom and independence, their own efforts to go after the terrorists who terrorized them. We have done that pursuant to provisions we have included in previous Defense authorization bills.

This year, as our Presiding Officer knows as a very important member of our committee, when the Armed Services Committee marked up the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, we approved a similar Syria train-and-equip provision by a bipartisan vote of 23 to 3.

While ISIS is currently focused on building an Islamic caliphate in the Middle East, its poisonous ideology is hostile not only to the region but to the world, and there is a real risk that

the area it controls could become a launching pad for future terrorist attacks against the United States and its friends and allies. ISIS is terrorizing the Iraqi and the Syrian people, engaging in kidnappings, killings, persecutions of religious minorities, and attacking schools, hospitals, and cultural sites.

The threat to Americans and American interests was dramatically and tragically brought home recently by the brutal beheading of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and British aid worker David Haines.

The President has announced a four-pronged strategy to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIS. Those four prongs are as follows: first, increased support to Iraqi, Kurdish, and Syrian opposition forces on the ground; second, a systemic campaign of airstrikes against ISIS; third, improved intelligence and efforts to cut off ISIS's funding and recruiting; and fourth, continued humanitarian assistance to ISIS's victims.

Our senior military leaders support the President's strategy. When General Dempsey testified before the Armed Services Committee, I asked whether he personally supports the President's strategy, and of course I asked the question exactly that way—"Do you personally support the President's strategy?"—so that we would get his own answer and not simply the answer he might feel he has to give because of his Commander in Chief's position.

When we ask military officers for their own personal position, that is what they must give us. When we have confirmation hearings, we ask them that question: Will you give us your own personal opinion when you come before us even though it might differ from the administration in power? That is one of the questions we ask on every confirmation, and, of course, if we don't get the answer that they will, there will not be a confirmation.

So we asked and I asked as my first question a few days ago whether General Dempsey as Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff personally supports the President's strategy, and his response was, "I do." He explained that the best way forward runs "through a coalition of Arab and Muslim partners and not through ownership of this fight by the United States." Training and equipping the moderate Syrian opposition is a critical step. As General Dempsey explained, we need to build "a force of vetted, trained moderate Syrians to take on ISIL in Syria" because "as long as ISIL enjoys the safe haven in Syria, it will remain a formidable force and a threat."

Some colleagues have expressed the concern that this new military effort could lead us back into a quagmire that we entered with the Iraq invasion in 2003, but what we are voting on here is virtually the opposite of what was

voted on in the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq.

I voted against the Iraq authorization in 2002. I am voting for this train-and-equip authority today. The differences are huge between what was voted on in 2002 and what we are voting on today.

First, in 2003, we invaded Iraq and threw out Saddam Hussein's government. This year, by contrast, the Iraqi Government has requested our assistance against ISIS. This request has been joined by leaders of Iraq's Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, and other religious minorities. The global community will provide support in response to this request, but ISIS remains a problem that only Iraqis and Syrians can solve. They can solve it with our help, but only they can solve it.

I am continuing on the differences. Indeed, the contrast between what we are voting on today and what was voted on in 2002 is relative to the same country, but what a difference.

In 2003, the United States and Britain invaded Iraq with token support from a handful of Western partners. It was a unilateral approach without visible participation or support from Arab or Muslim nations. It helped spawn Iraqi resistance, including Al Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor to ISIS. Al Qaeda in Iraq and ISIS didn't exist before our invasion of Iraq in 2003. They are a direct response to our unilateral action in Iraq. This year, by contrast—and what a contrast—we are seeing the participation of key Arab and Muslim States in the region and their active, visible role will be critical to the effectiveness of any international coalition.

Our senior military and civilian leaders recognize, as General Dempsey testified before our committee, that ISIS "will only be defeated when moderate Arab and Muslim populations in the region reject it."

The recent international conferences in Jeddah and Paris were a good start, with a number of Arab States declaring their shared commitment—and this was a public statement—to develop a strategy "to destroy ISIL wherever it is, including in both Iraq and Syria," and joining in an international pledge to use "whatever means necessary" to achieve this goal.

The contrast to the Iraq invasion of 2003 is particularly sharp with regard to ground combat troops. In 2003, almost 200,000 American and British combat troops invaded Iraq. Only after years of relentless ground combat operations were we able to get our troops out. This year, by contrast, the President's policy is that ground combat operations in Iraq and Syria will not be carried out by us, but by Iraqis, Kurds, and Syrians. While the United States and a broad coalition of nations, including Arab and Muslim countries, will support this effort, there is no plan to have American combat forces on the ground.

As General Dempsey explained to the Armed Services Committee, U.S. forces "are not participating in direct combat. There is no intention for them to do so." You wouldn't know that if you read the press coverage of his testimony, so I will repeat it in the wan hope that maybe this time his statement will be covered. General Dempsey said we "are not participating in direct combat. There is no intention for them to do so." General Dempsey was talking about the U.S. Armed Forces.

General Dempsey added a caveat that if circumstances change, he might, for instance, recommend to the President that U.S. advisers be authorized to accompany Iraqi security forces into combat. He was clear that these comments were focused on how our forces could best and most appropriately advise the Iraqis on their combat operations.

Senator GRAHAM asked General Dempsey whether he thought they could defeat ISIL without us being on the ground. The question he asked was: "If you think they can [defeat ISIL] without us being on the ground, just say yes," and General Dempsey responded, "Yes."

I saw that in all of one newspaper article across the country.

Our senior military leaders, of course, reserve the right to reconsider their recommendations based on conditions on the ground. I would expect that General Dempsey would say, just as any general would say, we must be free to change a recommendation to the President if circumstances on the ground change. That is a very different statement from what the press put into General Dempsey's mouth when they said General Dempsey suggested we may need U.S. combat forces. The direct answer of General Dempsey was: We have no plan to do it. We believe they can do it without us, and, of course, if conditions change, I must make a different recommendation, or at least might make a different recommendation to the Commander in Chief.

At the end of the day, of course, the President, who is the Commander in Chief, and not the military, will establish policy. Even if conditions change and even if General Dempsey decided to recommend a different role for U.S. ground combat troops, it would just be that, a recommendation.

The struggle against ISIS in Iraq and in Syria will be a long and hard one and we should give it our support. We cannot take the place of Iraqis and Syrians. They must purge the poison they have in their country. These extremist groups, such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, must be purged by the people they plague, but we can help these people get rid of this poison.

We are already working with Muslim and Arab countries that are openly uniting against a poisonous strain of

Islam. It threatens them even more than it threatens us. This has to be an Iraqi and Syrian fight—an Arab and a Muslim fight—and not a Western fight if it is going to be successful. It will be highly destructive to our efforts to bring about a broad coalition if Congress and the President appear disunited.

We are asking Arab and Muslim countries to openly take on a plague, a cancer, a poison in their midst. That is what we are asking of them. There has been too much behind-the-scenes support, too much quiet support or opposition, too much inconsistency from a number of Arab and Muslim countries. So what the President and Secretary Kerry are doing is not just helping to organize a broad coalition of Western and Muslim countries to go after this stain, this threat that is in their midst, what we are asking them to do is to do it openly so their people see that their governments, and indeed their people, are threatened by this terror poison in their midst. What is critical, and what is so hugely different is this time it will be an international coalition going after terrorists and not just a Western invasion of a Muslim country.

It would be, again, destructive of our efforts to get open support in the Muslim and Arab world for going after these terrorists—this stain called ISIS—if Congress and the President are disunited. So we should give our support to the provision authorizing the training and equipping of vetted, moderate Syrian opposition forces. I hope we do it on a bipartisan basis here, making it then not only bipartisan but also bicameral. What an important statement that will be to the very countries that are seeking to help rid themselves of this cancer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, when we head to the Senate floor, we make choices. We first choose how to get here—whether to take the subway or walk. We choose whether to stop and talk to a colleague or two along the way. We also choose whether to speak to the press, and normally there are plenty of reporters available to speak to. I and many of my colleagues are often picky about who we talk to. I like talking to reporters just fine, but my staff gets a little nervous.

Last week, after coming out of the secure briefing on the situation in the Middle East, I went up to the first reporter I saw, because in that briefing no one asked how much this war with ISIL would cost or how we were going to pay for it. At the end of the briefing I asked those questions myself. But it is telling that no one up to that point and time had voiced their concerns about costs, which leads me to ask: Are we putting another war in the Middle East on a credit card? Will it be added to our debt? Will our grandchildren

once again have to pay for our choices today?

I also asked what domestic programs will be cut if this war is an unpaid war. Will they cut improvements to our highways, Head Start, Violence Against Women Act funding?

We are not having a real debate. We will be voting on whether to authorize the training of moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State.

Earlier this year the President told us this would cost about \$500 million. We can say this bill contains no specific dollar amount, but that is what this administration is going to spend, and that is just a start. This discussion will take less than half a day. We need more information. We have had some briefings and some of the committees up here have had some hearings, but the Senate needs a real debate on the extent of our involvement in Iraq and Syria and with ISIL. We need more information, and that is why I am speaking today and why I spoke to the press last week. After all, \$500 million is a lot of money. That would go a long way in a State such as Montana where we need to upgrade our roads, bridges, fund pre-kindergarten education, and take care of our public lands.

This week the President said he will spend up to \$1 billion to combat the threat of Ebola in West Africa. I am not going to argue that there is a strong case for these requests. ISIL and Ebola are terrible in their own rights, and no one would think twice if we wiped them from the face of the Earth. But I do have questions about how we pay for these kinds of actions and what our long-term strategy is.

The President requested \$58 billion for additional defense spending for the 2015 fiscal year. That is spending on top of the \$490 billion that is just a part of the normal Defense Department's budget.

But the bill we are voting on today puts the defense budget on auto pilot. There is no chance to find other places to cut spending. There are no chances to raise revenue so we don't just put this new spending on the credit card and on the backs of our grandchildren.

Folks will say this bill is only for 2 months. They will say that on December 11, when this bill expires, we can pursue the defense budget to cut programs that aren't working to pay for this new military action. But we all know that is a heavy lift in a city where it is easier to spend than it is to save, especially when we are already dipping our hands into the pot to fight ISIL and Ebola.

Over a decade ago we sent American servicemembers to Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Americans lost sons and daughters, husbands and wives. Families made great personal sacrifices, but our government never asked us to sacrifice as a whole. We didn't raise taxes. We didn't cut spend-

ing. We didn't set aside money to take care of our veterans who returned from the battlefield with wounds both seen and unseen. As a result, combined with massive tax cuts, our deficit and our debt exploded.

Now \$500 million is a far cry from the hundreds of billions of dollars we spent in Iraq over the last decade, but this is just a start. We must stop putting wars on credit cards. I wonder if once we start an overseas conflict, do we know when and where it will stop? Do we know what our spending will achieve?

Over the last 5 years, we have actually had some progress on deficit reduction. We reduced the deficit by two-thirds. But all that is at risk with the beginning of a new conflict.

We simply have too many unanswered questions.

The President says we are backed by a coalition of nations ready to join our fight against ISIS, but will it be a real coalition? Violent extremists are threats to peace-loving societies no matter where they are, and I agree with the President that we need to contain and destroy ISIL before it gets stronger. But only a real coalition, one that includes strong commitments of money, equipment, and manpower from Middle Eastern, Asian, South American, and European nations will lead to a long-term stability in that region.

These allies should be footing their share of the bill. As I mentioned, Americans—whether today's taxpayers or tomorrow's—should not shoulder a disproportionate burden of the cost. After all, if countries such as Saudi Arabia or Turkey feel the growth of ISIL, they should make real commitments to this war-fighting effort. That is what happened during the first gulf war. In that war, members of the coalition contributed more than 80 percent of that war's costs. Because if ISIL is truly a worldwide problem, then there should be a worldwide response and commitment to addressing that problem. If ISIL is threatening to upset the balance of power in the Middle East, then Middle Eastern nations must step up. If terrorists and ISIL are a worldwide threat, then the world must step up. Anything else is unacceptable.

Some say that in order to ensure world peace, America must be a world leader. They say no other country is prepared to be the world's policeman. World peace is important, but true peace stems from our ability to rally other nations to our cause. When we convince someone of the merit of our argument, when we form strong alliances that stand the test of time, when we act in concert with other nations, our word and our acts become stronger, and the world's respect grows.

We are told today that other countries will respond, that other folks are joining the fight. But actions speak louder than words. I, for one, would like to see more of it before I vote to

commit America's taxpayers' money to this fight.

Eleven years ago, we invaded Iraq without a real coalition, and we built our argument on false pretenses. Moving forward, we must have a real debate, a sound strategy, and an end game.

This body is historically the world's greatest deliberative body. It was here that men such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay deliberated. We are not having that kind of debate today. We are not gathering more information. There were committee hearings this week, but the die is cast, the wheels are in motion. As we say in Montana, the horse is out of the barn, the cows are out to pasture.

There are 1,600 American troops in Iraq right now who deserve a real debate. Many of them have husbands, wives, children, families. I do not know that I can say with certainty to them: Don't worry, we are training the right people to fight on the ground in Syria. If America is wrong about who we train and who we arm in Syria, my fear is that these 1,600 servicemembers will be joined again by tens of thousands more. For their sake and the sake of the American taxpayer, we need a fuller debate that will have a real impact on the decisionmaking process here in this Senate, and more of that debate should have happened before now.

I serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee. I know we must fund the government and prevent a shutdown. That is the responsible thing to do. The cost of last year's shutdown on Montana business was extraordinary and unnecessary, and I do not want to repeat that fiasco. That is why I will be voting for that continuing resolution later today.

I know some folks are opposed to this continuing resolution because they think we should pass appropriations bills individually. I appreciate that and I agree. But the fact is, the Appropriations Committee—under the chairmanship of Chairwoman MIKULSKI, who is on the floor right now, and Senator SHELBY—has worked hard and worked in a bipartisan way to try to make that happen. They have tried to reinvigorate this committee and make sure the Senate fulfills our constitutional responsibility to make the hard choices about how we spend taxpayers' money.

Ironically, some of the folks who have said they don't like passing the CR are the very same folks who have made it harder to pass the bipartisan bills that come out of that Appropriations Committee. Talk about playing down to the American people's already low expectations for Congress.

So we have no choice other than to pass the CR today. But I am tired of spending without a plan. I am tired of getting caught up in fighting wars in the Middle East, performing the same

actions and expecting a different result. I am tired of repeating history without learning its lessons.

We can do better. And for the sake of our troops, for the sake of our taxpayers, for the sake of our kids, for the fate of our Nation and the world, we must.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we have had some excellent debate here today on a very consequential matter of arming these so-called Syrian moderates. I know the Senator from Maine, Mr. KING, will be coming here shortly to participate in that debate, and I think this is a very good activity.

While we wait for Senators to come to the floor, I wish to take a few minutes to speak about the Baltimore Orioles. This in no way minimizes the debate going on now, but while we have the time for some of the Senators coming who want to emphasize this topic, I want to take a little bit of a breather here.

As my colleagues can see, I am wearing the Orioles' colors on the Senate floor today, and while we must address issues, we have to remember the kinds of things that make America great. In this continuing resolution, in addition to dealing with intense foreign policy needs and intense foreign policy crises, we have to remember that we are actually funding both our national security and the Department of Defense and very important domestic programs, including preschool, NIH to find cures for autism and Alzheimer's, and so on. We also want to not only keep the government going but remember what is so great about our country.

Of course, baseball is one of the things that makes our country great. That is why I rise today to congratulate the Baltimore Orioles who won the American East title. As I said, I wear their colors today on the floor and I hope to wear them at Camden Yards.

My home team not only represents the tough, enduring spirit of Baltimore, but the entire State. This team never quits, and it always plays hard. Sure, we tip our hats to the rest of the American East, including the Yankees, the Red Sox, the Rays, the Blue Jays, but this is our year.

The Orioles are celebrating their 60th anniversary in Baltimore. The O's, as we affectionately call them, arrived in 1954. I was a high school girl. I remember the excitement of the team coming,

our first major league team. We played AAA up until then. There was a big parade up and down Charles Street. Charm City was charmed by this new baseball team.

There have been many amazing events that have occurred since then, and, of course, fantastic and legendary players, including Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Jim Palmer, Eddy Murray, "Iron Man" Cal Ripken, Jr. We remember our coaches such as Earl Weaver, who got the fans excited, and, of course, we remember Cal Ripken, Sr., who taught us the Orioles way.

So this year we have a team that, once again, is energized and on its way to the playoffs.

Anyone who has watched the Orioles this season at Camden Yards knows this was a true team effort. The American East title was made possible by clutch hits and home runs, spectacular catches and gutsy pitching. When the All-Star players weren't on the field, workhorse veterans and promising young rookies stepped up night after night.

Yes, there is Oriole magic. We have our manager, Buck Showalter, who, as my colleagues know, is a laugh a minute. I am joking. If my colleagues have looked at Mr. Showalter, they know he doesn't crack a smile, but he sure teaches his players how to crack the bat. His attention to the big picture and to the smallest detail is the way he has taught his team to function.

We think we are on our way to what is called the battle of the beltways. It is conceivable that we will be playing the Washington Nationals who have just won the National League East title, and a tip of the hat to our friends in the District of Columbia. We are as excited for them as we are about ourselves, and we can't wait to meet. I am hoping for this.

Three cheers for the Baltimore Orioles who have earned this fantastic title. We won't stop until we have a pennant flying high over our stadium.

I want to congratulate the entire Orioles organization, from the managers to the front office, and the owner of the team, Peter Angelos, who rescued our team many years ago from being sold out of town. Peter Angelos stepped up to the plate and saved it and kept the team in Baltimore, and he has kept the team on the go. Now that fantastic team, under great leadership, wonderful players, and the best fans in both leagues, is looking forward to the playoffs.

We are also looking forward to not only the game, but it is the spirit of community that is in Baltimore. Our city hall in the evening is lit up in orange. When we travel the city, we see people wearing the colors and laughing and giving each other shoulder to shoulder and high fives. When people come to Baltimore now to go visit a

great institution such as Johns Hopkins, whether a person is an orderly or a facilities manager, or whether a person is a Nobel Prize winner, everybody is wearing the orange. Whether people are Black, White, Hispanic, Latino, men, women, we are all there. That is because it is about baseball. It is about a team. It is about America. It is about the land of the free and the home of the brave.

So let's keep our government open. Let's be on the playing field and in the competition for jobs and opportunity. And I will be back for the lameduck, gloating.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I rise today to speak about ISIS—the threat, what we can do about it, and what we must do about it.

Why are we having this debate? Why are we conducting airstrikes? This is a clear and present danger to the United States of America. This group has done everything but send us an email saying we are coming for you. They have made comments: We will see you in New York. They brutally murdered two of our citizens.

If they have free rein in the area that is as big as the State of Indiana, I suppose, between eastern Syria and western and northern Iraq, there, undoubtedly, will come a time when they will strike here and in Europe and in other parts of the world.

I am here today to support the provision of the continuing resolution that will allow us to begin the arming, equipping, and training of the Syrian moderate opposition.

Why do we even have this discussion? Because the most fundamental responsibility of any government anywhere, any time is to protect our citizens. The preamble of the U.S. Constitution says that one of the fundamental purposes listed in the preamble is to "provide for the common defense" and "insure domestic tranquility"—a basic function of any government. This is why we are having this debate today.

This arming and equipping provision is not a panacea. It is not going to end the war. It is not going to be easy. It is no sure thing.

A friend said to me this morning: It is the least worst option. It is one that we must undertake. It has to be part of the solution because to root out ISIS, whose headquarters are in Syria—not Iraq—there are going to have to be troops. There are going to have to be combat troops. There is no such thing as a surgical war.

Where are those troops going to come from? Not from the United States—they have to come from within the Syrian opposition itself.

This is also important as a gesture to the coalition we are building to confront this threat. Having a credible coalition—which I will expand upon in a

moment—is an incredibly important part of this entire strategy. Without a functioning real coalition, it is impossible, it is an impossible task. This cannot be a U.S. war. This cannot be a war of the West against this so-called Islamic State. It has to involve particularly the neighbors in the region.

I am also supportive of the general strategy the President outlined, but I think there are several points that need to be absolutely emphasized. One is the importance of the coalition. We cannot have a coalition that just holds our coat while we do the fighting. They have to be engaged in an active way—not just writing checks.

If we try to do this ourselves, not even if we were inclined to do this with our own troops, it wouldn't work. These have to be local faces on the ground. There are going to be boots on the ground, but they are not and should not and cannot be ours.

The second thing that is so important in this strategy the President outlined the other night is a trustworthy, inclusive government in Baghdad. The reason ISIS was so successful in this sweep through northern Iraq and into Mosul was that they were swimming in friendly waters. They were swimming in the Sunni regions of Iraq where the local tribes and Sunni leaders have been alienated and systematically excluded from the government in Baghdad.

If the government in Baghdad cannot build credibility with that group, this is a hopeless enterprise. Prime Minister al-Abadi needs to channel his inner Mandela. He has to be inclusive of even the people who were his enemies and the enemies of his sect at a prior time.

This has to be a government that can be trusted. Really what is going on is a battle for the loyalty of the Sunni population of Iraq to see whether they are going to be loyal to this brutal so-called Islamic State or to the government of the country in Baghdad. That is the challenge that is before that government today.

So far the signs are positive, but we are still in the very first weeks of this regime. But that has to be a crucial element of our strategy. So these are two pieces that are largely out of our control.

We can try to build a coalition. We can put pressure on the government in Baghdad, but these folks have to do it themselves. We cannot be the policemen of the Middle East.

The third piece is building the Syrian opposition. The same goes for Al-Raqqa, the headquarters of ISIS in Syria. There are going to have to be people on the ground, and they are not going to be Americans. They have to come from the Syrian opposition, and that is why that is an important element of the strategy.

I think there is another discussion we have to have. Unfortunately, the

calendar doesn't allow us to have it today. I believe there must be a new authorization for the use of military force. The authorization that was passed right after September 11, 2001, has been stretched and strained to the point where if it is allowed to become the justification for anything, there is nothing left of the clause of the Constitution that says Congress shall be the one to declare war.

I have gone back and looked at the history of that clause. Very interestingly, the original draft of the Constitution said Congress shall make war. At the time, the Framers realized that Congress would not be the right entity to execute the war itself, to make the battlefield decisions. The Framers were adamant that the momentous decision of entering this country into war had to be in the branch of the government most representative of the people.

They went through history—in the 49th Federalist they talk about how throughout history unfettered executives, princes, kings mischievously and often on weak grounds got their countries engaged in war. They made a conscious decision that this responsibility was left with the Congress. Unfortunately, over the years, going back to the late 1940s, we allowed that clause to atrophy. We allowed the Executive to take more and more responsibility and power and unilateral authority. People are saying: Well, this President is acting unilaterally. This is nothing new. This goes back to Harry Truman and the Korean war. This isn't something that Barack Obama invented.

Presidents naturally want more authority. They do have the power to defend our country when the threat is imminent and real, but they don't have the power to commit American armed forces in any place, at any time, under any circumstances.

I believe we have a constitutional responsibility to consider this matter, to debate it, to argue about the terms of what the authorization should be—how it should be limited in duration, geography, target, in means of confrontation with the enemy. That is what we must do.

Finally, beyond this AUMF, beyond ISIS, assume for a moment we are tremendously and utterly successful over the next 6 months, a year, 2 years, and ISIS is gone, the problem is history has taught us someone will take their place.

The real issue is radical jihadism. We have to have a strategy to deal with that in the long term that doesn't involve trying to just kill them as they come forward. It was characterized recently as geopolitical Whac-A-Mole. We stop them in one place, and it comes up somewhere else, and we all know about al-Shabaab, al-Nusra, Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Boko Haram.

We have to be talking about and developing a strategy to deal with this

threat to our country and to the rest of the world on a more long-term basis than simply having continuous—what amounts to—battles against elements of these people.

Why are they doing this? What is attracting young people to this destructive philosophy, and how can we best counteract that? I believe we have to make a decision today.

As I said, I also think we have to make a decision before the end of the year as to what the scope, limits, and authority of the President are in this matter. We can try to avoid it, but I don't believe we can.

On December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln sent a message to this body, and the conclusion of that message was that we cannot escape history. It will light us down from one generation to the next. I believe that we need to stand and debate, argue, refine, and finally reach a conclusion so that the American people can understand what we are doing and why.

The Executive will have clear authority. The rest of the world will know that this is the United States of America taking this position—not a President and not a few Members of Congress. That is a responsibility I believe we are ready to assume. This is a threat. It must be met, and we must participate in the decision to meet it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UKRAINE

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I come to the floor to, first of all, thank President Poroshenko for the speech he gave to a joint session of the Congress today. It was a very moving speech. I think it was a very direct speech, and it really showed how important it is that we stand with the people of Ukraine during this trying time with the aggression they are facing from Russia.

I come to the floor to say a couple of things. At the end of his speech, he used the motto of my home State—the State of New Hampshire: Live Free or Die. In New Hampshire we are very proud of that motto. It came from a statement during the American Revolution from General John Stark, and it really does not only have meaning to my home State of New Hampshire but also to the people of Ukraine with what they have been facing—those who stood in the Maidan and gave their lives for freedom and democracy in Ukraine.

I have had the privilege of going to Ukraine twice, both in March and also to oversee their presidential elections. In both instances, I was very struck by the patriotism, by their love for America, and their gratefulness for our support.

As we heard President Poroshenko say to all of us today, now more than ever they need American support. There is something I have been calling

for—for a while, in fact. When I went there in March—and also I had the privilege of traveling with Senator DONNELLY—it was a bipartisan code—and also in May, in both of those instances we had the request for lethal assistance so that the Ukrainian military would have the arms they need to defend themselves against this Russian aggression.

So today we also heard President Poroshenko call upon us again to provide the support for the Ukrainian military. They have fought and continue to fight and die for their own independence, freedom, and territorial integrity. The least we can do is provide them lethal assistance.

As President Poroshenko rightly said today: Blankets and night vision goggles are important, but one cannot win a war with a blanket.

I would hope all of us stood together today, both Democrats and Republicans, to say we stand with the people of Ukraine.

I know this afternoon the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has come together and marked up a very important aid package to Ukraine which contains lethal assistance for their military.

I would hope our President would see that on a bipartisan basis we stand with the people of Ukraine and we must provide them with this assistance they need.

Finally, I would say that the Budapest Memorandum that President Poroshenko mentioned today is very important.

We were a signatory to that memorandum, as was Russia. In that memorandum, the signing of it, Ukraine gave up their nuclear weapons in exchange for our assurances that we would respect their sovereignty, security assurances, and their territorial integrity. Obviously, Russia has trampled all over this. But I would say the least we can do is provide this lethal assistance they have asked for given that they gave up their nuclear weapons.

We signed on to that agreement. We should support them in their time of need so that they can defend their sovereignty. What country ever again is going to give up their nuclear weapons if we will not even give them basic military assistance when their country is invaded the way Ukraine has been invaded by Russia?

Now is our time and our moment. We all stood together in the House Chamber today for the people of Ukraine. What matters is our actions, not just our words and our standing ovations.

I hope we will stand with the people of Ukraine. I call upon our President to provide lethal assistance to the people of Ukraine and to provide the support and tougher sanctions on Russia—economic sanctions—for their invasion and their total disrespect for the sovereignty of the country of Ukraine.

I would defer to my colleague, Senator MCCAIN from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I always appreciate it when the Senator from New Hampshire defers to me—a rare occasion, I might add.

I rise today to speak in support of the continuing resolution on which we will vote. I do not do so because I approve of the bulk of the CR. I certainly do not approve of the process that got us here. It is a broken, dysfunctional process that deserves and has received the scorn and disdain of the American people. Long ago we should have been taking up these bills one by one. But that is not why I come to the floor today.

I am voting for this CR for one particular reason: It would help the Department of Defense train and equip moderate, vetted Syrian opposition forces to fight the barbaric terrorist army that calls itself the Islamic State, commonly known as ISIS. I will support it. It is long overdue support for the brave Syrians who are fighting on the frontlines against a common terrorist enemy.

The current plan could have been decisive 2 years ago. Two years ago it could have been decisive. It is not now. We are talking about 5,000 whom we are going to train over a period of a year or more. They are going to be fighting against an estimated 31,500 fighters.

There are many seminal events that have taken place in this conflict. One of the main ones was when 2 years ago the President overruled the major players in his national security team when he overruled their unanimous and passionate argument to arm and train the Free Syrian Army.

The administration says that U.S. forces will not have a combat role. Why does the President insist on continuing to tell the enemy what he will not do? Why is it that the President of the United States keeps telling the people who are slaughtering thousands: Don't worry, we won't commit ground troops. Why does he have to keep saying that? Obviously—at least one would draw the conclusion—because of political reasons.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had this to say. I do not know of a man who is more respected than former Secretary of Defense Gates under both Republican and Democratic Presidents. He said:

The reality is, they're not going to be able to be successful against ISIS strictly from the air or strictly depending on the Iraqi forces or the Peshmerga or the Sunni tribes acting on their own.

Gates continued:

So there will be boots on the ground if there is going to be any hope of success in the strategy. I think that by continuing to repeat that—

That the United States will not put boots on the ground—the President, in effect, traps himself.

That is the opinion not of JOHN MCCAIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM, it is the opinion of Robert Gates and every military expert I have talked to, ranging from the architects of the surge, to former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and, confidentially, leaders in uniform today.

The President said he will expand airstrikes in Syria, but they have testified that the President will not have forward air controllers on the ground to direct airstrikes, which makes them obviously effective.

As we read today in the Wall Street Journal—this is remarkable, my friends—President Obama will be personally signing off on every airstrike in Syria. I say to my colleagues: I saw that movie before—it was called Vietnam—many years ago when President Lyndon Johnson used to select the targets in the Oval Office or the Situation Room. Now we have a President of the United States who is selecting targets of which he has no fundamental knowledge whatsoever. It is really remarkable.

We are going to train and equip these people to fight. Yet we are not going to take out the assets Bashar Assad uses to kill them—the air attacks, the barrel bombs; the indiscriminate killing of innocent women, men, and children; 192,000 dead in Syria; 150,000 languishing in his prisons. We are not going to take out or even give these people, the Free Syrian Army, the weapons with which to counter these air attacks which are so brutal and outrageous.

I would like to yield for my friend from South Carolina to make a couple of comments. One, the argument I have heard made here is that there are no moderates in Syria. Well, I think arguably one of the most important and impressive individuals I have run into is Ambassador Ford, who has really been a hero in this whole exercise. He says there are moderates in Syria. They can fight. They have been fighting. They have been doing incredible work with incredible sacrifice. I am trying to find his quote from when he testified before the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. He did a magnificent job in doing so, as usual, in my view.

I cannot seem to find it, but I would point out that he says not only can they fight, but they have been fighting, and they have been doing a heroic job in doing so. That is also the opinion of people who know. So there are moderates. If we train and equip them, they can be effective. The problem is that we have not done too little, it is we have done too much. We have weakened Assad and hurt his ability to fight ISIS. ISIS is a problem for the Middle East.

If ISIS is a problem for the Middle East, I wonder what the Australians

think today? Australian police detained 15 people Thursday in a major counterterrorism operation, saying the intelligence indicated that a random violent attack was being planned in Australia. We know what their object is. It is to strike the United States of America.

I say in response to these uninformed colleagues of mine who say the Free Syrian Army cannot fight: Syrian forces are seen stepping up attacks on rebels as U.S. sets site on ISIS.

Time after time there have been places ISIS has controlled and the Free Syrian Army has come in and then Bashar Assad attacks because they want to defeat them.

The fact is I see the critics come here on the floor of the Senate and talk about why everything is wrong, why nobody will fight, why we cannot arm the right people. Well, what is their solution? Do they reject the premise articulated by ISIS that they want to attack the United States? Do they contradict Mr. Baghdadi, who, when he left our prison camp, Bucca, said: I will see you in New York. Is that what this is all about? Of course it is a threat to the United States of America. For us to do nothing obviously will be a serious mistake.

I yield 5 minutes for my colleague from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Do we have time remaining?

Mr. MCCAIN. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republicans currently have 67 minutes remaining.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will be very quick.

I will vote for the continuing resolution because I do not want to shut the government down. I agree with Senator MCCAIN that this is not the right process, but we are where we are. I think the issue people are focusing on about the continuing resolution is the changing of the training of the Free Syrian Army from title 50, a covert program, to title 10, the Department of Defense, where it will be out in the open.

The reason I support the appropriation and the change in title 10—I think this is a long-overdue effort on our part to build up Syrian forces that can confront both Assad and ISIL, enemies of the United States.

To my colleagues who worry about the people we train and the arms we give falling into the wrong hands, I would say that there is nothing we can do in this area without some risk. But when you tell me there are no Syrians that you believe exist who would fight against Assad and ISIL, I do not believe you quite understand what is going on in Syria. I would say that the vast majority of Syrians have two things in common: They want to overthrow Assad and they want to get ISIL out of their country.

ISIL is mostly non-Syrians. They came from the vacuum created by a

lack of security. When Hezbollah and Russia doubled down to protect Assad, who was just about knocked out several years ago, the Free Syrian Army was abandoned by us and the rest of the world and ISIL was able to fill in that vacuum. These are foreign fighters.

So to my colleagues who talk about how they worry, I worry too. I worry about doing nothing. I worry about finding an excuse not to do anything. It bothered me when Republicans embraced the position of President Obama just a few weeks ago that it was a fantasy to train the Syrians to fight for Syria. I do not think it is a fantasy to train Syrians to fight for Syria because they want to. This whole revolution against Assad was not to overthrow him and replace Assad with ISIL.

The people who think the average Syrian wants to be dominated by ISIL instead of Assad, really, I do not think they appreciate what is going on in Syria. That is selling the Syrian people short.

Having said that, the limitations of what the Free Syrian Army can do at this point are real, but training as many as possible makes sense to me. My goal is to keep the war over there so it does not come here. From an American point of view, I think it would be a huge mistake not to provide training and resources to those people in the region—in Syria—to do the fighting because we have common enemies.

Those who say this is too risky, what is your alternative? If we do nothing, ISIL will continue to grow and the threat to our homeland will continue to increase.

It is long past time to blunt the momentum of this vicious terrorist organization. A Free Syrian Army component makes perfect sense to me. Whatever risk is associated with that concept is well worth it at this point.

When we talk about Iraq, I hope the Iraqi Government can reconstitute itself. Their military is in shambles. The Kurds are hanging on in the north with our help. But to dislodge ISIL from Iraq and take back Fallujah and Mosul and other cities, as General Dempsey indicated, would be a very difficult military endeavor. From my point of view, the last thing America wants to do is take ISIL on in Iraq and Syria and fail.

If you do believe that it is about our homeland and that it is not just about the Mideast, allowing ISIL to defeat any force we throw at it makes them larger and more lethal over time. So the worst possible outcome is to form a coalition in Syria of Arab countries and they are defeated by ISIL because we do not provide them the capabilities they lack.

President Obama's insistence of no boots on the ground is the Achilles' heel to his strategy. This is a military

strategy, I believe, designed around political promises. This is not the military strategy you would create to destroy or devastate ISIL. President Bush made many mistakes in Iraq, but to his credit he changed the strategy in a fashion that allowed us to succeed.

One thing I have learned over the past 13 years, you can have a lot of troops doing the wrong thing and it will not matter. When you leave no troops behind, that is a mistake. And if you have too few troops doing the right thing, it will not matter.

The President is right about this. We don't need to reinstate Iraq or Syria. We don't need the 82nd Airborne to go in with 100,000 troops behind it, but we do need to provide capacity to the Iraqis and any future coalition to deal with Syria that is lacking in that part of the world.

Like it or not the American military is second to none. The special forces capability we have can really be decisive in this fight. To every American, this is not only about them over there, this is about us here.

The better and the sooner that ISIL is defeated, the more decisive ISIL is defeated, and the sooner that day comes about, the safer we are at home.

I urge the President to not take options off the table.

I am voting for this change in strategy regarding the Free Syrian Army because I think it is long overdue. When the President does the right thing, I want to be his partner. Mr. President, if you will come up with a strategy to destroy and defeat ISIL that makes sense, I will be your best ally and try to help you on this side of the aisle. This is a first step in the right direction, but when you play out this strategy, which you are trying to do, I think it will not work unless you embrace American assistance in a greater level to the Iraqi military and to any coalition you could create in Syria.

The last thing I want this body to understand, this is the last best chance we will have to put ISIL back in a box so they can't wreak havoc in the Mideast and grow in strength. The stronger they are over there, the more endangered we are over here.

It is in our interests to help our Arab allies and our Iraqi allies destroy ISIL. It is not just about those people over there. Lines of defenses in the war on terror make perfect sense to me.

The best way to keep this fight off our shores is to engage the people who will help us carry the fight to the common enemy. ISIL is not only an enemy of Islam, it is an enemy of mankind, and failing to defeat these people will resonate here very quickly.

We have a chance. Let's take advantage of it. There is nothing we can do in a war on terror without risk, but now we are fighting an Army, not an organization. If we defeat ISIS, the war

is not over. This is a generational struggle. But if you do defeat ISIL, as a turning point in our favor—if they survive our best attempt to defeat them—God help us all.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I wish to add, again I found a quote from the testimony of Robert Ford, an unusual man, our Ambassador to Syria and a man who literally risked his own life. In his report he said: Many Americans questioned whether there are any moderates left in the Syrian armed opposition. There are. They are fighting the Islamic State and the Assad regime both. They are, not surprisingly, hard pressed, and they could very much use our help.

I assure my colleagues, from my many visits there and knowing these people, there are moderates in Syria today who will fight and are fighting. Unfortunately, they are being attacked both from ISIS and from Bashar Assad. This brings me to we need to negate Bashar Assad's air attacks and capabilities. Otherwise, we are going to train and equip these young people and send them into death, which would be needless.

There are several articles, one in the New Republic entitled "We Can't Destroy ISIS Without Destroying Bashar al Assad First;" another one, "Assad Policies Aided Rise of Islamic State Militant Group;" another one, "Blame Assad First for ISIS' Rise."

What was most disturbing yesterday about the Secretary of State's statements was when he said: Well, ISIL first. You cannot sequence them. They are too closely tied, and we cannot defeat ISIL in Syria if we leave Bashar Assad with his air capabilities.

There are no good options. A series of decisions have been made which led us to the point we are today, all based on the fundamental belief that the United States could leave the area and everything would take care of itself. What happened was that we left a vacuum that was filled by bad people. Now there is a threat to the United States of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, but I also believe it is an act of cowardice that we didn't take up the bill separately, debate, amend, and vote on an issue of this utmost seriousness where, in one way or another—whether the President wants to admit it—we are again sending Americans into harm's way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. I wasn't planning to speak on the floor. I will speak for a couple of minutes, but I appreciate my colleagues who have just spoken and their conversation, as well as many others who have spoken on the floor.

Let me make it very clear. This conversation I am having right now is not

about the CR. It is going to pass. It is going to move forward. We have to keep operating. The artificial threat that it might be shut down if we don't vote in a certain way with regard to the government is not factual.

The CR is going to pass. The House passed it. People don't want to see a problem as they had a year and a half ago, so I feel very confident with where we are going with the CR. But I agree with the comment that this issue, regarding what is going on with Syria, should be a separate issue, should be debated separately. It shouldn't just be shoved into a continuing resolution for the purpose of getting all of this done because we all think we have to leave by Thursday night or Friday morning. It is a very significant issue, one I have already made my statement very clear after the President spoke that despite my colleagues on the other side—two of them who were just on the floor—I want to make sure I correct what they said—we just have differences of opinion and views.

We hear statements that people aren't informed or they don't want to do anything, that is not the factual basis here. We have different views when it comes to the issues of conflict in this world, where America should sit, what we should be doing, how we should be acting, who our partners should be and what they should be doing. It has nothing to do with the government being shut down, the CR or being uninformed. I think this body is well informed. We have had many briefings, many discussions.

The question is just our view of where we stand on the issue of do we arm the rebels in Syria to do something we hope they will do. That is the question, and that is the debate we are in right now. I appreciate at least the limited time we have on it.

Let me make my position very clear. I have made it clear before, but I want to say it again. I do not support the arming of rebels in Syria.

In the Appropriations Committee we had an amendment on this, which I voted for—not to make sure the funding didn't pass, but I think it was a statement that was important. This is not a newfound belief. I support the airstrikes. This is an institutional effort, strategy, and things are moving in the right direction.

As a matter of fact, yesterday or the day before Baghdad was being moved on by ISIL. Let me make it clear, ISIL, ISIS, whatever you want to call them, they are a terrorist group.

To say they are called the Islamic State, they are not a state. They are a bunch of terrorist thugs. Let's be honest about it. When they made a move on Baghdad, we came in at the request of the Government of Iraq to give air support. We did and then we pushed them back and continued to follow up. That seemed to work in that situation.

Here we are in a situation of do we arm the rebels, do we believe in combat troops, humanitarian aid? What is our role in this endeavor?

Again, I disagree with my President, and when I say that, the President of the Democratic Party. It doesn't mean I agree with him that often. There are times when we disagree quite a bit on many issues, but on this one I disagree. Arming the rebels and who they are today and who they might be 12 months from now—I don't know.

The bigger issue to me is also the Arab countries. I understand we have seen in the past few days they are starting to have conversations and wanting to participate, but this is their country, their region. What do they do? Where are they stepping up to the plate more?

Here we are, once again, going to have to solve some civil war issues in the Middle East. Instead, the countries in the region are saying, well, maybe we will help a little here, help a little there. They need to put troops on the ground. They need to step up to the plate, as well as the faith and religious leaders in that region because these terrorists are a threat to the region and to our country.

The photos we have seen of the beheadings are horrific, outlandish, and outrageous. Don't get me wrong. This is a bad organization and should be dealt with in such a way, but we need the countries there to assist us in a much more aggressive way.

Today we heard from the President of Ukraine. He came to a joint session of Congress. Why did he come? Because he believes in his country. He is fighting for his country. He needs our help and he is asking for our help. He is not hiding behind closed-door meetings and trying to negotiate ways that they can't be seen asking us for help. He is asking because he wants to believe in democracy, what is right for his country. He is fighting for his homeland. His line—and I remember in his speech that he gave today, this morning—was you don't have to create the democracy, you just have to defend it.

But here we are in the Middle East with unusual allies because it is a convoluted situation. In some ways, we participated, but we also have to have the Iraqi Government be more sustainable. That means inclusion, which they haven't done. They are trying, but we have had to put pressure on them because now ISIL has moved into their country. As we know, some of those Arab countries, through some of those well-funded people, funded ISIL. But now the beast has grown so big it is out of control, and now they say: Whoops. We might have made a mistake. Now we need the United States to come in again.

What is the long-term plan for sustainability in the Middle East, to get rid of these terrorist organizations

that every single one of those countries knows is bad for them? They know it.

But they don't step up to the plate enough. Every time we have to step up, and America—my wife and I have been to I don't know how many funerals, how many hospitals.

Are we asking—I heard some of my colleagues here now talking about combat troops. Absolutely not—absolutely not.

It is time for the Arab countries to step up, get over their regional differences, and know this is one organization, this terrorist organization, ISIS, ISIL—whatever you want to call them today—it is bad for them, bad for this world, and they need to stand and be more aggressive. That means combat troops on the ground for them, for them to do it, for them to step up to the plate.

ISIS is this terrorist organization, and they are making money off of oil, oil wells they have captured, shipping it out through one of our "allies." Why don't we just dismantle these oil wells through airstrikes—stop their cash flow like that.

Probably we are not going to do it because I am sure we are hearing from people: Well, that is not really their oil. We will take them out, and then we will get our oil back. They own the oil right now because they are using it to fund their \$3 million-a-day operation. Take out their oil wells, take out their cash flow. Then get the Arab countries to step up and do not arm with U.S. dollars and weapons the rebels of today who may not be the rebels of tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me come to the floor and say my piece. It is going to be an interesting vote. I know the CR will pass. I will be in the minority, but I think it is important we put on the record where we stand on this issue.

Don't get me wrong. I believe they are a threat to the United States, and when they threaten our assets, our people, we will be on it and we will deal with them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I know the distinguished Senator from Illinois is scheduled to speak.

I just want to make clear that the threat of a shutdown is not an idle threat. I respect the views of the Senator from Alaska, a member of my own committee, who now says he is going to vote against the CR because he is saying: Oh, it will pass. It is an artificial threat.

The Senator is entitled to his views and certainly his vote on what he thinks is in the best interests of the Nation, but we have to pass the CR, and I would note it is not an artificial threat.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. There are moments when Members of the Senate have to reflect on the responsibility we are given—extraordinary moments, unlike other votes that we cast—because at least part of this important spending bill relates to U.S. military involvement in the Middle East. Reality tells us people will die if there is conflict. Of course we hope it will be the enemy, but we know better. Even some of our people are at risk to die in any military undertaking. So every Member of the Senate should take this vote seriously, and I am sure they do.

I remember October 11, 2002, as if it were yesterday. I was here in the Senate, weeks away from an election, and we were asked to vote on the invasion of Iraq. The buildup to this vote was overwhelming. The President and others—the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the head of the CIA, and a long list—had made the case to the American people that there were weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Saddam Hussein; and that if we didn't move in, strike, and stop him, they could threaten our allies, friends, and even the United States. We debated that and voted on it. It was late at night on October 11, 2002.

I remember that vote as if it were yesterday. At the end of that vote, 23 of us had voted no against the invasion of Iraq—one Republican, Senator Chafee of Rhode Island, and 22 Democrats.

I went down to the well of this Chamber and there were two of my colleagues there, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Kent Conrad of North Dakota. I said to Paul Wellstone, who was up for reelection: I hope this doesn't cost you your seat—because he had voted no as well.

He said: It is all right if it does. This is what I believe, and this is how I am going to vote. I thought to myself: He may not return to the Senate. Tragically, he did not. He was involved in a plane crash just days later that took his life and the life of his wife and a staffer. But it is an indication of the gravity and the importance of this job, of this Chamber, and of this vote.

What we are being asked to do by the President is much different than what we were asked to do in 2002, when it came to the invasion of Iraq. The President has identified a threat to the United States. It is called the Islamic State, ISIL. It is an emerging group that has broken out of extremist groups in the Middle East, and it is on a rampage. It is marching through Syria and Iraq in a way we have not seen extremist groups act. It is capturing territory which extremist groups seldom do, and in capturing territory it is doing several other things. It is taking all of the tangible assets of cities such as Mosul, raiding their banks, breaking into the vaults, taking their money, taking over oil fields and gas fields—producing a small economy

and budget which is growing by the day. This is not the typical terrorist group which we have seen in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and, in the process, in their wake, they are killing people right and left.

The butchery, the savagery of this group is really unheard of in modern times. It harkens back to the barbarism of centuries ago. To behead two innocent Americans—can we imagine to do it with a camera running? It is just unthinkable what those poor families are going through even today as they think about this. That is part of their tactics, to intimidate the United States. Now they have done it to a British captive, and they promise to do even more. They are serious. They want to take over Syria and Iraq. Should we care? Of course we should.

But what did we learn from the invasion of Iraq? What did we learn after spending 8 years there that would bring us back in any way? Well, here is what we learned.

We learned that putting American military on the ground—the best military in the world—is no guarantee of victory. We lost 4,476 American lives in Iraq; over 30,000 came home with serious injuries that still need to be cared for to this day. We added \$1 trillion to our national debt because under the previous administration wars weren't paid for, they were just added to the debt. And we have chaos in Iraq today.

Here is what the President is suggesting, and I think he is on the right track. We are not going to put in ground forces and combat troops. Instead, we will rely on the Iraqi Army to fight for the future of Iraq. We will help them, we will support them with logistics, equipment, direction, air support, but they have to be on the front-line risking their lives.

Secondly, he said we are going to put together a coalition.

The United States ought to think twice in this century about how many more Muslim countries we want to be involved in invading, and what the President has said that is my starting point; we will be part of a coalition that includes Arab and Muslim countries that believe, as we do, that ISIL is reprehensible and needs to be fought back.

I think the President's premise is sound. Not putting in combat troops is essential. Putting the burden on the Iraqis is absolutely critical, and I support him in those three efforts.

Then comes our vote today. It is not about Iraq; it is about Syria. What are we going to do in Syria? Syria has just been a free-for-all of violence, terrorism, deceit, and carnage for 3 years. Three million people have been displaced, 300,000 have been killed, and the fighting is so intense it is hard to tell who is on what side. Oh, we know Assad the leader has his army, and he is fighting off all the resistance to his

government. We have no use for him, but he has some military power, obviously. He is still there. We also know that, in addition to ISIL, this terrorist group, there are up to 1,500 other militia groups. They have neighborhood militias protecting families and neighborhoods.

What the President has called for is a challenge: Find moderate opposition forces who do not align with Assad that are willing to fight ISIL and stop them in Syria. That is our vote. That is what the title 10 authorization does. It allows the United States to train and equip moderate opposition in Syria to fight these forces. We have some pretty strict language in here—I just took a look at it again and I have read through it a couple of times now—about reporting back to committees: Let us know your progress.

So this is where we are. This continuing resolution will be the law of the land, if it passes, until December 11, if I am not mistaken—the Appropriations Committee chair, Senator MIKULSKI, nods in the affirmative—until December 11.

So what we are doing now is setting up a course of action in Syria to work with the moderate opposition to train and equip them to fight off this ISIL group. We will be back. After the elections we will be back. We will be able to measure the progress that has been made.

Then, come December 11, we have a much larger question to ask: What do we do from that point forward? Will we continue the strategy? Assuming we do, I believe—and many of my colleagues share the belief—we have a special responsibility given to us by the Constitution that says the American people declare war—not the President—and the American people do it through Members of Congress.

So we will come back and start the debate on what is known as an authorization for the use of military force—a modern version, a new version applying to this situation—and it will be through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

It is a debate that is long overdue. The President has invited us to do this. He believes he has the authority to go forward, but he said to Congress: If you want to be part of this, I welcome your participation.

Well, let's accept that challenge. So I will be supporting this continuing resolution. I will be supporting the title 10 authorization until December 11 to start seeing if we can form a force of moderate opposition groups in Syria to fight back on ISIL while we are working in Iraq to do the same. I think we have no choice but to do this—but to do it thoughtfully, without combat troops, with clear accountability and reports, and behind a coalition that has many Arab and Muslim nations that

agree with us that ISIL is reprehensible.

Secretary of State John Kerry told us yesterday they have had meetings with the Russians, with the Chinese, and with the Iranians who have spoken up and said: We have to stop this group. They are going to destroy the Middle East. I think we have to take that seriously, and that is why I will be supporting this effort.

I know some of my colleagues disagree. I remember my thinking on that October night in 2002, that we should hold back and not get involved in Iraq, and I think I was right. I think history proved me right. That is why I have looked at this with a critical eye and with the understanding that this is not the end of the debate, this is not the end of the conversation. This is our step forward in ridding the world of this savage group that is killing so many innocent people, and we are going to do it as part of a coalition and alliance. That to me is the thoughtful and sensible way to address this.

We will have time to review our decision on a regular basis, as we should, to hold this President and any President accountable as we move forward. But this is something we absolutely must do as a Nation at this moment in time.

So I will be supporting this resolution, H.J. Res. 124, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. I also wish to say a word about Secretary Kerry, who has been working night and day since he left the Senate, as Secretary of State, and he testified yesterday. I know what he is trying to achieve. I salute him for that and of course the President as well.

Let me hope that one thing emerges from this. I remember serving in the House of Representatives, and we voted on the invasion of Kuwait under President George H.W. Bush. I had my questions about that. I voted no. The House voted yes to go forward with that foreign policy. The Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, if I am not mistaken, followed that vote, where we decided to go forward with the invasion of Kuwait, with a resolution saying that now the foreign policy had been decided by this country, we should stand together in a bipartisan fashion to support our men and women in uniform who were engaged in this conflict. That happened, and we all voted for it—even those of us who disagreed with the policy.

Even after this vote on Iraq where 23 of us had voted no, virtually all of us voted for the resources that our military needed. My thinking was: DURBIN, even if you disagree with the Iraqi invasion, what if that were your son over there? Wouldn't you want him to have everything he needs to come home safe? You bet.

What I hope will emerge, even after the heat of debate over this whole question of ISIL and how we deal with them, is this coming together—a bipartisan coming together behind our troops, behind our pilots, behind those advisers on the ground. Let us show them solidarity behind their effort if we decide to vote to go forward. There is too much partisan division, and it certainly ought to stop at the water's edge when it involves support for our men and women in uniform.

So at the end of this vote today, I hope we will see emerging a bipartisan consensus that we are going to work as a Nation to accomplish our goal to end this terrorism as best we can or slow it down in this part of the world and stand behind the men and women of our Nation who are willing to risk their lives in service to that cause.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, in a few moments Senators in this Chamber will cast one of the most important votes they will ever cast in the Senate.

With this vote, Senators will make a simple but vital decision. It is a decision that will steer the future course of our country and our Congress—and particularly the Senate.

With this vote, Senators will decide whether their allegiance is to President Obama and his agenda, Majority Leader REID and the open borders lobby, or whether their allegiance is to the American worker, the constitutional order, the American people, and this Nation's sovereign laws.

The choice could not be more clear. Do we as a Nation have the right to control our borders? Do we? That is the question every Senator will be answering today.

President Obama has announced to the entire world that he will implement a sweeping unilateral Executive amnesty—only after the midterm elections, not before, as he promised, because there is concern among his Members that it wouldn't be politically popular. This amnesty by Executive order will give work permits—contrary to law—and Social Security numbers—contrary to law—to as many as 5 to 6 million people, the White House tells us, to people who are here illegally, illegally entered the United States, illegally overstayed their visas or defrauded U.S. immigration authorities.

With a casual stroke of a pen, the President is preparing to nullify the immigration laws of the United States. He is preparing to wipe away the lawful protections which every American worker in this country is entitled to. He is preparing to assume for himself—himself alone—the absolute power to decide who can enter our country, who can work in our country, who can live in our country by the millions, regardless of what the law says, what the

citizenry says, and what the Constitution says. These immigration rules—who can come, work, and live in the country—are the bedrock of any Nation's immigration laws and sovereignty. The President has already erased much of these rules—erased them. And his planned Executive action would remove much of what remains of them. It would establish for people all over the world the principle that if you can get into America, you can stay in America, and work in America.

Let's consider the current state of immigration enforcement. Immigration officers already tell us—people who do this every day—that they have been barred from fulfilling their oaths to follow the law. They filed a lawsuit claiming they were required to violate their oath. The president of the ICE officers' council warned: "ICE agents"—Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers—"are now prohibited from arresting illegal aliens solely on the charges of illegal entry or visa overstay—the two most frequently violated sections of immigration law."

The policies of this administration represent an open invitation to millions who enter the United States on visas each year. People come lawfully on visas for certain periods of time. It encourages them to unlawfully overstay. And why not? If no one is going to deport you, why would you return if you choose not to return to your home country?

And what about the border? We know from the substantial influx of illegal immigrants from Central America that all you have to do is show up at the border, demand entry, and you will likely be released into the United States. You may be asked to return for some sort of hearing in the future. But people are not tracked as to where they will go and not one of those people will be looked for if they fail to show up. That is not happening anywhere in the system.

Consider this recent report from the Associated Press: "As of early September, only 319 of the more than 59,000 immigrants who were caught traveling with their families have been returned to Central America." That means that more than 99 percent of those apprehended with their families have so far been allowed to stay. That is in addition to the tens of thousands who have entered without their families and who have been promptly released also into the United States on some sort of bond or promise to show up for court, and many adults from Central America who have been released as well.

As President Obama's former ICE Director, John Sandweg, explained: "If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are near zero."

And who picks up the tab? Local school districts, local police departments, local taxpayers.

No nation can have a policy where people can simply show up at the border and demand to be released into the country, especially since the policy is never to seek to apprehend persons who don't show up so they can be deported. But that is what is happening right now under the policies of this administration. It simply is. The American people need to understand that. They need to know more fully how serious this situation is.

The American people are beginning to understand that these policies represent in truth a collapse of immigration enforcement.

What about our asylum system? Here is what the House Judiciary Committee reports on asylum, which is when we accept people from around the globe who are subjected to serious oppression.

Asylum approval rates overall have increased dramatically in recent years. The vast majority of aliens who affirmatively seek asylum are now successful in their claims. At the same time, an internal Department of Homeland Security report shows that at least 70 percent of asylum cases contain proven or possible fraud.

Seventy percent contain proven or possible fraud. Still they are being approved overwhelmingly for entry, and once approved for asylum, they are entitled to all social welfare benefits.

What about our visa screening process, the people who come on visas? Here is what Kenneth Palinkas had to say on that. Mr. Palinkas is the president of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, representing 12,000 immigration case-workers and adjudications officers at the USCIS. Here is just a fraction of his dramatic report delineating and detailing the problems they are facing today.

USCIS adjudications officers are pressured to rubber stamp applications instead of conducting diligent case reviews and investigations. The culture at USCIS encourages all applications to be approved, discouraging proper investigation into red flags and discouraging the denial of any application. USCIS has been turned into an "approval machine."

This is the man who represents the officers doing this every day, and what he says is true.

He goes on to say in this letter: "The attitude of USCIS management is not that the Agency serves the American public or the laws of the United States, or public safety and national security, but instead that the Agency serves the illegal aliens and the attorneys which represent them."

Surely this cannot be what is happening in our legal system.

He goes on to say this:

Large swaths of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not effectively enforced for illegal immigrants and visa holders, including laws regarding public charges as well as many other provisions, as USCIS lacks the resources to adequately screen and scrutinize legal immigrants and non-immigrants

seeking status adjustment. There is also insufficient screening and monitoring of student visas.

So the contention that this administration is deporting record numbers of illegal aliens is plainly false. Removals have dropped dramatically.

Now consider what will happen to our system if the President goes through with his plan that he has announced after the election to provide unilateral Executive amnesty by Executive order to illegal workers and visa violators here today. What immigration law will be left after that?

The government is not enforcing the law with respect to visa overstays, illegal entry, illegal work, asylum fraud, document fraud, workplace fraud, and on and on and on. We ignore immigration law for young people, for older people who came with younger people, for the parents of older people who came as younger people, for people with relatives, for people traveling alone, for people traveling with families, for people who entered before a certain date, for people who entered after a certain date, people who entered through an airport or seaport, for people who do show up in court, for people who don't show up in court. We have made a million excuses for not enforcing the law.

And when millions more enter illegally asking for their amnesty in the future, asking for their amnesty now that others got before them, will the President print work permits for them, too? What moral basis will remain to deny future unlawful immigrants work authorizations, jobs, and amnesty in the future?

I am sure this will make the activists, the politicians and certain billionaire executives who enjoy dinner parties at the White House, very happy that the President is doing these things. But what about what is good for America? What about what is in the interest of the American people? America is not an oligarchy. The masters of the universe don't get to meet at the White House and decide how to run this country.

When the American people learned what was in the Senate amnesty and guest worker bill that doubled the number of guest workers for which every single Senate Democrat voted, the people said no, no, no, and the House stopped the plan. But now the same groups that wrote this bill are working with the White House to extract the same benefits by Executive fiat, by Executive order. They had at least 20 secret meetings in July and August alone with the White House to plan this strategy. These measures, we are informed, would include a massive expansion in the admission of new foreign workers, including more workers for information technology giants who are laying off Americans, in fact, more than they are hiring. We learned from

Rutgers Professor Hal Salzman that two-thirds of all new IT jobs are now already being filled by foreign guest workers. Can you imagine that? We are turning out thousands of IT graduates, but two-thirds of the jobs are being filled by foreign workers, and wages are falling.

Americans wish to see record immigration levels—these high lawful levels of immigration that we have—reduced, not increased, by actually a 3-to-1 margin. But the proposal they are pushing and advocating would double the number of lawful workers while not dealing effectively with the unlawful flow.

Yet Senate Democrats are colluding with the White House to support the surge of these numbers. Studies show wage declines among all wage earners since 2009. There is a wage decline among all American workers. Wages have fallen since 2009, but the declines on a percentage basis are the greatest for our lower income workers. The people having the hardest time getting by have received the biggest percentage drop. Does this not concern our leaders? Has no one paid any attention to this fact?

So far our Senate Democratic Caucus has enabled the administration's lawless scheme every step of the way. Not one Senate Democrat has supported the House plan that would stop this Executive amnesty.

The House-passed legislation would stop it. It is waiting on the floor of the Senate to be called up for a vote. Not one Member of the Democratic leadership has even demanded that Mr. REID bring it up for a vote. Not one has pledged to stay here in Washington every day until this Executive amnesty is stopped.

But it is not too late. We are going to have a vote soon.

Where is the courage? Where is the independence that Senators should show? Where is the willingness to stand up to the political class, the lobbyists, the party bosses, the elite set in the Nation's Capital, and to stand by the side of the American people—indeed, to defend the institutional powers of Congress which alone has the power to make law, not the President. He cannot make law. He cannot give someone the right to work in America when the law says they are not able to work if they entered the country unlawfully. Until that happens, I have to say that every Senate Democrat is the President's partner in this scheme as surely as if they wrote the Executive orders themselves and as surely as if they were sitting right next to the interest groups huddling with White House aides to craft these orders.

So I have a message today for all the special interests, the globalist elites, the activists, and the cynical, vote-counting political plotters who are meeting in secret at the White House, and the message is this: You don't get

to sit in a room and rewrite the laws of the United States of America. No, sir. Congress writes the laws. You may not be used to people telling you no, but I am telling you no today.

It is critical that our Senate Democrats be willing to say no today when we vote.

I also have a message for the American people: You have been right from the beginning. You have justly demanded that our borders be controlled, our laws enforced, and that at long last immigration policy serve the needs of our own people first. For this virtuous and legitimate demand, you have been demeaned, even scorned by the governing class, the cosmopolitan elites. They know so much. They want you to believe that your concerns are somehow illegitimate, that you are wrong for being worried about your jobs or your schools or your hospitals or your communities or your national security.

These elite citizens of the world speak often of their concern about people living in poverty overseas. Yet they turn a blind eye to the poverty and suffering in their own country. They don't want you to speak up either. They don't want you to be heard. They don't want you to feel you have a voice. But you do have a voice, American people, and your message is being heard. I am delivering that message to the Senate today.

This is a moment of choosing for every Senator. Where will history record that you stood in the face of the President's promise to unlawfully nullify immigration law in America?

There will be a motion made soon that will allow the Senate to block the President's planned Executive amnesty. This is simply to pass the legislation the House has already passed. This is a commonsense Senate action.

If you believe we are a sovereign nation with a right to control our borders—and don't we have that right?—then you must vote yes. Let's bring it up before this unlawful Executive order for amnesty occurs.

If you go along with the idea that America is an oligarchy run by a group of special interests meeting at the White House to rewrite the immigration laws of America, then vote no.

The Nation is watching today. This is an issue of extreme importance for the American people and for the rule of law. Will you at long last break from your majority leader, Democratic colleagues, or will you once again surrender your vote to Mr. REID and the groups meeting in secret at the White House to thereby enable their lawless actions?

In its almost 2 years of existence—this Congress that has been in existence here going on 2 years now has failed to pass a single appropriations bill on time, and now we are facing another CR. Pass everything—one vote to fund the entire government and not a single amendment is being allowed.

This Senate has violated the laws that limited spending that we voted for and spent more than allowed. It has blocked amendments to such a degree that the entire heritage of free debate and free rights to amend laws has been violated and damaged substantially in this Senate.

If we leave town without having passed a bill to block this Executive amnesty, then it will be a permanent stain on the Senate, the constitutional order, and this entire Democratic caucus.

I know the pressure is to stay hitched and stay in line, but Senate Democrats do have the power to vote differently. Senator MANCHIN voted differently last time, and others can also. It is time to stand up and be counted for the working people in this country and enact legislation in their interest.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Does the Senator from Texas wish to speak?

Mr. CRUZ. I intend to, yes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator from Alabama finished his speech and didn't suggest the absence of a quorum, so I was going to speak. But since the Senator from Texas has been waiting, please go ahead and proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, we have a crisis in this country. We have a crisis at our southern border that is producing some 90,000 unaccompanied children coming into this country. These kids are being victimized. These kids are being physically and sexually abused by violent coyotes and drug cartels.

The American people understand we have a crisis, and the American people want action. The House of Representatives understands we have a crisis. The House of Representatives has acted. Yet I am sorry to say the majority leader and the Democrats in this body refuse to allow any action to address this crisis.

The crisis at the border is the direct consequence of President Obama's lawlessness. Just 3 years ago, in 2011, there were roughly 6,000 unaccompanied kids coming into this country, and then in 2012, a few months before the election, President Obama unilaterally granted amnesty to some 800,000 people who entered the country illegally as children. The predicted consequence is that if you grant amnesty to those who enter illegally as children, it creates an enormous incentive for more and more children to enter illegally. As a result, we have seen the numbers go from 6,000 unaccompanied kids 3 years ago to approximately 90,000 this year, and next year, the Department of Homeland Security predicts, there will be 145,000 little boys and little girls illegally smuggled, victimized, and brutalized.

This needs to stop. We need leadership in Washington. We need leadership

in both Houses of Congress. We need leadership from both Republicans and Democrats. Yet not only do President Obama and the Senate Democrats refuse to do anything to solve this problem, but, I am sorry to say, it is even worse.

In recent weeks President Obama told the American people he intends to grant even more amnesty. The first illegal amnesty of some 800,000 people was not enough, so in his view we need more. He intends to illegally grant amnesty to 5 or 6 million more people. Mark my words: The President of the United States intends to illegally grant amnesty. Amnesty is coming. Yet we heard in recent days that the President has decided to delay that action until just after the election.

There are a lot of cynical policies in Washington, DC. Yet this has to rank very near the top. For the President of the United States to say he understands the American people don't want amnesty, but since there is an election coming up, he intends to pass the policy which they don't want, don't believe in, and which subverts the rule of law just after the election so that the Senate Democrats can campaign and say they had nothing to do with it—what does that say about what the President thinks about the American people? That he thinks they are not paying close enough attention to understand that this election is a referendum on amnesty? That he thinks they won't remember by the time the next election happens?

Well, here is the bottom line: Amnesty is the wrong approach that created the crisis. The only way to solve this crisis and protect and prevent those little boys and little girls from being physically and sexually abused is to end President Obama's amnesty and prospectively stop the promise of amnesty that is causing these kids to come here illegally.

I introduced legislation in the Senate to do exactly that, and the House of Representatives, to their credit, stood up and led. They stayed in session an extra day before the August recess to come together and pass the legislation I had introduced in the Senate. They passed it by a vote of 216 to 192, with 4 Democrats joining the Republicans to stop President Obama's amnesty in order to actually solve the crisis at the border. Yet what happened in the Senate? In the Senate the majority leader refused to allow a vote on the provision and sent the Senators home for August while doing nothing to address the problem.

The reason is simple: Although President Obama and Senate Democrats are afraid of the voters holding them accountable for amnesty, it should be lost on nobody watching that what is happening in the Senate is that the 55 Senate Democrats serving in this body affirmatively want amnesty.

If only this body would just do its job. If we would simply pass the legislation the House has already passed, prospectively taking amnesty off the table—and by the way, this bill does nothing, zero, to the so-called DREAMers who are already here. It doesn't address that issue. This issue addresses the promise of amnesty in the future. As long as these children believe they will get amnesty, they will keep coming here illegally. They will keep being victimized and abused.

Unfortunately, the majority leader has employed a procedural trick called filling the tree. It is a trick this body is now quite familiar with because it is what the majority leader has done over and over to shut down every single amendment from every Member of this body.

To be fair, majority leaders in both parties have used this trick in the past. The previous six majority leaders used the procedural trick of filling the tree a total of 40 times. The current Democratic majority leader has used it almost 90 times since 2006. The current majority leader has used it more than double what his six previous predecessors did. Roughly two-thirds of the time this procedural trick has been employed, it has been by the majority leader of this body.

What does that do? What that does is it says legislation in this body will shut down the right of amendments for every Senator. What it says to the 26 million Texans is that their views don't matter because neither Senator CORNYN nor I will be allowed to offer any amendments. It says to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maryland, the States of New York and California: Your views don't matter. Why? Because the majority leader has stripped your Senators of the right to offer any amendment on any topic whatsoever.

The majority leader has done that nearly 90 times—including on this continuing resolution, including on the basic bill that funds the government because the Senate has failed to appropriate the funds that we should be doing otherwise.

This is wrong. It is fundamentally wrong. The American people deserve a vote. If Senate Democrats want to embrace amnesty, let them do so openly and in daylight. Stop hiding. People are frustrated with Washington because they recognize politicians say one thing here and one thing at home. How many Senate Democrats, particularly in red States, go home to their States and say amnesty is a terrible thing and then come back here and facilitate the President illegally granting amnesty. How about we have some honesty. How about we have elected Members of this body say and do the same in Washington that they say and do back home. Don't hide. How about we all tell the truth. And the truth is

the 55 Senate Democrats want amnesty, but they don't want the voters to know. They are celebrating that President Obama has said: Fear not, the amnesty is coming, but we will wait until after the election. That cynicism is fundamentally inconsistent with the obligation every Member of this body owes to our constituents.

So I am pleased we will get a vote—despite the majority leader's best efforts—on amnesty, because momentarily this body is going to have the opportunity to vote, and I predict most, if not all, Senate Democrats will vote in favor of President Obama's amnesty.

I have a lot higher opinion of the American people, of the voters, than it seems the President does. I think the American people understand what is going on and I don't think they are going to be fooled by the President delaying his illegal amnesty until after the election. So we are going to get a vote on this matter.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852

For that reason, I move to table Reid amendment No. 3852 for the purposes of offering the Cruz-Sessions amendment No. 3859, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the solution to this immediate crisis along our Nation's border and our longer term immigration needs necessarily need to begin with the President finally enforcing the law—that set of laws already on the books. There is no amount of money Congress can spend, there is no new law that could solve this crisis, if the President and the leadership of his party continue down their lawless path.

There are several steps the President can take—and he can take those steps immediately—that do not require any action by Congress or another dime from the American people. The most important action he could take would be to stop abusing his “prosecutorial discretion” and end the DACA Program which provides administrative amnesty and work permits to those who have entered the United States illegally as minors. He also needs to resist the temptation to further expand DACA to millions of additional adults and send a

strong message to respond quickly by returning those who enter the United States illegally back to their home countries.

By announcing to the world that he will not enforce our Nation's laws by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to process and return those who have already come here unlawfully, the President of the United States is encouraging hundreds of thousands of children and adults to make a very dangerous journey to the United States illegally. He is encouraging families to pay coyotes controlled by drug cartels thousands of dollars to smuggle their children into this country. That is truly the humanitarian crisis we now face.

This continuing resolution—the continuing resolution now before the Senate—provides funds for the DACA Program and any other Executive amnesty the President may choose to implement illegally.

I, along with my friends and colleagues from Alabama and from Texas, wish to offer an amendment prohibiting funding to process prospective applications, but the majority has objected, so we will attempt to table the Reid amendment in order to allow that vote.

The President's threat to widen the scope of DACA is only going to make matters worse—matters in this pronounced humanitarian crisis we are facing along our border—which is why I agree with my friends, Senators SESSIONS and CRUZ, that, at the very least, we must take steps to prevent the President from providing any more executive amnesty.

ISIS

Now I wish to speak about some other issues related to the continuing resolution and, in so doing, I wish to point out that one of the most important and solemn duties we have as Members of the Senate is to authorize the use of military force and ask the brave men and women in our armed services to put their lives in harm's way. It is, I believe, a gross dereliction of that duty, and an insult to those same men and women, to tack on a military authorization to this must-pass spending bill just so Members of Congress can hurry back to their home States. If the United States is going to escalate our involvement in a brutal conflict overseas, if we are going to send American troops to harm and train Syrian rebels for their fight against ISIS, we need to debate that decision on its own merits and not take this up simply as a condition of providing ongoing funding for the Federal Government as a whole. That is the only way for this issue to receive the kind of careful attention and robust debate it truly deserves. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to separate any military authorization from this must-pass spending bill to keep the

government funded. If that means we do not get home early, so be it. The lives of our troops, the lives of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and those who support them, and the security of the United States are simply far too important.

I believe, as does the President of the United States, that ISIS is a threat to the Middle East and will take any opportunity it gets to kill Americans. Many of its fighters carry European and even American passports which will offer them easier access to the United States. Tracking and stopping these foreign fighters must be a high priority for the President and for the Congress, and our allies must work to stop the flow of these fighters into and out of the conflict zone half a world away. We must attack their finances, their abilities to communicate and coordinate and access weapons and supplies. The United States can and should act to protect ourselves from this threat.

There is a clearly defined constitutional process for doing that—a process which involves the participation of the President as the Commander in Chief and Members of Congress as representatives of the American people invested with the power to declare war. But are we following that clearly defined process? Are we adhering to this prudent set of procedures we are supposed to follow under our now 227-year-old governing document? No. Instead, we are openly flouting it. Instead, we are considering an authorization of military force almost as an afterthought. We are doing so by attaching it to a continuing resolution which itself reduces, in a very shameless and disgraceful way, Congress's spending authority to another afterthought. Why? Well, because, as far as I can tell, some in Congress want to go home early. They are so anxious to get to their next recess, to get back to their home State, that they are willing to give inadequate attention to this very serious problem that affects every American, that has implications not only for national security but for the security of 300 million Americans. It has especially grave implications for the brave men and women who wear our uniforms, whose lives would be on the line as a result of decisions made in connection with this effort.

This is shameful and it is unconscionable. It is an insult to the men and women we serve, and it is an insult to the men and women who wear uniforms and serve us well.

We should strike this section to arm and train Syrian rebels from the continuing resolution and instead have full debate and a separate vote on authorizing the President's strategy to address the ISIS threat. Forcing an authorization for our military to act in any manner through a continuing resolution up against a government shut-

down does not meet the standards for this process and it does not afford the American people, many of whom are servicemembers, a voice regarding our Nation's most important affairs. We have ample reason to take the needed time to consider this decision on its own merits and not on the merits of a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

The idea of arming Syrian rebels has drawn serious concern from Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle but, so far, only Members from certain key committees have been able to debate and discuss openly and in an official Senate forum the specifics of the President's plan. And even those of us who sit on those committees are still in need of much more information. I have had concerns for the past year as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee with the proposed tactic of arming the Syrian rebels after hearing testimony from our own intelligence and defense leaders that what we refer to as the "moderate rebels" are, in fact, fragmented and decentralized. Their memberships are fluid and often lacking in common goals, leadership, and levels of moderation.

This is borne out in press reports from the region almost weekly. In fact, a few months ago I asked General Austin, the commander of CENTCOM, if the United States would guarantee that the assistance we are supplying to moderates in Syria—the then-non-lethal aid—is not being used by or to the benefit of extremist groups that want to attack the United States.

His answer was:

No, we cannot guarantee the assistance we provide doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Undoubtedly, some weapons and funds flowing into Syria wind up in the hands of extremists The extremists work closely with all factions of the opposition and is often aware of the logistics and humanitarian shipments into Syria. At times, they even acquire and disseminate these shipments to the local populace. This, in turn, benefits in the propaganda war.

That is probably why hardly a month ago—just a little over a month ago—President Obama called the idea of arming Syrian rebels a "fantasy"—a fantasy that was, as he put it, "never in the cards." Now he is seeking authorization for it. In less than a month, what was once a fantasy is now apparently the strategy. What was never in the cards is now not only in the cards but is a card that he is actually playing—and doing so as an afterthought, thrown on to a must-pass bill with an entirely different purpose and function.

On Tuesday in the Armed Services Committee hearing, when I asked Secretary Hagel why the President changed his mind on arming and training Syrian rebels, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel could not provide an explanation. This is troubling, to say the least. If there has been some change over the last month in national security threats or the capabilities and

composition of a Syrian opposition group, why has the President not shared this with our Secretary of Defense? Or if there hasn't been a change, then is there some reason other than American national security that may have caused the President to reverse course. The American people deserve answers to these and other related questions.

Another important issue that deserves full and open debate is that this is about more than just arming rebels to fight terrorists. It became clear through answers from administration officials in our Senate Armed Services hearing Tuesday that the Administration believes that a new government and political structure in Syria is needed for these rebel groups to be successful.

No one doubts that President Assad is a tyrant, one who has exacted terrible measures on his very own citizens, but our constituents need to understand—I want to be very clear here—that the idea of arming Syrian rebels to fight ISIS and Assad, while also standing up and supporting a new government in Syria, is more like a long-term nation-building mission than a counterterrorism mission.

The administration has not been clear on this point. If we are indeed taking steps towards a nation-building exercise in Syria, we must also debate both the financial and the tremendous human costs of such an endeavor.

The ISIS threat to the United States is serious. Our response should be given equally serious consideration here in the Senate. When my colleague on the Armed Services Committee, Senator FISCHER from Nebraska, mentioned how important she thought it was that this authorization be separate from the CR, Secretary Hagel stated that he agreed that it should have a “more thorough airing with the American people,” but that it couldn't receive such an airing because Congress was rushing home for a recess. This is not good enough for the Senate.

This is not good enough for the United States or for the American people. It is shameful. Our constituents expect us to do our jobs. If that means staying here a few more weeks, so be it. If that means staying here for a month or two months—however long it takes—then so be it.

If this plan is the right one, fine; if we need to adjust it or reject it, fine; but there is no such thing as a must-pass vote of conscience—not here, not on this topic. The American people deserve to have a debate about how and why we are sending their sons and daughters into danger. We should not set this precedent of sending Americans into harm's way as an afterthought, on our way out of town, like some kind of political out-of-office reply email. Congress used to be better than this, and I submit the American people still are.

I respectfully and strongly urge my colleagues to pull this section from the CR and have a full debate to give authorization for the President's actions in the Middle East. To this end, I am proposing we remove this language from the continuing resolution so that it may be considered separately and adequately.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Accordingly, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 3845.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI: I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I have heard a good part of the afternoon: Why can't we stay and debate this, and so on? I don't minimize the seriousness of the issues, whether they are about arming Syrian rebels, the potential for new kinds of military action, certainly the ongoing saga in Ukraine or also what is going on in our own country. Students are not being able to afford college, families are not being able to afford to buy a home, and work is not worth it because wages are frozen. We are pushing people to a standard of living less than what they had.

The people of the middle class are fighting hand-to-hand to stay middle class. Those who might want to get there are seeing the opportunity ladder sawed down. When we wanted to bring bills to the floor in a regular order and bring up regular appropriations that had both money and policy where people could have debated them in an orderly way, we had cluster bombs of parliamentary procedure thrown on where people hid behind votes on motions to proceed.

Some of the biggest critics today saying, why don't we stay here and debate, have been some of the biggest obstacles in insisting on bringing bills up in regular order. So here we are today in the closing hours of the CR. We have had much enlightened conversation that was actually to hear leaders talk about this and differences of opinions in the most civil way, with intellectual rigor and firmness of conviction.

That is what we should be doing. I would like to do more of it. This is why we need to reform ourselves. We like to talk a lot about reforming the country, changing Barack Obama, but we need to reform ourselves. We need to stop hiding behind cloture votes and motions to proceed, where you need 60 votes to just barely come up and salute the flag. So I am not going to go into this today, but I think we need to go into this. We need to take a look at ourselves and examine ourselves—how we can keep the traditions the same, protect the rights of the minority. But when all is said and done, the American people are fed up that more gets

said than done and more gets said about saying things, and so on.

I am telling you, as I travel in Maryland, my constituents feel Washington means less and less relevance to them. They are also wondering: What is it that you do to get things done? They are asking these questions. You know what, they ought to ask these questions.

I am not going to take up the time. I know that other colleagues are coming to speak on the floor.

This whole thing about we have to stay and we have to do it—we have to do our business during the whole year. We can't do it in the last 3 hours, coming up on the crunch of the end of the fiscal year. All year long we have an opportunity to debate. All year long we have the opportunity to debate issues in our committee process and on the floor. I feel pretty strongly about this.

I hope that others who feel strongly, too, join a reform effort so we can honor the traditions of the Senate and protect the rights of the minority. But, hey, let's get back to the majority rules, regular order, and a debate that occurs all year long on issues and not just in a crisis environment.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Calendar consent agreed to Wednesday, September 17, 2014, be modified to include Executive Calendar No. 925 following 1031, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI: Mr. President, what that means is that we have now confirmed Alfonso E. Lenhardt to be the Deputy Administrator of USAID.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come first to support the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee in her endeavor to pass a continuing resolution. I, specifically, want to speak to support the President's request for authorization to stand up a title 10 overt, train and equip mission for vetted moderate Syrian opposition. The hearing I held yesterday in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee laid out specifics of how the President is moving forward in building the anti-ISIS coalition.

We will undertake targeted airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. We will train and equip a Syrian opposition force committed to a pluralistic, free Syria.

This is a multifaceted plan, and we heard both from Secretary Kerry and a second panel of regional experts that coalition partners are ready to contribute in real terms and not just empty words.

The ISIL threat is grave and it is urgent. We must stand with our partners

in the region to confront this barbarism in the interests of all of the individuals being brutalized by ISIL but also because regional stability and U.S. Security demand it.

Training and equipping a fighting Syrian force is one urgent element in the broader plan.

We in the Senate must provide this authority, as our colleagues in the House did yesterday. In Iraq we have the Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces committed to combating ISIL and partnering with us to do so. At this point in time we do not have such a force to partner with inside of Syria.

Let's be clear-eyed about what this challenge is. It is messy and complicated and not at all easy. There is no silver bullet. But without a trained, equipped, and capable moderate opposition force to fill the void, as we conduct airstrikes against ISIL, we would essentially be opening the door to Assad and his Russian- and Iranian-backed regime forces to regain lost territory.

Imagine how our adversaries will celebrate if we fail to build a force that is equipped, trained, and committed to defeating the barbarism of ISIL and Assad.

The administration was posed with the question yesterday: Why now? Why train these forces now, 4 years into this civil war?

There are several answers:

First, we have been working with these moderate armed groups for over 2 years now. We know them.

Second, there is no real alternative to building a local opposition force to take the fight on in Syria unless you are talking about American boots on the ground. That is not in play here.

Third, the region is standing with us in training and creating the ability to assist these Syrian rebels. It is truly a remarkable development that Saudi Arabia, for example, is willing to publicly discuss its support and publicly disclose that it will host and contribute to our train-and-equip mission. Other gulf countries are willing to fund this mission and help with recruiting efforts. No longer are our partners willing to quietly support from the shadows. They view the threat coming from Iraq and Syria with ISIL with such urgency that they are going public loudly and assertively.

I am clear-eyed about the enormity of the challenge. There is risk. But at this point, given the rapidity of ISIL's advance and the savagery of its actions, we must be willing to take some risk to degrade this brutal, barbaric organization. The fact is that Sunni neighbors across the region are lining up to join this mission.

The moderate Syrian forces we will train can pressure ISIL in Syria, the Iraqis from Iraq, and we pressure ISIL from the air. The question is, Why

now? The response to the question is this: Yesterday I held—as the Presiding Officer knows, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed legislation last year to increase lethal assistance to the moderate rebels battling Assad in a bipartisan way. We do not get do-overs, so we cannot change what was not done. We cannot change what has already happened. But we can change what exists on the ground in Syria today. We can influence what happens going forward and work together to set conditions for how it ends.

Yesterday Robert Ford—our exceptional former U.S. Ambassador to Syria, probably our greatest expert on Syria and the rebels particularly, and until recently our senior State Department official working with the moderate opposition—could not have had more compelling testimony. In response to questions I posed to him about whether a moderate armed opposition still exists for us to train and arm, he said: Yes, they exist. Yes, they are already fighting ISIL. Yes, they share our view that a radical, extremist Islamic State should not be imposed on Syria. That conflict will only end with a political deal or negotiated settlement.

In response to questions about whether there is recruitment potential, whether we can find enough fighters who are moderate who will pass our vetting standards to receive our training, he said: Yes. We know them. We have provided them with nonlethal assistance, which they have used responsibly.

By the way, he described them as being pretty resilient in the face of being outgunned, that they are still engaged and fighting for their own future.

He also said: We have talked politics with them, meaning understanding where their mindset is as it relates to the future.

In fact, Mr. Ford said that the problem has always been that there were more willing fighters than there were guns and ammunition.

In response to whether the moderate armed Syrian opposition shares our goal of degrading ISIL, the answer was also affirmatively yes.

The force we train and arm will fight ISIL because ISIL is threatening their supply lines and has butchered hundreds of members of the moderate Syrian opposition. In Syria, the moderate opposition has been mired in a two-front war—one against ISIL and the other against Assad and his regime backers—for years. The language in the amendment to the CR reflects this reality. We are training and arming a force that will defend the Syrian people from ISIL attacks and also promote conditions for a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Syria—in other words, going after Assad's security forces.

Finally, Ambassador Ford lamented that if we do not go forward with this proposal to train and equip the moderate armed opposition, Assad will likely become even more convinced that his strategy all along has worked. His strategy is to convince the world that he is the only viable alternative to ISIL and radical extremists and that we will eventually resolve ourselves to working with him.

Let me conclude by saying that the only course of action at this point in time is for us to commit to the grinding work of building a viable alternative, which is the moderate armed Syrian opposition.

Again, this is not going to happen overnight, but it certainly will not happen if there is not a moderate, capable alternative to Assad, a group that is neither radical nor has the barbarism of ISIL, nor the nihilistic, barrel bomb-dropping of Assad.

We must be realistic if we are going to degrade and destroy ISIL. Frankly, I still have many questions about the way forward beyond this issue. I intend to work with the administration to ensure that the plan is sound and the strategy is effective. We will continue to vet that through a series of both hearings and intelligence briefings. But I have no question that this particular action is needed now.

I fully intend for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to explore, vet, and ultimately craft what a possible authorization for use of military force should look like. In that regard, we need to get it right, not just do it fast. I do not want an AUMF that ultimately—as of September 2001—finds us 13 years later in a host of different countries that were never envisioned as being the authorization for it, to send the sons and daughters of America without the authorization of the Congress.

We will work on all of that in a determined, studious, and detailed way to make sure that we understand the strategy and all of its dimensions, that we can provide for that, and at the end of the day that we can defeat ISIL, but without an open-ended check.

With that, I urge support for the CR.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to express my disappointment about a matter of great importance to Wyoming and many other Western States. The continuing resolution before us does not include critical funding that nearly 1,900 counties in 49 States rely on.

Local governments are responsible for providing fire protection, law enforcement, sanitation, public health, and education, to our constituents. They provide these services largely by raising local revenue, including property taxes. In States where there is little federally owned land, local communities have a large number of private

homeowners to help provide these services. But in States such as my home State of Wyoming, the Federal Government owns much of the land. The problem is that these Federal lands cannot be taxed. The Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, or PILT, has been in place for decades and is, essentially, the Federal Government's property taxes.

Last year's omnibus appropriations package did not fund PILT. Instead, the Farm bill provided 1 year of PILT funding. And since Congress has not passed appropriations bills through regular order this year but is leaving fiscal year 2014 funding on autopilot, PILT isn't addressed in the legislation we are considering today. Yet local governments must still provide critical fire, law enforcement, and health services in these areas and for the people who work on them. What are we supposed to tell our communities that rely on this money for 40 to 80 percent of their budgets?

This body cannot fail to address this issue this year. To do so would break a promise we have made and would force communities to reduce or even eliminate the vital resources upon which their citizens rely. But we should not just address the issue for this year. We need to stop playing games with PILT and find a way to ensure it is adequately and fairly funded for years to come in a way that does not rob Peter to pay Paul.

Yes, the Federal Government is out of money. We are going to have to prioritize. But I would submit that PILT needs to be one of those priorities. PILT represents a promise the Federal Government made to counties and local governments all across the Nation, and they are looking to us to see how we will keep that promise. If we fail to do so, it will have an impact on almost every one of our States.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express support for the continuing resolution which funds the government through December 11.

One provision in the bill I would like to focus on relates to our fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL.

I believe there is an urgent need to confront this terrorist group, and Congress can help this effort by supporting President Obama's plan and voting for the continuing resolution.

The CR includes a provision to provide the Defense Department with the authority for the U.S. Armed Forces to train and equip an opposition force capable of confronting ISIL.

I believe we must come together in large numbers—Democrats and Republicans—to pass this provision as quickly as possible. A strong bipartisan majority would give the Obama administration and the American people a strong sense of unity and purpose as we

all grapple with the threat of ISIL. We must give the President the tools he needs to succeed. Providing the Defense Department with this authority is just one part of the comprehensive strategy, but it is an important one.

The President has said he has the legal authority to conduct airstrikes in Iraq and Syria and has laid out his strategy. After the election there will be ample time to debate the strategy further and potentially vote on a new authorization of military force, but in the short-term we must pass this authorization—at this time the only authority the administration has asked Congress to approve. If ever there were a time to unite behind President Obama, that time is now.

ISIL is like no other terrorist organization we have seen. It has become a ruthless terrorist army that occupies territory and controls civilian populations through fear, intimidation, and brutality.

It controls large swaths of land in two nations. In Syria it controls nearly one-third of the country, and in Iraq it effectively controls as many as 14 cities.

According to a recent CIA estimate, ISIL may have as many as 30,000 fighters—and separately there may be up to 25,000 Sunni tribesmen who have associated themselves with ISIL forces.

ISIL has looted heavy weaponry—including artillery, tanks and armored vehicles—from the battlefield. Much of that equipment is now being used against innocent civilians and our partners on the ground. ISIL has killed tens of thousands of people. They kill with abandon, including the brutal massacre of hundreds of Iraqi and Syrian soldiers, stripped, bound and buried in shallow graves. ISIL is also well-funded through criminality, ransom payments, extortion and the sale of oil. Its control of territory and resources is topped only by its level of brutality.

Over the past few weeks, I have personally reviewed photos, videos and personal stories of ISIL's countless victims. I have seen the beheading of American and British hostages and pictures of the crucifixion of many innocent civilians, including a girl as young as 6 years of age. I have seen photos of heads staked on fence posts and films of the mass-execution of Iraqi and Syrian army units. In one gory report, after ISIL took control of two oilfields in eastern Syria from the al-Sheitaat tribe, they summarily executed 700 tribesmen. I have read stories of women bound to trees and forced to be sexual prizes for ISIL fighters who performed well in battle. There are reports that thousands of Yazidi women have been taken as slaves and I have read the testimonials of the few who were lucky enough to escape. They describe being confined, eating only once a day, being given away as wives, raped and abused at the hands of ISIL fighters. I

have seen devastating footage of Yazidis and Christians literally running for their lives from approaching ISIL forces, faced with the choice of converting to Islam or death. When one Yazidi girl was surrounded by ISIL fighters, she said, "I've never felt so helpless in my 14 years. They had blocked our path to safety, and there was nothing we could do."

The lack of humanity is shocking and despicable. It is pure evil and it should haunt the world. And while ISIL is now limited to Syria and Iraq, it has made clear its intentions are to bring the fight to the United States and our allies.

In Iraq, a major concern of mine is that their next attack will be our Embassy in Baghdad. I have no doubt that ISIL leaders also intend to hit us here in our homeland.

In July 2012, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi said: "The mujahidin have also sworn they will make you suffer more pain than that caused by Usama [bin Laden]. You will see them in your own country, God willing."

In January of this year, during his radio address, Baghdadi added: "Our last message is to the Americans. Soon we'll be in direct confrontation, and the sons of Islam have prepared for such a day. So watch out for us, for we are with you, watching."

Finally, in a video posted on August 19, 2014, the executioner of James Foley stated: "So any attempt by you, Obama, to deny the Muslims their rights of living in safety under the Islamic Caliphate will result in the bloodshed of your people."

We have no specific information that ISIL is planning an attack against the United States, but we also had no clear understanding of al-Qaeda's specific plotting in the days before 9/11 an attack that would claim nearly 3,000 American lives.

ISIL's territorial control, resources, brutality and intention to broaden their attacks make it clear that we must act. I support the President's actions to confront and ultimately destroy ISIL.

As he has said, we will expand airstrikes against ISIL targets, including in Syria; maintain a united international coalition—with Arab countries—that will contribute to the fight in meaningful ways; encourage continued political reconciliation in Baghdad to diminish ISIL's support from Sunni tribes; halt the flow of foreign fighters and resources to ISIL; and provide weapons to the Kurdish peshmerga, Iraqi security forces and moderate forces inside Syria.

Action is currently underway in many of those areas. Air strikes have helped defend key infrastructure such as the Mosul Dam and protected civilians in Amirli and Mt. Sinjar. More recently, the President has expanded the air campaign by going on the offensive

and attacking ISIL on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Secretaries Kerry and Hagel have been building a coalition with international partners, including much of Europe and at least 10 Arab nations. New Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is in the process of finalizing the Cabinet and has made sincere efforts to bridge the sectarian divide. These are all steps in the right direction. Today, the necessary action before us is to pass this CR, which provides limited authority to train and equip a military force to fight ISIL on the ground. The President has ruled out putting U.S. ground forces in combat roles for now, so we must have partners that can take the fight to ISIL. Without such a force, ISIL will continue to enjoy a safe haven in eastern Syria and once ISIL is pushed out of territory, the Assad regime or other extremists could fill the vacuum.

Bolstering this fighting force is critical to our goal of degrading and destroying ISIL. While it is just one part of the President's plan, it will work in conjunction with our ongoing diplomatic, intelligence, military and economic efforts.

The continuing resolution includes the authority the Defense Department needs to begin training such a force. The provision also requires the administration to produce a plan to explain how arming the moderate opposition fits within the President's larger regional strategy to defeat ISIL. It also requires regular reports to Congress to keep us informed of the training activities.

We already know Saudi Arabia is prepared to host a training program, and I suspect other Arab states will help fund it. But without this authority in this CR, U.S. troops and trainers will not be able to participate in this essential program.

Regardless of whether we waited too long to confront ISIL, we now have a strategy that we need to support to turn the tide. U.S. airstrikes in Iraq have protected our people and prevented a humanitarian catastrophe. As we now take the fight directly to ISIL, Congress needs to give the President the tools he needs to ramp up the battle.

This is a matter of national security and I hope members of both parties will come together to support the President's request.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate is about to vote on a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government from October 1 to December 11. This vote should not be necessary. There is no good reason why we are not voting on fiscal year 2015 appropriations bills to fund the government the way we used to rather than a continuing resolution that keeps the government on autopilot despite many new and compelling needs.

Chairwoman MIKULSKI of the Appropriations Committee and her counterpart in the House, Chairman ROGERS, have made this argument as well as any two people could. It is unacceptable that the Congress, which has the power of the purse, fails to use that power in a responsible manner. Passing annual appropriations bills should be a priority for both parties, and I hope that between now and when this short-term CR expires, we can do our job and finish work on those bills which were reported by the Appropriations Committee months ago—and send them to the President.

Nine months ago, when the fiscal year 2014 omnibus was enacted, no one anticipated the Ebola epidemic which has infected thousands of people and today threatens all of Africa, thus, there is little funding available to combat it. The Defense Department, USAID, CDC, and others are scrambling to reprogram funds from other important programs.

Nine months ago, no one envisioned the surge in young migrants from Central America, and so the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development are reprogramming funds. But it is not nearly enough to address the horrific gang violence and endemic poverty in those countries that are contributing to the flood of refugees across our border.

Nine months ago, did anyone here predict that ISIS would be routing units of the Iraqi army, beheading Americans, and seizing control of territory? Did anyone foresee Russia's intervention in Ukraine? Did anyone foresee that we would be sending U.S. military advisors to Nigeria to help track down hundreds of school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram? There is no money in the budget for any of this, so we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bills have been reported out of committee with strong bipartisan support. Let's debate them. Senators can offer amendments. We can vote. That is what we should be doing instead of kicking the ball down the road for another 2½ months.

Obviously, we all recognize the need to keep the Federal Government operating. As much as I disagree with this approach, I would vote for the continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. But this vote does far more than that. It authorizes the President under title 10 of the U.S. Code to provide training and weapons to Syrian rebel forces. In other words, we are authorizing U.S. military intervention in Syria's civil war which for the past 2 years the administration has strongly advised against and doing so by tacking that authority onto a short-term spending bill to keep the government operating.

As much as I believe the United States should support the fight against ISIS and as much as I commend the President and Secretary KERRY for their efforts to build a coalition to that end, I am not convinced that the President's plan to intervene in Syria can succeed. There are too many unanswered questions about the composition, intentions, allegiances, and capabilities of the so-called "moderate" Syrian rebels who, like the Iraqi militias that openly admit to atrocities, are accountable to no one.

There is too little clarity about the White House's intentions, particularly when there is talk of unilateral air attacks against ISIS by U.S. forces inside Syrian territory. There has been too little discussion of the potential consequences of this strategy for the brutal Assad regime which also opposes ISIS, for the anti-ISIS coalition, or for Iran's or Russia's ability to expand their influence in that region.

We have been assured that recipients of U.S. military equipment are vetted and that the use of the equipment is monitored. Yet we have seen U.S. military vehicles and weapons worth millions of dollars in the hands of ISIS and other anti-American groups in Iraq and Libya. Who can say who else has gotten their hands on them, or that the weapons we provide the Syrian rebels will not be used against innocent civilians or end up in the hands of our enemies?

The House resolution we are voting on addresses this issue narrowly, requiring vetting only as it relates to association with terrorists or Iran. It says nothing about vetting for gross violations of human rights, as would be required for assistance for foreign security forces under the Leahy Amendment.

The administration says we need to defeat ISIS. I don't disagree. ISIS is a barbaric enterprise that has no respect for human life and poses a grave threat to anyone it encounters, including Americans. Yet that is what the previous White House said about Al Qaeda. A dozen years and hundreds of billions of dollars and many American lives later, Al Qaeda is a shadow of what it once was but is far from defeated.

Since 9/11, numerous offshoots of Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups have proliferated not only in South Asia but throughout the Middle East and into east and north Africa. And one of those groups, formerly affiliated with Al Qaeda, is ISIS. Some say ISIS is worse than Al Qaeda. If ISIS is defeated, who comes next?

Not long ago the President said the sweeping 2001 authorization for the use of military force against those responsible for the 9/11 attacks should be repealed. Yet the White House recently cited it as a basis for attacking ISIS. Alternatively, the White House says the President has the authority he

needs under the 2002 authorization for the use of military force to defeat Saddam Hussein. No objective reading of those resolutions supports that conclusion. Yet here we are about to embark on another open ended war against terrorism, albeit, thankfully, without U.S. ground troops.

We can help combat ISIS, and we must, but the Governments of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and others in that region—some of which have vast wealth—need to show they share that goal at least as much as we do, not just by their statements but by their actions.

They should take the lead. We can support them, although Saudi Arabia, besides being a major oil supplier, has one of the world's most repressive governments and Saudi charities have been a steady source of revenue for extremist groups. One has to wonder whether such alliances help or hurt us in the long run.

I have thought hard about this. It is far from black and white. I deeply respect the President. In the end, he may be right. But I worry about the slippery slope we may be starting down in the thick of a sectarian civil war. I am not prepared—on a stop-gap, short-term spending bill containing authority drafted by the House of Representatives, in the waning hours of the day of adjournment, and with no opportunity for amendments—to endorse a policy that will involve spending hundreds of millions and almost certainly billions of dollars over multiple years to train and arm Syrian fighters who may or may not share our goals or values, not in a part of the world where past U.S. military interventions with similarly vague goals involving similarly questionable allies have consistently turned out very differently from the Pollyannaish predictions of former Pentagon and White House officials. Time and again we have been assured of relatively quick and easy success, only to pay dearly over the course of protracted, costly wars that fell far short of their lofty goals and unleashed forces of hatred that no one predicted.

Year after year, the administration asked Congress for billions of dollars to support former Iraqi President Malaki's government. Yet the White House now concedes that his sectarian policies and the widely reported abuses of the Iraqi army that the U.S. trained and equipped were a cause of the resentment and divisions that contributed to the rise of ISIS and threaten to break Iraq apart.

The Iraq war was a disaster for this country. The families of Americans who gave their lives or were grievously injured will suffer the consequences for many years to come. It caused lasting damage to our national reputation and to the image and readiness of our armed forces. Yet I worry that other than trying to avoid another costly de-

ployment of U.S. ground troops, we have learned little from that fiasco. The Middle East is no place to intervene militarily without a thorough understanding of the history and the centuries-old tribal, religious, and ethnic rivalries that have far more relevance than anything we might think we can achieve.

Does that mean there is no role for the United States in that part of the world? Of course not. But rather than set goals that may or may not be realistic but will almost certainly have profound and potentially dangerous unintended and unanticipated consequences, let's have a real debate that thoroughly considers all the options, all the costs, all the pros and cons. This is far too important a decision to be dealt with in such a cursory manner.

So I will vote no, with the hope that in November or December we will revisit this issue and have the real debate we are avoiding today.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MR. RUBIO. Mr. President, I know that the hour is late and that my colleague from Oklahoma wishes to speak as well. I know Senators are eager to vote. I will not be long, but I will try to be concise in what I am about to say.

I came to the Senate primarily motivated by many different things, but one of the things that truly motivated me was the fiscal state of our country, the fear that our current spending patterns are not just unsustainable but threaten our future and impede our ability to achieve what I believe is our destiny—another American century.

That is why each time I have been here and I have had an opportunity placed before me to vote on a short-term spending matter, I have voted against it—because I felt they ignored our long-term problems of spending in this country and did not deal with them in a responsible way.

Once again, today we are confronted with a short-term spending bill that we are asked to approve; otherwise, the government will shut down and the world will stop spinning. But today's question is a little different from the ones that have been posed to us in the past. The one before us today has deeply imbedded in it an issue of national security.

For the better part of 3 years, I have argued that what is happening in Syria is in our national interest. Many, quite frankly, in my own party but also in the White House disagreed with my view. They felt that it was a regional conflict or one that could be handled by leading from behind. So from that time until today we have largely watched as events have unfolded in Syria without carefully explaining to the American people why we should care.

But I believed then—and I think I have been proven right by recent events—that what happened in Syria and what was happening in Syria was in our national interests because if we failed to influence the direction of that situation, it would leave open a space for radical jihadists from all over the world to establish an operation space from which they could carry out their plots not just against us but all free and freedom-loving people and peace-loving people in the world.

Sadly, that is what has happened in Syria. A protracted conflict has left open spaces, and foreign radical jihadists from everywhere on this planet have flowed to the deserts of Syria, where they set up organizations not just designed to topple Assad but to establish an Islamic caliphate that oversees multiple countries in the Middle East and ultimately will target us. I say "target us" because that caliphate cannot exist unless they drive America from the region. The way they intend to drive us from that region is by terrorizing us. Those efforts began recently when we saw the brutal murder of two brave young Americans—including one from my home State—for doing nothing other than being present and being from America.

Now we find ourselves in this situation. I feel the President and, as I said, people in both parties have taken too long to realize what a threat this is. I recognize that the options before us now are not as good as they would have been had we dealt with this 2 years ago, 3 years ago, or even 6 or 9 months ago. We have plenty of time in the weeks and months and years to come to debate what should have been done. I anticipate I will be involved in that debate because there are lessons to be learned from that. But today, as leaders of this country, we are called on to decide what we do now. What do we do now when confronted with a very real threat that, left unaddressed, will become a very real danger for the people we represent here in this country?

The President has come forward with a plan—a plan that I wish he had come forward with 6 months ago, that I called for 3 months ago. But I suppose, as in most things, better late than never. Even if late means our chances of success have been minimized, even if it will cost more money, and even if it will now take longer, better late than never.

That is the question before us now. I wish we had a separate debate on this issue. I wish we had a separate debate on this issue with regard to arming moderate rebel elements in Syria because there are real reasons to be concerned not just about whom we are arming but whether it will work.

I wish we had more time to debate the broader plan and come before this body and ask for an authorization for the use of force, although I think there

is a compelling argument to be made that for immediate action, the President, as the Commander in Chief, does not need that authorization. We were not given that opportunity. What they are cheating is not just the political process, for in that debate we would have been able to inform the American people so they too would have learned more about this, but as a nation we could have come to a consensus about what the right thing to do is. But in the end, that is not the opportunity before us now. We are asked to decide things in this Chamber that are in the best interests of our country even if they did not work out the way we wanted them to or did not develop the way we wanted them to. That is what is before us here today.

I say this to you without a shadow of a doubt, as I said weeks ago: If we do not confront and defeat ISIL now, we will have to do so later. It will take a lot longer. It will be much costlier and even more painful. We will confront ISIL one way or the other—I believe the sooner, the better.

What we are asked to do now is approve funding to arm moderate rebel elements in Syria. There is no guarantee of success. There is none. But there is a guarantee of failure if we do not even try. Try we must for one fundamental reason: If we fail to approve this, the nations of that region will say that America is not truly engaged, that Americans are willing to talk about this but are not willing to do anything about it.

So despite my concerns about the underlying bill and the budgeting it entails, I will support this resolution because I think it is in the best interests of our national security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for the minority has expired.

Mr. COBURN. I have an inquiry of the Chair. It was my understanding that I had 4 minutes remaining on our side and that Senator RUBIO had time granted to him by the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Is that not correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is unaware of that arrangement.

Mr. COBURN. What I would simply do is ask unanimous consent that I have 7 minutes to make a statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI. If the Senator can stick to 7 minutes, we have no objection.

Mr. COBURN. I can stick to 7 minutes. I will hear the gavel come down and I will quit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the motion of the Senator from Oklahoma is accepted and the Senator is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. First, I give praise to the chair and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for the

cooperative nature of the committee this year in terms of inserting good government amendments into appropriations bills. It was a real pleasure to be able to work with them and to put some of the oversight results that we have done over the past few years into appropriations bills.

The bill we have on the floor, even though the chair is supporting the bill, is not her bill. It is a bill that came to her from House Republicans. So any criticism I might have of the bill is certainly not directed toward the chair of the Appropriations Committee. But it is important to be reminded of what the Congress told the American people less than 2 years ago, that we were going to go on a diet, and then 1 year ago when we had the Ryan-Murray agreement.

I will outline where we are with what we are getting ready to vote on, because we are about \$47 billion above what we agreed to in the Ryan-Murray budget, and that doesn't include emergency funding.

Appropriators didn't write this bill. This bill came out of the House. We understand the timing of it, we understand the process. But this bill doesn't keep our word to the American public that we said we were going to keep. That is No. 1.

No. 2 is the chair of the Appropriations Committee attempted to put bills on the floor, and she was open to an amendment process. One bill was pulled because there was no agreement to allow any amendments to \$3.6 trillion worth of spending—none, zero. That wasn't her desire. She is a fair broker in this body for what needs to be done when it comes to spending.

So I would make the point on the fiscal aspect of this bill.

When criminals in this country hurt other people, judges throughout the country—and Federal judges—impose a penalty, and criminals who are convicted end up paying into a Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund isn't Federal tax dollars, it is individual payments by felons to make amends for damage and injury to people upon whom their crime was cast.

In this bill is \$20 billion worth of false savings, but the way we calculate it is since we are not going to spend the money that is due to the crime victims, we are going to say that is going to save us money and, so, therefore, we can spend that money somewhere else.

If you did that on your income taxes or if you were a corporation and filed that with the SEC, it wouldn't take long for you to be in jail. But that is what the appropriators in the House did and we just got through doing this last December, the same amount of money on the same fund.

What I want the American people to see is regardless of whether you think we ought to pass this bill, shouldn't there be some clarity about the integ-

rity of our numbers? Shouldn't we, if we can't meet the guidelines, just admit it and say we can't meet it rather than saying we are meeting it and create a false set of numbers? Shouldn't we at least do that? Aren't the American people worth that?

But instead, we have \$11.8 billion from the Crime Victims Fund and \$6.3 billion from the Children's Health Fund, which are false savings. They are not real savings.

So we are not going to be honest.

Well, I am going to be honest. The American public, the Senate, and the authors of this bill in the House will be lying to you if you believe the numbers in this bill. They are not true.

That is not the chair of the Appropriations Committee who made that decision, it was the House appropriators who made that decision to use false numbers to create a false set of achievements.

Finally, and I think I am about out of time, I would say there is one other aspect that disturbs me about this bill.

We have a mess in the Middle East today. Sitting on the Intelligence Committee and sitting on Homeland Security, I don't disagree we ought to be involved in terms of going after ISIS, but I think we ought to recognize that we created the problem in the first place. We created the vacuum that allowed that to flourish.

I will state my assessment of where we are. We now have recognized this threat and we have a political plan but no real policy plan to confront ISIS.

Having just heard from both the head of the CIA and also the Defense Department in response to the President's plan, what I can tell you is we know that something needs to be done, but your government doesn't yet know what to do.

I know there is authorization for monies in here. We need it. We are going to have to fight it. But let's be very clear, as Members of this body, to ask the important questions so that we don't go down a road that is made even worse. We have the brain power in the Senate, the experience, and the gray hair to do that.

I ask my colleagues to be very careful—not with this; this is going to happen. This CR is going to happen. It is a terrible way to run the government. The appropriations chair doesn't want to run it this way, but let's be very careful on the questions we ask in the future.

I thank the chair of the Appropriations Committee for her kindness in yielding me the time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I hope to say a few words to the Senator from Oklahoma before he leaves the floor. We are in the closing hours of not only this debate

but of this session of Congress. I say to the Senator from Oklahoma on the brink of his retirement from the Senate how much I have enjoyed serving with him. Although we have different views from time to time, he has played a very important role in this institution relating in terms of focusing on so many aspects of folly, fraud, stupidity, and duplication. I could go on.

I thank you. I know how we joined shoulder to shoulder on no more lavish spending at some of those conferences where it was \$4 for a Swedish meatball. But seriously, as we worked on this year's appropriations, he and I actually met on how we could improve government and keep a careful eye, with some of us saying just get rid of some of the things that cost money and add no value to the government or its compelling needs.

I thank the Senator for his service in the Senate.

Also, hopefully, when we return, we can work on an omnibus to incorporate the very reforms around waste, duplication, and folly that we worked together on on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. COBURN. I thank my colleague.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we are in the closing hours of debate. There are two other Senators who will be coming to speak. I hope they will be here sooner. There is a lot going on, and I want to encourage colleagues, as we get ready, to urge a vote on passage of the continuing resolution.

This measure will keep government going through December 11. But make no mistake, this is government on auto pilot.

I hope to be back in December, shoulder to shoulder with Senator SHELBY, where we will work on a comprehensive funding legislation—in other words, an omnibus.

This is Washington speak. I mean, really, we use words nobody understands: continuing resolutions, omnibus, motions to proceed. But in plain English, it would mean taking all 12 subcommittees that are in charge of funding the government through due diligence and putting together a comprehensive funding bill that can be debated, scrutinized, debated, and voted on.

We have done our work over the year. I am very proud of my subcommittee chairmen, the ranking members who have worked on a bipartisan basis, and their staffs. We can do an omnibus when we come back that will enable us to make the choices we need to do, meet our national security needs, the compelling human needs of the country, and make sure we have an opportunity ladder for our people who are middle class to stay there or those who want to work hard to do better to be able to get there, and to also make those investments in innovation, research, and development that create the new ideas for the new jobs that keep us as an exceptional Nation.

I do hope we get final passage. I do hope also when we return after the election, we can do this comprehensive funding bill.

Again, I thank Senator SHELBY of Alabama and all of the other members of the Appropriations Committee who worked so hard with the ranking members. We had a series of debates and votes. We worked very hard. Yet I wish people would come to our committees, as they were categorized by civility, intellectual rigor, and scrutiny of IG and GAO reports. We worked very hard to accomplish the mission of these agencies to keep our government strong and to get value for the taxpayer.

Again, thanks to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, led by Senator SHELBY of Alabama.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. LEAHY. I see my good friend, the senior Senator from Texas, on the floor, and I am about to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323.

Before I do, Senator CORNYN has been very interested in this. This is the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act. I have been working with Debbie Smith since her bill was first introduced in 2001. He is probably one of the few Senators who was here with me at that time when I first supported it. It is to improve access to rape kits, testing, and services for survivors of sexual assault.

Senator CORNYN has been a strong supporter. I know he also supports the Justice for All Act as well, something he cosponsored, and the distinguished Republican leader has.

I would like to get them all passed. I realize one Republican—not the Senator from Texas—is objecting to passing the Justice for All Act, and I don't want to pit one against the other.

Because at least this one expires this month, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4323) to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Simply reserving the right to object, and obviously I am not going to object, I am very happy we could reauthorize this important piece of legislation. I have had an opportunity to get to know Debbie Smith pretty well, as Senator CORNYN and Senator LEAHY have. We have met on several occasions.

The bill passed the House of Representatives a few months ago on a voice vote. We tried to clear it when it came over here. Unfortunately, there was an objection on the other side of the aisle. But I am glad we are where we are and that the bill will be reauthorized.

It is certainly fitting for Congress to pass this bill that is named for such a tireless advocate for those who suffered this terrible abuse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I won't object, let me use this occasion to say to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee how much I appreciate his leadership and cooperation.

Obviously, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator LEAHY, and I are all cosponsors of the bigger piece of legislation, the Justice for All Act. I share Senator LEAHY's desire—I am sure shared by the Republican leader—that we pass that today. But since we can't do that, and since we are engaged in the art of the possible, this is a good outcome—not just for Debbie Smith, who, as we have all heard, has been a tireless advocate for testing this backlog of rape kits, which holds extraordinary power to both identify the perpetrators in sexual assaults and exonerate people who are not implicated by a DNA test, but as we know, we have had a huge backlog, and the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act renewal is bipartisan legislation that will provide funds for law enforcement officials to deal with the national scandal, which the rape kit backlog is.

Amidst the frustration we all experience in the Senate from time to time, this is good news and this represents progress.

So I will agree with the unanimous consent request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Reserving the right to object—and obviously I too won't—on behalf of all the women of the Senate, I thank Senator LEAHY for his consistent, persistent leadership on this issue, and Senator CORNYN.

This is how the Senate ought to work—on a bipartisanship basis, meeting a compelling need, and then being able to move it in an expeditious way.

But for rape victims everywhere to know that we can deal with this backlog and because good men stood up for women who have been wronged really is one of the edifying moments of today.

I thank the Senators for it and withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, the request is agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4323) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I will continue to work with the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the Justice for All Act. Ninety-nine Senators agree to pass it and only 1 is objecting. It requires a rollcall vote when we come back in November. I hope we can have that rollcall vote perhaps in a timely rotation. And with 99 Senators who say they support it, the 1 Senator who has been blocking it can vote against it. But those of us who have been in law enforcement know how important it is.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015—Continued

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 3½ minutes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. In the spirit of moving the bill forward, I yield back all remaining time.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 3852.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Cochran	Graham
Ayotte	Collins	Grassley
Barrasso	Corker	Hagan
Blunt	Cornyn	Hatch
Boozman	Crapo	Heller
Burr	Cruz	Hoeven
Chambliss	Enzi	Inhofe
Coats	Fischer	Isakson
Coburn	Flake	Johanns

Johnson (WI)	Murkowski
Kirk	Paul
Landrieu	Portman
Lee	Pryor
Manchin	Risch
McCain	Roberts
McConnell	Rubio
Moran	Scott

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Levin	Udall (CO)
Casey	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskey	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, on the remaining three votes, I ask unanimous consent that they be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., John E. Walsh, Mazie Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Heidi Heitkamp, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Carl Levin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Ayotte	Boozman	Casey
Bennet	Boxer	Chambliss
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coats
Blunt	Cardin	Cochran
Booker	Carper	Coons

Cornyn	King	Rockefeller
Donnelly	Kirk	Rubio
Durbin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Feinstein	Landrieu	Schatz
Flake	Leahy	Schumer
Franken	Levin	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Markey	Shelby
Graham	McCain	Stabenow
Hagan	McCaskey	Tester
Harkin	McConnell	Thune
Hatch	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Heinrich	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Vitter
Hirono	Murkowski	Walsh
Hoeven	Murray	Warner
Isakson	Nelson	Whitehouse
Johanns	Portman	Wicker
Johnson (SD)	Pryor	Wyden
Johnson (WI)	Reed	
Kaine	Reid	

NAYS—27

Alexander	Crapo	Moran
Baldwin	Cruz	Murphy
Barrasso	Enzi	Paul
Begich	Fischer	Risch
Brown	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Manchin	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 27. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back and the pending amendments are withdrawn.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Franken	Merkley
Ayotte	Graham	Mikulski
Bennet	Grassley	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Hagan	Murray
Blunt	Harkin	Nelson
Booker	Hatch	Portman
Boozman	Heinrich	Pryor
Boxer	Heitkamp	Reed
Burr	Hirono	Reid
Cantwell	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cardin	Inhofe	Rubio
Carper	Isakson	Schatz
Casey	Johanns	Schumer
Chambliss	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Cochran	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	King	Stabenow
Coons	Kirk	Tester
Corker	Klobuchar	Thune
Cornyn	Landrieu	Toomey
Donnelly	Levin	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCain	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	McCaskey	
Fischer	McConnell	
Flake	Menendez	

Vitter
Walsh

Warner
Whitehouse

Wicker
Wyden

NAYS—22

Baldwin
Barrasso
Begich
Brown
Coburn
Crapo
Cruz
Enzi

Gillibrand
Heller
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
Markey
Moran
Murphy

Paul
Risch
Roberts
Sanders
Sessions
Warren

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 124) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK WILLIAM LIPPERT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NOMINATION OF ADAM M. SCHEINMAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF KEVIN F. O'MALLEY TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND

NOMINATION OF BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS)

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH SHERWOOD-RANDALL TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY

NOMINATION OF ROBERT W. HOLLEYMAN II TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF ERIC ROSENBACH TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

NOMINATION OF D. NATHAN SHEETS TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF CHARLES H. FULGHUM TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF ALFONSO E. LENHARDT TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea; Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador; Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland; Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs); Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy; Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador; Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury; Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. REID. On these nominations, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Calendar consent agreed to Wednesday, September 17, 2014, be modified to include Executive Calendar No. 1053 following Executive Calendar No. 925, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, including yielding back time for debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS FRIEDEN TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

VOTE ON LIPPERT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCHEINMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON O'MALLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CROCKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs)?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHERWOOD-RANDALL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HOLLEYMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROSENBACH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHEETS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON FULGHUM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LENHARDT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON FRIEDEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be notified of the action of the Senate.

NOMINATION OF LIZ SHERWOOD-RANDALL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, whose nomination to be Deputy Secretary at the Department of Energy was confirmed today.

Throughout her career, Dr. Sherwood-Randall has been an exemplary public servant and academic. She has mastered the domain of nuclear issues, arms control, European affairs and has served her country at the highest of levels. I am confident she will continue her impressive record of service and will be an excellent Deputy Secretary of Energy.

At the outset of her career she was a foreign policy advisor to then-Senator JOE BIDEN.

In the Clinton administration she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia.

In the Obama administration she was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council and later White House Coordinator for Defense Policy, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Arms Control.

When not serving in government, she held a variety of academic roles affiliated with Harvard and Stanford Universities and the Council on Foreign Relations.

The mission of the Energy Department is "to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions."

As the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Energy and Water Development, I know the complexities of the issues facing the new Deputy Secretary. I also know that it will be invaluable to the Energy Department to have a well-rounded leadership team.

The current Secretary of Energy is well-steeped in energy issues. Dr. Sherwood-Randall brings expertise in the national security realm, which is becoming more and more important and related to energy issues. This leadership model has been proven to work and I trust this combination of skills will result in smart energy policy and strong management.

For example, a key part of the Department's mission—and one which is a

high priority for me—is the responsibility to secure and dispose of nuclear and radiological material. For this, I am encouraged by Dr. Sherwood-Randall's long history of experience working on non-proliferation issues.

It remains a priority of mine to enact a national policy to store our nuclear waste. Nuclear waste is piling up all around the country and we are losing millions of dollars every year in the absence of a coherent policy. This is why I have introduced, and will continue to push, legislation which establishes an interim national policy to safely store our nuclear waste.

It should be obvious that this is precisely the type of issue that Dr. Sherwood-Randall will be adept at navigating, and I look forward to working with her on this and many other issues.

In sum, the nominee before us today is a skilled policy advisor, an accomplished academic and a dedicated American public servant.

It is with great pleasure that I support her nomination today and I thank my colleagues for their vote to confirm her.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA SCOTT POINDEXTER

Mr. CHAMBLISS. It is with great pride and a touch of sadness that I stand here today to pay a special tribute to Martha Scott Poindexter, my dear friend and trusted confidant. Martha Scott is leaving the staff of the Senate after a long and distinguished career in public service.

Martha Scott has dedicated most of her professional life to the Congress, serving over 20 years in both the House of Representatives as well as the Senate. She was with me in my first agricultural hearing in the House, and as I prepare to retire from the Senate this year, she was with me today in one of my last hearings as the vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

I owe much of my success as a legislator to Martha Scott. She has served as my legislative assistant in the House, legislative director when I first entered the Senate, and later as my staff director for both the agriculture and intelligence committees.

It is no exaggeration to say that Martha Scott is one of the brightest, most talented, and well-connected indi-

viduals on Capitol Hill. She is a natural leader and manager who exemplifies a tremendous character and dedication that traditionally defines the term a public servant.

Martha Scott is an enthusiastic team player with a special talent for finding solutions to complex problems and rallying support behind her. Those are enormously helpful traits on the Hill, especially in recent years when it seems as though finding solutions has taken a back seat to partisanship.

But those are not the characteristics that define Martha Scott. Rather, those who work with her and who have known her professionally and personally are most often struck by her tremendous heart and kindness. Her infectious laugh always brings a smile to the faces of friends nearby. This place just won't be the same without it.

Above all, she is a good person, loyal to the core, and committed to always doing what is right. All she asks in return is that people say her first name correctly, Martha Scott. It is not Martha. We Southerners can be very particular that way, and we like double names.

What began in the junior position in the office of Senator COCHRAN nearly 24 years ago blossomed into a distinguished public service career that is nearly unmatched by our peers. Martha Scott has seen and been involved in so many historic events and helped author legislation that has touched and impacted the lives of all our citizens, but don't expect Martha Scott to tell anybody that. That is just not her style.

Whether it is her work on the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Agriculture, the Select Committee on Intelligence, or as a member of my personal legislative staff, Martha Scott has selflessly committed herself to the people we represent, whether it is the cotton farmer from the Mississippi Delta, the soldier in Afghanistan, or the thousands of intelligence professionals who serve our country every day.

Martha Scott has always kept our Nation's best interests at heart.

Finding a natural love of politics and policy drove Martha Scott to be a key player in the legislative process that touched every farm bill for the last 25 years, as well as the recent controversial debates on cyber security and intelligence collection.

My colleagues and I trust Martha Scott's judgment impeccably. Her exceptional performance has earned our respect and admiration, and it has inspired a generation of staff members who have had the privilege to work with her and learn from her. Her legacy will remain a part of the Senate for many years to come.

Martha Scott has a profound commitment to family and her roots in the delta define her. Growing up on the

family farm provided a strong foundation and work ethic that one only gets in rural Mississippi.

Guided by her loving parents and the constant support of her sisters, Martha Scott has not only won the admiration of those for whom she has worked, but for those who have worked for her.

To her husband, Robert, we thank you for allowing us to take up so much of her time, especially in this very special year. My colleagues and I owe a deep debt of gratitude to each and every member of Martha Scott's family.

Martha Scott has been a part of my staff for 20 years, which means she has been a part of my family for 20 years. She has watched my children mature and my grandchildren grow up, and they have all come to know and love her. She has been an inspiration to so many people, but most importantly she has been an inspiration to me. While everybody is going to miss her, I am the one who is going to miss her the most.

So Martha Scott, to you we say: Congratulations on a life after the Senate. Just know how much, No. 1, we are going to miss you, but secondly and most importantly, your country is going to miss you. We appreciate your tremendous commitment and service to our country.

God bless you and God bless your family.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, as we finished the last series of votes we were talking about the range of difficult issues we face in this Congress and also in our country—a series of issues including what to do about ISIS and how to confront this latest threat, whether or not to provide aid to the moderate rebels in Syria and what form should that aid take, continued concerns that flow from Ukraine, and the areas there along the border with Russia, cyber attacks, data breaches, Ebola outbreaks, folks trying to get into our country from all different directions, especially from Central America. These are hard issues to deal with. Try though we may, it is hard to fix them.

As my colleague who serves with us on homeland security knows, it is a busy neighborhood where we have jurisdiction. It is not that the problems are intractable. They are just hard issues, and some of them may take years to fully resolve.

But I might say as well, the economic recovery has continued now for 5 years and it has been stop and go. Every now and then we have some great encouraging news, and sometimes it is less so. But today we have encouraging news.

I wish to talk a little bit about this as we talk about the economy and lead

into a discussion of where the postal system of our country actually has played a role in strengthening our economic recovery.

Every Thursday, as my colleague knows, the Department of Labor puts out information. Among the things they promulgate on Thursdays is how many people filed for unemployment insurance in the last week. They do this every Thursday, except maybe on Thanksgiving or maybe on a Christmas.

On the Thursday of the week that Barack Obama and JOE BIDEN were sworn in as President and Vice President, they put out a number that said 628,000 people filed for unemployment insurance. Any time that number is above 400,000 people, we are losing jobs in this country, and any time it is under 400,000 people, we are adding jobs in this country. It was 628,000 that week 5½ years ago.

Slowly but surely, that number has dropped and has continued to drop. It bounces up and down a little bit. Since it may go up and down from week to week, we do a 4-week running average and that kind of balances out the blips.

Well, the number has dropped from 628,000 people 5½ years ago to 400,000 people and to 300,000 people. We got the new report today from the Department of Labor, and 280,000 people filed last week for unemployment insurance.

Why should we feel so good about that? Because that number is the lowest we have been below 400,000 since the year the recession actually began—certainly in the last 5½ years. That would suggest as kind of a forerunner what will come in for the job numbers for the month of September, which we will get at the beginning of October. I am encouraged by that.

There are a number of things we can do and ought to do to continue to strengthen the economic recovery. I won't go into all those, but one I want to mention deals with the U.S. Postal Service. Not everybody says the Postal Service has much to do with the economy, but it does. There are about 7 million or 8 million jobs in the United States that depend to one extent or the other on having an efficient, vibrant Postal Service.

For a number of years, the Postal Service has been struggling in some cases to survive. The Postal Service has cut, cut, cut in order to try to right-size their enterprise. In the last 10 or so years they have reduced their headcount from almost 900,000 to about 500,000—so almost in half. They have reduced the number of processing centers across the country from about 600 or 700 mail processing centers to actually less than half that, a little over 300. We have close to 35,000 to 40,000 post offices across the country, and over 10,000 of those today—they haven't really closed post offices, but what they did is a bunch of offices that

didn't do much business, those post offices are still open in many cases, but they are open 2 hours, 4 hours, 6 hours a day rather than 8 hours a day with a fully paid postmaster. So they have found a way to not close a lot of post offices but to reduce their costs there, and they are still struggling. Every 3 months they put out their financial reports, and the financial reports indicate they are either losing money or may be close to breaking even.

As the Presiding Officer knows, this is an issue I think about a whole lot. He does, too. The Senator from Alaska cares a lot about the needs of the Postal Service. The need for a strong and vibrant Postal Service in Alaska is probably greater than in any State in the country. He has done a great job, along with his colleague from Alaska, to try to make sure that we are mindful in the Senate of the importance of the Postal Service to Alaska.

I have a glass of water here which one of our pages was good enough to bring to me. Look at this glass of water. It is not really clear. Is this glass half full or half empty? Most people thinking about the Postal Service in the last several years would say this glass of water is half empty. As time goes by, I am starting to think maybe that is the wrong approach, that is the wrong opinion. I think this glass of water might actually be half full. The more I learn about the Postal Service's operations and the opportunities they face, I am even more convinced the opportunity here is a glass-half-full situation.

We have had over the years probably a dozen or more hearings in the Senate on the Postal Service. The real challenge is: How do we take a 200-plus-year-old legacy organization, legacy distribution network that takes the Postal Service to every mailbox in the country 5 or 6 days a week? How do we take that legacy distribution network and enable the Postal Service, empower the Postal Service to make money and be profitable in the 21st century?

As we know, we don't communicate like we used to in this country. We have the Internet, we have Skype, we have Twitter, we have cell phones. There are a lot of different ways to communicate that we didn't have even 12 or 15 years ago. Folks used to send birthday cards, Christmas cards, that sort of thing. Now they send email cards, if they send anything at all. People used to write letters and notes. My parents during World War II wrote to each other almost every day. Folks in Afghanistan have email, they have Skype, and they have cell phones. They still send some mail, but it is not like it used to be. A lot of businesses that used the mail to do billings for people to send in remittances don't do that anymore.

First-class mail in this country is where the Postal Service has made

their money for many years. That is where the most profitable source of income is—first-class mail. Since the great recession started in 2007, we have seen first-class mail drop by almost half, and that has caused huge problems for the Postal Service going forward.

While the Internet and the digital age has taken away a lot of the Postal Service's business, as it has turned out, it has also given them some pretty good opportunities. As we know, not everybody goes to a department store these days to buy things, to a hardware store or to a bookstore. Not every day, but a lot of times we will buy things over the Internet. Those items, whether gifts or things we might want for ourselves, they have somehow to get from the manufacturer's or retailer's distribution center to the customer. Somebody has to deliver it. As it turns out, that somebody could be FedEx, it could be UPS or in many cases it could be the Postal Service.

So I wish to take a few minutes and speak this evening about how I really do think the Postal Service could be a glass-half-full situation. Part of our responsibility here in the Senate is to make sure they are able to seize this opportunity and not let it pass by.

The Postal Service has been calling for us to do a number of things to help them—not to give them money but to do a number of things to help them. I will mention a few of them.

The Postal Service has overpaid by \$2.5 billion what they owe into the Federal Employee Retirement System. Given the formula used, which is not taking into account that postal employees are older and die sooner than other Federal employees, the Postal Service is going to continue to overpay monies. So they are owed a \$2.5 billion refund, and if we don't do something, they are going to continue to overpay. We should first get them the \$2.5 billion refund. The second thing we should do is change the formula so it reflects the demographics of the Postal Service versus the rest of the Federal workforce.

Among the other things we ought to do is to integrate, if you will, Medicare—better integrate Medicare with the cost of health care for postal employees.

My wife turned 65 early this summer. When she did, the company where she worked for 27 years, DuPont, mailed her something and said: We still love you. You are retired, you are 65, and we want you to sign up for Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, and Medicare Part D. We will in turn provide wrap-around or fill-the-gap health care coverage for you. They do that for all the retirees when they reach 65. And it is not just DuPont. It is thousands of companies all over the country. When their retirees reach the age of 65, for the most part they say to the retirees: You are

eligible for Medicare Part A, Part B, Part D. We want you to sign up, and we will provide wrap-around coverage for you.

FedEx, I believe, does that. UPS, I believe, does that. The Postal Service—which competes in the same business as both FedEx, UPS, and some of these other companies—doesn't do that. As it turns out, the Postal Service pays more money into Medicare than any employer in the country. They do not get the full value for the dollars they have invested.

One of the things the Postal Service has asked us to do as simply a matter of equity is to allow them to do what so many other companies do, including some of the companies they compete directly with—FedEx and UPS. We ought to do that. That is one of the things they are asking us to do.

Another thing, under the current law, from time to time, if there is something that happens in the economy or there is a disaster and the Postal Service needs to raise rates on kind of an emergency basis, called an exigent basis, they can apply to the Postal Regulatory Commission and ask to do that. The Postal Regulatory Commission can say yes or they can say no.

Last year, the Postal Service went to the Postal Regulatory Commission and said: We suffered terribly because of the loss of first-class mail that flowed from the worst recession since the Great Depression. We would like to have something above and beyond a CPI increase, a cost of living increase, for our rates. What did the Postal Regulatory Commission do? They agreed to raise the rates and let the post office raise the rates.

So what did the Postal Regulatory Commission do? They agreed to let the Postal Service raise the rates, which works out to a 4.3-percent increase. It is not permanent, but it is for a period of maybe a year. The Postal Service is asking us to make that 4.3-percent increase their new permanent revenue baseline.

What does that mean for mailers if we make it permanent? For folks who are nonprofit—we always get mail from nonprofit organizations. That is part of the way they provide services to all kinds of folks. But the cost of a nonprofit letter under this action—the 4.3-percent increase—has gone up from 10 cents a letter to 11 cents. It has gone up by one penny. I believe the cost of mailing a magazine has also gone up by one or two pennies, from approximately 25 to 27 cents. The cost of mailing a catalog has gone up by one or two cents, from approximately 45 cents to 47 cents, and that is with the 4.3-percent increase.

The Postal Service has said to the Congress: Allow that temporary 4.3-percent increase to remain and to become part of our revenue baseline.

I think we should do that. I know a number of my colleagues do as well.

That is one of the things they are asking us to do. Among the other things they are asking us to do is they want to actually deliver items they haven't been able to deliver before, including wine, beer, and spirits. FedEx and UPS can do that, and postal services in many other countries can do that. Our Postal Service cannot do that. It is not to balance their budget for them, but it would make a big difference. I believe it could be worth a couple million dollars a year in profitability. That is something they would like to be able to do.

FedEx is not interested in being Google or Apple or any company like that—part of the digital economy—but there are a couple things they can do and would like to do that would work into the digital economy. They are not big deals, but they make sense with respect to the Postal Service and their capabilities and would actually enable them over time to make some revenues as well.

The Postal Service delivers ballots, initially in Oregon, later in Washington State, and this year in Colorado. People can file their vote—get absentee ballots and vote by mail in Oregon. They do it in Washington State. This year they are starting to do it in Colorado.

What we have learned from experience is that folks who vote by mail vote more often, more frequently, and what we hear from States that do this is that it is actually a cost-effective way to run elections. The Postal Service would like to do more of that, and we should encourage that as well.

Another area where the Postal Service might have some opportunities is they would like to collocate more operations with State and local governments in small communities where they have space at the post office and get State and local folks to locate some activities there.

One great idea they had in some of the bigger, more densely populated places around the country is that the Postal Service has opened up large facilities—not like a regular post office—where people can go get passports. There is a facility on the outskirts of L.A. where over the course of the day hundreds—maybe even 1,000 people or more—can come and get their passports. It is a service that is provided. The Postal Service makes some revenue from doing that.

If we ever pass comprehensive immigration reform and we have 10 million or so people in this country who are here undocumented—and immigration reform doesn't give them the right to citizenship, it doesn't make them a citizen, but I think if the Senate passed an immigration reform bill, it would offer an opportunity for people to have some kind of legal status. How are they going to get that? Where are they going to get that?

If we passed immigration reform, there would be an opportunity for the Postal Service, which is in every community in our Nation and which already does a passport business for a lot of people, to help meet that need, and my hope is they will have that opportunity.

Those are some things they are asking us to do. In short, what they are asking us to do is to give them the ability to generate revenues and to be able to meet their capital needs.

The Postal Service needs to be capitalized. They need new vehicles. They have 190,000 vehicles.

We have this chart. This is 2014, and down here is about 10 years down the road. What we are looking for is to provide money over this 10-year period of time. The Postal Service is saying they need about \$30 billion to recapitalize the Postal Service to make them competitive. One of the ways to make them competitive is with respect to vehicles. They have 190,000 vehicles. The average age is 22 years.

I have a 13-year-old Chrysler Town and Country minivan. Yesterday I drove it down here from Wilmington, DE. I usually take the train. The train was down 2 days ago. I drove home last night, and it just went over 377,000 miles. Most Postal Service vehicles are not 13 years old like my minivan; they are almost twice as old and easily have twice as much mileage as my minivan. My wife thinks I ought to trade in my minivan, and some day I will.

We should give the Postal Service the wherewithal to trade up—not just to get new, more energy-efficient vehicles that may have twice the fuel economy and reduce emissions but also vehicles that are sized for the products the Postal Service is delivering. In this digital economy, it is an opportunity for the Postal Service to deliver a lot more packages and parcels of all kinds. They are delivering groceries in a number of places around the country, and they need vehicles that are sized differently and that are more ergonomically appropriate for the folks who are driving the vehicles.

There is new technology. Anybody buying a new car lately knows the technologies that are in vehicles. It is amazing what we can do. I wouldn't know that, given the age of my vehicle, but my friends tell me about the amazing things they can do with theirs. When you have a vehicle that is 22 years old, there are not many gee-whiz technology items on those vehicles, but there could be. As an example, let's say my desk here defines a rural area for delivery for a letter carrier someplace around the country. It could be Alaska; it could be Delaware. As the rural letter carrier covers this area, the technology is available so that the residents somewhere along there could pick up a package here or leave a package at the general store. They could

communicate with their customers in any number of ways and provide better customer service.

Additionally, when you walk into a post office these days, for the most part they look similar today to what they did 5, 10, 15, 20 years ago almost without exception. There are so many things we can do in terms of technology to provide better services at post offices that we are not doing.

We can provide better, more efficient services and friendlier services as well. We have 25 mail-processing centers in the country. I visited one of them with Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP in North Dakota about 3 or 4 months ago. We visited this small mail-processing center in her beautiful State. We went into the back operating area of the mail-processing center, and there was a fellow there who was about 50 years old. He was lugging around these big boxes that somebody was mailing. He was carrying them around and trying to get them over to a barcode reader, and he was putting them in a huge pouch so they could be mailed.

There is equipment that could readily process big boxes like that, smaller packages, and parcels. We don't have equipment like that in most of our mail-processing centers. If we did, we could offer better, faster, timelier, more cost-effective service.

So if we were to capitalize the Postal Service, among the things the Postal Service could do if they had \$30 billion over the next 10 years is replace their fleet of 190,000 vehicles with more energy-efficient vehicles that are appropriately sized for the kinds of packages they deliver. The approximately 300 mail-processing centers could be retooled with mail-processing equipment that actually reflects what the mail service delivers in the 21st century. The post offices themselves could have the kinds of upgrades and technology investments that would enable better service as well. That is what the Postal Service could do if they had the money.

Sometimes when people think of the Postal Service they think the Postal Service is not really innovative; they don't come up with a bunch of ideas. It turns out that they are even more innovative than I and a lot of other people thought they were.

I want to mention a couple of things they have begun doing that I think are noteworthy. They ought to be able to do more. If they could, they actually could make money and have the money to make capital investments and not be a burden to taxpayers of this country.

This morning in San Francisco, CA, at around 3 a.m., in 32 ZIP Codes, the U.S. Postal Service delivered groceries to people. They delivered them to homes, in some cases to businesses, to apartments, to high-rises. They delivered groceries. They also delivered the mail later in the day, but from 3 a.m.

to 7 a.m. the Postal Service in 32 ZIP Codes delivered groceries. They have been doing it for over a month, and I understand they are doing it for Amazon. I understand Amazon is pleased and the Postal Service is pleased with it. Amazon customers like it, and the Postal Service can do this and make money. They are not doing anything else with the trucks from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., and it just works. It just works.

The Postal Service is doing this for Amazon, but they are reaching out to 100 grocery chains across the country and saying: This is what we do for Amazon in San Francisco. How would you like us to do this for you?

My guess is this will turn into a good piece of business, but they need the vehicles to enable them to do this, and they need money for capital investment.

Some people think the only thing the Postal Service has done creatively in years is flat-rate boxes. You know, if it fits, it ships. It is a great product. It is still growing. It has grown by around 4 or 5 percent a year. But there are a bunch of other things they can do and want to do. They need money for capital investment.

About a year ago they started delivering for Amazon—not everywhere but in a couple hundred ZIP Codes—on Sundays. It worked pretty well. And this past Sunday they delivered packages and parcels through Amazon—not to 200 ZIP Codes but I think to over 5,000 across the country. It enables them to do next-day delivery that includes Sunday. It is a nice piece of business and it is growing, but in order to continue to grow it, the Postal Service needs vehicles that are right-sized for that sort of business and a lot of them—potentially a lot of them.

Another thing the Postal Service is doing—and this is a product which I have used and a product which I think is going to have growing utilization across the country. It is called Priority Mail Express.

I went to a post office in Delaware not long ago. I wanted to send my sister a Mother's Day gift.

I said: I want this to get there in 2 days.

They asked: Do you want it insured?

I said: Not really.

They said: Well, if you send it by Priority Mail Express, we can guarantee delivery in 2 days, we can guarantee delivery in 1 day, or we can guarantee delivery in 3 days. We can track it for you for free.

And I think they said the first \$100 of insurance is free.

I said: This is great. I will take 2 days. The insurance is fine.

As it turns out, I am not the only person who is using Priority Mail Express. It is available not just 2 or 3 days a week, it is available for delivery 7 days a week. If somebody has something they want to mail this Saturday

and have it delivered on Sunday, they can do so with Priority Mail Express. They can do it and get next-day delivery. They can do it and get free tracking. They can do it and get insurance up to \$50 or \$100 on whatever is being mailed. That is going to be a great product. I think it is going to make flat-rate boxes—well, not look like a second-class citizen, but it is going to make flat-rate boxes look modest by comparison.

These are the sorts of things our folks at the Postal Service would like to do—to deliver not only mail but to deliver groceries, to be able to deliver tomorrow, deliver on Sunday. And it is ironic that in a day and age that we worry about postal service going from 6 days a week to 5, that right now they are a 7-day-a-week operation. I think there is reason to believe they will grow even more.

There are some who say that rather than passing the sort of legislation the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported out on a bipartisan vote earlier this year, there is some alternative legislation. We should simply say to the Postal Service: You cannot close any more mail-processing centers for another year.

As it turns out, that is not going to give the Postal Service the money to do this, or, frankly, the money to invest in any other number of new products that have the great potential of generating revenues and enabling them not just to be open or remain alive but to actually become vibrant and to be part of our growing economy in this country.

I wish to close by saying that I am more hopeful about the Postal Service than I have been in all the years I have worked on this as an issue. As I talked to my colleagues, I am encouraged to hear from Democrats and Republicans that they want to be part of the solution, and they realize the idea of just leaving the Postal Service twisting in the wind for another year is not a good thing.

If the Postal Service has a choice to say don't close these 60 or 70 or 80 mail processing centers, that is not what they need. They need to not necessarily unleash them—better ensure that they have the resources they need to not just right-size the organization but to modernize and recapitalize the organization and enable them to do things in the 21st century that will actually build off their age-old delivery network and find new ways to make money doing so.

As we close here today—a lot of people are scattering to head back to their home States in anticipation of elections and that sort of thing, and to do other things—I wanted to mention on a more hopeful note, and I say to the members of our committee, and especially to the Presiding Officer, thanks for trying to make sure the Postal

Service continues to be a linchpin within our economy, whether it happens to be Alaska, Delaware, or even South Dakota.

Senator THUNE is waiting for me to stop talking.

They have the opportunity to be a big, important part of our economy going forward, and my hope and prayer is that is exactly what we will enable them to do.

With that, I will yield the floor. I don't know if the Senator from South Dakota would like to take the floor, but if he wants to, it is his.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague from South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON, to commemorate South Dakota's 125th anniversary of Statehood. One hundred twenty-five years ago, on November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the Act of Admission Papers for North and South Dakota to ensure that no one knew which State entered the Union first. To this day, we still don't know which act President Harrison signed first.

South Dakota is perhaps best known as the home of the Shrine of Democracy at Mount Rushmore, which opened to the public just 50 years after South Dakota attained statehood. This monument captures the way of life and governance structure that we have in South Dakota. Our elected officials take the concerns of their constituents to Pierre and ensure that our State is bettering the lives of its citizens in a fiscally responsible manner.

We believe in limited government which provides room for individuals and businesses to grow and thrive. Our model of free enterprise has allowed businesses to flourish in South Dakota, and as a result, is one of the best States in the country to start a business.

We consistently have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, which is currently at 3.7 percent. Our labor force and our economy are driven by our State's top industries of tourism and agriculture. The 28,000 South Dakotans who work in our tourism industry ensure that people from all over the world enjoy our great places. Tourists enjoy visiting Mount Rushmore, of course, but also seeing the sights throughout the Black Hills and the Badlands, the Corn Palace in Mitchell, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and the falls in Sioux Falls.

In addition to welcoming Americans from coast to coast, South Dakota is feeding our Nation and our world. Each year, one South Dakota farmer produces enough food to feed 155 people.

South Dakota ranks in the top 10 States for wheat, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and sunflowers. We are also in the top 10 States of bison, honey, sheep, and beef. In all, South Dakota's agriculture industry contributes \$26 billion annually to our economy.

While the productivity of our farmers and ranchers is unmatched, all hard-working South Dakota families contribute to our State's success. Whether they are educating our children, serving in our growing health care and financial services sectors, conducting research in our college laboratories, hard work is what binds South Dakotans together and has made our State's experiment in democracy one of the most successful in our Nation's history.

I am proud to call the great State of South Dakota home, and I am honored to have the privilege of serving all South Dakotans here in the Senate.

Today I wish to honor the spirit that has endured in our State for the last 125 years by celebrating this special anniversary.

CELEBRATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today, I join with my colleague, the junior Senator from South Dakota, in celebrating the birth of our home State, which entered the union 125 years ago on November 2. I'm a fourth generation South Dakotan, and my great-grandfather was a homesteader in what was then known as the Dakota Territory. As I have learned growing up in Canton and from the generations of my family that came before me, being a South Dakotan instills in oneself a unique kind of work ethic and a drive to do good unto others.

South Dakotans know how to deal with adversity and they know how to help each other when disaster strikes. Last year, a devastating blizzard hit much of western South Dakota, causing millions of dollars in damage and killing tens of thousands of head of livestock. Without blinking an eye, neighbors were out helping neighbors who lost power. They donated their time and money to help ranchers who lost their livelihoods. Recovery would not have been possible without the inherent attitude that South Dakotans have to help one another.

South Dakotans also have a lot to celebrate this year. The ag industry has driven our economy, creating jobs and spurring economic development in rural communities. Our State also boasts some of the Nation's most popular tourist destinations including the Badlands, the Black Hills National Forest, the world's only Corn Palace, and some of the best pheasant hunting in the country. Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills also symbolizes democracy and enables all Americans to remember and celebrate our history. The Crazy

Horse monument, which is still a work in progress, honors the legendary Lakota warrior. South Dakota is also home to nine Native American tribes, each having its own distinct cultures and traditions.

There is an awful lot to be proud of in our State, from the attitude we have as individuals to what we have built during our 125 year history. Throughout this past year, South Dakotans have taken part in a number of activities to celebrate our State's history, heritage, and culture, and those celebrations will continue in the weeks ahead. I am honored to play just a small role in this celebration by joining with my colleague in offering this resolution, and I urge all of our colleagues to join us in celebrating the birth of our State.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A Resolution (S. Res. 566) celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of South Dakota.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also wish to speak in support of S. 1507, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2013. I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation which passed the House of Representatives earlier this week.

This bill would codify that general welfare benefits provided to tribal members by Indian tribes—often in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment where these benefits are much needed—are exempt from Federal taxation.

The bill would ensure parity between the tax treatment of benefits provided by Indian tribes and those provided by State and local governments.

While the Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance on this issue, fur-

ther action is needed to ensure that our tribal citizens are treated fairly with regard to taxation of certain tribal welfare benefits.

This bill establishes a tribal advisory committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on the taxation of tribal members.

This is a bipartisan amendment with support from the National Congress of American Indians and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Tribes and tribal organizations across the country, including the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association and the Coalition of Large Tribes representing the nine tribes in my home State of South Dakota, are urging us to move forward with this legislation.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this legislation would have a negligible impact on Federal revenue.

I hope before we adjourn that the Senate can pass by unanimous consent this legislation that was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this week under suspension and that we will reaffirm our commitment to Indian Country.

I hope we move this legislation and move it quickly and clarify once and for all this important issue.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, October—next month—is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is not expected that the Senate will be in session next month and I would like to use this opportunity to visit just a moment about domestic violence in an effort to create a greater awareness and to work to eliminate this plight among many families and many individuals across the country.

Domestic violence is an issue that impacts way too many Americans. In fact, it affects so many homes, and yet it is something that is rarely spoken about publicly. Right now, because of actions of professional athletes, domestic violence is in the news and it is on our minds. But this attention needs to continue when the sports writers quit writing and when the news reporters and camera crews quit covering and they move on to the next story.

Many Americans assume domestic violence doesn't occur in their neighborhood, it doesn't occur among their

friends, but unfortunately that is not the case. Domestic violence does not discriminate by race, gender, age group, education or social status. We can't stereotype, the way we often do, about domestic violence. In fact, it is not just a problem for women; it is also a problem for children and men who are often victims.

In large communities, in small communities across the country and across, unfortunately, my State of Kansas, too many Americans, too many Kansans find themselves placed in danger by the very people who are supposed to love and care for and protect them. Each year, more than 2 million women are victims of domestic violence across the country. In Kansas alone, it is estimated that 1 in 10 adult women will suffer from domestic abuse this year. These are damning statistics that make clear, whether we realize it, someone we know is enduring physical and psychological abuse today, tomorrow, this week. We have a responsibility to help the hopeless—those who are often too afraid to speak out for themselves. I rise tonight to try to give voice to those who are victims and to acknowledge professionals and volunteers who provide care and the services those victims need.

On a single day last year, shelters and organizations in Kansas served more than 720 victims, and similar organizations around the country served more than 66,000 victims each day.

I visited one of those organizations last year, the Kansas SAFEHOME. It is a tremendous organization that serves the greater Kansas City area. SAFEHOME provides more than just a shelter for those needing a place to live or to escape from abuse. They provide no-cost advocacy, counseling, an inhouse attorney, and assistance in finding employment. The agency also provides education in the community to prevent abuse.

Each year SAFEHOME helps thousands of women and children reestablish their lives without violence. The employees and volunteers there are making huge differences in the lives of many. I have often said on the Senate floor that what happens in Washington, DC, matters, but I know we change the world one person, one soul at a time, and in this setting and in settings similar to it across Kansas and around the country, lives are being changed and improved.

Despite the important and the honorable and noble work that organizations such as SAFEHOME are performing, they are often faced with uncertainty regarding the Federal support they will receive. The good news is that last year Congress was able to move past politics and pass legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

I sponsored and voted for that legislation and in my view it provides crucial, critical resources for victims of

domestic violence and empowers our justice system to act on their behalf. Just as crucial, it works to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place.

This legislation is having a real impact on the lives of Kansans because survivors now have access, for example, to legal services, through the Legal Assistance to Victims grant project, established in 2012 by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

One survivor expressed how grateful she was for the program because, as she said, "I didn't know what I would have done without it." Without the assistance of this program, she may have had to go to court without legal representation, knowing that her perpetrator already had an attorney representing him. With that legal representation, her perpetrator was held accountable for his actions.

Throughout our country, more than one in three women still suffer from abuse during their lifetime, and domestic violence brings fear and hopelessness and depression into the lives of every victim. We should work not only to end this violent crime, but we must also care for those who are victims. By volunteering at a local shelter, speaking out when we become aware of domestic violence or making a donation to an organization that helps in those circumstances, every citizen—as I said, we could change the world one person at a time, and every citizen can find a way to get involved and make a difference.

Now and throughout the year—not just now, not just next month, October is Domestic Violence Month—let us be mindful of the victims of domestic violence and each of us do our part to break the cycle and bring hope to those who suffer and are in despair. Let us also use the conversations taking place now in the print in the papers and on the view of the television as an opportunity to speak out against any and all types of domestic abuse. Let's raise the awareness of this silent and devastating crime and bring about an end to all domestic violence.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH D. MOSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 853.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion that has been filed and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Martin Heinrich.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LEIGH MARTIN MAY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 855.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 853 and 855; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, that on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, that with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to S. 1086.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, that the bill from the Senate (S. 1086) entitled "An act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes", do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3923

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086 with an amendment numbered 3923.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3924 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3923

Mr. REID. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3924 to amendment No. 3923.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3925

Mr. REID. I have a motion to refer the House message with respect to S. 1086 with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message on S. 1086 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3925.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3926

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions that has been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3926 to the instructions of the motion to refer (Amendment No. 3925).

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3927 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3926

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree agreement at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3927 to amendment No. 3926.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4" and insert "5".

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Members of Congress prepare to head back to their home States, it is important to note that the 113th Congress does not end this week, or for that matter, on November 4. We still have a significant amount of unfinished business that must be resolved before the year's end, and the American people expect and deserve our commitment to getting that work done. I strongly support Majority Leader REID's decision to reconvene the Senate shortly after the elections so that we can complete work on a number of bipartisan bills that can and should be enacted this year. We were sent to the Senate by our constituents to do the work of the American people, and those responsibilities will not diminish after the election—no matter what the results.

When the Senate returns in November, I will continue to urge swift consideration and passage of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014, S. 2685. This is a bipartisan bill that makes important reforms to the government's surveillance authorities, while providing the intelligence community the operational flexibility it needs to keep our country safe. That is why the bill is supported not only by the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General but also by a broad coalition of privacy and civil liberties groups, the technology industry, and Members of Congress from across the political spectrum. There is no excuse for not considering it in November. If Senators want to vote against the bill, they have every right to do so, but the American public deserves to know where we stand on the issue of the bulk collection of innocent Americans' phone records, and the intelligence community deserves some measure of predictability and certainty.

I also hope that the Senate will, without further delay, take up and pass the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, S. 822, and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013, S. 933. Both of these bills are noncontroversial and were reported with overwhelming support by the Judiciary Committee. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act strengthens the rights of crime victims and improves access to postconviction DNA testing to protect the innocent and improve safety in our communities. It is a common sense bill that improves the justice system for everyone involved. That is why Senator CORNYN and Senator MCCONNELL are both cosponsors of

the bill and why it has the support of the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY. Despite this support from the key Republican leadership in the Senate, legislation to reauthorize the Justice for All Act—originally signed into law by President George W. Bush—is being blocked on the Republican side. Such obstructionism is unwarranted, and the Senate should at least be allowed to bring this bill up for a vote.

Republican obstruction of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act is similarly unwarranted and must stop. Just this week, we remembered and mourned the senseless killing of 12 people 1 year ago at the Navy Yard, just a few blocks from the Capitol. Such horrifying acts of violence have become far too common, and each serves as a painful reminder of the perils faced by law enforcement every day. During the brutal firefight at the Navy Yard, a Metropolitan Police Department officer was struck in the chest. His bulletproof vest stopped the bullet. The officer was then able to return fire and take down the gunman, finally bringing an end to the violence.

Members of Congress often speak passionately about the need to stand with law enforcement. It would seem beyond dispute, then, that no officer should have to serve without protective vests. This is why Congress has historically acted in unison to support the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, which has enabled over 13,000 law enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests. Protective vests are credited with saving the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. Today, every Democratic Senator stands ready to reauthorize this lifesaving program. Yet a few Senate Republicans are blocking it. It is past time for our actions to match our rhetoric. If Republicans claim to stand with law enforcement, then surely they should stand with them when it matters most. I urge all Senators to help pass this bill as soon as we return.

There are several additional priorities of law enforcement that have bipartisan support and should receive consideration in the remaining weeks of the year. This morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported the Second Chance Reauthorization Act. I thank the broad bipartisan list of cosponsors for working with me to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer with this legislation. Communities of faith are calling on the Senate to move forward and pass this important bill and I hope we will hear their call.

This Congress we also have an opportunity to reduce dangerous prison overcrowding while actually improving public safety. The relentless growth of our Federal prison population threatens not only the safety of prison staff

and inmates but also the budgets of the very law enforcement programs that keep us safe. This growth is driven by inflexible and unfair drug mandatory minimums—a problem that we in Congress created, and only we can fix. The bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act would modestly reduce some non-violent drug mandatory minimums and help to preserve essential funding for law enforcement agencies and victim services. This bill would save the government money, a fact confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office just this week, and it deserves the Senate's full attention.

By the end of the year, the Senate must consider and pass S. 2454, the Satellite Television Access Reauthorization Act, STELA. This law provides satellite television carriers with the necessary rights to retransmit distant television programming to consumers. If Congress does not act by the end of the year to reauthorize the distant signal license, approximately 1.5 million consumers will lose access to the broadcast television programming that they currently receive. This is particularly important in rural areas like Vermont, where many Americans rely on satellite for their television providers. Congress should act responsibly and prevent serious disruption to these consumers.

Congress also should pass reforms to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA, to bring our privacy laws into the 21st century. The Leahy-Lee ECPA Reform Act updates our digital privacy laws to keep pace with new technologies, protect civil liberties, and provide guidance to law enforcement. Congress should act swiftly to pass this bill.

Finally, the Senate is not the only Chamber that needs to get right back to work after the election. I have spoken at length before about the need for the House to allow a vote on the Senate-passed immigration bill. I hope that once they return to Washington, the House Republican leadership will finally put election year politicking and pandering aside and simply allow a vote on S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. That bill passed the Senate more than a year ago on a strong bipartisan vote, and the urgent need to pass this practical legislative fix for our broken immigration system increases with every passing day. It would immediately spur our economy and take away the pressing need for the President to act through Executive order.

The House should also consider and pass S. 42, the Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2013, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent almost a year ago. Senator GRASSLEY and I came together to draft the bipartisan Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act to improve the enforcement of

our Nation's antitrust laws and extend whistleblower protections to employees who report criminal violations of the antitrust laws. These include violations that are particularly harmful to consumers, such as price fixing. Again, this is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that can and should be passed overwhelmingly. There is no reason—political or otherwise—for the House of Representatives to delay its enactment.

After the upcoming elections, I plan to return to Washington to get back to the work of the people. That is why the voters of Vermont elected me, and that is what I swore an oath to do. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I intend to continue our work on nominations and oversight, as well as the legislative business pending before the Committee. I hope that the full Senate and the House will similarly press forward without delay to complete work on the array of bipartisan bills that are ripe for consideration and passage. There is simply no reason to delay or obstruct action on these bills, and no reason to further exacerbate the perception held by many Americans that Congress cannot work together to accomplish anything. I know that we can work together to pass these bills, but it will require the cooperation and commitment of all Senators. I know that Vermonters—and all Americans—are counting on us to get the work done.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares to go into recess, Senate Republicans are refusing to allow confirmation votes on the more than 20 judicial nominees who will now be stuck in limbo for months. There is no good reason why the Senate cannot confirm these nominees before the recess other than wholesale obstruction of a co-equal branch of government's nominees.

The Senate Republicans' baseless obstruction includes blocking from consideration nominations made to their home States. Right now, there are five nominations pending to fill judicial emergency vacancies in Kentucky and Georgia, which have gone unfilled for years. The Republican Senators from these States have come out in strong support for the nominees from their respective States. Yet the Republican leadership refuses to agree to schedule votes on these or any other nominations. This is simply delay for delay's sake.

Currently on the Senate Executive Calendar are qualified nominees to fill Federal trial court vacancies in Kentucky, Georgia, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Missouri. All but two of the nominees were reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support. I wonder what the constituents of these

States think is causing this delay? I can assure you it is not Senate Democrats.

This Republican pattern of refusing to confirm noncontroversial, consensus nominees has gone on for the duration of this Presidency. I have sought to remind my fellow Senators that their refusal to confirm these nominations prior to an extended recess is an unfortunate departure from Senate tradition. Time and again I have urged Senate Republicans to stop their obstructive practices and delay tactics. And once again, I am disappointed to see partisanship and senseless obstruction continue to keep the Senate from fulfilling its constitutional duty of advice and consent.

It is true that since the beginning of this year we have reduced the vacancies on our Federal courts from 92 to 59, but no Senator should believe that our work is done. Even if we were to confirm the more than 20 judicial nominees currently pending on the Senate floor, the Federal judiciary remains significantly understaffed. The Judicial Conference has identified the need for 91 new judgeships in some of America's judicial districts and circuits with the highest caseloads. Last year, Senator COONS and I introduced the Federal Judgeship Act of 2013 to enact these recommendations into law. The timely administration of justice should not be a partisan issue. It is an issue that affects all Americans, and the Senate should take it seriously by passing this bill.

The recommendations of the Judicial Conference underscore the need for the Senate to fulfill its obligations to the Federal judiciary and the American people. I have heard some Republican Senators claim the opposite by citing the total number of judicial confirmation under this President. It is true that the Senate has now confirmed 278 of President Obama's circuit, district, and U.S. Court of International Trade nominees, compared to 254 confirmations at the same point in the last administration. Yet these numbers are meaningless without providing their proper context. These confirmations were sorely needed. There remain 59 vacancies on the Federal bench—far more than the 45 vacancies at this point during the Bush administration. There are an additional 25 announced future judicial vacancies on our Federal courts that will also need to be filled in the coming months. If you care about providing our co-equal branch of government with the resources it needs to serve its constitutional role, then it is important to look at the number of vacancies that still exist and how long some of them have remained empty.

Vacancies remain high not because of a failure of Senate Democrats or President Obama to make judicial confirmations a priority. These vacancies per-

sist because of the endless obstruction of partisan Republicans who take every opportunity they can to shut down the important work of the Senate. Last year, no longer content to block individual judges, Senate Republicans attempted a wholesale filibuster of three nominees to the D.C. Circuit, without even considering their qualifications. Then, instead of confirming the consensus judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar prior to the end of the congressional session, Republicans forced the President to renominate each nominee and for the Senate Judiciary Committee to report them again this year.

In 2014, Senate Republicans have proceeded to filibuster each and every judicial nominee. The Senate has taken 62 cloture votes on judicial nominations so far this year, amounting to well over 400 wasted hours that the Senate should have been spending considering legislation to help the American people. Never before has the Senate seen the systematic filibuster of every judicial nominee or such unfair treatment of qualified, consensus nominees.

The Senate should act quickly to confirm the judicial nominees pending on the Senate floor. Because Republican obstruction will prevent us from finishing our work before the elections, we must return to session as soon as possible after the elections in November to complete our important work. The American people deserve courts capable of providing access to swift justice, not empty courtrooms and delays.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE TESSIERI AND DEBBIE HALVERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize two long-serving members of the Senate Sergeant at Arms Office, Jeanne Tessieri and Debbie Halverson, who are retiring in October of this year.

Since 1980, Jeanne has served as the Sergeant at Arms' State Office Liaison. She runs a small—but highly effective—office that impacts every Senator in this body. As Senators, we are privileged to represent the constituents of our home States, and it is imperative that the individuals we represent have a place to bring their thoughts and concerns. Under the law, each Senator is authorized to maintain office space in our respective States, but it is subject to strict regulations. Jeanne, in her role as the State Office Liaison, became a vital resource for all Senators. She worked to ensure that every State—big or small—had constituent service space that not only fulfilled the needs of the public, but also adhered to regulation.

Jeanne has guided us in selecting and arranging for the lease agreements for each one of our State offices, and there

are currently more than 450 such offices throughout the 50 States. She literally wrote the book detailing the ins and outs of obtaining and maintaining a State office that meets the strict requirements for office spaces and expenses for furnishings.

We are grateful for Jeanne's steady, confident assistance through the years. Should a problem arise, Jeanne has always been the first person to call and offer assistance to our State offices. She knows how to marshal resources to help the offices address any issue that comes up.

Debbie Halverson has been Jeanne's very capable assistant for the past 31 years. Many of us that know her also knew her father, Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson. Her departure in October will mark the end of a wonderful era of service to the Senate for the Halverson family. I commend Debbie's years of dedication to her work and this body.

I appreciate the combined 65 years of faithful service Jeanne and Debbie provided the United States Senate. I wish them the best in their future endeavors and congratulate them both on their well-deserved retirements.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR ROBERT A. CASHELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank my friend, Mayor Robert A. Cashell, Sr., of Reno, for his more than three decades of public service in Nevada. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell will be retiring on November 12, 2014. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada.

Over the past 35 years, Mayor Cashell has worked at nearly every level of State and local government. Beginning with his election to the University of Nevada Board of Regents in 1979, Bob proved himself to be a strong leader with a keen ability to listen and understand the needs of those he served. Renoites and Nevadans quickly came to rely on Bob's leadership and ultimately elected him as Lieutenant Governor of the State. A skilled businessman, Bob understood the need for a coordinated State effort to spur economic development. As Lieutenant Governor, Bob Cashell helped create the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Commission on Tourism. He later went on to chair both of these vitally important State commissions.

First elected as Mayor of Reno in 2002, Mayor Cashell was subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2010. During his tenure, Mayor Cashell once again displayed his business acumen, helping transform Reno into a hub of innovation, spurring investment from some of America's most prestigious corporations. Mayor Cashell also spearheaded the continued revitalization of downtown Reno, making it a destination for

special events, and creating a pedestrian and family-friendly atmosphere.

As mayor, Bob Cashell met some of Reno's most difficult social issues head on. He refused to shy away from the issue of poverty, instead developing programs to help those hardest hit by the Great Recession. Mayor Cashell was the driving force behind the creation of the Community Assistance Center, which houses multiple services, including free food and social services, for the city's homeless and needy.

In every role he has assumed, Mayor Cashell has made Nevada a better place to live. His work as mayor of the City of Reno will be dearly missed, but I have no doubt that Mayor Cashell will find some way to continue serving the people of Nevada. Although he is retiring from office, Mayor Cashell will never retire from helping others.

I wish Bob and his wife Nancy Parker Cashell all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives. I thank Nancy, their 4 children and 9 grandchildren for sharing Bob with Nevada. Our State is a better place because of Mayor Bob Cashell's many years of exemplary service.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NAN GORMAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant from my home State of Kentucky. Nan Gorman who is currently serving as the mayor of the City of Hazard will retire this year upon completing her term of office.

Mayor Gorman was born in Memphis, TN, but moved to Hazard shortly after. She grew up in hard times, with the Nation reeling from the effects of a worldwide depression. Though the odds may have been stacked against her, she graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the Parson School of Design in New York and subsequently traveled the world on a tour of self-education.

Nan experienced so much of the world in her travels, but she saw nothing that would prevent her from returning to her "Old Kentucky Home." Back in Hazard, she married her high-school sweetheart, Bill, who was elected mayor of Hazard in 1978 and served in that capacity until his death 35 years later.

Bill Gorman was a beloved member of the Hazard community. When he died in October of 2010, however, Nan was appointed to serve as interim mayor and the town did not skip a beat. Nan performed so well in her interim role that she was voted into office by a 3-1 margin in the next election.

Although Mayor Gorman will step down at the end of her term, her love for the City of Hazard has not decreased in the slightest degree, and she is planning on running for one of the city's four commissioner seats.

Nan Gorman's dedication to public service and her community set a shin-

ing example for us all, and I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing her illustrious career.

Mr. President, though I admittedly possess a strong bias towards the author, who happens to be my wife, Secretary Elaine Chao, Politico published what I found to be an exceptional article on Mayor Gorman last year. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Politico, Nov. 17, 2013]

EMBRACING HER OLD KENTUCKY HOME

(By Elaine Chao)

Deep in the heart of Kentucky's rugged Eastern Mountain region there lives a woman who has fascinated and inspired me for two decades. She is known locally these days as "Mayor Nan"—the octogenarian chief executive of Hazard and advocate for its 5,467 residents.

Nan Gorman was born in Memphis, Tenn., on St. Patrick's Day. She moved to Hazard in 1929 when her father, James Hagan, a recent medical school graduate and aspiring surgeon, went to work there. The stock market was about to crash and soon the Great Depression would be under way and take a brutal toll on the rural mountain economy. In the early days, her father was often paid for his services with chickens and eggs. Later, her father became chief surgeon for the region at the Hazard Hospital.

Hazard was not just small but remote because of the lack of roads in the region so the Hagan family, with little Nan in tow, traveled there from Tennessee via Virginia mountain passes. Nan's parents, who she says still inspire and guide her today, ensured that she had a good education and gave her the opportunity to attend college but, as was prevalent then, expected that she would soon settle down as a young woman, marry and have children.

She eventually did all that, but not until after she had experienced some of the world far from Hazard and her beloved eastern Kentucky mountains that she says "are like the arms of a mother around us." So enraptured was she with the natural beauty around Hazard that she became an artist to record scenes in pencil, ink, watercolors and oil paints.

After World War II, Nan graduated from the University of Cincinnati and attended the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City. With an adventurous spirit, Nan flew to Egypt by herself to study ancient history and then traveled on for solo explorations of Greece, Rome, Paris and London. Having been exposed to such exotic, vibrant cities so full of opportunity, one could hardly have begrudged a choice to make her life elsewhere. But instead, she chose to come home to Kentucky. She got an apartment in Lexington and worked as a freelance artist drawing advertisements for clothing stores, doing architectural renderings and sketching historical landmarks. One day she saw a classified advertisement in which the state was looking for a full-time artist, and she subsequently became the first one ever employed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Among her tasks was designing the state seal—United We Stand, Divided We Fall—which is still in use today.

At age 50, Nan settled again in Hazard, remarried—to her high school sweetheart, Bill, and together they formed a partnership that

would have a lasting impact on virtually every sphere of the community. Bill was elected mayor in 1978, served for 35 years and never accepted a salary. When he returned home to the Lord three years ago, Nan asked that donations go to a fund to benefit local public schools. Wishing to continue Bill's legacy of service to the community, Nan was subsequently elected mayor as a write-in candidate, winning by a 3-to-1 margin.

Nan's governing personal ethic is to constantly strive to do better for Hazard's residents for as long as she can. When last I spoke with her, Nan was alternately expressing pride over a young local girl's success overcoming disadvantages, helping with the Appalachian Regional Hospital's fundraising campaign and her efforts to obtain refrigerators for families in need.

An octogenarian well-deserving of retirement, Mayor Nan instead toils from sunrise to late in the evening on behalf of her town. She takes pleasure in the people and the mountain scenery and loves nothing more than to watch wildlife in her yard or to hear that some good fortune is improving someone's life. My takeaway from every visit with Nan is appreciation for the big difference that one woman in a little town can make.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a venerable institution of higher learning from my home State of Kentucky the University of Pikeville. UPike, as it is more commonly known, is celebrating 125 years of educating young minds on its campus in eastern Kentucky.

September 16 marked 125 years since the first classes were held at what was then called Pikeville Collegiate Institute. The college was founded by a group of Presbyterians, and has maintained its religious foundation ever since.

In addition to its religious background, UPike has also always maintained a strong commitment to its community. The university invests deeply in the Appalachian region through community service projects, humanitarian efforts, and its educational offerings. As former President Hal Smith remarked at the anniversary ceremony, UPike's mission has always been "to provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region."

Three other former presidents, as well as the current President Dr. James Hurley, were in attendance Tuesday for the ceremony. During the ceremony, Dr. Hurley announced a campaign to raise \$75 million for the university. It is a fitting endeavor to ensure many more years of excellence in education at the University of Pikeville.

I now ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the University of Pikeville's 125 years of excellence in education.

WYMT Mountain News recently published an article detailing the University of Pikeville's 125th anniversary

ceremonies. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE KICKS OFF 125TH ANNIVERSARY BY HONORING FOUR FORMER PRESIDENTS

(By Hillary Thornton)

PIKEVILLE, KY. (WYMT).—Four former University of Pikeville presidents were on hand for a ceremony that was all about honoring their past and celebrating their future. As Tuesday marks 125 years since the first class was held at the Pikeville Collegiate Institute . . . now known as UPike.

Opening convocation officially starts the school year, however this year also marks the 125th anniversary.

Through all those years, the many additions and changes . . . all agree the mission of the institution remains the same.

Former President Hal Smith (1997–2009) says, “To provide educational opportunity for the youth and adults of this region.”

President James Hurley calls it a very surreal day, as he honors four past presidents with honorary degrees from the institution they say continues to break barriers and exceed expectations.

Smith says, “Each of us laid a little bit of a foundation for the things that are happening and clearly I think the future is very, very bright.”

To help ensure another 125 years of success at UPike, Dr. Hurley announced a \$75 million comprehensive capital campaign.

“Investing in the future of Central Appalachia . . . with the decline in the coal industry we have to think about a new economy, an economy based on education,” explains Hurley. He adds, “That is going to be our focus . . . we are going to raise 75 million dollars to invest in new infrastructure.”

KYCOM student Fritz Stine says, “I think this definitely shows that we are moving in this trajectory and we are spearheading the future of the area.”

“Working to honor their past, while planning for and celebrating their future.”

COMPETITIVE PAY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, of the 21 million veterans in our country, about 750,000 live in Illinois. I hear from many of them as I travel around the State meeting with different groups. Like veterans throughout the United States, Illinois veterans are concerned about their health care. They are frustrated by lengthy wait times to get an appointment and, like all of us, they are furious about the wait list scandal uncovered this year. One factor that has contributed to the long wait times is a shortage of medical personnel at VA hospitals and clinics. In many cases there are not enough doctors and nurses to meet demand. Many of the doctors and nurses we do have are overwhelmed.

One way we can address this is to give VA doctors and nurses a raise. I am happy that VA Secretary Bob McDonald announced this morning the agency is going to lift a salary freeze

on medical personnel and plans to increase compensation for the health care providers who work with our veterans. This is a positive step in improving the ailing Veterans Health Administration.

Salaries for VA doctors and nurses often are lower on average than those of their private sector counterparts, and those salaries have been frozen for 3 years. Primary care doctors and internists at VA facilities earned about 33 percent less than private sector primary care physicians in 2012, according to the Medical Group Management Association. A similar disparity can be found in nurses' pay.

Last week Secretary McDonald testified at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing that the VA needs about 28,000 new medical staffers—doctors, nurses, other care providers, and administrative staff—to improve the timeliness of care to the 8 million veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration. We can help meet that demand if we make those jobs more competitive by adjusting the pay scale.

In the bill we passed this summer—which is now law—Congress gave Secretary McDonald the authority to fire underperformers. The other side of that coin is competitive pay for those who are performing. These doctors and nurses are caring for the men and women who put their lives at risk through military service. Let's lift the pay freeze on their salaries. The VA should have the best and the brightest medical staff out there. That means hiring the best and firing those who do not pass muster.

The shortage of health care providers is not a new issue—particularly in rural areas of the country. We have struggled with this in Illinois. The Danville and Marion VA medical centers—both in small towns far from an urban center—struggle to fill health care positions. In 2009 I offered an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 funding bill that set aside \$3 million for incentive pay to help with recruitment and retention for medical personnel to serve in rural VA facilities. Raising salaries would help facilities such as these attract and keep topflight doctors and nurses.

The Veterans Health Administration is an important training ground for many medical students. At Hines VA medical center in Chicago, medical students from Loyola get much of their training in a clinical setting. The veterans benefit from the addition of these young doctors. And hopefully that experience leads to more doctors looking to the VA as a career choice. But no matter how appealing the VA is, medical school debt is a factor. The VA offers a loan repayment program that can help offset those worries, but offering pay that is more comparable to the private sector would make working for the VA health care system even more

attractive to new graduates and would help retain current staff.

The VA cares for America's heroes, the men and women who have worked to keep our country safe and defend American ideals abroad. As recent investigations have brought to light, VA must improve recruitment and retention of medical personnel to keep pace with growing demand. I am happy Secretary McDonald is lifting the salary freeze on medical personnel and plans to increase compensation for the health care providers who work with our veterans. They deserve the best.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in honor of Hunger Action Month, I want to say a few words about the real and lingering problem of hunger and food insecurity. Hunger has no boundaries. In a Nation that prides itself as the land of plenty, more than 47 million people—including more than 1 in 5 children—do not know how they will put food on their table.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is one of our most important antihunger programs. More than 80 percent of SNAP households have incomes below the poverty line, which is less than \$500 a week for a family of four. Seventy percent of SNAP participants are in families with children, and more than 25 percent are in households with seniors or people with disabilities. Basic sustenance ought to be a guarantee in a civilized society, not a gamble. If children or adults are hungry in America, that is a problem for all of us, and it is a problem we can do something about.

I have traveled across my State and met families and parents that rely on food assistance and heard their stories. They are our neighbors, they are hard-working people who lost their job or got sick. They are seniors living on a limited income.

They are people like Maureen, who works cleaning houses. Her husband fell ill and had to stop working due to a disability. Maureen struggles to put food on the table for her two daughters in high school. Her husband's doctor says he needs to eat more vegetables, but Maureen says they are just too expensive. The \$126 a month in SNAP benefits Maureen receives help, but she still struggles and relies on a food pantry to feed her family. Unfortunately, Maureen is just one of the more than 1.8 million Illinoisans who do not know where their next meal will come from.

The millions of Americans, like Maureen, who rely on safety net antihunger programs, may not have the loudest voice in the debate or big public relations firms, but we must protect these programs and work to improve the lives of vulnerable families, children, and seniors at their time of need.

Hunger in America is not something we can ignore. No family should have to wonder where their next meal will come from. As a co-chair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues and those in the antihunger community to shine a light on this important issue and eliminate domestic hunger.

TRIBUTE TO JOSUE ROBLES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a great American veteran, businessman, and leader, MG Josue Robles, Retired, or, as he prefers to be called, Joe. Joe is stepping down at the end of this year as the CEO and president of USAA, a great American institution based in San Antonio. His retirement marks a milestone in an inspirational and remarkable American story and the conclusion of an impressive career. He will be sorely missed not only by the employees at USAA but by the greater San Antonio community and beyond.

The eldest of nine children, Joe was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, in 1946. His father was working as a waiter when he was approached by a group of Americans who were recruiting for steel mills in the United States. His dad went to work for U.S. Steel in Lorain, OH. Eighteen months later, when Joe was 3, his dad had saved enough money to send for the family. Their house in Ohio was six blocks from the steel mill, where his father worked for the next 35 years, in addition to part-time work as a carpenter and plumber to supplement his income.

Starting at age 11 and throughout high school, Joe worked a variety of jobs at a local grocery store and in the neighborhood doing yard work. He worked in the steel mill one summer and learned very quickly what a hot, dirty, dangerous place it was. One summer there was enough, and it motivated Joe to go to school and get a good education so he would never have to shovel slag again.

While in high school, Joe was awarded a medical school scholarship sponsored by the local medical society. They would pay for his education if he agreed to come back and practice medicine in his hometown. But first he had to earn an undergraduate degree. Joe graduated from high school in 1964 and worked that summer painting a house. The job paid enough to cover his first year of tuition at Lorain County Community College. Joe married that year and went to work full time at a nuclear plant, where he monitored radiation levels. Within 2 years, his long hours forced him to drop a few classes and switch his student status to part time. Then, in 1966, his country came calling, and Joe was drafted into the U.S. Army.

By any measure, Joe's military career was stellar. His awards and mis-

sion-critical positions and assignments are too numerous to fully recount, but let me share a few highlights. Joe completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, SC. While there, he earned a recommendation for the Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, OK. Once commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was sent to Korea in 1967 and 1968, followed by assignment as an executive officer at Fort Knox, KY, and then 12 months as a battery commander in Vietnam.

In the latter part of his career, Joe served as the chief of the Program and Budget Office at the U.S. Army Headquarters, the division artillery commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Mechanized, at Fort Riley, KS; and the Army planner and director for operations and support at Department of the Army Headquarters. As assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX, he prepared and deployed the division for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then served as the director of the Army budget and as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, Mechanized, out of Fort Riley, KS—the legendary “Big Red One.”

As is the case in any military career, Joe had to move his family many times. He has a son who is autistic, and each move meant adjustments to new schools, teachers, and therapists. In 1994, Joe decided it was time to retire from the Army so that his family would have a more stable life. After a stint as a USAA board member from 1990 to 1994, Joe joined USAA full time in 1994. He assumed the position of president and CEO in 2007 after serving as the CFO for a number of years.

Under his leadership as CEO, not only has USAA seen exponential growth, it was ranked No. 1 for customer service, satisfaction, or advocacy by Bloomberg Businessweek, MSN Money, the American Association of Individual Investors, Forrester Research, and J.D. Power. Committed to advocating for military families, Joe has guided USAA to become a national leader in hiring veterans and military spouses and offering them careers in the private sector. Joe was invited to the White House and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to be recognized for USAA's efforts in this area and demonstrating its commitment by ensuring that veterans and military spouses comprised 30 percent of USAA's new hires in 2013.

Beyond those astounding achievements, Joe has also been a dedicated and active member of his community throughout his career. In 2011, Joe was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Horatio Alger Award recipients are dedicated community leaders who demonstrate individual initiative, a commitment to excellence, and remarkable achievements through honesty, hard

work, self-reliance, and perseverance over adversity.

Joe has left some big shoes for future leaders of the military, USAA, and the San Antonio community. His is the quintessential American story—one of perseverance, work ethic, and fortitude. But if you ask most people who know Joe well, they will tell you what stands out most about him is that he is simply a great human being. He views himself as not just a leader but part of a greater community—a community of people to which he is dedicated and about which he cares deeply. That is really what sets Joe apart from many other hard-charging leaders, and it is why he will be profoundly missed. I offer my congratulations to Joe Robles on a commendable career, a lifetime of achievements and his ability to maintain humility and compassion through it all.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor all of those brave American men and women who have suffered as prisoners of war, are missing in action, or remain unaccounted for with respect to their service to our Nation. Since 1998, we take the third Friday of every September—this year, the 19th—as a day to acknowledge and remember with these extraordinary men and women. Our servicemembers provide the blanket of security that allows us to sleep safely at night. We cannot thank them enough. But what we can do is pledge to all of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines never to forget them and their sacrifice.

During the course of the Vietnam war, over 2,500 military personnel were declared either a prisoner of war or missing in action. In 1971, Mary Hoff, the wife of Lt. Cmdr Michael Hoff, a missing-in-action military officer, saw the need for a flag to honor all of those classified as missing in action, MIA, or prisoner of war, POW. Newt Heisley, a World War II pilot, designed the flag. It is a haunting black flag containing a white silhouette of a servicemember. Behind this servicemember is a single barbed wire and a watchtower in the background, and underneath this image are the words “You are not forgotten.” Just as those words are written on the flag, so they are in my heart. As moving and poignant as this flag is, it was still not enough. On 1979, Congress and the President declared the first POW/MIA Recognition Day. On this day, all Americans shall remember those who gallantly sacrificed their freedom so we can remain free. Just 3 years later, this emblem became the only other flag to fly next to Old Glory over the White House. On 1989, it was installed in the Capitol rotunda as a representation of this Nation's vow

to take account for all those who remain missing. As I walk past the rotunda and I see that flag, I always take a moment to remember those who have been declared POW or MIA in my thoughts and prayers. And to those who are still missing, I voice our commitment of never-ending support in finding you and bringing you home. No matter what it takes, we will never stop looking.

This day calls for remembrance of those in the past who have endured these awful fates, but it also reminds us to continue our efforts to bring every American home. From World War II to the 1991 gulf war, more than 83,000 Americans have been pronounced missing. That is a hard number to hear. I commend the actions of the Department of Defense, DOD, and of the personnel—military and civilian—who have wholeheartedly devoted themselves to the cause of finding and returning our courageous servicemembers. I honor and thank all of the Marylanders who have dedicated themselves to this cause. That quest is what our servicemembers and their families deserve, servicemembers such as John Call III of Potomac, MD, who served in Vietnam under the Air Force; POW survivor, Dr. Louis Haberer Tankin of Baltimore, MD, who served in World War II under the Army Medical Corps; Paul Carty of Frederick, MD, declared MIA serving in the Korean war under the Army; and Adnan al-Hilawi, DOD contractor, who went missing on March 3, 2007, while working in Baghdad, Iraq, and still remains missing today.

I have had the honor to work beside Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a survivor of a POW camp—the infamous “Hanoi Hilton”—in North Vietnam for over 5 years. His experience and courage and triumph and service continue to inspire me. I thank my colleague for his service and sacrifice on our Nation’s behalf.

It pains me to think about the fate of these men and women, but no matter the pain, we all must stay true to our pledge never to forget them. And we shall never forget the hardships endured by their family and friends who cannot receive the closure of their beloved servicemember’s fate. The U.S. Government owes a great deal of compassion, appreciation, and gratitude to these families and friends.

Joseph Campbell once said, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” Every single soldier, airman, marine, and sailor is a hero in my eyes. I pledge to never forget those heroes who have been held prisoner of war or have been declared MIA, and I pledge to all of our service men and women that if you do go missing or are held captive, we will do everything in our power to bring you home and keep you in our memories. Today, this Nation reminds our servicemembers, our citizens, and the

world that America “leaves no man behind.”

CELEBRATING THE AIR FORCE’S 67TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate another year of outstanding service from the U.S. Air Force. Through signing the National Security Act of 1947, President Harry Truman awarded our Air Force the respect and recognition it so rightly deserved, highlighting its strategic importance in the U.S. defense system. Sixty-seven years later, the Air Force continues to uphold the freedom and safety of our great Nation, protecting the bastion of democracy that is the United States of America. Today, we express our unwavering admiration and support for an Air Force that fulfills its duties with integrity and excellence. Accomplishing the mission “to fly, fight and win,” the Air Force is a source of national pride, and I have no doubt it will continue in this tradition.

In 1907, the world’s first airplane flight soared over the sands of Kitty Hawk, NC, as a soaring, swooping symbol of innovation and technological prowess. The success of this first mission would not have been possible without the pioneering minds of the Wright Brothers, and the same stands today. I commend the skilled airmen of our Air Force: they are the warriors behind our aviation triumphs and their sacrifices and achievements are just as inspiring as those of their 20th-century predecessors. Our airmen are masters of innovation, ensuring the Air Force can fly, fight, and win with efficiency, speed, and through world-class technology. They have come a long way since 1907 and will no doubt continue along this prominent trajectory.

At present, the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force dwarf comparable forces across the globe. Ours is the largest and most technologically advanced force in the world. Our airmen continuously strive to fulfill the five core missions of the Air Force: No. 1, air and space superiority; No. 2, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; No. 3, rapid global mobility; No. 4, global strike; and No. 5, command and control—all the while remaining committed to these central duties, the Air Force has recognized that strategic agility is the future. With the new Air Force 30-year strategy, triumphed by Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff General Mark A. Welsh III, our outstanding airmen are able to adapt and prepare for a world with ever-evolving global threats. Faced with new challenges, such as the danger posed by ISIL, the Air Force ensures we are one step ahead, placing our freedom and safety out of harm’s reach. For the past 67 years our Air Force has proven to be responsive and brave in the face of

change. It is a force we can all be proud of and, above all, a force we can trust.

The U.S. Air Force remains one of our most crucial tools for tackling global conflict. Its wide-ranging scope ensures it provides global vigilance, global reach, and global power while helping to manage crises around the world to safeguard our freedom. Using technology in air, space and cyber space, the Air Force has become integral to all fronts of U.S. defense. The Air Force is deployed in war zones, natural disaster relief, and intelligence gathering, demonstrating there are no bounds to its significance. By confronting conflicts around the globe, the Air Force protects U.S. citizens and plays a vital role in spreading peace and freedom to the worldwide population.

The Maryland Air National Guard is a wonderful example of dedicated citizen airmen who serve the Nation, the State of Maryland, and their local communities. An integral part of the Maryland community, our Air National Guard works to ensure the safety of the citizens of Maryland, coordinating responses to any State crises. Yet these same airmen have been called upon to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their experience and talents are an invaluable asset to the Department of Defense. Most recently, the 104th Fighter Squadron of the Maryland Air National Guard deployed four A-10C fighters and 100 personnel to participate in Exercise Saber Strike, supporting strategic training and foreign partnerships in Estonia. This is just one illustration of the good work of the Maryland Air National Guard. Our 175th wing is continually deployed worldwide to assist with training, humanitarian relief, international cyber defense, and combat operations, all of which demonstrate the wide-ranging significance of our Maryland Air National Guard.

When remembering 67 years of stalwart service, we must never forget that we owe these years of triumph to the men and women behind the machines, the airmen. I thank them personally for their dedication and bravery to the United States of America. I am fortunate to have one—Maj. David James Wilson—currently serving on my staff as a defense legislative fellow. We ask a lot of these courageous men and women, and they continue to exceed our expectations with integrity and excellence. They are dedicated to service before self. They sacrifice their personal safety to ensure the U.S. flag continues to stand tall and fly free. They are the warriors who have answered our Nation’s call. They are team members who leave no airman behind. They will not falter nor will they fail. For this, we owe them our enduring gratitude, support, and admiration.

Today, on the 67th birthday of our Air Force, we congratulate the men

and women who have taken to the skies in defense of our freedom. Their valor and sacrifice humbles me. Let us remember this feeling of awe and pride not just today but every day as we applaud the accomplishments of our Nation's airmen, past and present, and wish the U.S. Air Force a happy 67th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on more than one occasion, I have talked about the hardworking men and women who toil mostly in anonymity here in the Senate. We have people who work on our staffs and on the committees. We have floor and cloakroom staff. We have parliamentarians and legislative counsel and enrolling clerks. We have carpenters and plumbers and electricians. To me, all of these people are part of the Senate family. And I am always grateful for the dedication, skill, and pride each brings to his or her job. Many of these individuals live in Maryland and I am proud to have them as constituents. While we Senators may have our partisan differences, the Senate functions well at an institutional level because of the professionalism and devotion to public service of its staff—people who typically log long hours; endure government shutdowns, security threats, and other perturbations; and work in facilities we try to make as accessible as possible to the American people and anyone else who wishes to visit.

Today, I thank one such individual, Jerry Linnell, for 32 years of exemplary service to the Senate and the American people. Jerry is retiring at the end of the month. Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates in 1982 and became the Chief Reporter of Debates in 1999. For those people who may be unfamiliar with the Reporters' office, it is charged with producing a verbatim account of everything that happens here on the floor of the Senate. Even with modern technology employed, that is a daunting task requiring a team of eight skilled reporters who take turns transcribing every word that we Senators utter on the floor. They have to be able to decipher our accents and occasional creative use of the English language, and they have to withstand filibusters. It is a mentally and physically challenging job. The Reporters the Senate employs are highly experienced professionals who take pride in their work. The Office has 15 people overall and a designee from the Government Printing Office, GPO; collectively, they are responsible for producing the Senate's portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is one of the crucial documents of our government.

Jerry is a Minnesota native, born in Duluth and raised in Grand Marais. He

played on the high school football team and was captain of the basketball team. He attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis and graduated from its court reporting program. Jerry's first court reporting job was with Ward & Paul in Washington, DC, before moving to New Carrollton, MD and joining the Baltimore court reporting firm of Salomon Brothers. After several years in Baltimore and at one point passing in one test session 8 of the 9 highest testing requirements set by the National Court Reporters Association, Jerry joined the staff of the U.S. Senate's Official Reporters of Debates.

Jerry and his wife Jane first met on a dance floor; they were members of the DC Swing dance team and danced competitively. They enjoy traveling back to Grand Marais, where Jerry claims to have shoveled more snow than anyone else in the Linnell family, for various music events where he can play his accordion with local musicians and family members. He's also a country music fan.

Jerry is the proud father of Laurie, Jerry Jr., Heather and Katie, and the very proud grandfather of Colleen, Rachel, Leanne, Monica, and Jerry III. He currently serves as the President of the Linnell Family Association, a group composed of the thousands of descendants of Robert Linnell, who first came to the United States in the early 1600s to Scituate, Massachusetts. Jerry has spent many an hour refurbishing his Capitol Hill home, and plans on retiring between that home and a newly purchased and renovated home in North Carolina where he can play golf all year round.

Even though Jerry is a former Maryland resident, he is a diehard Washington Nationals fan. He and his wife Jane love to attend games together. In light of his more than three decades of public service, I won't hold that against him. But with the real prospect this fall of a Beltway World Series between the Nats and the Baltimore Orioles, he should prepare himself to be disappointed!

Mr. President, in all seriousness, we are fortunate to have men and women of Jerry's caliber devote their time and talent to the U.S. Senate. Jerry is an outstanding public servant. While we will miss him—and his trademark suspenders—he certainly has earned a well-deserved retirement and on behalf of the Senate, I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

REMEMBERING JERRY L. HEDRICK

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry L. Hedrick, a lifelong North Carolinian, distinguished public servant, a United States Army veteran,

and a leader of distinction at many levels in the American Legion, who died on August 25, 2014, concluding a life of superb and selfless service to the veterans of North Carolina and America. Jerry passed away on the eve of the American Legion's National Convention in Charlotte, NC, an event he had been actively planning for almost until the moment his life ended. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Jerry put his heart and soul into the Legion's mission throughout his life.

Jerry was born in Lexington, NC a year after the end of World War II and spent his younger, formative years in Davidson County, where he was graduated from Lexington Senior High in 1965, just as the war in Vietnam was escalating. Jerry joined the United States Army in 1966 and was trained as an armor crewman. He was subsequently assigned to Alpha Troop, First Squadron, of the Fourteenth Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fulda, Germany. This was in the early years of the Cold War that pitted North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, commanded by the United States, at outposts and in forward bases along the border that divided a free and democratic West Germany from a repressive communist regime in Soviet supported East Germany. The open lowlands around Jerry's base were known then and for the next 25 years as the Fulda Gap, where NATO expected a Soviet invasion of Western Europe would come through. At that time America's attention was turning toward Southeast Asia and the hot war there, but Jerry and his fellow soldiers had a vital mission, one that would continue until the demise of the Soviet Union.

Jerry received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1968 and returned home to North Carolina. Soon after, he joined American Legion Post 8 in Lexington and found work as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, where he worked faithfully from 1969 until 2001. In the early post-Army years, Jerry somehow found the time amidst all his activities to study and obtain a business degree from Rowan Technical Community College. Years later, when Jerry was asked what spurred his decision to join the Legion, he simply stated, "I was asked by fellow workers and I wanted to help veterans."

Throughout his over four decades of service to the Legion and to North Carolina's veterans, Jerry Hedrick held almost every leadership position from Post Financial Officer, to Post Adjutant, to Post Commander, and went on to serve as both a Department and District Vice Commander and Commander, as well as rising to National level committees that addressed Americanism, Military Affairs, and International Affairs. Jerry was also the North Carolina Department's representative to the dedication of the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and would say in later years that some of his fondest memories were from his time on the National Executive Committee, which is responsible for drafting the annual budget and signing off on the American Legion's spending.

While he devoted much of his life's work to the Legion and to veterans' issues, Jerry Hedrick was also devoted to his wife Marie and to his family, and a prominent figure in his community, through volunteerism for the Moose, Masonic, and Elks Lodges.

When I reflect on the sum total of Jerry's life, I see a man who knew that the calling of service and the value of fellowship were essential elements of the American experience and what truly bind us together. As an advocate for veterans, his legacy is typified in the old saying that the measure of a man is not what he does but what he gives. Jerry lived those words until his last day with us.

I offer his wife Marie and his entire family my deepest condolences. They, all of North Carolina, and this Nation, have lost a lifelong friend, a true gentleman, a stalwart leader for veterans, and a role model for those committed to community and national service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STORY LANDIS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a truly exceptional public servant, Dr. Story Landis, who is retiring in a few weeks from the directorship of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health. I have been fortunate to get to know Dr. Landis during her 11 years as Institute Director. She has testified several times before the committees I chair, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, always with the poise of a leader at a prestigious national institution, the rigor of a renowned scientist, and the insight of a truly extraordinary pioneer working on the frontiers of our knowledge of the human brain.

Certainly, Dr. Landis has an exemplary pedigree. A graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard University, Dr. Landis came to NIH in 1995 as NINDS Scientific Director, following a distinguished career as a neuroscience researcher and chair of the Neuroscience Department at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. As scientific director, she had the bold vision to stimulate collaborations in brain research across labs from different institutes on the NIH campus and led the planning for a unique national neuroscience research center at NIH. From the time Dr. Landis became NINDS Director in 2003, she worked with me, with the late Senator Spector, and

with other NIH Institute Directors to make this center a reality. This spring I was fortunate to be at the NIH campus to help officially dedicate the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center.

I will remember Dr. Landis best for her courage, her ability to bridge gaps, and her passion.

First, her courage. Not many people remember this, but in 2007, Dr. Landis was the first NIH Director to speak publicly in opposition to President Bush's ban on Federal funding of stem cell research. That may not sound like much to us now, but at the time it was a remarkable act of professional integrity and personal courage. The American public was very divided, the scientific community was not unified, and most importantly, she worked for the administration whose policies she was publicly criticizing. She risked her job and her reputation to alert this Senate to the reality that research was being stifled—research with enormous potential to reduce human suffering. Just last week, I read a press report about stem cells being used to decode schizophrenic brains. This Nation is indebted to Dr. Landis for having the courage to speak a hard truth at a critical juncture in our Nation's scientific policy debate.

Second, let me talk about Dr. Landis's ability to bridge gaps. In truth, she has bridged so many divides throughout her career: She reached across institutes in 2005 to establish and develop one of the most effective trans-NIH initiatives in producing the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research and more recently launching the NIH BRAIN Initiative, which will bring together engineers, aging experts, and neuroscientists to transform our understanding of the human brain. She reached across scientific gaps in chairing the NIH Stem Cell Task Force and helping to coordinate and lead pain research efforts across NIH, and she bridged generation gaps in her enthusiastic mentorship, her work on career development, and her support for early-stage investigators.

But the gap I remember best is the divide between scientists and policymakers. I might be telling tales out of school here, but it was Story Landis and Jim Battley who sat with me for nearly an hour in Dirksen 116 and patiently walked me through the science and the potential for stem cell research. Concepts that are familiar to many of us now—ideas such as pluripotency and somatic cell transfer—were entirely new. Scientists and the public would all have to learn how to engage with one another about the legal, technical, and ethical issues raised by stem cell research, and Dr. Landis was there to bridge that divide with me.

Finally, let me speak about her passion. Dr. Landis and I have worked to-

gether for many years on many topics, but none is closer to her heart than spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA. When she and I began collaborating to address SMA, there was very little to offer families who had a child afflicted by this debilitating disease. Between 2003 and 2012, the NINDS piloted the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Project to expedite therapeutics development. If you listen to Dr. Collins talk about the Advanced Medicine Partnership today, you hear echoes of Dr. Landis's work on SMA. The project was designed to accelerate the research process by creating a virtual pharmaceutical company to identify drugs that could be used as potential leads for clinical testing. This was groundbreaking work well before "translational research" was commonly discussed. And it worked not just for the compounds it discovered but also by getting companies interested in creating more and better treatments. As a consequence, today when we talk about the SMA treatments in development, we talk about treatments in the plural. This would not be happening if Story Landis had not focused her passion on SMA.

Dr. Landis's career has stimulated tremendous progress in the field of neuroscience and inspired legions of young scientists to follow in her path. She has been a true public servant. Indeed, I am always amazed at America's good fortune in attracting public servants of the world-class caliber of Dr. Landis. It has been my privilege to work with her and to learn from her over the years. Dr. Landis has many other admirers in the U.S. Senate. We honor Dr. Story Landis today for her invaluable leadership of NINDS and for her great service to the people of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO COMBINED JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE 435

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, CJIATF, 435. On October 1, 2014, CJIATF 435 will conclude a 5-year mission in Afghanistan to conduct U.S. law of armed conflict detainee operations while successfully training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Army and Afghan justice sector to develop and improve the investigation, prosecution, and detention of insurgent and terror-related threats.

CJIATF 435's team included Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and coalition members. The team developed a strong collaborative relationship with highly capable partners in the Afghan National Army Military Police Guard Command, the National Directorate of Security, the Attorney General's Office, and the Supreme Court. They also

partnered with U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Justice.

On September 18, 2009, CJIATF 435 was established originally as Joint Task Force 435, JTF 435, to assume command, control, oversight and responsibility for all U.S. detainee operations in Afghanistan and coordinate with other partners to promote the rule of law and use of biometrics in Afghanistan. Through its subordinate command, the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan, CJIATF 435 partnered with the Office of the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement. With the addition of combined and interagency partners, JTF 435 officially became CJIATF 435 on September 1, 2010.

CJIATF 435 justice advisors from the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan and the Joint Legal Center, trained, advised, and assisted Afghan prosecutors, judges, and investigators, which enabled the justice system to try over 7,000 cases with a 75 percent conviction rate, resulting in more than 3,000 insurgents held accountable for their crimes. The Joint Legal Center also responded to over 12,000 requests for information from Afghan courts. The National Directorate of Security Agents provided information for investigations to assist in convictions.

CJIATF 435 instituted the first of its kind Afghan Training Team program that provided opportunities for expert Afghan criminal investigators, forensic experts, and prosecutors to share their professional expertise with provincial investigators and prosecutors. The program trained more than 400 students in a multitude of Evidence Based Operations procedures.

The CJIATF 435 Intelligence Directorate, the Theater Intelligence Group, conducted more than 30,000 interviews and produced thousands of reports in support of Afghan investigation, prosecution, and detention operations. Outstanding intelligence collection consisting of over 30,000 interrogations generating more than 5,500 intelligence information reports, resulting in over 2,000 source directed requirements, made legal victories possible and contributed valuable information to the war fighting effort. The Theater Intelligence Group expertly partnered with Afghan law enforcement investigators to train and assist them in conducting interviews and investigations of complex terror organizations.

CJIATF 435 managed the theater biometrics database which enrolled thousands of individuals associated with the insurgency into the database and prevented them from entering coalition bases. The biometrics enabled watchlist was critical to force protection and led to the capture, targeting, and tactical questioning of hundreds of possible threats. These biometric enrollments also linked many insurgents to a host of crimes against the coalition and the Afghan people.

During the transition of detention operations to Afghan custody and control, CJIATF 435 ensured the Afghan Military Police Guard Command provided secure and humane care, custody, and control of over 3,500 detainees. CJIATF 435 provided hands-on training, mentorship, and oversight to facilitate the complete transfer of detainee operations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, GIROA. Their tireless efforts set the conditions of GIROA's largest detention facility to conduct independent operations in full compliance with international standards of humane care and detainee treatment.

As CJIATF 435 approached the end of mission, it established a rule of law development team to continue mentoring the Afghan prosecutors, judges, investigators and military police in the investigation, prosecution, and detention of national security threats. Through the tireless efforts of the men and women of CJIATF 435, the Afghans are well poised to effectively operate the National Security Justice Center at Parwan which will protect the Afghan people and coalition forces while strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.

Commending the combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 on a job well-done for supporting the Government of Afghanistan as it built self-sustaining detention capacity and rule of law institutions compliant with Afghan and international law, I ask that the Senate join me in acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of CJIATF 435 for promoting the values of democracy.

INDIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, next week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United States for the first time since his historic election victory. The U.S. and India are natural partners with shared values and common interests, yet we are far from realizing the full potential of our relationship to the mutual benefit of both of our countries. On behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and thousands of Indian-American constituents across New Jersey, I welcome the Prime Minister to the United States and am confident that his visit will re-invigorate and refocus our partnership so that concrete progress can be made in a host of sectors.

India's new government has won a historic mandate to deliver change and reform, and we should be ready to support India's efforts to meet challenges—through concrete measures to bolster trade and investment, strengthen defense cooperation, and deepen our security partnership.

The U.S. and India are engaged in a comprehensive set of diplomatic dialogue and working groups—currently

there are dozens such groups covering a wide range of issues in the areas of economics, security, climate change, and education. This is a relationship that does not suffer from a lack of dialogue. It has, however, unfortunately suffered from a lack of results, especially since the civilian nuclear framework was agreed to in 2005. With a strong push from the Prime Minister, President Obama and the U.S. Congress, the time is right for these dialogues to translate into action.

There is broad support in the U.S. for a more robust economic and trade relationship with India. Investment should be at the top of this agenda. I welcome India's move to raise foreign investment ceilings in several sectors of the Indian economy, including defense, railways, e-commerce and insurance. These are important steps that have helped to ease some of the concerns American companies have had about barriers to entering the Indian market. However more must be done and I hope that the U.S. and India will work together to address these remaining barriers.

Vice President BIDEN laid out an ambitious trade target last summer in India, calling for a five-fold increase from \$100 billion to \$500 billion a year in annual bilateral trade. Prime Minister Modi and President Obama should reconvene the Trade Policy Forum this year, which will provide a platform to identify steps to improve our economic and trade relationship. The Prime Minister's visit will also present an opportunity to reengage on World Trade Organization negotiations, where India's concerns are the last remaining barrier to the important Trade Facilitation Agreement. I also hope we can smooth the way forward for continued discussions to complete a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

U.S. companies seek to invest in India, but need transparent governance, a fair regulatory environment, and strong legal mechanisms to protect those investments. If the Indian government can deliver on its plans for greater openness for capital flows and stronger intellectual property rights, I am confident our companies are ready to invest. We want to work together with India to help foster the best conditions for this kind of economic growth and partnership.

I welcome recent reports that India plans to develop a new comprehensive intellectual property rights, IPR, policy. We need to see real reforms on this key issue, which significantly impacts the ability of U.S. companies to do business in an important market. In particular, the life sciences industry faces continuing challenges on IPR protections. I appreciate that this is a complex issue. Policymakers in both the United States and India want to ensure access to medications for those who need them, especially for low-income and other vulnerable populations.

International life sciences companies in my State and from other nations are concerned that India's lack of protection of IPR will threaten innovation and affect access for those very people. I look forward to the renewed dialogue with the Indian government on this issue.

India has a central role in contributing to prosperity in South Asia, a central foreign policy interest of the U.S. As the U.S. seeks to bolster Afghanistan's economic links in the region, within the framework of the New Silk Road initiative, we look to India to play a critical role in promoting trade with Afghanistan and the other countries of Central Asia. Regional economic connectivity should also extend to India's trade relationship with Pakistan. I urge both India and Pakistan to continue to work toward strengthening their bilateral relationship. Improved trade relations between India and Pakistan have the potential to unlock opportunities for over 1.5 billion people. The U.S. stands ready and willing to support efforts that enhance the cross-border trade relationship.

India is a strong partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region, and we have a shared national interest to confront terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and maintain regional stability. In Afghanistan, India has been a key provider of development assistance and supporter of the Afghan National Security Forces. As the international community draws down forces in Afghanistan, the U.S. and India should be prepared to increase counterterrorism and intelligence cooperation and coordination, and both sides should commit to a robust set of military exercises. Last year India significantly increased its purchases of American arms and now conducts more exercises and personnel exchanges with the U.S. than any other country—I welcome and encourage expanding this important collaboration.

Defense cooperation remains the most promising area of U.S.-India cooperation, and I am pleased that Secretary Hagel's recent visit to India further deepened our defense ties. We should expand initiatives to strengthen our defense cooperation, including military exercises, as well as co-production and co-development of defense products. The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative should continue to advance efforts to reform India's defense procurement and management systems, and encourage both sides to explore the possibility of a revamped and expanded formal framework for a bilateral defense agreement.

I believe we should be expanding educational ties in all sectors—the best and the brightest from both sides should be exchanging ideas and building on the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that exists in both countries. I encourage the U.S.-India Edu-

cation Dialogue to continue to explore areas of collaboration, including student and faculty exchange, research cooperation, and implementation of technology-enabled education strategies, such as e-learning, and cooperation between community colleges.

Rutgers University has formed strong relationships with Indian educational and research institutions, and has increased the profile of India with businesses, communities, and nonprofit organizations in New Jersey. Rutgers was one of five recipients of the 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, which unifies many of the university's efforts with Indian institutions through faculty exchanges, and research and innovation collaboration in the priority areas of food security, climate change, sustainable health and public health. I strongly support these collaborations, and encourage the expansion of efforts to strengthen exchanges in technical and vocational education.

India has a long and rich history of religious, ethnic, and linguistic pluralism with a vibrant civil society. We should also continue to work together to ensure greater respect for human rights, and encourage a legal framework that protects the civil rights and liberties of the most vulnerable Indian populations, particularly women and children.

India is critical to international efforts to address climate change. There are huge opportunities for India to act on climate change while boosting development at the same time, and I urge the Indian government to continue to explore ways to make clean power more accessible and more affordable. We should also expand our partnership with India on energy, which would help them reduce dependence on unstable energy suppliers. Finally, we must continue to work toward cutting emissions from hydrofluorocarbons and coal—both of which contribute to climate change. I applaud Secretary Kerry and Minister Swaraj's efforts to establish a new joint working group on climate change, and am hopeful that we can continue to explore ways to expand R&D collaboration to bolster renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, to meet India's growing energy demands, while ensuring there are environmental protections.

Our agenda is extensive and the potential to accomplish our mutually beneficial goals is limitless. There is so much room for growth. With sustained attention and leadership, as well as active engagement by the Indian-American diaspora, I am confident in our ability to achieve results and work toward a more prosperous and secure future. I am proud to welcome Prime Minister Modi to the United States and I wish him a successful visit.

COMMEMORATING HANFORD B'S SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator CANTWELL to commemorate the Hanford B Reactor in our home State of Washington as we approach the 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. An essential part of the Manhattan Project, on September 26, 1944, the B Reactor was successfully energized to convert uranium into plutonium, an event known as going critical. The entire facility was built in only 13 months, and only a handful of the 50,000 workers at the site knew what was being assembled. The speed and precision of the construction of the facility remain an engineering marvel today. It was not until later that the majority of these workers learned they had played a key role in the history of nuclear materials production in the United States and helped the U.S. win World War II and the Cold War.

The B Reactor went on to operate for more than 20 years until 1968, making its mark on the 20th century. After ceasing operations, the B Reactor was to be encased in concrete like all the other reactors as part of the Hanford Reservation cleanup efforts. Given the B Reactor's historic role, I worked for many years with Senator CANTWELL and the entire Washington delegation to ensure this piece of our nation's history is preserved for generations to come. After years of hard work, I was pleased when the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the B Reactor as a national historic landmark in 2008, and the B Reactor now receives more than 10,000 visitors a year from around the Nation and the world to see and experience this important part of world history. Today, the B Reactor remains a symbol for the Hanford Reservation, the entire Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation as a whole.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I join my colleague Senator MURRAY in commemorating this important day in American history. Seventy years ago, when the B Reactor went critical, it forever changed history and thrust society into the Atomic Age. On September 26, 1944 the Manhattan Project overcame a major obstacle when the B Reactor—the first full-scale nuclear reactor—proved that it was possible to develop plutonium in large quantities, and the world was forever transformed. Our constituents in Washington State are reminded of that change daily, as the workers at the Hanford Reservation continue their efforts to clean up the legacy of the B Reactor and the eight other reactors built and operated at Hanford. The history of this fateful day and the entire Manhattan Project must be remembered so that our Nation has the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the important lessons this facility has to offer.

Our collective work to designate the B Reactor as a national historic landmark is a great start, but the Manhattan Project story cannot be told at the B Reactor alone. This is why I am working with Senator MURRAY and our colleagues in Tennessee and New Mexico to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act would commemorate the historic achievements made by the workers at the Hanford Reservation and at other Manhattan Project sites across the country. The men and women who worked on the B Reactor played an unforgettable role in our Nation's history, and it is important that we remember their lasting impact.

Mrs. MURRAY. I commend Senator CANTWELL for her work on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act and will continue to push this legislation forward with our colleagues in Congress. The 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor going critical is a fitting tribute and reminder that this landmark moment in history should be preserved for future generations through the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES MEZA, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Dr. James Meza, Jr., who has devoted much of his life to ensuring that all of Louisiana's students receive an excellent education. He currently serves as Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System and while he will soon retire from this role, he will be leaving behind an indelible mark of impressive leadership and results. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of Louisiana, I applaud Dr. Meza as a champion of high quality education and for his devotion to Louisiana's public education system.

Dr. Meza's experience in education spans more than 40 years and crosses teaching and leadership positions both at the K-12 and higher education levels. As a champion of education reform, Dr. Meza developed many of the pioneering ideas in Louisiana that led to revolutionary reform movements across the Nation. In the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav, Dr. Meza was instrumental in one of the most transformational endeavors of modern public education helping to establish the Recovery School District in New Orleans, LA, which is now 100 percent public charter schools and has experienced extraordinary progress in closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Meza served most recently as the Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Louisiana's largest and most diverse school district, serving 46,000 students. Since be-

coming the head of Jefferson Parish Public School System in 2011, Dr. Meza has led a reform agenda that has transformed the school system from one in a downward spiral for achievement to one of Louisiana's most improved school systems. In 2 years, Jefferson Parish Public School System has improved its State performance rating from a letter grade "D" to "B." In that same period, the number of "A" and "B" schools has increased dramatically, from 13 to 32. Jefferson Parish is home to 4 schools that are ranked in the top 10 in Louisiana.

Prior to becoming Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Dr. Meza served as Professor and Dean at the University of New Orleans, UNO, for more than 21 years where he published more than 40 journal articles to study education reform, specifically focused on serving children of low-income families in Louisiana and nationwide. Dr. Meza is recognized nationally for redefining the role of colleges of education and their work with low performing schools. As Dean, he launched the UNO Charter School Network of four charter schools, as well as Louisiana's first Type 5—turnaround—charter school. His efforts were recognized by New Orleans City Business, which presented him with the "Innovator of the Year" award. He received the honor and title of Professor and Dean Emeritus from the LSU system, recognizing his years of scholarship at UNO.

Dr. Meza has served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, BESE, and the Interim State Superintendent of Education for Louisiana. During this time, he was a pioneer in school accountability, launching Louisiana's educational quality and trust fund, 8G, and restructuring the Department of Education as Louisiana transformed the State Superintendent's position from an elected position to one appointed by BESE. Dr. Meza also has served as a faculty member at Nicholls State University, principal of Cabrini High School, and teacher at E.D. White and Isidore Newman High School.

Dr. Meza has received numerous awards and deserved recognitions for his transformational work in the education sphere. He is the recipient of The Weiss Award by the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, which honors members of the Greater New Orleans community for civic and humanitarian contributions. He has also been recognized as a "Super Hero" by the national organization Stand for Children for his work in improving quality educational opportunities for children of poverty.

Dr. Meza currently serves on the Board of Directors of Holy Cross School and was a member of the Louisiana Serve Commission and the Southern University System Board of

Supervisors. He is also a founding board member of Ben Franklin High School and Edward Hynes charter schools. Dr. Meza served 32 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard and retired at the rank of Colonel.

I am proud that Louisiana's students and teachers have had the strong leadership and guidance of Dr. Meza over the years. Dr. Meza's leadership as the Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System will be missed; however, I have full faith and trust that he will continue to lead in improving the educational prospects and outcomes for Louisiana's students in whatever role he pursues next. Once again, I am privileged and honored to formally recognize Dr. James Meza, Jr. for his commitment and efforts to strengthen public education in Louisiana.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.O. SMITH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate A.O. Smith Corporation, a "Made in Wisconsin" company on the occasion of their 140th anniversary.

A.O. Smith was founded in 1874 in Milwaukee, WI, and over the past century has grown rapidly from a small family business specializing in the fabrication of metal hardware specialties to a global water technology manufacturer producing residential and commercial water heaters, boilers, and water purification equipment. Today they employ more than 10,000 people across the United States and the world.

The company was instrumental in helping to usher in the automobile revolution, developing a new, lightweight steel car frame a development that caught the interest of major car companies including Peerless, Cadillac, Packard, Oldsmobile, and Ford. Ford's initial order of 10,000 frames led A.O. Smith to develop the world's first mass production process for assembling frames, later introducing the world's first automated frame production line. This first fully automated frame assembly plant came to be known as the "mechanical marvel" due to the line's ability to make a frame every eight seconds—10,000 frames a day.

Their engineers discovered an improved method for welding, allowing for the production of a wide range of steel products. This included the pressure vessel for oil refining and large diameter steel pipe, important components in the oil and natural gas industries.

One of the company's most important and enduring innovations was the process of fusing glass to steel. By perfecting this process, the company developed a range of new products, including glass-lined beer kegs, glass-lined brewery tanks, and glass-lined residential water heaters. Glass-lined

water heaters rapidly became an industry standard that endures today and led to A.O. Smith's growth as a global company and as an important economic driver for Southeastern Wisconsin.

In recent years, A.O. Smith has emerged as a vital player in global water technologies, developing solutions to our water challenges. A co-founding member of The Water Council, A.O. Smith has helped ensure Milwaukee's place as a world water leader, while supporting economic development in Wisconsin. The Water Council helped bring about the creation of the Global Water Center, which houses water-related business accelerators and research facilities, including A.O. Smith's global water treatment lab, where engineers conduct controlled testing on water purification products sold around the world. Bringing together their work has helped transform Milwaukee into one of the world's most significant hubs for water research, education, and economic development.

I am proud to recognize A.O. Smith as a "Made in Wisconsin" leader, and I share my best wishes with the company and their employees for their continued success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JEFF GRAPPONE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to say a few kind words about my longtime communications director and friend, Jeff Grappone—a native of Concord, NH.

Jeff has served as my chief spokesman since I ran for the Senate in 2010. He's traveled with me from Nashua all the way up to Colebrook, and from Keene to Portsmouth. He was by my side at the Statehouse when I filed my paperwork to become a candidate, and he was there when I won the primary and general elections. Jeff was present for my ceremonial swearing-in that took place in the Old Senate Chamber, and he then immediately got to work establishing my Senate press office.

Jeff helped me hit the ground running as a first-time candidate and as a new Senator. He has provided me with outstanding communications counsel, and I've drawn on his considerable experience here on Capitol Hill as well as back home in New Hampshire. He's been an invaluable adviser as I've gone about my work in the Senate—helping me effectively communicate my legislative priorities in Washington and in the Granite State.

Jeff has worked tirelessly in my office. It wasn't unusual for him to work into the night until the last vote was called in the Senate, and then head up to New Hampshire for a press conference the next morning. He has brought energy and enthusiasm to my

staff, and he shares my strong commitment to serving the people of the Granite State.

After nearly a decade in politics and on Capitol Hill—on the legislative staff of Congressman Charles F. Bass, as Press Secretary to Senator John E. Sununu, and as a spokesman for Senator JOHN MCCAIN's presidential campaign, Jeff is about to embark on a new chapter in his career outside of government. As he makes this transition, I will miss his intellect, his expertise, his good humor, and his inherent decency.

Jeff lives by our State's motto, "Live Free or Die," and he has New Hampshire in his blood. He has been a talented and diligent member of my staff, and he's a loyal friend. I wish Jeff the very best always.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB NASH

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of New Hampshire's most respected, accomplished, and beloved citizens—Bob Nash—as he enters into his retirement. I am proud to recognize his illustrious professional career, and his continued service to our country and many communities across the Granite State.

Bob attended the Georgia Military Academy before transferring to the University of Florida, where he graduated with a degree in journalism. After college, Bob joined the Army and bravely served our Nation as a helicopter platoon commander in Vietnam. Bob flew 325 missions and was awarded both the Bronze Star and United States Military Air Medal. He eventually earned the rank of Captain.

Following his dedicated service to our country, Bob began a 38-year career in association management, and obtained his Master's in Business Administration and Certified Executive Association certification. In 2001, he became president of the New Hampshire Association of Insurance Agents, NHAIA. Under his leadership, the association received several accolades, including the Bronze Excellence in Education Award, Gold Excellence in Education Awards, the Diamond Excellence in Education Award, and the InsurPAC Eagle Award. The association was also honored with the Innovations in Education, Non-Seminar Education Services, and L.P. McCord Education Award for Excellence. Most noteworthy, in 2011, the NHAIA was awarded the Maurice G. Herndon National Legislative Award—the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a State association.

Bob Nash is an extraordinary Granite Stater whose commitment to others extends beyond his military and professional career. For many years he has been actively involved with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, the Kawanis, and the United

Way. I wish Bob and his wife Pat all the best as they enjoy retirement at home in Hillsboro. New Hampshire is fortunate to have such outstanding citizens such as Bob, and I am proud to call him my friend.●

CELEBRATING LANCASTER'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lancaster, NH, which is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding this year. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this special milestone.

Located along the Connecticut River in New Hampshire's North Country, Lancaster is a gateway to the Great North Woods, Weeks State Park and the White Mountain National Forest.

As Coos County's county seat, Lancaster is home to over 3,500 residents. The town welcomes hundreds of visitors from across the region who come each year to enjoy its scenic beauty and vibrant recreational opportunities, including snowmobiling, hiking, and fishing. Shops line the town's bustling Main Street, and every year the annual Lancaster Fair, which is the premier agricultural fair in the region, attracts citizens from across the Granite State and beyond.

New Hampshire's covered bridges are a unique part of our State's beauty, history and charm, and the town of Lancaster is home to two of these classic bridges. The historic Mt. Orne and Mechanic Street bridges span the Connecticut and Israel rivers, respectively.

Throughout its history, Lancaster has also been home to several notable public servants. John Weeks represented New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate, where he sponsored legislation that established the White Mountain National Forest. He also served in President Calvin Coolidge's cabinet as the 48th Secretary of War. Jared W. Williams served in the U.S. House and Senate, and was New Hampshire's 21st governor. Chester Bradley Jordan was elected the 48th Governor of New Hampshire, Irving W. Drew served in the U.S. Senate, and Jacob Benton and Ossain Ray both served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lancaster's citizens have contributed much to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire. I am delighted to congratulate all Lancaster residents—past and present—as they celebrate this historic occasion.●

MENTORING

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I would like to express appreciation to those who volunteer their time to serve as mentors.

A recent New York Times column by Thomas L. Friedman titled, "It Takes a Mentor," discussed the importance of mentors to students and those starting

careers. This article highlighted research conducted by the Gallup organization that underscored the significant role mentors can play in helping individuals achieve post-secondary education and career success.

The Gallup research focused on the benefits of mentorships for young adults, but those advantages can also be applied to the academic and athletic mentor programs available to children in grades K-12.

While policymakers and educational experts address concerns about whether American children will learn the skills needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy, we should not overlook the role that mentors play on an individual basis to inspire K-12 students to set higher goals and achieve more.

Volunteer mentors serve as positive role models who can help build self-esteem and confidence in youth, particularly in at-risk children. The best mentors endeavor to challenge students, enhance their self-confidence, and make them excited about learning.

I appreciate the efforts of organizations such as the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Tougaloo College and others throughout Mississippi that sponsor a variety of mentorship programs with missions to improve the education and wellness of children in my State. The individuals, college students and professionals who give of their time to be part of mentor programs also have my respect.

Mr. President, as a new school year gets underway in earnest across the Nation, I think it is worthwhile to consider and encourage the benefits and rewards that come with volunteering to serve as a mentor.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Mr. Friedman's column be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 9, 2014]

IT TAKES A MENTOR

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

With millions of students returning to school—both K-12 and college—this is a good time to review the intriguing results of some research that Gallup did over the past year, exploring the linkages between education and long-term success in the workplace. That is: What are the things that happen at a college or technical school that, more than anything else, produce “engaged” employees on a fulfilling career track? According to Brandon Busteded, the executive director of Gallup's education division, two things stand out. Successful students had one or more teachers who were mentors and took a real interest in their aspirations, and they had an internship related to what they were learning in school.

“We think it's a big deal” where we go to college, Busteded explained to me. “But we found no difference in terms of type of institution you went to—public, private, selective or not in long-term outcomes. How you got your college education mattered most.”

Graduates who told Gallup that they had a professor or professors “who cared about them as a person—or had a mentor who encouraged their goals and dreams and/or had an internship where they applied what they were learning—were twice as likely to be engaged with their work and thriving in their overall well-being,” Busteded said.

Alas, though, only 22 percent of college grads surveyed said they had such a mentor and 29 percent had an internship where they applied what they were learning. So less than a third were exposed to the things that mattered most.

Gallup's data were compiled from polls of parents of 5th through 12th graders, business leaders and interviews with teachers, superintendents, college presidents, principals, college graduates, Americans ages 18 to 34, and students in grades 5 through 12. All told, “we collected the voices of close to one million Americans in the past year alone,” said Busteded, who added that he found the results “alarming”—not only because too few students are getting exposed to the most important drivers of workplace engagement, but because there is also a huge disconnect in perceptions of the problem.

Busteded said that 96 percent of the college provosts Gallup surveyed believed their schools were successfully preparing young people for the workplace. “When you ask recent college grads in the work force whether they felt prepared, only 14 percent say ‘yes,’” he added. And then when you ask business leaders whether they're getting enough college grads with the skills they need, “only 11 percent strongly agree.” Concluded Busteded: “This is not just a skills gap. It is an understanding gap.”

This comes at a time when our country faces creative destruction on steroids thanks to the dynamism of technology and growing evidence that climbing the ladder of job success requires constant learning and relearning. Therefore, the need for schools to have a good grasp of what employers are looking for and for employers to be communicating with schools about those skills is greater than ever.

Some help may be on the way from Washington. Last year, President Obama quietly asked Vice President Joe Biden to oversee an overhaul of the government's education-to-work programs after hearing from one too many employers across the country that, as one White House official put it, “they were having trouble hiring workers for some of their fastest-growing jobs,” such as operating sophisticated machine tools or software testing and debugging.

As they dove into the problem, said Byron Auguste, a White House deputy national economic adviser, they found that the success stories shared a lot of the same attributes that Gallup found to be differentiating. In successful programs, said Auguste, “students got as much applied, hands-on experience as possible, whether in a classroom or on a job site. Schools, colleges and training centers had close partnerships with regional employers, industry groups and skilled trade unions to stay up to date on job-relevant skills. And students or working learners got a lot of coaching and guidance to understand how to trace a direct path between their training today and careers tomorrow.”

The key now is to scale those insights. The Labor Department has awarded \$1.5 billion in the last three years to more than 700 community colleges to develop employer-validated training programs for new careers like natural gas field work and cybersecurity. Later this month, another \$500 million is set

to be awarded as part of a kind of race-to-the-top for whoever can build the best community college-industry group partnership anywhere in the country where new industries are finding gaps in the kind of workers they need.

Employers used to take generalists and train them into specialists for their industry. But fewer employers want to do that today or can afford to in a globally competitive economy, especially when they fear they'll train someone who will then leave for a competitor. So everyone wants employees out of college or technical schools who are as ready to plug and play as possible. That's why government has a role in fostering more and more employer-educator partnerships—this is the new, new thing—which businesses, small and large, can benefit from, as well as all would-be employees.●

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 2014 recipients of the Idaho Hometown Hero medal in the fourth year of the presentation of this recognition.

Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim established the Idaho Hometown Hero Award to recognize individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives. This award helps encourage those working for the betterment of our communities. I congratulate the 2014 award recipients and commend the Rahim brothers, the award's committee members, the cosponsors, volunteers, and other organizations supporting this honor for partnering to cast light on good works.

Nine extraordinary individuals are 2014 Hometown Hero Award recipients. Medical pioneer Dr. Lloyd Call helped establish the Washington Wyoming Alaska Montana Idaho Medical Education Program and the Idaho State University Family Practice Residency in Pocatello. Dedicated 11-year-old Alec Carlson assists his blind mother with their daily routines. Volunteer Lin Carlson helps seniors maintain healthy lifestyles. Sarah Anita Hibbert serves her community delivering toys and goodies to children in the hospital, and she collected over 4,500 pounds of shoes for orphanages through the national Shoes for Love drive.

Sergeant Mathew J. Krumwiede served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and does not let his injuries impede his achievements. Fifteen-year-old Adalaide “Addy” Mayer not only helps care for her father, who was injured serving our Nation in Iraq, but also serves as a volunteer athlete with the Special Olympics. George G. Nickel, who served our Nation in Operations Southern Watch in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, founded the Idaho Veterans Network to assist fellow veterans. Ann Toomey Walsh created Camp Magical Moments Cancer Camp for Kids to help improve the lives of children with cancer and

their families. Helen Wayman Ward, who served as the music specialist for Malad Elementary School for more than 30 years, prevails over significant mental and physical health challenges in her family to give considerably of her time and talent to her community.

These Hometown Hero medal recipients join other veterans, businessmen, authors, physicians, advocates, athletes, teachers, coaches, writers, innovators, public servants, and others who have been recognized through this award. I am honored to be among the 2011 recipients of this medal and to have the opportunity to assist in recognizing the good work of the Rahims and this year's award recipients.

You are making a great difference in our communities, and your actions are inspiring others. You have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service worthy of this esteemed award. I wish you all the best on many more years of positive actions to celebrate.●

NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize National Model Aviation Day, celebrated across the country on August 16, 2014. This annual celebration encourages aeromodeling enthusiasts and model aviation clubs around the Nation to promote the hobby and to raise money for charitable causes.

Model aviation has long been respected as a safe and educational tool, dating back to Leonardo de Vinci's first design of "flying machines" in the late 1400s. This yearly celebration is intended to encourage the more than 2,300 model aviation clubs across the Nation to celebrate the wonder of flight and gather model aircraft enthusiasts together in lending a hand to our veterans.

The Federal Aviation Administration has acknowledged the Academy of Model Aeronautics—the Academy—for fostering model aircraft safety and helping the public to understand model aircraft safety. The Academy is a congressionally recognized community-based organization representing more than 164,000 members. The Academy will continue to promote National Model Aviation Day to people of all ages to learn and experience the thrill and fantasy of flight and I commend the Academy for its work.

This annual celebration is an event for all members of the community to enjoy, including the 11,000 annual visitors to the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, IN. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I sincerely wish everyone around the Nation a safe and happy National Model Aviation Day.●

REMEMBERING NICKOLAUS SCHULTZ

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Merrillville, IN police officer Nickolaus (Nick) Schultz. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Schultz was sworn into the Merrillville Police Department in 2013.

On Friday, September 5, 2014, Officer Schultz responded to an unwanted party call at Tempe Lake Condominiums in Merrillville. Upon arriving at the condominium where the suspect was believed to be hiding, Officer Schultz led a group of four Merrillville police officers into the unit. Moments after entering, the officers were ambushed. Two shots were fired at Officer Schultz, with one striking him in the head. Despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Schultz, 24, succumbed to his wounds on September 7, 2014.

"He led by example . . . It was no surprise to everyone that he was the first officer to approach the door on that night," said Reverend Peter Muha.

An Indiana native, Officer Schultz grew up in Lowell, where he attended Lowell High School. Known for his outgoing, gregarious personality, athleticism, and concern for others, Nick was a varsity member of the championship Lowell football team. Nick went on to play football at Franklin College, where he became co-captain of the team. In 2013, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and criminal justice.

"He always wanted the best for people, and he always watched out for people," said Kristen Mikesell, a friend since childhood. According to many of his peers and Merrillville family members, Officer Schultz always wanted to help other people. "He was a teddy bear, but a strong man who wanted to make a difference," said Merrillville Police Chief Joseph Petruch. It was with this in mind that Officer Schultz's family allowed him to be of service one last time by choosing to donate his organs.

Officer Schultz is survived and deeply missed by his parents Dale and Coleen Schultz; sister Heather Schultz; paternal grandmother Charlotte Herring; maternal grandparents Rich and Pat Shields; girlfriend Emilee McInnis; numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; the Merrillville Police Department family; and Hoosiers throughout the State.

Officer Schultz loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Merrillville. Although he would have never considered himself a hero, Officer Schultz demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday

life as a police officer, son, brother, and friend—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, brave man set for us and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.●

REMEMBERING REVEREND LEONARD F. CHROBOT

● Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of the Reverend Leonard F. Chrobot. Humble, generous, and above all compassionate to those in need, Father Chrobot served in the priesthood for 50 years.

A native of South Bend, IN, Leonard Chrobot stayed in his hometown to attend St. Mary's College. He went on to attend Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, MI, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1964. In subsequent years, Father Chrobot earned a Master's Degree in American Literature from Purdue University and a Doctorate from Wayne State University.

Father Chrobot served in various academic and pastoral positions during his life, including Academic Dean and President of St. Mary's College and Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the American Polish Research Fellowship Program at the University of Notre Dame. He also served as Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Culver, IN, and St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig Parishes in South Bend. Father Chrobot was known for his ability to bring people together, regardless of their religious and ethnic backgrounds or their political views. "He was a kind, soft-spoken man who didn't like to see arguments, rather encouraging people to 'pray about it,'" recounted Rosanne Benassi, office manager for St. Hedwig's Parish.

Father Chrobot passed away on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. He is survived and deeply missed by his sister Joan Webber and brother-in-law Charles, brother Hank Chrobot, several nieces and nephews, the St. Mary's College family, the University of Notre Dame family, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, his parishioners, and Hoosiers across the State.

Father Len, as he was affectionately known, loved his work and dedicated his life to the service of his fellow citizens. Although he would not have considered himself a hero, Father Chrobot demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as an educator, minister, religious consul, and friend to so many. Let us always treasure the memory of this great man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow

citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.●

GEAR UP HAWAII

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the successes of Hawaii's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP. Next Monday, September 22 marks the beginning of National GEAR UP Week.

GEAR UP is a national program that provides grants for States to help low-income students with college preparation, enrollment, and completion.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the University of Hawaii a 7-year GEAR-UP grant to improve college access and completion for low-income students. The P-20 Partnerships for Education manages this grant with its partners, the State Department of Education, the UH ten-campus system, and other public, non-profit, and private entities.

Hawaii GEAR UP is helping reach the goal of having 55 percent of working age adults hold a 2- or 4-year degree by 2025. In shorthand, "55 by '25." To reach this goal, GEAR UP Hawaii runs many programs to help low-income middle school and high school students focus on academic preparation, explore Early College options, learn more information about college access and financial aid, and improve college enrollment and completion.

In January of 2014, I had the chance to meet GEAR UP Hawaii students at Waipahu High School. The school's Early College High School program helps students earn college credit while still in high school.

One of the students I met was Juanito Moises, National GEAR UP Youth of the Year. He came to Hawaii from the Philippines at age 9, not speaking English. He took rigorous courses and eventually earned a 3.98 high school GPA. He will be the first in his family to attend a 4-year college, and thanks to GEAR UP he will already have English 100 out of the way.

Juanito is just one of the thousands of low-income students in Hawaii and nationwide who GEAR UP is working to serve. The program's results show that GEAR UP students are more likely to complete rigorous coursework, apply and enroll in college, and earn college degrees, when compared with other low-income students who do not have the opportunity to participate.

Since I first came to the House in 2007, I have supported Federal funding for GEAR UP program, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

During National GEAR UP Week, let's celebrate GEAR UP's success and continue our efforts to help Hawaii students enter and complete college.●

RECOGNIZING ZIONS BANK

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, next week, the Department of Defense will honor 15 companies with the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is the highest honor given by the Department of Defense to employers in recognition of exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve employees. One of the 15 companies to be honored at this event is Utah's own Zions Bank. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this company for its contribution to my home State and our Nation.

Zions Bank was founded 22 years before Utah gained her statehood. On July 10, 1873, under the direction of Brigham Young, Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company was incorporated. It was the first chartered savings bank and trust company in the Utah Territory. Soon after its highly successful opening day, Brigham Young wrote to a fellow Mormon in England: Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company opened for business on Thursday last. This institution is a cooperative one, and we think it is likely to meet with favor.

President Young and the other bank founders were right. Even though the bank opened just months before America's Long Depression, 1873-1879, was underway, the bank thrived.

Such economic tenacity was woven into the character of Zions Bank. During the Great Depression, the bank's livelihood was threatened when in February of 1932, depositors withdrew \$1.5 million in 2½ days. In order to quell the panic and reassure depositors that the bank was sound, bank President Heber J. Grant ordered signs to be posted at branch locations. The signs noted that the bank was "in a very strong, clean, liquid condition," and that it could "pay off every depositor in full." The note ended, "There is no safer bank in the state or the nation." Because of the trust that the bank developed with customers over previous decades, the panic was subdued and deposits quickly exceeded withdrawals. The bank stood firm in the midst of an extended national economic struggle. During every significant economic downturn since 1873, Zions Bank has weathered the storm and come out stronger for it. This success speaks to the impeccable leadership and business acumen of bank leaders and the hard work of Zions Bank employees.

While it is always important to look to foundational virtues, an organization cannot long survive without emulating those virtues in the present and perpetuating them into the future. Zions Bank continues to be a steadfast partner, not only with businesses and individuals but also with community and charitable organizations in Utah and throughout the Western United States. A large part of Utah's success—

what we champion as the "Utah model"—are the Utah businesses that conduct their affairs with integrity and purpose. Zions Bank's famous motto, "We haven't forgotten who keeps us in business," speaks both to its integrity as a corporation and its purpose of creating lasting value for the customer and the community.

One excellent example of this community spirit is Zions' annual Paint-a-Thon. Starting in 1991, Zions Bank employees volunteered for 1 week each year to paint the homes of those in need, including the elderly, disabled citizens, and veterans. This year, 59 homes in Utah and Idaho will be painted, pushing the program past the milestone of 1,000 homes painted since its inception. In addition to the many hours volunteered by its employees, Zions Bank pays for all the paint and materials needed for the projects.

The Zions Bank example of service, which mirrors the spirit of service that one finds throughout Utah, is rooted in a love for fellow man, for country, and for goodness. Such love is the essence of the civil society and the key to real progress in our Nation. I believe that a crucial element of this love is showing appreciation for the men and women who willingly fight to secure our natural rights; for if our rights are taken from us, the civil society and rule of law are not possible.

Zions Bank shows their appreciation by making a special effort to see that their servicemembers' families are properly cared for when deployed. The bank provides internships and training for servicemembers and veterans through its innovative professional development program. For these reasons and others, the bank was nominated for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award by Army National Guard 1LT Helaman Hurtado. Over 2,800 nominations were submitted for the award.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I congratulate Zions Bank on being honored as one of the 15 recipients of this award. I thank the bank's president, Scott Anderson, and his predecessors, and I thank the many hard-working employees who have served their fellow Utahns and others for over 140 years. Zions Bank and the extraordinary people who work and serve there strengthen my faith in the American dream and hope for a strong civil society. I urge my colleagues to come together in reducing the size, scope and burden of our government and regulations on free markets and civil society so that more companies are able to emulate the success and positive impact of principled and caring companies like Zions Bank.●

RECOGNIZING GRACE MEDICAL HOME

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the outstanding work of

Grace Medical Home, a comprehensive medical clinic in my hometown of Orlando that provides a broad range of health services to low-income, uninsured residents in Central Florida.

Grace Medical Home provides 8,500 patient visits annually allowing 2,300 Floridians access to high quality medical services at little or no cost to the patient.

Both nationwide and in Florida, free and charitable clinics are a critical component of America's medical safety net.

Our country has a strong tradition of neighbors caring for neighbors, and nowhere is that more apparent than in our free and charitable clinics. There are approximately 1,200 of these clinics throughout the Nation that since the 1960s have been filling in the gap for those who "fall through the cracks" in our current health care system. These clinics believe in giving people a hand-up not a handout, and they activate at the grassroots level, utilizing a volunteer and staff model to provide a range of health care services to economically disadvantaged individuals.

Free and charitable clinics do not receive dedicated Federal funding. Instead, these clinics rely heavily on private donations from individual donors, foundations, grants, and volunteers, which allow them to keep their doors open and to deliver health care to those who need it the most.

Currently, the Affordable Care Act is making great strides to help millions of people gain insurance and access to health care. However, even with the most optimistic projections of health insurance enrollment or Medicaid expansion, roughly 30 million people will still be without health coverage. Therefore, free and charitable clinics are and will continue to be an important part of our country's safety net.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in Congress to better address the needs of the underserved with respect to affordability, accessibility, and portability of primary, specialty, dental care, and medication access. And I am thankful that free and charitable clinics across the country like Grace Medical Home are continuing to build a healthy America—one patient at a time.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PATRICK W. MILLER

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor MAJ Patrick W. Miller, U.S. Army, for his incredible courage and bravery on April 2, 2014, during the tragic Fort Hood shooting.

Major Miller was born and raised in Allegany, NY and was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 2003 after graduating from St. Bonaventure University. He has been deployed to Iraq for two tours, first as a commander of a platoon of medics and second as an adviser to the Iraqi Army. In August of 2013, he and his wife Ashley were assigned to Fort Hood, TX.

It was there, on the afternoon of April 2nd that a gunman opened fire in a shooting rampage. During that time, the shooter entered Major Miller's building and opened fire, immediately hitting Patrick in the abdomen, just 2 inches below his heart. Despite being critically wounded and at great risk to his own life, he rushed to get his fellow soldiers to safety in a closed office as quickly as possible. Then, while attempting to put pressure on his wound, still thinking of his fellow soldiers, he was able to make a call to 911 to report the shooting. In addition to wounding Major Miller, the shooter ended up killing 3 soldiers and wounding 15 others before taking his own life.

The heroic and distinguished acts by Major Miller, beyond a doubt, saved countless lives.

On behalf of the Nation and my fellow New Yorkers, it is my honor to recognize the exemplary service and overwhelming bravery of Major Miller during such a tragic event. I wish him the best as he continues to serve our great Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DONNA KUETHE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the achievements of Donna Kuethe, Recreation Director for the town of Moultonborough, NH, who was recently named New England Woman of the Year by Every Child is Ours, ECIO, an organization dedicated to promoting universal educational opportunity. For 40 years Donna has been a tireless advocate for children's education, environmental stewardship and community recreation.

On the national and international stages, Donna has volunteered in New Orleans and South Africa delivering emergency supplies to areas hard-hit by natural disasters. She has worked with Operation Recreation Relief, a group designed to help provide recreation services to areas impacted by disasters, in addition to focusing on assisting children in those areas through her work with the Save the Children foundation.

Back home in New Hampshire, Donna has been active throughout the State through her work with the Children in Nature initiative, the New Hampshire State Parks Great Park Pursuit and other programs focused on encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. She has also advocated for outdoor initiatives through her service on the House/Senate Committee on Child Care Licensing and as Chair of the Legislative Committee for New Hampshire Parks and Recreation.

Donna has also been a key leader at the Moultonborough Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to

coaching New Hampshire high school students and establishing after-school programs, youth sports and summer day camps, and programs for seniors.

Donna's lifelong devotion to her community and the many organizations she has served is truly admirable, and her recognition as ECIO's New England Woman of the Year is well deserved. On behalf of Granite Staters everywhere, I thank Donna Kuethe for her service.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF PUEBLO

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 35th anniversary of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo and its history of serving Latino-owned businesses in Pueblo County, CO. Created in 1979 by an influential group of Pueblo businessmen, the Latino chamber was organized to harness the Pueblo Latino community's significant economic force.

Demonstrating vast community representation, the Latino chamber's 35 inaugural members included influential local leaders such as Judge Joe Ulibarri, Dr. Tom Autabee, Dr. Thomas Duran, Dr. Joe Roybal and Victor Tony Navarro. This diverse and respected initial membership consisted of architects, attorneys, business owners, medical professionals and others.

Since 1979, the Latino chamber has expanded in big ways. With nearly 1,000 members today, the Latino chamber is a respected, dynamic business organization in the area. Its resources and expertise help the organization serve as a launching pad for Latino leaders. Willing and eager to respond to its community's challenges, the Latino chamber played instrumental roles in the development of the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation, the El Pueblo Inter-development Corporation, the Southern Colorado International Trade Center and the Human Relations Commission.

Moreover, the Latino chamber has developed longstanding and successful collaborative relationships with state and federal entities, as well as with the Greater Pueblo chamber and the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation. In addition, it established the Latino Chamber Development Corporation Foundation in 1997 to advocate and promote leadership development in Pueblo with an emphasis on the Latino community.

The Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo has spent 35 years advocating for small businesses, networking its partnerships, developing members professionally and growing alongside its community. Pueblo—and the State of Colorado—are truly fortunate to have such a world-class organization to assist businesses and build our economy. On behalf of Pueblo and all of Colorado

congratulations, and thank you to the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo and its board members. You have left a lasting legacy that will continue to help the community for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICE WALKER POWELL

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Ms. Patrice Walker Powell, a remarkable Virginian who is retiring after 23 years at the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA. During her more than two decades of service, Ms. Powell has worked to broaden and deepen the engagement of diverse communities with the NEA and with arts stakeholders in urban and rural venues across America.

Ms. Powell's contributions to the NEA are too many to enumerate, but her leadership reflects a commitment to fiscally responsible management, sound stewardship through challenging times, and prolonged outreach to underrepresented communities. In response to leaner operational budgets, Ms. Powell was elevated to lead a department of several consolidated program areas, and was responsible for developing innovative approaches to advancing the agency's mission. Ms. Powell embraced public-private partnerships, innovative grant programs, and arts support programs to strengthen a diverse cultural infrastructure for the Nation.

As the agency began to acclimate to a reduced funding environment, NEA research showed that there were 20 States receiving 5 or fewer direct grants per year. Ms. Powell devised a comprehensive pilot strategy that collaborated with State arts agencies to hold staff-led seminars on NEA funding opportunities and identify potential applicants. Over the course of the 3-year commitment to this pilot program, the number of NEA-supported projects in these States increased by 350 percent.

Under her leadership, the NEA undertook a massive modernization project focused on access and outreach. As a result, every publication produced by the NEA has been digitized and is now available electronically to students and to the general public. This achievement has been praised as a significant contribution toward ensuring that the record of the agency's history is maintained for the future.

Ms. Powell's dedication to the NEA would ultimately result in her being called upon to serve as Acting Chair. She has proudly represented her country in the international arts arena, including on delegations to South Africa, Germany, Senegal, and Austria. Although these accomplishments are but some of the highlights of Ms. Powell's career, they exemplify her proven record of public service and advocacy

for the arts and our Nation. I thank her for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement.●

CONSTITUTION DAY

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, September 17 was Constitution Day—a day when folks are encouraged to teach and learn about the Constitution. I would like to recognize the middle and high school students from across the Nation who traveled to the U.S. Capitol yesterday in honor of Constitution and Citizenship Day.

I would also like to recognize the students unable to travel to Washington, DC, who are no less engaged in their studies of the Constitution and citizenship, specifically the many students in my home State of Oregon who have shown a strong commitment to civic engagement. These young Oregonians have demonstrated a willingness to get involved in their communities and work for positive change and are an example of the important role community involvement plays in developing a strong society.

Of the students able to be in Washington, DC, on Constitution Day, I would particularly like to recognize several middle school students from Oregon who visited my office yesterday.

Alyssa Etheridge and several of her classmates from South Middle School located in Grants Pass, OR, dedicated every day of the last school year to honor the 142 Oregon soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. These young women created the Bayard Wilkeson Project—named for a Civil War officer killed at the battle of Gettysburg—a Web site designed to educate Oregonians about the lives of those servicemembers from our State who have given their lives for our country.

Coming from Portland, OR, William Britton and his seventh grade class from Southwest Charter School studied and considered the problem of outdoor secondhand smoke, and its impact on the health of their community. They conducted surveys, interviews, and lobbied some of their local elected officials to control secondhand smoke exposure.

It is wonderful to see these students participate so actively in the democratic process, and it is truly heartening to see so many young people taking the time to get involved and express their opinions. I am pleased to be able to recognize the commitment and dedication these young Oregonians have shown to better their communities and urge them to keep up their good works.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park Commission.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 24. An act to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5462. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 106(b)(5)(B) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315), the Speaker's appointments of May 25, 2010, and December 22, 2010, of individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity expired on May 25, 2014, and that pursuant to section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for a term of six years: Upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader: Mr. Arthur E. Keiser, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Mr. William Pepicello of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Mr. Arthur J. Rothkopf of Washington, DC.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

H.R. 4751. An act to make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4809. An act to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5462. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 18, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7042. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Endangered and Threatened Species: Critical Habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Loggerhead Sea Turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and Determination Regarding Critical Habitat for the North Pacific Ocean Loggerhead DPS" (RIN0648-BD27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7043. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Ewart and Ludington, Michigan)" ((MB Docket No. 13-284) (DA 14-1058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7044. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Custer, Michigan)" ((MB Docket No. 14-66) (DA 14-1222)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7045. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Caseville and Pigeon, Michigan) (Harbor Beach and Lexington, Michigan)" ((MM Docket No. 01-229 and MM Docket No. 01-231) (DA 14-1215)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7046. A communication from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification on Uses of Electronic Export Information" (RIN0607-AA52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7047. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings and the Office of Economics, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2014 Update" (Docket No. 542) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7048. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Jurisdictional Separations and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board" ((RIN3060-AJ06) (FCC 14-91)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7049. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the re-

port of a rule entitled "Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 14-99)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7050. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Annual Events on the Maumee River, Toledo, OH" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0714)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7051. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Gay Games 9 Triathlon, North Coast Harbor, Cleveland, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0427)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7052. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Raccoon Creek, Bridgeport, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0711)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7053. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Gay Games 9 Open Water Swim, Lake Erie, Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH" (Docket No. USCG-2014-0635) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7054. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Patapsco River; Baltimore, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0201)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7055. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, St. Petersburg Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0437)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7056. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, James River; Newport News, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0376)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7057. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Elizabeth River; Norfolk, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0619)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7058. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone" ((RIN1625-AA08 and RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0446)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7059. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mantua Creek, Paulsboro, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0710)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7060. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Treasure Island, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0319)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7061. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile Marker 49.0 to 50.0, West of Harvey Locks, Bank to Bank, Bayou Blue Pontoon Bridge, Lafourche Parish, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0411)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7062. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Off-shore Supply Vessels of at Least 6,000 GT ITC" ((RIN1625-AB62) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0208)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7063. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; TAKE MARU 55 Vessel Salvage; Cocos Island, Merizo, Guam" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0721)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7064. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Aquarium Wedding, Delaware

River; Camden, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0704)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7065. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, New Jersey" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0702)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7066. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees" ((RIN1625-AB56) (Docket No. USCG-2010-0990)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7067. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0329)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7068. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Cumberland River, Mile 127.0 to 128.0; Clarksville, TN" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0489)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7069. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Sunset Lake; Wildwood Crest, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0701)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7070. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Labor Day Long Neck Style Fireworks, Indian River Bay; Long Neck, DE" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0696)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7071. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7072. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Atlantic City, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0703)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7073. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7074. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class B Airspace; Salt Lake City, UT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0859)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7075. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Memphis, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0224)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7076. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Steele, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0154)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7077. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Phoenix, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0956)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7078. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Needles, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0987)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7079. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. 2013-0709)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7080. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Revocation of Jet Routes; Northeast United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0104)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7081. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0501)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7082. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Establishment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Huntingburg, IN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0990)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7083. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Nabb, IN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0368)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7084. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Tuskegee, AL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7085. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Hartford, CT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0384)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7086. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Truth or Consequences, NM" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0995)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7087. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Airbus Helicopters) (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0394)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7088. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Columbia Helicopters, Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held By Boeing Defense and Space Group) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0385)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7089. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0862)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7090. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0236)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7091. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0973)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7092. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; EADS CASA (Type Certificate Previously Held by Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0980)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7093. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0010)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7094. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turboprop Engines"

((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0953)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7095. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0341)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7096. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AERMACCHI S.p.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0939)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7097. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. (Type Certificate previously held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company) Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0386)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7098. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7099. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1090)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7100. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Time of Designation for Restricted Area R-3002G; Fort Benning, GA" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0389)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7101. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter

EC-7146. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket

No. FAA-2014-0124)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7147. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0251) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7148. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell ASCA Inc. Emergency Locator Transmitters Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0573) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7149. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0034) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7150. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0252) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7151. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0544)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7152. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0490)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7153. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Mooney International Corporation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0513)) received during adjournment on the Senate in the Office of the President of

the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7154. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0056)), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7155. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0790)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7156. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0268)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7157. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0145) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7158. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0807) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7159. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: AgustaWestland S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0478)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7160. A communication from the Parallel Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2009-1088)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7161. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0196)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7162. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation Airplanes” ((RIN)2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0187)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7163. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company) Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0254)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7164. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0228) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7165. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0486)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7166. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Requirements: Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0311)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7167. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: MD Helicopters, Inc., Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0514) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7168. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)" ((RIN)2120-AA64 (Docket No. FAA-2014-0515)) received during adjournment of

the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7169. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0488)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7170. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Annual Eligibility Redeterminations for Exchange Participation and Insurance Affordability Programs; Health Insurance Issuer Standards under the Affordable Care Act, Including Standards Related to Exchanges" ((RIN0938-AS32) (CMS-9941-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-338. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, urging the United States Congress to enact a comprehensive surface transportation program that provides long term funding for local transportation projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-339. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Garden Grove, California, expressing support for H.R. 4254, the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act, and urging the United States Congress to pass this legislation in protection of human rights in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-340. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to implement its proposed rule to extend the agency's tobacco authority to cover additional tobacco products including e-cigarettes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-341. A resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Delevan, New York, opposing the NY SAFE Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Special Report entitled "Inquiry Into Cyber Intrusions Affecting U.S. Transportation Command Contractors" (Rept. No. 113-258).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1898, a bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement

agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-259).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1474, a bill to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-260).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2651, a bill to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (Rept. No. 113-261).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 1232. A bill to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management (Rept. No. 113-262).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4007. A bill to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program (Rept. No. 113-263).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 530. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 540. A resolution recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 541. A resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1217. A bill to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2581. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2778. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping

and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. 2828. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN from the Committee on Finance.

*Carolyn Watts Colvin, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

By Mr. MENENDEZ from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Benjamin L. Cardin, of Maryland, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Ronald H. Johnson, of Wisconsin, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana.

Nominee: Earl Robert Miller.

Post: Republic of Botswana.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Ana Gladys Miller, None.
3. Children and Spouses: Andrew Robert Miller, None; Alexander James Miller, None; Kendra Elaine Dexter, None/Unable to locate.
4. Parents: Robert James Miller, None; Wanda Morgan Miller, None.
5. Grandparents: Earl Miller, None; Elsie Miller, None; Walter Lee Morgan, None; Mertie Alberta Morgan, None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: David Gene Keltner, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Kara Maria Miller, None; Dena Diane Garrison, None; Donald Garrison (spouse), None; Aimery Liseli Trynt, None; Tara Tene Gilles, None; Patrick John Gilles (spouse), None.

*Judith Beth Cefkin, of Colorado, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Nominee: Judith Beth Cefkin.

Post: Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Nauru, Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by

them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: \$200.00, 10/18/2012, Obama Victory Fund.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: John Leo Cefkin—deceased; Rose Cefkin, none.
5. Grandparents: Misha and Bluma Cefkin—deceased; Benjamin and Bella Machanick—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Jonathan and Piangjai Cefkin, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Barbara and Perry Springer, none; Melissa Cefkin and Mazyar Lotfalian, \$200.00, 2012, Obama for America.

*Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Nominee: Stafford Fitzgerald Haney.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: \$2,600, 2014, Menendez for New Jersey; \$49,000, 2013, Presidential Inaugural Committee 2013; \$2,000, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$1,104, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; \$644, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; \$1,380, 2012, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; \$920, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; \$920, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; \$276, 2012, New Hampshire Democratic Party; \$2,208, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; \$276, 2012, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; \$40,000, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$30,800, 2012, Democratic National Committee; \$644, 2012, North Carolina Democratic Party; \$2,500, 2012, Menendez for Senate; \$5,000, 2011, Obama for America; \$35,800, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$30,800, 2011, Democratic National Committee; \$5,000, 2011, Gillibrand for Senate; \$5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$2,500, 2011, Menendez for Senate; \$30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee; \$500, 2010, Ben Chandler for Congress.

2. Spouse: Andrea R. Haney: \$5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee.

3. Children and Spouses: Asher D. Haney—none; Nava S. Haney—none; Eden N. Haney—none; Shaia A. Haney—none.

4. Parents: Sandra Haney Hogan—deceased; William Chester Haney—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Della Mae Scott—deceased; James D. Brabson—deceased; Oliver Joseph Haney—deceased; Grace Tuggelle—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Joseph M. Haney—deceased.

Sisters and Spouses: None.

*James Peter Zumwalt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Nominee: James Peter Zumwalt.

Post: Senegal and Guinea Bissau

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions and amount:

Self: none; Spouse: none; Children and Spouses: none; Parents: none; Grandparents: none; Brothers and Spouses: none; Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Nominee: Craig B. Allen.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Brunei.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$300, June 2011, Obama Campaign; \$100, July 2012, Friends of Pat Fahy (NY Assemblywoman).

2. Spouse: Micheline R. Tusenius: \$100, June 2011, Obama Campaign; \$35, May 29 2012, Obama Campaign; \$15, June 17, 2012, Obama Campaign; \$50, July 16, 2012, Obama Campaign; \$100, August 9, 2012, Friends of Pat Fahy; \$55, Oct. 10, 2012, Obama Campaign; \$55, Oct. 28, 2012, Obama Campaign; \$25, March 30, 2014, Democratic National Committee.

3. Children: Christopher R. Allen, None; Caroline L. Allen, None.

4. Parents: Chester B. Allen, Deceased; Elizabeth R. Allen, None.

5. Grandparents: Chester Allen, Deceased; Miriam Allen, Deceased; Raymond Leonard, Deceased; Marion Leonard, Deceased.

6. Brother: Scott A. Allen: \$500, February 24, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1,000, March 3, 2010, Ben Cardin for Senate; \$1,000, March 9, 2010, Veterans for Security & Democracy (Vetpac); \$1,000, March 17, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$250, May 4, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1,000, May 11, 2010, Vetpac; \$1,000, June 9, 2010, Vetpac; \$1,000, June 30, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$2,000, Sept. 14, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1,000, October 7, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$30,800, February 24, 2011, DNC Services Corp./Democratic National Comm.; \$3,000, March 4, 2011, Vetpac; \$2,500, June 3, 2011, Obama for America; \$5,000, June 3, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$1,000, Dec. 6, 2011, Trivedi for Congress; \$220, Dec. 16, 2011, Colorado Democratic Party; \$340, Dec. 16, 2011, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; \$220, Dec. 16, 2011, North Carolina Democratic Party-Federal; \$320, Dec. 16, 2011, Ohio Democratic Party; \$260, Dec. 16, 2011, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; \$2,000, Dec. 16, 2011, Swing State Victory Fund; \$220, Dec. 30, 2011, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$2,000, February 4, 2012, Vetpac; \$1,000, February 22, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; \$550, March 6, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; \$250, March 6, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; \$300, March 6, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; \$200, March 6, 2012, New Hampshire Democratic Party; \$550, March 6, 2012, North Carolina Democratic Party-Federal; \$35,800, March 6, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$800, March 6, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; \$650, March 6,

2012, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; \$30,800, March 31, 2012, DNC Services Corp./Dem Natl Comm; \$500, April 24, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; \$500, June 29, 2012, Kaine for Virginia; \$500, June 29, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; \$500, August 31, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; \$300, Sept. 30, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; \$500, Sept. 30, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; \$550, Sept. 30, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$5,000, 2013, Council for a Livable World; \$250, 2013, Organizing for America; \$250, 2014, Marquez for Arizona; \$1,000, 2014, 4DPAC; \$1,000, 2014, Don Beyer for Virginia.

Brother's Spouse: Kanako Y. Allen: \$2,500, June 21, 2011, Obama for America; \$2,500, June 21, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$388, Sept. 13, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; \$833, Sept. 13, 2012, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; \$666, Sept. 13, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; \$555, Sept. 13, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; \$555, Sept. 13, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; \$5,000, Sept. 13, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$1,333, Sept. 13, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; \$500, October 17, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$2,500, October 29, 2012, DNC Services Corporation/Dem Natl Comm; \$2,500, October 29, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$2,000, November 1, 2012, DNC Services Corporation/Dem Natl Comm; \$2,000, November 1, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012.

7. Sister: Sara R. Bowden: \$500.00, 2012, Obama Campaign; \$500.00, 2012, Tim Kaine's U.S. Senate Campaign.

Sister's Spouse: Dennis Bowden: None.

Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Nominee: Charles C. Adams, Jr.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$30,400.00, Democratic National Committee; \$1,000.00, Bennet for Colorado; \$2,400.00, 10/15/2010, Friends for Harry Reid; \$240, 10/15/2010, ACTBLUE; \$9,200.00, 12/30/2011, Swing State Victory Fund; \$2,500.00, 6/29/2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$2,500.00, 9/7/2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$35,800.00, 9/19/2011, Obama Victory Fund; \$2,500.00, Akin Gump Civic Action Committee; \$200.00, 12/14/2011; ACTBLUE; \$30,800.00, 1/31/2012, Obama Victory Fund; \$1,000.00, 1/12/2012, Gillibrand for Senate; \$500.00, 2/21/2012, Andrei Cherney for Arizona; \$500.00, 8/8/2012, Andrei Cherney for Arizona; \$600.00, 5/30/2012, Clyde Williams for Congress; \$1,000.00, DSCC; \$5,000.00, 4/25/2012, Akin Gump Civic Action Committee; \$1,000.00, 3/16/2012, ACTBLUE; \$1,000.00, 3/31/2014, Mark Warner for Virginia; \$2,000.00, Common Ground PAC; \$500.00, 4/1/2014, Nunn for Senate, Inc.; \$2,600.00, 2/6/2014, Friends of Don Beyer; \$1,000.00, 4/2/2014, Democrats Abroad; \$300.00, 5/9/2014, ACTBLUE; \$3,000.00, 5/9/2014, Ready for Hillary PAC; \$200.00, 5/13/2014, ACTBLUE; \$5,200.00, 5/13/2014, Kaine for Virginia.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Matthew Andrew Adams: \$5,000.00, 12/3/2011, Kaine for Virginia; \$1,000.00, 9/28/2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$1,000.00, 2/21/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$5,000.00, 5/17/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$1,000.00, 6/8/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012;

\$5,000.00, 8/20/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$1,000.00, 10/13/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012. Maya Adrian Adams: None.

4. Parents: Charles C. Adams—deceased; Florence Adams—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Charles C. Adams—deceased; Nellie M. Adams—deceased; David Schneider—deceased; Mary Schneider—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Andrew M. Adams—deceased; Kenneth A. Adams, None; Joanne K. Adams, None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Adrian Adams Sow—Deceased; Diabé Sow, None; Christiane Adams, None; Peter De Bolla, None.

*Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Nominee: Barbara Anne Leaf.

Post: Abu Dhabi.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Chris Querin, None.

3. Children: Maro Querin, None; Asja Querin, None.

4. Parents: Madonna Anne Leaf: \$50, 2012; Rick Santorum; Howard W. Leaf—deceased.

5. Grandparents: None. John and Anna Ronan—deceased; Joseph and Hilda Leaf—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Timothy Leaf, None; Tom and Christina Leaf, None; Dan and Jennifer Leaf, None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Anne Marie and Tom Moore, None; Mary Beth Leaf, None.

*Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malawi.

Nominee: Virginia Evelyn Palmer.

Post: Ambassador to Malawi.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Children and Spouses: Rebecca A. Asmal: Nadr K. Asmal: none.

4. Parents: Rebecca L. Palmer: Richard H. Hudson: \$50 from 2008–2012 Obama for President.

5. Grandparents: deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: S. Zachery Palmer: none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Katherine Palmer Kaup: John Kaup. none.

*William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Nominee: William V. Roebuck.

Post: Bahrain.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$50.00, 12/10/2011, Obama for America (OFA).

2. Spouse: Ann Roebuck: \$50.00, 09/2012 (approximate date), OFA.

3. Children and Spouses: Son William Roebuck: None.

*Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

*Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Nominee: Pamela L. Spratlen.

Post: Uzbekistan.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: Lois Price Spratlen (deceased): \$500, 2/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 10/08, Obama for America. Thaddeus H. Spratlen: \$400, 1/08, Obama for America; \$500, 3/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 8/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 10/08, Obama for America; \$1000, 10/08, Obama Victory Fund; \$1000, 10/08, Obama Victory Fund; \$50.00, 1/25/10, Adam Kline for State Senate (Dem); \$200.00, 5/6/10, Randy Gordon for State Senate (Dem); \$50.00, 6/30/10, Scott White for State Senate (Dem); \$250.00, 8/8/10, Patty Murray for U.S. Senate (Dem); \$500.00, 2/16/11, Larry Gossett for King County Council; \$100.00, 2/23/11, Bruce Harrell for Seattle City Council; \$50.00, 3/2/11, MoveOn.org (political action); \$200.00, 5/23/11, People for Patty Murray; \$100.00, 7/28/11, Frank Irigon for Bellevue City Council; \$700.00, 7/18/11, Larry Gossett for King County Council; \$200.00, 10/07/11, Jay Inslee for Governor (WA); \$100.00, 1/27/12, WA State Democratic Party; \$100.00, 2/22/12, Dem. Congressional Campaign Comm.; \$50.00, 5/15/12, Judy Ramseyer for Superior Court (KC); \$150.00, 5/21/12, Dem. Congressional Campaign Comm.; \$75.00, 7/27/12, WA State Democratic Party; \$1,000.00, 11/05/12, Obama Victory Fund (Dem); \$500.00, 6/12/13, Bruce Harrell for Mayor (Seattle).

5. Grandparents: Paternal: John and Lela Spratlen (both deceased); Maternal: Ora Ferguson Price, James Madison Price (both deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: Khalfani Mwamba & Anita Koyier-Mwamba: None; Townsend Price-Spratlen (no spouse): None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Patricia Etem: \$250, 2/08, Obama for America; Paula Mitchell and James Mitchell (deceased): None.

*David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

*Robert T. Yamate, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros.

Nominee: Robert T. Yamate

Post Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Parents (both deceased): Thomas & Hideko Yamate, n/a.

4. Grandparents (all deceased): Gohei and Tome Yamate, n/a; Toworu and Michiko Ozasa, n/a.

5. Sisters and Spouses: Carol Yamate Borders, none; Wayne Borders, none.

*Donald L. Heflin, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Nominee: Donald L. Heflin.

Post: Ambassador to Cabo Verde.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions and amount: Self: Zero; Children and Spouses: Sara G. Heflin: Zero; Parents: Deceased; Grandparents: Deceased; Brothers and Spouses: N/A; Sisters and Spouses: Dawn G. Burson and James Burson: Zero.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Leslie Meredith Tsou and ending with Lon C. Fairchild, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 194 nominees beginning with Gerald Michael Feierstein)

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Armando Ormar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2851. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the programs and activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to Tourette syndrome; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2852. A bill to clarify membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2853. A bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2854. A bill to establish pilot programs to encourage the use of shared equity mortgage modifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2855. A bill to amend the nondiscrimination provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect older, longer, service participants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production of electricity from renewable resources for certain open-loop biomass and trash facilities placed in service before the date of the enactment of this Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2857. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study regarding the

suitability and feasibility of establishing the Naugatuck River Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2858. A bill to enhance rail safety and provide for the safe transport of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2859. A bill to promote apprenticeships for credentials and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 2860. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual or concurrent enrollment programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2861. A bill to authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project, Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2862. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2863. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to complete a data analysis on the impact of the proposed rule on gainful employment prior to issuing a final rule on gainful employment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2864. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2865. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2866. A bill to authorize grants for the support of caregivers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2868. A bill to establish a statute of limitations for certain actions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 2869. A bill to enhance the homeland security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2870. A bill to amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to provide unemployed workers with the information, skills, and relationships they need for reemployment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2871. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2872. A bill to protect individuals by strengthening the Nation's mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2873. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2874. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2875. A bill to codify in law the establishment and duties of the Office of Complex Administrative Investigations in the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2876. A bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2877. A bill to appropriately manage the debt of the United States by limiting the use of extraordinary measures; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students in certain income-based or income-contingent repayment programs who have completed payment obligations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2879. A bill to provide for the implementation of a Sustainable Chemistry Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive

to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2881. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the treatment of seasonal positions for purposes of the employer shared responsibility requirement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain individuals a credit against income tax for contributions to 529 plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2883. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial impact of technology transfer at the National Laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. REID, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit tax-exempt status to professional sports leagues that promote the use of the term redskins; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2885. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2886. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom Summer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2887. A bill to expand access to transportation services for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2888. A bill to promote the provision of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2889. A bill to require compliance with established universal home design guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. REED):

S. 2890. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an innovation in surface transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2892. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and expand Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2893. A bill to authorize the use of multifamily housing subject to a mortgage insured under section 207 of the National Housing Act as short-term residential housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2894. A bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2895. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to include in income the unrepatriated earnings of groups that include an inverted corporation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2896. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to adjust for inflation the amount that is exempt from administrative offsets by the Department of Education for defaulted student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2897. A bill to establish a program that promotes reforms in workforce education and skill training for manufacturing in States and metropolitan areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2898. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2899. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2900. A bill to create livable communities through coordinated public investment and streamlined requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2901. A bill to increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2902. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of certain cosmetics containing

synthetic plastic microbeads; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2903. A bill to reform the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 2904. A bill to prevent the militarization of Federal, State, and local law enforcement by Federal excess property transfers and grant programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2905. A bill to require the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to calculate a carbon score for each bill or resolution; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2906. A bill to provide for the treatment and extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2907. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy-related jobs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2909. A bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to end extreme global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote enduring, long-term, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilient, adaptive, local capacity of vulnerable populations, and for other related purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2910. A bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2911. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2912. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 561. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that recently proposed measures that will reduce transparency and public participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) should be disapproved by United States representatives to the IAIS; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 562. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that performance-based contracts for energy savings are a budget-neutral means to support the Federal Government in reducing its energy consumption without increasing spending while simultaneously supporting United States based jobs and economic development; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 563. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should pursue extradition authority for international cybercriminals committing credit card theft targeting United States citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 564. A resolution honoring conservation on the centennial of the passenger pigeon extinction; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 565. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 566. A resolution celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of North Dakota; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 567. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the possible easing of restrictions on the sale of lethal military equipment to the Government of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 568. A resolution designating the month of September 2014 as "National Sepsis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 569. A resolution designating September 23, 2014, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating October 17, 2014, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 571. A resolution designating September 30, 2014, as "United States and India Partnership Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 572. A resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HAGAN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 573. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 574. A resolution designating the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, as "National Estuaries Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 575. A resolution designating September 2014 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID:

S. Con. Res. 44. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 209

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 631, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, *supra*.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 820

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 1009

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1009, a bill to reauthorize and modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1323

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1323, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, im-

prove Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1407, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1654

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

S. 1702

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2164

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2164, a bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2210

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2210, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2241

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2241, a bill to enhance the safety of drug-free playgrounds.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period, with an offset.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2319

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2319, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based

on exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting.

S. 2527

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2527, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 2622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2622, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2642

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2642, a bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation, and to ensure that employers consider these requests; and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain growing low-wage occupations, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their services, and for other purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2686, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

prevent the extension of the tax collection period merely because the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces who is hospitalized as a result of combat zone injuries.

S. 2687

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2699

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2699, a bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to provide pass-through share insurance for the deposits or shares of any interest on lawyers trust accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr.

FRANKEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, *supra*.

S. 2743

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, for border security, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2777, a bill to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, and for other purposes.

S. 2779

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2779, a bill to amend section 349 of the

Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to improve student and exchange visitor visa programs.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2789, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 2795

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program.

S. 2796

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the income protection allowances.

S. 2811

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2811, a bill to prohibit the distribution in commerce of children's products and upholstered furniture containing certain flame retardants, and for other purposes.

S. 2814

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2814, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2827, a bill to amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude Federal student aid from taxable gross income.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2848, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 420

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 420, a resolution designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as "Naturopathic Medicine Week" to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 540, a resolution recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 541, a resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

AMENDMENT NO. 3733

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3733 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3788

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3788 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3819

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3819 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, school districts across the nation are facing serious shortages in high-quality career and technical education, CTE, teachers. When CTE teachers have real-world experience in a related industry before entering the classroom, students not only benefit from their hands-on knowledge, but also look to them as career role models. Through grant in the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008, many teacher residency partnerships already exist between postsecondary institutions and local schools to train prospective educators, but none are CTE focused.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, Senator BALDWIN and Senator PORTMAN, the Creating Quality Technical Educators Act, which would create a CTE teacher-training grant partnership to give aspiring CTE teachers the preparation

necessary to mirror their success in the business world with that in the classroom. The Creating Technical Education Act will foster CTE teacher training partnerships between high-needs secondary schools and postsecondary institutions to create a 1-year residency initiative for prospective teachers and includes teacher mentorship for a minimum of 2 years.

This bipartisan bill amends the Higher Education Act and would give aspiring CTE teachers the experience necessary to succeed in the classroom, where students can benefit from their work experience and credibility. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would take a robust proactive approach to recruit and train high-quality CTE teachers. In addition to midcareer professionals in related technical fields, CTE teacher residencies would target candidates who are recent college graduates or veterans or currently licensed teachers with a desire to transition to a CTE focus.

I am pleased we are beginning to see a renaissance of interest in career and technical education, but we have to recruit and train talented teachers to meet this rising demand for CTE. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act will take an important step to ensure students in communities of all sizes have access to high-quality CTE teachers and career-training programs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2868. A bill to establish a statute of limitations for certain actions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that extends the time period the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, would have to seek civil monetary penalties for securities law violations.

This legislation is necessary in light of the Supreme Court's decision in *Gabelli v. SEC* in which the Court held that the 5 year clock to take action against wrongdoing starts when the fraud occurs, not when it is discovered. In effect, *Gabelli* has made the SEC's job of protecting investors even tougher by shortening the amount of time that the SEC has to investigate and pursue securities law violations.

Financial fraud has evolved significantly over the years and now involves multiple parties, complex financial products, and elaborate transactions that are executed in a variety of securities markets, both domestic and foreign. As a result, many of the critical facts necessary to initiate an action may go undetected for years. Securities law violators may simply run out the clock, now with greater ease in the aftermath of *Gabelli*.

Couple this with the fact that while we have given the SEC even greater responsibilities, Congress, despite my ongoing efforts to urge otherwise, has not provided the agency with all the resources necessary to carry out its duties. SEC Chair White recently testified before the Banking Committee that "if the SEC does not receive sufficient additional resources, the agency will be unable to fully build out its technology and hire the industry experts and other staff needed to oversee and police our areas of responsibility, especially in light of the expanding size and complexity of our overall regulatory space."

To give just one example of the impact of this resource shortfall, Chair White also testified that "in 2004, the SEC had 19 examiners per trillion dollars in investment adviser assets under management. Today, we have only 8."

This legislation would address these challenges by giving the SEC the breathing room it needs to better police our markets and protect investors. Specifically, this bill extends the time period the SEC has to seek civil monetary penalties from five years to ten years, thereby strengthening the integrity of our markets, better protecting public investors, and empowering the SEC to investigate and pursue more securities law violators, particularly those most sophisticated at evading detection.

In so doing, the bill would align the SEC's statute of limitations with the limitations period applicable to complex civil financial fraud actions initiated pursuant to the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, FIRREA. For over 2 decades, the Department of Justice has benefited from FIRREA, which allows the DOJ to seek civil penalties within a 10-year time period against persons who have committed fraud against financial institutions. The SEC, which pursues similarly complex financial fraud cases, should have the same time necessary to bring wrongdoers that violate the securities laws to justice.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today, I rise to reintroduce the Incentives to Educate American Children, or I TEACH, Act of 2014. With teacher retention rates on a steady decline nationwide, it is my hope that this legislation will encourage our best and

brightest teachers to remain in the classroom.

In the past two decades, the number of years of experience for the average teacher has decreased from 15 years to 5 years. Almost half of our education workforce today has less than ten years of experience. This is partly because teachers continue to be paid less than those employed in other fields, earning approximately 79 percent of the average wage of other workers with a bachelor's degree. In addition, their salaries have remained static since 2009, with the average starting salary for a new teacher estimated at just \$36,141. At the same time, college debt levels continue to increase. The average student graduating in 2014 had \$33,000 worth of student debt, making it difficult for young, eager graduates to pursue a career in teaching while paying down student loans and other living expenses.

No dedicated young person should have to decide that they simply cannot "afford" to be a teacher, but this happens. If passed, the I TEACH Act would invest in our most critical educators by providing a \$1,000 refundable tax credit to teachers serving in rural or high poverty schools. It would also provide every teacher, regardless of school or district, the chance to earn a \$1,000 refundable tax credit if they receive accreditation from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This means that a National Board Teacher in a rural or high poverty school would be eligible to receive \$2,000 in refundable tax credits.

In doing so, the I TEACH Act will provide meaningful incentives to teachers willing to serve in rural or high poverty schools, as well as rewarding quality teachers for staying in the classroom and continuing their professional development by earning National Board certification. Today, the majority of States see the value in this effort, providing some type of financial incentive to National Board certified teachers, and this refundable tax credit will work in tandem with those efforts. My home State of West Virginia, for example, offers a \$3,500 bonus for National Board teachers. If I TEACH is enacted, a National Board teacher in my State would receive a nearly 12 percent bonus. That is a clear sign of appreciation for their hard work and a meaningful incentive to continue teaching.

Our teachers are among the most important members of our society. They inspire and educate our children, preparing the next generation for success. They deserve our respect and full support, and that is why I urge my colleagues to work with me to enact I TEACH and invest in our children's education.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain

individuals a credit against income tax for contributions to 529 plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I am proud to offer legislation that will make it easier for American families to pay for their child's higher education. This legislation is the Enhanced 529-Setting Aside for a Valuable Education, or Enhanced 529-SAVE, Act. This measure will make the 529 college savings plans more accessible to lower and middle-income families.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan that is designed to encourage Americans to save for future college costs. 529 plans can be sponsored by states, state agencies, or educational institutions and they are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. I championed efforts to ensure that 529 plans would be 100 percent tax-free at the Federal level. In 2001, I authored the Setting Aside for Valuable Education, or SAVE, Act, which was included in a tax package that became law. In 2006, I helped make the tax benefits under these accounts permanent.

The Enhanced 529-SAVE Act will make 529 plans more accessible by encouraging employers to contribute to an employee's 529 plan. My bill would exclude up to \$600 of an employer's contribution from an employee's gross income. This will help families and individuals save more for higher education expenses.

The Enhanced 529-SAVE Act will also create an incentive for lower-income families and individuals to save money for college by allowing the individual that contributes to the 529 plan to qualify for the Saver's Credit, which is an income-based, non-refundable tax credit up to \$4,000.

The Enhanced 529-SAVE Act is similar to H.R. 529, introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS of Kansas. I want to commend her for her leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to consider and pass the Enhanced 529-SAVE Act, and I look forward to its eventual passage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2882

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Enhanced 529 - Setting Aside for a Valuable Education Act" or the "Enhanced 529 - S.A.V.E. Act".

SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO 529 PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 25B(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking the period at

the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting "and", and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) the amount of the contributions to qualified tuition programs described in paragraph (2) made by the eligible individual."

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d) of section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'contributions to qualified tuition programs' means any purchase or contribution described in paragraph (1)(A) of section 529(b) to a qualified tuition program (as defined in such section) if—

"(i) the eligible individual has the power to authorize distributions and otherwise administer the account, and

"(ii) the designated beneficiary of such purchase or contribution is the eligible individual, the eligible individual's spouse, or an individual with respect to whom the eligible individual is allowed a deduction under section 151.

"(B) LIMITATION BASED ON COMPENSATION.—The amount treated as a qualified savings contribution by reason of subparagraph (A) for any taxable year shall not exceed the sum of—

"(i) the compensation (as defined in section 219(f)(1)) includible in the eligible individual's gross income for the taxable year, and

"(ii) the amount excluded from the eligible individual's gross income under section 112 (relating to combat pay) for such year.

"(C) DETERMINATION OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Solely for purposes of determining the applicable percentage under subsection (b) which applies with respect to the amount treated as contributions to qualified tuition programs, adjusted gross income (determined without regard to this subparagraph) shall be increased by the excess (if any) of—

"(i) the social security benefits received during the taxable year (within the meaning of section 86), over

"(ii) the amount included in gross income for such year under section 86."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "qualified retirement savings" each place it appears and inserting "qualified savings".

(2) The heading of subsection (d) of section 25B of such Code is amended by striking "RETIREMENT".

(3) Subparagraph (A) of section 25B(d)(3) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(A) by striking "paragraph (1)" the first place it appears and inserting "paragraph (1) or (2)", and

(B) by striking "paragraph (1)" the second place it appears and inserting "paragraph (1), or (2), as the case may be,".

(4) The heading for section 25B of such Code is amended by striking "AND IRA CONTRIBUTIONS" and inserting "IRA CONTRIBUTIONS, AND QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS".

(5) The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to section 25B and inserting the following new item:

"Sec. 25B. Elective deferrals, IRA contributions, and qualified tuition program contributions by certain individuals."

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 31, 2014, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 127 the following new section:

“SEC. 127A. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Gross income of an employee does not include amounts paid by the employer as contributions to a qualified tuition program held by the employee or spouse of the employee if the contributions are made pursuant to a program which is described in subsection (c).

“(b) **MAXIMUM EXCLUSION.**—The amount excluded from the gross income of an employee under this section for the taxable year shall not exceed \$600.

“(c) **QUALIFIED TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—For purposes of this section, a qualified tuition assistance program is a separate written plan of an employer for the benefit of such employer's employees—

“(1) under which the employer makes matching contributions to qualified tuition programs of—

“(A) such employees,

“(B) their spouses, or

“(C) any individual with respect to whom such an employee or spouse—

“(i) is allowed a deduction under section 151, and

“(ii) has the power to authorize distributions and otherwise administer such individual's account under the qualified tuition program, and

“(2) which meets requirements similar to the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 127(b).

“(d) **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.**—For purposes of this section—

“(1) **QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM.**—The term ‘qualified tuition program’ means a qualified tuition program as defined in section 529(b).

“(2) **EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER.**—The terms ‘employee’ and ‘employer’ shall have the meaning given such terms by paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 127(c).

“(3) **APPLICABLE RULES.**—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 127(c) shall apply.

“(e) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2015, the \$600 amount contained in subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2014’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

Any increase determined under the preceding sentence shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50.

“(f) **CROSS REFERENCE.**—For reporting and recordkeeping requirements, see section 6039D.”

(b) **EXCLUSION FROM EMPLOYMENT TAXES.**—

(1) Sections 3121(a)(18), 3306(b)(13), and 3401(a)(18) of such Code are each amended by inserting “, 127A” after “127” each place it appears.

(2) Section 3231(e)(6) of such Code is amended by striking “section 127” and inserting “section 127 or 127A”.

(c) **REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 6039D(d)(1) of such Code is amended by inserting “, 127A” after “127”.

(d) **OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Sections 125(f), 414(n)(3)(C), and 414(t)(2) of such Code are each amended by inserting “, 127A” after “127” each place it appears.

(2) Section 132(j)(8) of such Code is amended by striking “section 127” and inserting “section 127 or 127A”.

(3) Section 1397(a)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) Any amount paid or incurred by an employer which is excludable from the gross income of an employee under section 127A, but only to the extent paid or incurred to a person not related to the employer.”

(4) Section 209(a)(15) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 409(a)(15)) is amended by striking “or 129” and inserting “, 127A, or 129”.

(e) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 127 the following new item:

“Sec. 127A. Employer contributions to qualified tuition programs.”

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2887. A bill to expand access to transportation services for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 24 years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. I will never forget the day, July 26, 1990, the ADA was signed into law. It was one of the proudest days of my legislative career.

The ADA set forth four great goals for individuals with disabilities—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. In many ways, we have been successful in making progress toward these goals. We have increased the accessibility of our buildings, our streets, even our parks, beaches and recreation areas. We have made our books and TVs, phones, computers, and other technology more accessible. And for many Americans with disabilities, our workplaces have become increasingly more open and accessible.

America is far more inclusive, today, for individuals with disabilities. But our work is still far from complete.

According to new data released this week, almost 30 percent of people with disabilities are living in poverty, and fewer than one in three individuals with a disability participate in the workforce. This is further evidence that we are far from realizing the ADA's goal of economic self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

Today, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair, released a report titled “Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities.” In our report, we detail many of the

barriers that adversely impact the economic well-being of individuals with disabilities—including the lack of accessible transportation and the lack of accessible housing. These barriers don't only affect individuals with disabilities who are living in poverty; they also impact individuals with disabilities who are striving to reach the American dream as members of the middle class.

That is why, today, I am introducing three bills that I believe will begin to address these barriers to individuals with disabilities, S. 2887, S. 2888, and S. 2889. The first bill, the Universal Home Design Act, will increase the availability of accessible housing for individuals with disabilities. The second, the Accessible Transportation for All Act, will increase the availability of accessible passenger cars and taxis. The third, the Exercise and Fitness for All Act, will increase the availability of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, which will help individuals with disabilities maintain and improve their health through appropriate physical activity.

I am confident that these three bills, along with the Community Integration Act, and the recently passed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, will help provide the framework for a future of continued opportunities, inclusion and advancement for individuals with disabilities in America. I urge my Senate colleagues to support these important bills.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2887

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Accessible Transportation for All Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE FOR HIRE.**—The term “accessible vehicle for hire” means a vehicle used in a demand responsive system by private entities to provide non-fixed route transportation service, including taxi service and transportation network operator vehicles, which—

(A) is designed to enable persons who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices to be transported, and to remain in their wheelchairs or other mobility devices if they so choose; and

(B) affords independent access for people with disabilities to all in-vehicle functions generally available to other passengers in such vehicles, including credit card payment devices.

(2) **ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER CAR.**—The term “accessible passenger car” means a passenger car that is designed to enable persons who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices as a result of a significant mobility impairment—

(A) to independently enter and exit the car via a ramp, lift, or similar device that permits access to the driver's seat, while remaining in a manual wheelchair, power wheelchair, or other mobility device;

(B) to safely store a wheelchair or other mobility device in the car, if desired; and

(C) to independently operate the car, including through using hand controls or other optional modifications.

(3) **ACCESSIBLE TAXI VEHICLE.**—The term “accessible taxi vehicle” means an accessible vehicle for hire operated by a taxi company or other company that provides immediate service through on-street hailing or on-demand dispatch by telephone or electronic means.

(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the Federal Transit Administration.

(5) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

(6) **DISCRIMINATORY TERMS OR CONDITIONS.**—The term “discriminatory terms or conditions” includes—

(A) denial of participation (as described in section 302(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(1)(A)(i)));;

(B) participation in an unequal benefit (as described in section 302(b)(1)(A)(ii) of such Act);

(C) the imposition or application of eligibility criteria described in section 302(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act;

(D) a failure to make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, or procedures (as described in section 302(b)(2)(A)(ii) of such Act);

(E) imposing a surcharge for the use of an accessible taxi or an accessible for-hire vehicle by a person with a disability; and

(F) failing to permit an individual with a disability with his service animal.

(7) **FOR HIRE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.**—The term “for hire transportation company” means a public or private entity operating a demand responsive system, including a taxi service, a transportation network company, or other public or private entity providing transportation or access to non-fixed route transportation services.

(8) **PASSENGER CAR.**—The term “passenger car” has the meaning given the term “passenger automobile” in section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(10) **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY.**—The term “transportation network company” means a company that uses a digital network, a software application, or other means to connect a passenger to transportation network services provided by a transportation network operator.

(11) **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR.**—The term “transportation network operator” means an individual who operates a motor vehicle that is—

(A) owned or leased by the individual;

(B) not licensed as a taxi or other public vehicle for hire; and

(C) used to provide services through a transportation network or transportation network company.

SEC. 3. ACCESSIBILITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION.

(a) **ADEQUATE PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES.**—Any person who owns, leases, operates, or arranges for the operation of transportation services to members of the public through a for hire transportation company, taxi service, or transportation network com-

pany shall provide, or arrange for, the adequate provision of accessible vehicles for hire to serve individuals with disabilities who require such services.

(b) **RIGHTS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS.**—An individual with a disability may not, as a result of such disability—

(1) be denied full and equal access to appropriate and useable transportation by a person providing transportation services, including services—

(A) through a transportation network company;

(B) through a for hire transportation company;

(C) through a taxi service; or

(D) by a driver, owner, or operator of a taxi vehicle; or

(2) be subject to discriminatory terms or conditions by any person who owns, leases, or operates a transportation vehicle, or arranges for such transportation services, to members of the public, including the services set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

(c) **APPLICABLE REMEDIES AND PROCEDURES.**—The remedies and procedures set forth in sections 308(a) and 505 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(a) and 12205) shall be available to any person aggrieved by the failure of a person to comply with this section.

SEC. 4. MODEL ACCESSIBLE TAXI COMPETITION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **COMPETITION AUTHORIZED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall organize a national competition to design 1 or more model accessible taxi vehicles.

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the competition under this section shall be to develop 1 or more designs for an accessible taxi vehicle which, without additional modification, can be manufactured for an amount not to exceed the sum of the average manufacturing cost of a minivan that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(b) **ELIGIBLE COMPETITORS.**—Any automobile manufacturer that manufactures vehicles for sale in the United States may submit a proposal for the competition authorized under this section, regardless of size.

(c) **GUIDELINES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall establish guidelines for the competition authorized under this section in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

(2) **COST.**—A proposal may not be selected for a cash prize under subsection (d) unless the Administrator determines that the cost for manufacturing the proposed accessible taxi vehicle does not exceed the average manufacturing cost of a minivan that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(3) **COLLABORATION REQUIREMENT.**—Each proposal submitted under this section shall represent designs collaboratively developed by—

(A) an eligible automobile manufacturer; and

(B) at least 1 national organization serving people with disabilities.

(4) **ADOPTABILITY.**—Proposals submitted under this section shall be judged on whether the design for an accessible taxi vehicle represents a design that a local taxi commission could realistically adopt. The Administrator shall encourage competitors to seek feedback on their designs from members of a local taxi commission before such submission.

(5) **VEHICLE ATTRIBUTES.**—Each proposal submitted under this section shall describe

the specifications of the proposed accessible taxi vehicle, including—

(A) accessibility features and the extent to which such features allow for the full inclusion of individuals with various disabilities;

(B) estimated highway and city fuel economy;

(C) the cost of the vehicle;

(D) the extent to which the vehicle provides adequate space for passengers and any mobility devices, including wheelchairs;

(E) the relative comfort provided for passengers with disabilities and others; and

(F) available luggage or storage space.

(d) **SELECTION.**—The Administrator shall convene a selection panel to select the winning proposals for the competition that includes representatives from the taxi industry, the for-hire transportation industry, and the disability community.

(e) **PAYMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall award automobile manufacturers that are selected pursuant to subsection (d) with cash prizes in an amount to be determined by the Administrator.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. MODEL ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER CAR COMPETITION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **COMPETITION AUTHORIZED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall organize a national competition to design 1 or more model accessible passenger cars.

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the competition under this section shall be to develop 1 or more designs for an accessible passenger car which, without additional modification—

(A) can be manufactured for an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the average manufacturing cost of a passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States; and

(B) can be sold to the public for an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the average sale price of a new passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(b) **ELIGIBLE COMPETITORS.**—Any automobile manufacturer that manufactures passenger cars for sale in the United States may submit a proposal for the competition authorized under this section, regardless of size.

(c) **GUIDELINES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish guidelines for the competition authorized under this section in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

(2) **COST.**—A proposal may not be selected for a cash prize under subsection (d) unless the Administrator determines that—

(A) the cost for manufacturing the proposed accessible passenger car does not exceed 75 percent of the average manufacturing cost of a passenger car that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States; and

(B) the sale price of the proposed accessible passenger car will not to exceed 75 percent of the average sale price of a new passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(3) **COLLABORATION REQUIREMENT.**—Each proposal submitted under this section shall represent designs collaboratively developed by—

(A) an eligible automobile manufacturer;

(B) a postsecondary school of design; and

(C) at least 1 national organization serving people with disabilities.

(4) **STANDARDS.**—Proposals submitted under this section shall meet the general requirements set by the Department of Transportation for all passenger cars available for purchase in the United States.

(5) **VEHICLE ATTRIBUTES.**—Each proposal submitted under this section shall describe the specifications of the proposed accessible passenger car, including—

(A) the extent to which the car meets the requirements of an accessible passenger car set forth in subsection (a)(2);

(B) estimated highway and city fuel economy;

(C) the cost of the vehicle;

(D) the extent to which the vehicle provides adequate space for using and storing mobility devices, including wheelchairs;

(E) whether the car includes hand controls, either as standard equipment or as an option available from the manufacturer;

(F) the ease and comfort with which drivers with disabilities can enter and exit the car;

(G) the ease with which drivers with disabilities can reach and utilize car controls;

(H) the ease of making additional modifications to the car, if necessary; and

(I) available luggage or storage space.

(d) **SELECTION.**—The Administrator shall convene a selection panel to select the winning proposals for the competition that includes representatives from the automobile industry and the disability community.

(e) **PAYMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall award cash prizes, in an amount to be determined by the Administrator, to the automobile manufacturers, post secondary schools of design, and disability organizations that collaborated on a design that was selected under subsection (d).

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. ACCESSIBLE TAXI AND FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Chapter 1 of subtitle I of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 116. Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Administration an Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board (referred to in this section as the ‘Board’).

“(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall be composed of 9 members, who shall be appointed as follows:

“(1) **PUBLIC MEMBERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation shall appoint 5 people with disabilities to the Board, including—

“(i) at least 1 person who uses a wheelchair for mobility;

“(ii) at least 1 person who is deaf or hard of hearing;

“(iii) at least 1 person who is blind or visually impaired; and

“(iv) at least 1 person with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability.

“(B) **TERM.**—Each public member appointed under this paragraph shall be appointed for a 2-year term.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTATIVES.**—The Administrator shall designate 2 officials of the Administration to represent the Administration on the Board.

“(3) **TAXI INDUSTRY MEMBERS.**—The Secretary shall appoint 2 members from the taxi and for-hire transportation industry to the Board.

“(c) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Secretary shall designate a Chairperson of the Board from

among the appointed public members of the Board.

“(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than 4 times per year.

“(e) **DUTIES.**—The Board shall conduct activities to increase the availability of accessible taxis and other for-hire vehicles, including—

“(1) coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration to provide information and technical assistance to local municipalities, taxi commissions, and for hire transportation companies (as defined in section 2 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act)—

“(A) to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

“(B) to facilitate improvements to access to taxis and other accessible for-hire transportation options for people with disabilities; and

“(2) submitting an annual report to the Secretary that includes studies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire throughout the Nation, including—

“(A) the number of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire in the various States and localities, including in the 25 most populated cities in the United States;

“(B) improvements, increases, or changes in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire to access to taxis and other for-hire transportation in the States, localities, and cities referred to in subparagraph (A);

“(C) any State or local policies, ordinances, regulations, or statutes that led to the increases or changes referred to in subparagraph (B);

“(D) barriers to further increases in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

“(E) recommendations about how best to address the barriers described in subparagraph (D).

“(f) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

“(1) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Board may not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Board, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Board. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary uncompensated services of members of the Board.

“(2) **STAFF.**—The Secretary may designate such personnel as may be necessary to enable the Board to perform its duties.

“(3) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Board without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

“(4) **FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES.**—The Secretary shall make available to the Board necessary office space and furnish the Board, under such arrangements respecting financing as may be appropriate, with necessary equipment, supplies, and services.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections in chapter 1 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“116. Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board.”

SEC. 7. STATE STRATEGIC PLANS FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO TAXIS AND FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the last day of the first calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, each State shall develop a strategic plan that describes ways to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for-hire transportation options for people with disabilities in the State.

(b) **BEST PRACTICES.**—Each strategic plan developed under this section shall describe—

(1) current best practices, if any, for increasing the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities within local municipalities in the State; and

(2) any policies, ordinances, or regulations adopted by municipalities to achieve the highest possible standard for accessibility and lowest possible cost for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicle for hire.

(c) **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.**—Each strategic plan developed under this section—

(1) shall outline long-term goals and specific objectives for increasing the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities;

(2) shall consider options, including incentives, to help reduce the cost of implementing an increase in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities in the State; and

(3) may examine how to reduce costs through the use of low-cost model taxis and other means.

(d) **COLLABORATION.**—Each strategic plan developed under this section—

(1) set yearly goals for the number and availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire throughout the State;

(2) describe how the State will meet the goals referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) describe how the State will encourage interstate and intrastate collaboration to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities through collaboration—

(A) among municipalities;

(B) between municipalities and the State; and

(C) between municipalities and private industry.

(e) **DISTRIBUTION.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than April 1st of each year, each State shall submit the strategic plan developed under this section to the Secretary.

(2) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall review each State plan submitted under paragraph (1). Following each such review, the Secretary shall post the State strategic plan on a publicly available website to facilitate collaboration and to share information and best practices.

SEC. 8. ACCESSIBILITY AND SERVICE STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE TAXIS VEHICLES AND ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR HIRE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in collaboration and consultation with the Access Board established

under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 792), shall promulgate regulatory standards, in accordance with this section, including—

(1) accessibility standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

(2) service standards for vehicles referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) **ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS.**—Accessibility standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire promulgated under this section shall ensure that such vehicles are fully accessible to, and usable by, passengers with disabilities, including individuals that use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

(c) **SERVICE STANDARDS.**—Service standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire promulgated under this section shall, at a minimum, ensure that such vehicles—

(1) are readily available in a manner (including wait times) that is comparable to other, nonaccessible taxi vehicles or non-accessible vehicles for hire in the area being served;

(2) can be requested using a variety of technological methods or systems; and

(3) are operated by individuals who are trained in properly loading, unloading, securing, and transporting individuals with disabilities.

SEC. 9. TAX CREDIT FOR EXPENDITURES FOR ACCESSIBLE TAXI VEHICLES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) section 44 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “paid or incurred by an eligible small business” and inserting “paid or incurred—

“(A) by an eligible small business”;

(B) by striking “section).” and inserting “section), and”;

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

“(B) by an eligible small business which is a qualified taxi company for the purpose of purchasing or adapting a vehicle for use as an accessible taxi vehicle that meets the guidelines established under section 8 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) **DEFINITIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any term used in paragraph (1)(B), which is defined in section 2 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act shall have the meaning given such term in such section, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

“(B) **QUALIFIED TAXI COMPANY.**—The term ‘qualified taxi company’ means a person that provides passenger land transportation for a fixed fare by a taxicab and is licensed to engage in the trade or business of furnishing such transportation by a Federal, State, or local authority having jurisdiction over transportation furnished by such person.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2888. A bill to promote the provision of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2888

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Exercise and Fitness For All Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Individuals with disabilities can maintain and improve their health through appropriate physical activity.

(2) In the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans (referred to as the “Guidelines”), the Department of Health and Human Services recommends that individuals with disabilities, who are able, participate in regular aerobic activity.

(3) The Guidelines also recommend that adults with disabilities, who are able, do muscle-strengthening activities of moderate or high intensity on 2 or more days a week, as these activities provide additional health benefits.

(4) The Guidelines recommend that when adults with disabilities are not able to meet the Guidelines, they should engage in regular physical activity according to their abilities and avoid inactivity.

(5) Unfortunately, many individuals with disabilities are unable to engage in the recommended exercise or fitness activities due to the inaccessibility of exercise or fitness equipment.

(6) Physical inactivity by adults with disabilities can lead to increased risk for functional limitations and secondary health conditions.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to encourage exercise and fitness service providers to provide accessible exercise and fitness equipment for individuals with disabilities; and

(2) to provide guidance about the requirements necessary to ensure that such exercise and fitness equipment is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACCESS BOARD.**—The term “Access Board” means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792).

(2) **ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.**—The term “accessible exercise or fitness equipment” means exercise or fitness equipment that is accessible to, and can be independently used and operated by, individuals with disabilities.

(3) **EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.**—The term “exercise or fitness equipment” means devices such as motorized treadmills, stair climbers or step machines, stationary bicycles, rowing machines, weight machines, circuit training equipment, cardiovascular equipment, strength equipment, or other exercise or fitness equipment.

(4) **EXERCISE OR FITNESS SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “exercise or fitness service provider” means a fitness facility, health spa, health club, college or university facility, gymnasium, or other similar place of exercise or fitness that—

(A) is considered a public accommodation under section 301 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) or is considered a public entity under section 201 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12131); and

(B) provides exercise or fitness equipment for the use of its patrons.

(5) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—The term “individual with a disability” means any person with a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(6) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term “individuals with disabilities” means more than one individual with a disability.

SEC. 4. EXERCISE AND FITNESS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Access Board shall develop and publish guidelines for exercise or fitness service providers regarding the provision of accessible exercise or fitness equipment, including relevant personnel training.

(b) **CONTENTS OF GUIDELINES.**—The guidelines described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be consistent with the Standard Specification for Universal Design of Fitness Equipment for Inclusive Use by Persons with Functional Limitations and Impairments of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F3021-13) (and any future revisions thereto);

(2) ensure that—

(A) exercise or fitness equipment is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities; and

(B) individuals with disabilities have independent entry to, use of, and exit from the exercise or fitness equipment, to the maximum extent possible; and

(3) take into consideration the following:

(A) Whether the exercise or fitness service provider is a new or existing facility.

(B) Whether the exercise or fitness service provider is staffed or not.

(C) Instruction and additional assistance on the use of the accessible exercise or fitness equipment (including specific accessibility features) for individuals with disabilities.

(D) The size and overall financial resources of the exercise or fitness service provider.

(E) The availability of closed captioning of video programming displayed on equipment and televisions provided by an exercise or fitness service provider.

(c) **REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.**—The Access Board shall periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the guidelines, and shall issue the resulting guidelines as revised guidelines.

SEC. 5. TAX CREDIT FOR EXPENDITURES TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) of section 44(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “paid or incurred by an eligible small business” and inserting “paid or incurred—

“(A) by an eligible small business”;

(2) by striking “section).” and inserting “section), and”;

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(B) by an eligible small business which is an exercise or fitness service provider for the purpose of providing for use by individuals with disabilities accessible exercise or fitness equipment that meets the guidelines established by the Access Board under section 4 of the Exercise and Fitness for All Act.

Any term used in subparagraph (B) which is defined in section 3 of the Exercise and Fitness for All Act shall have the meaning given such term in such section, as in effect on the date of the enactment of such subparagraph.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses

paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2889. A bill to require compliance with established universal home design guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2889

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Universal Home Design Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACCESSIBLE.**—The term “accessible” (except when used in the context of accessible format) means—

(A) consistent with—

(i) subpart D of part 36 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling); and

(ii) appendices B and D to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling); and

(B) independently usable by individuals with disabilities, including those who use a mobility device such as a wheelchair.

(2) **ACCESS BOARD.**—The term “Access Board” means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792).

(3) **COVERED DWELLING UNIT.**—The term “covered dwelling unit” means a dwelling unit that—

(A) is a detached single family house, a townhouse or multi-level dwelling unit (whether detached or attached to other units or structures), or a ground-floor unit in a building of not more than 3 dwelling units;

(B) is designed as, or intended for occupancy as, a residence;

(C)(i) was designed, constructed, or commissioned, contracted, or otherwise arranged for construction, by a person or entity who, at any time before the design or construction, received or was guaranteed Federal financial assistance for any program or activity;

(ii) is purchased by a person or entity using amounts that are provided or guaranteed under a program that provides Federal financial assistance for homeownership; or

(iii) is offered for purchase by a person or entity using amounts that are provided or guaranteed under a program that provides Federal financial assistance for homeownership; and

(D) is made available for first occupancy after the expiration of the 30-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(5) **FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The term “Federal financial assistance” means—

(A) any assistance that is provided or otherwise made available by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, any Federal Home Loan Bank, the Secretary of

Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or any program or activity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs, through any grant, loan, insurance, guarantee, contract, or any other arrangement, after the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, including—

(i) a grant, subsidy, or any other funds;

(ii) real or personal property or any interest in or use of such property, including—

(I) transfers or leases of the property for less than the fair market value or for reduced consideration; and

(II) proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of the property if the Federal share of the fair market value is not returned to the Federal Government;

(iii) any tax credit, mortgage or loan guarantee, or insurance; and

(iv) community development funds in the form of obligations guaranteed under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308); and

(B) any assistance that is provided or otherwise made available by the Secretary of Agriculture under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.).

(6) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—The term “individual with a disability” means an individual with a disability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(7) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term “individuals with disabilities” means more than 1 individual with a disability.

(8) **PERSON OR ENTITY.**—The term “person or entity” includes 1 or more individuals, corporations (including not-for-profit corporations), partnerships, associations, labor organizations, legal representatives, mutual corporations, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated associations, trustees, trustees in cases under title 11 of the United States Code, receivers, and fiduciaries.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) **UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN.**—The term “universal home design” means the inclusion of architectural and other landscaping features that allow basic access to and within a residential dwelling by an individual with a disability who cannot climb stairs, including an individual who uses a mobility device such as a wheelchair.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN GUIDELINES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Access Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop and issue guidelines setting forth the minimum technical criteria and scoping requirements for a covered dwelling unit to be in compliance with universal home design under this Act.

(b) **UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN FEATURES COVERED.**—The guidelines required to be developed and issued under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, basic access to a covered dwelling unit and to not less than 1 level within such covered dwelling unit, including—

(1) an accessible entrance located on an accessible path from the public street or driveway;

(2) accessible interior doors with sufficient clear width and accessible thresholds;

(3) accessible environmental controls on the wall;

(4) at least 1 accessible indoor room that has an area of not less than 70 square feet and contains no side or dimension narrower than 7 feet;

(5) an accessible bathroom with—

(A) an accessible sink and toilet; and

(B) reinforced walls that permit the installation of grab bars; and

(6) a kitchen space—

(A) with accessible food preparation, washing, and storage areas; and

(B) that can easily be further adapted to accommodate an individual with a disability.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the guidelines are issued under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue regulations, in an accessible format—

(1) to carry out the provisions of this Act; and

(2) that include accessibility standards that are consistent with the guidelines issued under subsection (a).

(d) **REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.**—

(1) **ACCESS BOARD.**—The Access Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

(A) periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the guidelines issued under subsection (a); and

(B) issue such amended guidelines as revised guidelines.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—Not later than 6 months after the date on which revised guidelines are issued under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall issue revised regulations that are consistent with such revised guidelines.

SEC. 4. USE OF UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN GUIDELINES IN NEW CONSTRUCTION.

It shall be unlawful for any person described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of section 2(3)(C), with respect to a covered dwelling unit, to fail to ensure that the covered dwelling unit complies with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—Each applicant for Federal financial assistance that is to be used for a covered dwelling unit shall submit to the agency providing such Federal financial assistance an assurance, at such time and in such manner as the head of the agency may require, verifying that the applicant is in compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3 with respect to the covered dwelling unit.

(b) **CIVIL ACTION FOR PRIVATE PERSONS.**—Any person aggrieved by an act or omission that is unlawful under section 3 or 4 may commence a civil action in an appropriate United States district court against any person or entity responsible for any part of the design, construction, or sale of a covered dwelling unit.

(c) **ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons has violated section 3 or 4, the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate United States district court. The Attorney General may also, upon timely application, intervene in any civil action brought under subsection (b) by a private person if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance.

(d) **RELIEF.**—In any civil action brought under subsection (b) or (c), if the court finds that a violation of section 3 or 4 of this Act has occurred or is about to occur, it may award to the plaintiff actual and punitive damages, and may grant as relief, as the court finds appropriate, any permanent or temporary injunction, temporary restraining order, or other order (including an order enjoining the defendant from violating section 3 or 4 of this Act or ordering such affirmative action as may be appropriate).

(e) **ATTORNEY'S FEES.**—In any civil action brought under subsection (b) or (c), the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney's fee and costs.

(f) **VIOLATIONS.**—For purposes of this section, a violation involving a covered dwelling unit that is not designed or constructed in conformity with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3 shall not be considered to terminate until the violation is corrected.

SEC. 6. OFFICE OF ACCESSIBLE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Accessible Housing and Development.

(b) **DIRECTOR.**—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall be headed by a Director of Accessible Housing and Development, who shall be—

- (1) appointed by the Secretary;
- (2) an individual with substantial knowledge of individuals with disabilities and universal design; and
- (3) responsible for implementing the responsibilities described in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) **INFORMATION DISEMINATION.**—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall disseminate information to inform the public about the importance of universal home design by—

(A) sharing information and resources about the requirements under this Act, the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); and

(B) creating a website in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) to facilitate the dissemination of information and resources under subparagraph (A).

(2) **SURVEYING THE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall conduct a study and submit to the Secretary a report on the number of covered dwelling units and other housing units that are accessible to individuals with disabilities in each State, disaggregated by type of housing, cost, and location.

(3) **PROMOTING UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN.**—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall—

(A) help monitor progress and compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3;

(B) submit to the Secretary an annual report detailing compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3, including the number of covered dwelling units that were built in each State that were in compliance with such guidelines;

(C) coordinate with, and provide technical assistance to, the Department of Justice to assist in the enforcement of this Act; and

(D) perform any other duties as the Secretary may determine appropriate.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act of the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated shall not be affected thereby.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an innovation in surface transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with Senate colleagues the Innovation in Surface Transportation Act, which will spur economic development and include more local stakeholders in transportation projects. I am proud to join with Senators WICKER, BEGICH, COCHRAN, and CASEY to sponsor this important bipartisan legislation.

As a former Mayor, I understand local leaders are often in the best position to make sound, cost-effective investment decisions to boost the local economy. Today, our cities, towns and suburbs are not getting the transportation investments they need to remain competitive and attract the kind of investment needed to create jobs and put more people to work.

This legislation establishes a statewide program of competitive grants to local communities overseen by a diverse selection panel, including state Departments of Transportation, local jurisdictions, port authorities, and representatives from air quality and safety organizations. This innovative proposal would encourage communities to compete against their peers, and stretch to make the most of every project and every dollar. Recognizing each state and region has different transportation needs, the panel would create criteria specific to their State's needs, such as improving the movement of freight, or connecting low-income communities to jobs. The bill would also require a metric-based, objective, fully transparent process based off critical criteria, such as return on investment, job creation, and reducing environmental impacts.

The most cost-effective and economically important projects will rise to the top, which will help communities across the country meet the great challenge of maintaining aging infrastructure and preparing for future growth with constrained funding.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build further support for this legislation and continue working to provide long-term transportation investment that strengthens communities across the nation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2896. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to adjust for inflation the amount that is exempt from administrative offsets by the Department of Education for defaulted student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today Senator NELSON and I are introducing legislation to limit the amount the Federal Government can garnish from Social Security benefits for unpaid student loan debt. Our bill would adjust the current \$750 garnishment floor for inflation and index it going forward, to make sure that garnishments do not force seniors into poverty.

According to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the number of borrowers who have experienced garnishments to Social Security retirement, survivor, or disability benefits to repay student loans has increased over time. In 2001, about 31,000 Social Security beneficiaries had part of their benefits garnished to pay defaulted student loans. In 2013, this number had grown to approximately 155,000 beneficiaries, an increase of 400 percent.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act limits the amount the federal government can garnish from monthly Federal benefits. In 1998, this amount was set at \$750 per month, and since then, it has not been raised or adjusted for inflation. This means that the federal government can garnish Social Security benefits so long as the beneficiary is not left with less than \$750 per month. Fifteen years ago, this was above the poverty line, but as a result of inflation, the \$750 limit now represents just 81 percent of the poverty threshold for a single adult 65 or older.

GAO found that if the garnishment limit had been indexed to match the rate of increase in the poverty threshold, in 2013, 68 percent of all borrowers whose Social Security benefits were garnished for Federal student loan debt would have kept their entire benefit. This means that in more than 2/3 of all cases involving the garnishment of Social Security benefits for unpaid student loan debt, the senior was forced into poverty. Indexing the floor to keep up with cost of living would keep this from happening.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect the financial security of seniors facing garnishment for unpaid student loan debt.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I announce my support of the Social Security Garnishment Modernization Act. I once again want to thank and commend Senator COLLINS, my co-sponsor on this legislation and co-leader on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. This is the fifth bill I have co-sponsored with Senator COLLINS as a direct result of a hearing we have held in the Aging Committee.

Earlier this month, our Committee examined the growing problem of seniors facing student loan debt in retirement. A senior with student loan debt who reaches the age of 65 has a one in four chance of being in default on that loan. If a senior still has student loan debt by the time he reaches 75, there's

a better chance than not that the senior is in default on those loans.

The consequences for being in default on those loans in retirement can be devastating. The Department of Education can direct the Treasury Department to garnish a substantial portion of a senior's monthly Social Security payment. Seniors can be left with just \$750 a month, well below the official monthly poverty threshold of \$931. This figure has not been updated since the late 1990s. This bill would update the amount of money protected from garnishment and index it for inflation going forward so that a senior today would get to keep \$1,072 a month even if he was in default on his student loans.

This bill could help people like 72-year-old Janet Lee Dupree of Citra, FL, whose Social Security check was garnished for a \$3,000 loan she took out in the early 1970s. With interest and fees, that loan ballooned to \$15,000, which means that she will likely be in debt the rest of her life. If this bill passed, she would get to keep more of her hard-earned Social Security benefits that she needs to get by and pay for health care costs associated with two chronic and debilitating diseases.

We need to fix this problem soon because the next wave of retirees is coming, and a substantial number of them are still carrying student loan debt. Nearly 18 million people ages 50 to 64 owe on their student loans, and one in five of those people are already in default, meaning they could face garnishment once they start taking Social Security benefits. We need to protect today's retirees and tomorrow's retirees so that they have enough money to live with dignity.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2906. A bill to provide for the treatment and extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators HARKIN and WHITEHOUSE in introducing the Layoff Prevention Extension Act of 2014. This bill would extend the financing and grant provisions for the work sharing initiative I authored and worked to include as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Since becoming law, work sharing has helped save over 110,000 jobs, including 1,200 jobs in my State of Rhode Island, according to the Department of Labor. It has saved States \$225 million by reimbursing them for work sharing benefits they paid out to workers—benefits that helped keep people on the job as employees and employers elected to reduce hours across the board instead of laying workers off.

Before my bill became law only a handful of States had work sharing

programs. By tilting the incentives away from layoffs and toward work sharing a majority of states now have laws on their books. However, the 100 percent Federal financing of these work sharing benefits will expire in the summer of 2015 and the \$100 million in implementation grants by the end of this year. My bill would extend both of these deadlines by one year so States with existing work sharing programs and those that are looking to enact a program can qualify for Federal support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill to keep American workers on the job and encourage more States to enact work sharing programs that enjoy broad support in States that have adopted them and economists on both sides of the spectrum.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act made great strides in improving access to health insurance for millions of Americans. Unfortunately, especially in high-cost geographic areas, some in the middle class are facing high insurance premiums.

If you make a penny over \$45,960 you lose all Federal assistance for purchasing health insurance through the new exchanges. This is especially hard for individuals between the ages of 50 and 64, who are facing higher premiums but do not yet qualify for Medicare.

I have received thousands of calls and emails about access to health insurance. The high costs are a real problem. For example, Dave, one of my constituents from Livermore, CA, wrote to me to share how this policy has affected him. Dave is 60 and self-employed, making \$65,000 per year. He signed up for a plan through the new health insurance exchange to cover both himself and his wife. If they made just \$3,000 less per year they would have qualified for a subsidy and paid \$491 for the second lowest cost silver plan. Since they are just over the threshold, the full cost of this plan is \$1552. They decided to go with less robust coverage and still pay \$1147 for a bronze plan. Under this legislation, Dave and his wife could get a better plan for less than half of what they pay now.

Another constituent, Dan, lives in Riverside, CA, and is 62 years old. He wrote to me and explained that his pension is just barely too high to receive help with his health insurance premiums and that he just can't afford it. Currently, the second lowest cost silver plan for Dan and his wife would be \$1141 per month. Under this legislation, they would be able to afford health insurance.

The way the law is currently designed, there is a steep subsidy cliff. This should gradually reduce, in a way that provides some help for more middle-income Americans so they pay no more than 9.5 percent their income in health insurance premiums.

The Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act would do just that. This legislation extends the current subsidy up to 600 percent of the Federal poverty level, which is \$68,940 for an individual. As an individual makes more, their subsidy goes down.

I am particularly concerned about older individuals who need medical care but face premiums they simply cannot afford. In California, it is estimated that approximately 360,600 individuals between the ages of 50–64 who do not qualify for Medicaid or have employer-based coverage would see premiums greater than 9.5 percent of their income. Nearly 98,000 of these are expected to remain uninsured due to the cost. This is a simple fix to improve the law that will further increase access to coverage.

The bill is paid for by a nominal increase in the federal cigarette tax, which amounts to five cents per pack.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act. It is commonsense to have a gradual decline in the federal assistance for health insurance and help those who are just out of reach of affording it on their own.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT RECENTLY PROPOSED MEASURES THAT WILL REDUCE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE SUPERVISORS (IAIS) SHOULD BE DISAPPROVED BY UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IAIS

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 561

Whereas the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) establishes global insurance standards that the United States and other countries are expected to implement and are graded on their compliance with;

Whereas heretofore, the procedures of the IAIS were relatively transparent for observers;

Whereas on August 4, 2014, the IAIS proposed eliminating public observers from its meetings starting on January 1, 2015, significantly reducing the transparency of its activities and only allowing certain parties to attend;

Whereas representatives of United States consumer advocacy organizations have just recently been admitted as observers;

Whereas the IAIS proposed procedures would provide far less transparency and participation than the procedure afforded to interested stakeholders in the United States by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC);

Whereas maximum transparency produces the best regulation and the proposed procedures will reduce transparency; and

Whereas United States State insurance regulators who currently provide the largest portion of funding to the IAIS have already publically expressed opposition to the proposed reduction in IAIS transparency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the International Association of Insurance Supervisors' (IAIS) proposed procedures will reduce transparency and access to IAIS supervisory standard development by United States stakeholders including those representing consumers;

(2) the proposed procedures specifically authorize the unfair and unequal treatment of interested parties by allowing the IAIS to selectively admit certain parties and exclude others at key meetings;

(3) all representatives of the United States at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors should oppose these new procedures and instead advocate more transparency and public inclusion by the IAIS;

(4) should the IAIS adopt the proposed procedures or any similar reductions in transparency, United States representatives to the IAIS should make all appropriate efforts to ensure that proper transparency is restored; and

(5) all United States representatives to the IAIS should work to ensure that their activities are transparent to Congress and United States stakeholders, and that United States representatives to the IAIS should regularly communicate with United States stakeholders through timely comprehensive reporting and in-person discussions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS ARE A BUDGET-NEUTRAL MEANS TO SUPPORT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN REDUCING ITS ENERGY CONSUMPTION WITHOUT INCREASING SPENDING WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPPORTING UNITED STATES BASED JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

S. RES. 562

Whereas Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts were first authorized by Congress in 1986 and

1992 respectively and reduce energy costs and consumption at Federal buildings and facilities without relying on additional appropriations;

Whereas the contracts are financed by a third-party and realize sufficient energy savings to cover the cost of the financed improvements over the contract term;

Whereas the contractor provides a guarantee of energy savings for the Energy Savings Performance Contract and the utility provides energy savings performance assurances or guarantees of the savings for the Utility Energy Service Contract;

Whereas performance-based contracting is an opportunity for significant savings so much so that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has determined that under an Energy Savings Performance Contract the total cost savings delivered to the Government is nearly twice the guaranteed amount;

Whereas the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 required a Government-wide audit of facilities and, although to date only half of those buildings have been surveyed, it has been established that at least \$9,000,000,000 worth of energy savings that could be achieved within a decade;

Whereas the Office of Management and Budget first recognized savings from Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts on an annual basis throughout the term of the contract as far back as 1998;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office instead has determined that the full cost of the authority to enter into the long-term contracts for capital investments be scored upfront as new mandatory spending while the savings in energy costs that flow from these investments be realized over time as part of the annual appropriations process;

Whereas this has continued to hinder the ability of Congress to pass legislation ensuring additional energy and cost savings to the Federal Government through utilization of these contracts despite their proven savings; and

Whereas there is broad bipartisan and bicameral recognition in Congress of the value of these energy saving contracts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that legislation regarding Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts, and legislation which may lead to their use by the Federal Government, should receive Congressional scoring treatment that allows future year guaranteed discretionary savings to be counted against the mandatory spending attributed to undertaking such contracts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PURSUE EXTRADITION AUTHORITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CYBERCRIMINALS COMMITTING CREDIT CARD THEFT TARGETING UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 563

Whereas the number of United States citizens who have had their identity and financial information compromised as a result of recent data breaches at major retailers exceeds 100,000,000;

Whereas the financial security of middle class Americans has been put at risk by these criminal attacks;

Whereas cybercrimes targeting the financial information of United States citizens are often transnational crimes; and

Whereas the United States does not currently have established extradition agreements with many countries acting as safe havens for cybercriminals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should immediately launch international negotiations with the governments of the world's leading powers for new, effective extradition treaties with countries with which the United States has no current extradition authority, as well as renegotiate old, ineffective treaties, in order to combat more effectively international cybercriminals, including those who target the credit card information of United States citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—HONORING CONSERVATION ON THE CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON EXTINCTION

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 564

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of conserving natural habitats for bird populations and preserving the Nation's biodiversity;

Whereas the death of Martha, the last passenger pigeon, on September 1, 1914, at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the extinction of the passenger pigeon helped to catalyze the American conservation movement of the early 20th century, resulting in new laws and practices that prevented the extinction of many species;

Whereas the story of the passenger pigeon can serve as a cautionary tale and raise awareness of current issues related to human-caused extinction, explore connections between humans and the natural world, and inspire people to build sustainable relationships with other species;

Whereas the passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) was once the most abundant bird in North America, with a population exceeding 3,000,000,000 and with flocks so large that they could darken the skies for hours and even days at a time;

Whereas due to unregulated market hunting in the 19th century and deforestation, the passenger pigeon population plummeted toward extinction;

Whereas Project Passenger Pigeon, a consortium of over 150 institutions, scientists, conservationists, educators, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and others throughout the Nation, is using the centenary of the extinction of the species to tell the story of the passenger pigeon; and

Whereas the story of the passenger pigeon, once a symbol of never-ending natural abundance, and its subsequent extinction is unique in the annals of the history of the United States:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the importance of this centenary, our natural heritage, the sustainability of our ecosystem, and the conservation of our Nation's wildlife.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PERMANENTLY STORE NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 565

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas since 1909, the United States and Canada have worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes through water quality agreements;

Whereas more than 40,000,000 people in Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes for drinking water;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation is proposing to build a permanent geological repository for nuclear waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada;

Whereas nuclear waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels;

Whereas during the 1980s when the Department of Energy, in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), was studying potential sites for a permanent nuclear waste repository in the United States, the Canadian Government expressed concern with locating a permanent nuclear waste repository within the shared water basins of the 2 countries; and

Whereas a spill of nuclear waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people that depend on them for their livelihood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) the Canadian Government should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin;

(2) the President and the Secretary of State should take appropriate action to work with the Canadian Government to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin; and

(3) the President and the Secretary of State should work together with their Canadian Government counterparts on a safe and responsible solution for the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted

the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas South Dakota joined the Union as a State on November 2, 1889;

Whereas South Dakota serves as a breadbasket for the United States and the world;

Whereas the agriculture industry in South Dakota produces a \$25,600,000,000 economic impact each year;

Whereas South Dakota is among the top 10 producers in the United States of 9 different crops;

Whereas South Dakota is among the top 10 producers in the United States in 5 different animal production areas;

Whereas South Dakota is a land of opportunity and free enterprise;

Whereas South Dakota consistently has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the United States;

Whereas South Dakota has an outstanding system of education at every level, teaching students to become leaders and innovators in a variety of fields;

Whereas South Dakotans have gone on to serve proudly and in disproportionately high numbers in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the USS South Dakota was commissioned in 1942 and valiantly served in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas South Dakota is honored to be home to 9 Native American tribes;

Whereas South Dakota boasts the highest mountains between the Appalachians and the Rockies;

Whereas South Dakota supports environmental conservation as home to 6 National parks;

Whereas people from all over the United States travel to South Dakota every year to participate in an annual tradition of pheasant hunting that has spurred tourism and economic growth and has maintained a heritage important to South Dakotans for generations; and

Whereas South Dakota came to symbolize the commitment of the United States to freedom and democracy by way of the world-famous Mount Rushmore: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and celebrates South Dakota and its people on the State's 125th anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 567

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Vietnam is an important emerging partner with which the United States increasingly shares strategic and economic interests, including improving bilateral and multilateral capacity for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, upholding the principles of freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution of international disputes, strengthening an open regional trading order, and maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) the Government of Vietnam has recently taken modest but encouraging steps to improve its human rights record, including signing the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly December 10, 1984, increasing registrations for places of worship, taking greater action to combat human trafficking, reviewing the Criminal Code, and beginning high-level engagement with the United States and international human rights nongovernmental organizations;

(3) in light of growing challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and some steps by the Government of Vietnam to improve its human rights record, the President should begin a process to ease the United States prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam, which is maintained under executive authority and can be changed without legislative action, but should not be changed without consultation with Congress;

(4) easing the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam at this time solely with regard to maritime and coastal defense would further United States national security interests, but steps beyond this to ease further the prohibition would require the Government of Vietnam to take significant and sustained steps to protect human rights, including releases of prisoners of conscience and legal reforms;

(5) the United States Government should continue to support civil society in Vietnam, including advocates for religious freedom, press freedom, and labor rights who seek to use peaceful means to build a strong and prosperous Vietnam that respects human rights and the rule of law; and

(6) the United States Government should continue to engage the Government of Vietnam in a high-level dialogue and specify what steps on human rights would be necessary for the Government of Vietnam to take in order to continue strengthening the bilateral relationship, including to ease further the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 568—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2014 AS "NATIONAL SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 568

Whereas sepsis is a medical condition resulting from an immune system response to an infection;

Whereas the overwhelming flood of immune chemicals released into the blood to fight an infection can impair blood flow, injuring organs;

Whereas sepsis is a serious community-acquired infection and a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas in severe cases of sepsis, a patient can experience a drop in blood pressure, a weakened heart, and septic shock, causing potentially fatal multiple organ failure;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 individuals in the United States are infected with sepsis each year;

Whereas sepsis has killed over 4,000,000 individuals in the United States between 2004 and 2014;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 50 percent of individuals infected with sepsis die, accounting for more deaths in the United States than prostate cancer, breast cancer, and AIDS combined;

Whereas according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, sepsis is the most expensive cause of hospitalization in the United States, with an annual cost of \$24,000,000,000;

Whereas the number of sepsis deaths is on the rise in the United States;

Whereas an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that more than 80 percent of individuals who die from sepsis arrive at the hospital with sepsis;

Whereas early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment can prevent sepsis fatalities; and

Whereas September 2014 is an appropriate month to designate as "National Sepsis Awareness Month" to raise awareness of sepsis and encourage educating patients, families, health care professionals, and government agencies on the importance of early detection as the key for patients to survive sepsis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the month of September 2014 as "National Sepsis Awareness Month".

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 23, 2014, AS "NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY" TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 569

Whereas adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as "older adults") are the fastest-growing population in the United States;

Whereas the number of older adults in the United States is expected to increase from 35,000,000 older adults in 2000 to 79,700,000 older adults in 2040;

Whereas each year, 1 out of every 3 older adults in the United States falls;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas in 2012, more than 2,400,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 722,000 older adults were subsequently hospitalized from such injuries;

Whereas in 2011, more than 22,900 older adults in the United States died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas in 2010, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas between 2004 and 2014, the rate of death from falls of older adults in the United States has risen sharply;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls does not decrease, the annual cost of injuries from falls will reach an estimated \$67,700,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, com-

prehensive clinical assessments, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 23, 2014, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

(3) commends the 72 member organizations of the Falls Free® Coalition, and the falls prevention coalitions in 42 States and the District of Columbia, for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as "older adults");

(4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(5) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating interventions to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective community-based falls prevention programs;

(6) urges the Administration for Community Living, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and their partners to continue to promote evidence-based programs and services in communities across the United States to reduce the number of older adults at risk of falling;

(7) encourages State health departments and State Units on Aging, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs, to collaborate with organizations and individuals to reduce falls among older adults in the United States; and

(8) encourages experts in the field of falls prevention to share best practices so that others can replicate their success.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today, I wish to bring awareness to the growing problem of falls amongst our seniors, the fastest-growing population in the United States. Each year, one out of every three older Americans over age 65 falls, resulting in more than 2,400,000 older hospital emergency department visits and more than 22,900 deaths resulting from injuries sustained in unintentional falls. The costs associated with these falls are equally alarming: in 2010, the direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults was \$30,000,000,000. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of falls does not decrease, the annual cost of injuries resulting from falls will reach an estimated \$67,700,000,000 by 2020.

These staggering numbers are alarming, and we must work to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults by utilizing cost-effective strategies to improve balance and strength through exercise programs, improve comprehensive clinical assessments, and reduce hazards in seniors' homes. That is why today I have put forth this Resolution to designate September 23, 2014, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. I thank my colleagues, Senator COLLINS, my partner on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Senators MIKULSKI and SANDERS for

joining with me in support of National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. National Falls Prevention Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. The 72 member organizations of the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 42 States and the District of Columbia have worked tirelessly to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among older Americans. We will continue to foster and encourage these coalitions and ensure the safety and independence of our older adults as they age in their homes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 17, 2014, AS "NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DAY"

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 570

Whereas the United States should reduce dependence on foreign oil and enhance energy security by creating a transportation sector that is less dependent on oil;

Whereas the United States should improve air quality in the United States by reducing emissions from the millions of motor vehicles that operate in the United States;

Whereas the United States should foster national expertise and technological advancement in cleaner, more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas a robust domestic industry for alternative fuels and alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will create jobs and increase the competitiveness of the United States in the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States need more options for clean and energy-efficient transportation;

Whereas mainstream adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will produce benefits at the local, national, and international levels;

Whereas consumers and businesses require a better understanding of the benefits of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas first responders require proper comprehensive training to be fully prepared for any precautionary measures that they may need to take during incidents and extractions that involve alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas the Federal Government can lead the way toward a cleaner and more efficient transportation sector by choosing alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles for the fleets of the Federal Government; and

Whereas Federal support for the adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles can accelerate greater energy independence for the United States, improve the environmental security of the United States, and address global climate change: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 17, 2014, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day";

(2) proclaims National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day as a day to promote programs

and activities that will lead to the greater use of cleaner, more efficient transportation that uses new sources of energy; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to—

(A) increase personal and commercial use of cleaner and more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

(B) promote public sector adoption of cleaner and more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles; and

(C) encourage the adoption of Federal policies to advance and adopt alternative, advanced, and emerging vehicle and fuel technologies in order to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil.

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AS “UNITED STATES AND INDIA PARTNERSHIP DAY”

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 571

Whereas the United States, the oldest democracy in the world, will welcome the Prime Minister of India, the leader of the largest democracy in the world, to the Nation's capital, on September 30, 2014;

Whereas the United States-India relationship is built on mutual respect for common values, including democracy, the rule of law, a market economy, and ethnic and religious diversity, and is bolstered by strong people-to-people connections, including a 3,000,000 strong Indian American diaspora;

Whereas the Senate places tremendous value on the relationship between the United States and India, and the bipartisan Senate India Caucus comprises 42 Senators and is the largest country-specific caucus in the Senate;

Whereas the Indian general election of 2014 was the largest election in Indian history, proving that democracy in India is as strong as it is encompassing of its religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity;

Whereas the President of the United States congratulated the Prime Minister of India after his party's election victory and emphasized the “deep bond and commitment to promoting economic opportunity, freedom, and security” in India and the United States;

Whereas the 2 largest democracies in the world, the United States and India, have further developed their governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, artists, entertainers, athletes, scientists, engineers, doctors, nurses, universities, schools, and faiths and the dignity of their citizens by demonstrating the value of an enlightened democratic rule of law, a peaceful government, and freedom from terror, tyranny, and oppression;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and India is vital to promoting stability, democracy, and economic prosperity in the 21st century;

Whereas bilateral trade between the United States and India increased from \$19,000,000,000 in 2000 to \$95,000,000,000 in 2013;

Whereas in 2013, the United States exported goods to India totaling \$35,000,000,000 and generating 168,000 jobs in the United States; and

Whereas in 2013, the United States invested more than \$28,000,000,000 in India, generating

more than 500,000 jobs in India: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 30, 2014, as “United States and India Partnership Day”, recognizing the contributions of the United States and India to one another and their relationship that will continue to help define the 21st century; and

(2) recognizes that the relationship between the United States and India is a special and permanent bond.

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—CONGRATULATING THE SAILORS OF THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE UPON THE COMPLETION OF 4,000 BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE (SSBN) DETERRENT PATROLS

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force recently completed the 4,000th deterrent patrol of a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN);

Whereas this milestone is significant for the Submarine Force, its crews and their families, the United States Navy, and the entire country;

Whereas this milestone was reached through the combined efforts and impressive achievements of all of the submariners who have participated in such patrols since the first patrol of USS George Washington (SSBN 598) in 1960;

Whereas, as a result of the dedication and commitment to excellence of the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force, ballistic missile submarines have always been ready and vigilant, reassuring United States allies and deterring anyone who might seek to do harm to the United States or United States allies;

Whereas the national maritime strategy of the United States recognizes the critical need for strategic deterrence in today's uncertain world;

Whereas the true strength of the ballistic missile submarine lies in the extremely talented and motivated Sailors who have voluntarily chosen to serve in the submarine community; and

Whereas the inherent stealth, unparalleled firepower, and nearly limitless endurance of the ballistic missile submarine provide a credible deterrence for any enemies that would seek to use force against the United States or United States allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; and

(2) honors and thanks the crews of ballistic missile submarines and their devoted families for their continued dedication and sacrifice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 573—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HAGAN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 573

Whereas September 3, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which gave to the people of the United States the National Wilderness Preservation System, an enduring resource of natural heritage;

Whereas great writers of the United States, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Willa Cather, George Perkins Marsh, Mary Hunter Austin, David James Duncan, and John Muir, poets such as William Cullen Bryant, and painters such as Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Frederic Remington, Georgia O'Keeffe, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Moran, helped define the distinct cultural value of wild nature and concept of wilderness in the United States;

Whereas national leaders, such as President Theodore Roosevelt, who reveled in outdoor pursuits, have sought to ensure the wisest use of natural resources, so as to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people as possible;

Whereas luminaries in the conservation movement, such as scientist Aldo Leopold, writer Howard Zahniser, teacher Sigurd Olson, biologists Olaus, Adolph, and Margaret “Mardy” Murie, and conservationists David Brower and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, envisioned and ardently advocated for a national system of protected wilderness areas and believed that the people of the United States could and should protect and preserve wilderness so that wilderness lasts well into the future;

Whereas legislators such as Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, a Democrat from Minnesota, Senator Clinton P. Anderson, a Democrat from New Mexico, and Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Pennsylvania, introduced versions of the Wilderness Act in each House of Congress and worked tirelessly along with colleagues for 8 years to secure its passage with bipartisan votes of 78 to 12 in the Senate and 373 to 1 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law in the Rose Garden on September 3, 1964;

Whereas, over the 50 years since the enactment of the Wilderness Act, various Presidents from both parties, leaders of Congress, and experts in the land management agencies within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have expanded and improved the system of wilderness protection created by the Wilderness Act;

Whereas the Wilderness Act instituted an unambiguous national policy to recognize the natural heritage of the United States as a valuable resource and protect wilderness for the good of future generations;

Whereas wilderness provides billions of dollars of ecosystem services in the form of safe drinking water, clean air, and recreational opportunities;

Whereas 44 States have protected wilderness areas; and

Whereas President Gerald R. Ford stated that the National Wilderness Preservation System “serves a basic need of all Americans, even those who may never visit a wilderness area—the preservation of a vital element in our heritage” and that “wilderness preservation ensures that a central facet of our Nation can still be realized, not just remembered”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(2) recognizes and commends the extraordinary work of the individuals and organizations involved in building and maintaining the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) is grateful for wilderness, a tremendous asset the United States continues to preserve as a gift to future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 574—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2014, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 574

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not less than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012, commercial fish landings generated \$5,100,000,000 and recreational anglers took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips and spent \$24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion

prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that it is the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr.

MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 575

Whereas over 2,900,000 families in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 7 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among males in the United States;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute estimates that, in 2014, 233,000 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 29,000 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 40 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in males under the age of 65;

Whereas approximately every 7.5 seconds, a male in the United States turns 50 years old and increases his odds of developing cancer, including prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American males suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is up to 60 percent higher than that for white males and have double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of white males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer;

Whereas the probability that obesity will lead to death and high cholesterol levels is strongly associated with advanced prostate cancer;

Whereas males in the United States with 1 family member diagnosed with prostate cancer have a 33 percent chance of being diagnosed with the disease, males with 2 close family members diagnosed have an 83 percent chance, and males with 3 family members diagnosed have a 97 percent chance;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease in the early stages, increasing the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 33 percent of males survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is in the early stages, making screening critical;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of males and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2014 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to increase research funding to a level that is commensurate with the burden of prostate cancer, so that—

(i) screening and treatment for prostate cancer may be improved;

(ii) the causes of prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(iii) a cure for prostate cancer may be developed; and

(C) to continue to consider ways for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Tuesday, October 14, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, it stand adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Friday, November 7, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3843. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3844. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3845. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3846. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3847. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3848. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3849. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3850. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3851. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

SA 3852. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3853. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3854. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3855. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3854 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3856. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3857. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3858. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3859. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3860. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3861. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to

authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3862. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3863. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3864. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3865. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3866. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3867. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3868. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3869. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3870. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3871. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3872. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3873. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3874. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3875. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3876. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3877. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3878. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3879. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3880. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3881. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3882. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3883. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3884. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3885. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2470, to provide for drought relief measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SA 3886. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3887. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3888. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3889. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3890. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3891. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3892. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3893. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3894. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3895. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3896. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3897. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3898. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3899. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3900. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3901. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3902. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3903. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SA 3904. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3905. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3906. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3907. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3908. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3909. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3910. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3911. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3912. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3913. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3915. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3916. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3917. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3918. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3919. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3920. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3921. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3922. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3923. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

SA 3924. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3923 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3925. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3926. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3927. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3926 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3928. Mr. PRYOR (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

SA 3929. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BENNET)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans.

SA 3930. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, supra.

SA 3931. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

SA 3932. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

SA 3933. Mr. PRYOR (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

SA 3934. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1360, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

SA 3935. Mr. BURR (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 479, recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3843. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 126, strike "shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for 'November 1, 2014'" and inserting "are each amended by striking 'November 1, 2014' and inserting 'June 30, 2015'".

SA 3844. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 126 and insert the following:
SEC. 126. (a) Section 1101(a) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note) is amended by striking "during the period beginning November 1, 2003, and ending November 1, 2014".

(b) Paragraph (2) of section 1104(a) of such Act is amended to read as follows:

"(2) STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TAX.—

"(A) DATE FOR TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not apply after November 1, 2006, with respect to a State telecommunications service tax described in subparagraph (B).

"(B) DESCRIPTION OF TAX.—A State telecommunications service tax referred to in subparagraph (A) is a State tax—

"(i) enacted by State law on or after October 1, 1991, and imposing a tax on telecommunications service; and

"(ii) applied to Internet access through administrative code or regulation issued on or after December 1, 2002.".

SA 3845. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 149.

SA 3846. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 149.

SA 3847. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report on all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind, of the United States Government to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies and related bodies during the previous fiscal year.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The total amount of all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind, of the United States Government to the United Nations and United Nations affiliated agencies and related bodies.

(2) The approximate percentage of United States Government contributions to each United Nations affiliated agency or body in such fiscal year when compared with all contributions to such agency or body from any source in such fiscal year.

(3) For each such contribution—

(A) the amount of the contribution;

(B) a description of the contribution (including whether assessed or voluntary);

(C) the department or agency of the United States Government responsible for the contribution;

(D) the purpose of the contribution; and

(E) the United Nations or United Nations affiliated agency or related body receiving the contribution.

(c) SCOPE OF INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (a) shall include the information required under this section for the previous four fiscal years.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 14 days after submitting a report required under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall post a public version of the report on a text-based, searchable, and publicly available Internet website.

SA 3848. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. INDEPENDENT STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MODELING AND SIMULATION INDUSTRIAL BASE IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall enter into a contract with one or more entities that has expertise in industrial base analysis and modeling and simulation technologies and is not part of the Department of Defense to conduct an independent study and assessment of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study and assessment required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An identification and categorization of Department of Defense requirements for modeling and simulation in support of, but not limited to, operational planning, training and readiness, technology development, and test and evaluation.

(2) A definition, general description, and assessment of the capacity and capability of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base.

(3) A description and assessment of the capability and capacity of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base related, but not limited, to Department of Defense requirements for—

(A) operational planning;

(B) training and readiness;

(C) technology development; and

(D) test and evaluation.

(4) A description, assessment, and estimate of potential impact, including increased costs, related to the risk of the loss of Department of Defense related modeling and simulation industrial base capability, capacity, or skills related, but not limited, to requirements for—

(A) operational planning;

(B) training and readiness;

(C) technology development; and

(D) test and evaluation.

(5) For risks assessed in paragraph (4) as high or significant, alternative or recommended mitigation strategies to manage potential loss of capability, capacity, or skills.

(6) A description and assessment, including recommendations, if any, for improvement of the Department of Defense's distribution of responsibility and authority for, and capability or development of, analytical systems for monitoring and managing risk related to the health of the defense related modeling and simulation industrial base.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In undertaking the independent study and assessment required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretaries of the military departments and such others as the Under Secretary may consider appropriate.

(d) ACCESS.—The Under Secretary shall ensure that the entity or entities awarded a contract under subsection (a) has access to all the data, records, plans, and other information required by the entity or entities to conduct the study and assessment required under such subsection.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a final report, including findings and recommendations, with respect to the independent study and assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the comments of the Secretaries of the military departments and, at the discretion of the Under Secretary, any other agencies that may have been consulted or participated in the study, including specific plans to respond to the finding and recommendations of the independent assessment.

(3) INTERIM REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees an interim report on the independent assessment not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3849. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA RELATIONSHIP.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world;

(2) the people and the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to strengthen and adapt the alliance to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing the shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as the foundations of the alliance;

(3) the people and the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea share deep concerns that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missiles programs and its repeated provocations pose grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, recognize that both nations are determined to achieve the peaceful denuclearization of North Korea, and remain fully committed to continuing close cooperation on the full range of issues related to North Korea;

(4) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea are working closely together to realize a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles;

(5) the United States Government support the goals and vision articulated in President Park Geun Hye's March 28, 2014, Dresden Address on unification to include family reunions, humanitarian assistance targeting mothers and children, infrastructure projects, cultural and educational exchange programs, and reconfirms its commitment to help realize such goals and vision;

(6) the United States Government supports the concrete steps that President Park has taken to promote unification to include the creation of the Presidential Committee on Unification and the proposal to create an International Peace Park at the DMZ;

(7) the United States Government fully recognizes that the United States-Korea alliance will play a pivotal role in achieving unification on the Korean Peninsula;

(8) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula;

(9) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea have decided that due to the evolving security environment in the region, including the enduring North Korean nuclear and missile threat, the current timeline to the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) to a Republic of Korea-led defense in 2015 can be reconsidered; and

(10) the United States Government welcomes the Republic of Korea's ratification of a new five-year Special Measures Agreement, which establishes the framework for Republic of Korea contributions to offset the costs associated with the stationing of United States Forces Korea on the Korean Peninsula.

SA 3850. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. PROHIBITION ON REVERSE AUCTIONS FOR COVERED CONTRACTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, when used appropriately, reverse auctions may improve the Federal Government's procurement of commercially available commodities by increasing competition, reducing prices, and improving opportunities for small businesses.

(b) USE OF REVERSE AUCTIONS.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following new section:

“SEC. 47. REVERSE AUCTIONS PROHIBITED FOR COVERED CONTRACTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a covered contract described in subsection (c), reverse auction methods may not be used—

“(1) if the covered contract is suitable for award to a small business concern; or

“(2) if the award is to be made under—

“(A) section 8(a);

“(B) section 8(m);

“(C) section 15(a);

“(D) section 15(j);

“(E) section 31;

“(F) section 36; or

“(G) section 8127 of title 38, United States Code.

“(b) LIMITATIONS ON USING REVERSE AUCTIONS.—

“(1) NUMBER OF OFFERS; REVISIONS TO BIDS.—A Federal agency may not award a covered contract using a reverse auction method if only one offer is received or if offerors do not have the ability to submit revised bids throughout the course of the auction.

“(2) OTHER PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY.—A Federal agency may not award a covered contract under a procurement provision other than those provisions described in subsection (a)(2) if the justification for using such procurement provision is to use reverse auction methods.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following definitions apply:

“(1) COVERED CONTRACT.—The term ‘covered contract’ means a contract—

“(A) for services, including design and construction services; or

“(B) for goods in which the technical qualifications of the offeror constitute part of the basis of award.

“(2) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.—The term ‘design and construction services’ means—

“(A) site planning and landscape design;

“(B) architectural and interior design;

“(C) engineering system design;

“(D) performance of construction work for facility, infrastructure, and environmental restoration projects;

“(E) delivery and supply of construction materials to construction sites;

“(F) construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating, of public buildings and public works; and

“(G) architectural and engineering services as defined in section 1102 of title 40, United States Code.

“(3) REVERSE AUCTION.—The term ‘reverse auction’ means, with respect to procurement by an agency, a real-time auction conducted through an electronic medium between a group of offerors who compete against each other by submitting offers for a contract or task order with the ability to submit revised offers throughout the course of the auction.”.

(c) CONTRACTS AWARDED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 8127(j) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) The provisions of section 47(a) of the Small Business Act (relating to the prohibition on using reverse auction methods to award a contract) shall apply to a contract awarded under this section.”.

SA 3851. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike “30 days” and insert “29 days”.

SA 3852. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “29” and insert “28”.

SA 3853. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike “not later than 30 days after the enactment of this joint resolution” and insert “By October 31, 2014”.

SA 3854. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “October 31” and insert “October 30”.

SA 3855. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3854 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment

SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “30” and insert “29”.

SA 3856. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike Sec. 149.

SA 3857. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.

None of the funds made available in this Resolution may be used—

(1) to carry out any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), or the amendments made by such Act, title, or subtitle; or

(2) for rulemaking under such Act, title, or subtitle.

SA 3858. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 106(3), strike “December 11, 2014” and insert “April 17, 2015”.

SA 3859. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . No agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government may use any Federal funding—

(1) to consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012 and effective on August 15, 2012 (or by any subsequent Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program);

(2) to newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or

(3) to authorize any alien to work in the United States if such alien—

(A) was not lawfully admitted into the United States in compliance with the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

(B) is not in lawful status in the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3860. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deploy or maintain United States Armed Forces in a sustained combat role relative to the organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), or any similar successor organization, in Iraq, Syria, or both unless—

(1) there is an imminent threat to United States citizens or the national security interests of the United States; or

(2) expressly authorized by an Act or Joint Resolution of Congress.

SA 3861. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR VETERANS.

(a) DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.—Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(4) If a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist is not able to assist all eligible veterans seeking his or her assistance under this chapter, the Secretary may establish an order of priority for the furnishing of such assistance that is consistent with paragraph (1) of this subsection and section 4102 of this title.

“(5) A disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may perform an initial intake and assessment of an individual under this chapter in order to—

“(A) determine whether the individual is a special disabled veteran, another disabled veteran, or another eligible veteran;

“(B) administer the order of priority set forth in paragraph (1) and any order of priority established under paragraph (4); and

“(C) assess the needs of the individual, including whether the individual needs intensive services.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may not impose any restriction on the duties that a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may perform or on the individuals whom a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may assist other than those specifically provided for in this chapter.”.

(b) **LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES.**—Section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by inserting “(1)” before “As principal duties”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) In addition to the principal duties required by paragraph (1), a local veterans' employment representative may furnish employment, training, and placement services directly to eligible veterans and eligible persons.

“(3) Each local veterans' employment representative shall spend a majority of his or her time as a local veterans' employment representative carrying out the principal duties set forth in subsection (b).”; and

(D) in the heading, by striking “PRINCIPAL”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

“(f) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may not impose any restriction on the duties that a local veterans' employment representative may perform or on the individuals whom a local veterans' employment representative may assist other than those specifically provided for in this chapter.”.

SA 3862. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS.

(a) **APPOINTMENT OF LIAISONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall appoint individuals as follows:

(1) At least one individual to act as a liaison under this section between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) At least one individual for each of the reserve components of the Armed Forces to act as a liaison under this section between the respective component of the Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) **DUTIES OF LIAISONS.**—Each individual acting as a liaison under this section shall expedite the timely provision to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary requires to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(c) **PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and implement procedures to improve the timely provision to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary requires to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) **TIMELY PROVISION.**—The procedures developed and implemented under paragraph (1) shall ensure that the information provided to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is provided to the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary requests the information.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the requests for information made by the Secretary during the most recent one-year period for information from the Secretary of Defense required by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

(2) the timeliness of responses to such requests.

SA 3863. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS WHO ARE SEPARATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 1145 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.**—(1) The Secretary concerned shall provide a physical examination pursuant to subsection (a)(5) to each member of a reserve component who—

“(A) will not otherwise receive such an examination under such subsection; and

“(B) elects to receive such a physical examination.

“(2) The Secretary concerned shall—

“(A) provide the physical examination under paragraph (1) to a member during the 90-day period before the date on which the member is scheduled to be separated from the armed forces; and

“(B) issue orders to such a member to receive such physical examination.

“(3) A member may not be entitled to health care benefits pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) solely by reason of being provided a physical examination under paragraph (1).

“(4) In providing to a member a physical examination under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall provide to the member a record of the physical examination.”.

SA 3864. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such military historians as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, shall establish a process to determine whether a covered individual served as described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, for purposes of determining whether such covered individual is eligible for benefits described in such subsections.

(b) **COVERED INDIVIDUALS.**—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is any individual who—

(1) claims service described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) is not included in the Approved Revised Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, known as the “Missouri List”.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS FOR DISQUALIFYING CONDUCT UNDER NEW PROCESS.**—The process established under subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to ensure that a covered individual is not treated as an individual eligible for a benefit described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of such title if such covered individual engaged in any disqualifying conduct during service described in such subsections, including collaboration with the enemy or criminal conduct.

SA 3865. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REPORT ON INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to Congress a report that sets forth a timeline with milestones for achieving interoperability between the electronic health records systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SA 3866. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 632. REPORT ON IMPACT OF REDUCING OR ELIMINATING COMMISSARY SUBSIDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the impact that eliminating or reducing the commissary subsidy would have on eligible beneficiaries.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The number of commissaries currently in operation.

(2) An estimate of the number of eligible beneficiaries utilizing commissaries.

(3) An estimate of the financial impact and costs incurred by eligible beneficiaries if the commissary subsidy is reduced or eliminated.

(4) An estimate of the cost savings for families utilizing the commissary benefit.

(5) Any other matter the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3867. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. GUIDANCE ON PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR EARLY SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTER SEPARATION.

The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Secretaries of the military departments on measures to streamline and encourage the processing by the military departments of requests for early separation or discharge from the Armed Forces submitted by members of the Armed Forces who have agreed to participate in programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service after separation or discharge from the Armed Forces.

SA 3868. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE SIX-MONTH MINIMUM SERVICE IN GRADE REQUIREMENT FOR RETIREMENT AT HIGHER GRADE FOR OFFICERS INVOLUNTARILY RETIRED FOR AGE BEFORE MEETING MINIMUM.

Section 1370 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “An officer” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (e), an officer”;

(2) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “A person” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (e), a person”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) **WAIVER OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN GRADE REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICERS RETIRED FOR AGE.**—(1) Under authority the Secretary of Defense may grant to the Secretary of the military department concerned, an officer may be retired in the highest grade in which the officer served on active duty satisfactorily, notwithstanding the failure of the officer to meet the service in grade requirement specified in subsection (a)(1) with respect to service in such grade, if the officer is retired for age while serving in such grade.

“(2) Under authority the Secretary of Defense may grant to the Secretary of the military department concerned, a person may be retired in the highest grade in which the person served satisfactorily as a reserve commissioned officer in an active status or in a retired status on active duty, notwithstanding the failure of the person to meet the service in grade requirement specified in subsection (d)(2) with respect to service in such grade, if the person is retired for age while serving in such grade.”.

SA 3869. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE TREATMENT FOR FATHERS OF CERTAIN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR DECEASED VETERANS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Gold Star Fathers Act of 2014”.

(b) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 2108(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G) and inserting the following:

“(F) the parent of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a period named by paragraph (1)(A) of this section, if—

“(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

“(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse;

“(G) the parent of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if—

“(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

“(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse; and”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3870. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

Subtitle D—Mental Health Exposure Tracking

SEC. 741. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Mental Health Exposure Military Official Record Act of 2014”.

SEC. 742. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to implement a significant event tracker (SET) system to train and enable members of the Armed Forces, including members of the reserve components thereof, to track exposures to traumatic events and address mental health issues during and after service.

SEC. 743. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **UNIT COMMANDER DEFINED.**—The term “unit commander” means the first individual in the chain of command with authority over the member concerned under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(2) **REPORTABLE EVENT.**—The term “reportable event” includes—

(A) a kinetic combat patrol;

(B) witnessed loss of life, dismemberment, or significant physical injury in a combat operation, expeditionary operation, or peacetime regular training;

(C) an injury or exposure that may constitute a traumatic brain injury (TBI), including a concussive or mechanical event involving the head that occurs in a combat operation, expeditionary operation, or peacetime regular training;

(D) victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault; and

(E) any other event determined by the Secretary of Defense to be potentially traumatic to an affected individual.

(3) **RESERVE COMPONENT.**—The term “reserve component” means a reserve component of the Armed Forces named in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 744. REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT SET SYSTEM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement the significant event tracker system described under section 745 (in this subtitle referred to as the “SET system”).

SEC. 745. SIGNIFICANT EVENT TRACKER (SET) SYSTEM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a SET system to track, report, and summarize individual exposures to traumatic events for the purpose of enabling former members of the Armed Forces, including members of the reserve components thereof, to show evidence of possible traumatic events incurred during their service.

(b) **RECORDING OF EVENTS.**—

(1) **RESPONSIBILITY.**—

(A) **UNIT COMMANDERS.**—A unit commander may enter reportable events that affect the entire unit and its members or delegate to a leader of a subunit of the unit commander's command the entry of reportable events affecting the subunit.

(B) **INDIVIDUAL REPORTING.**—A unit commander may choose to delegate event reporting to the individual members of units who are employed as short-term, temporary (less than 30 days) detachments and individual augments which, by the nature of their mission, preclude the persistent inclusion in one common reviewing unit. The delegation may be until a predetermined date such as the end of a deployment or on a 30-day basis, as determined by the unit commander.

(C) **MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY.**—A medical treatment facility may directly enter a

reportable event affecting a member of the Armed Forces undergoing treatment at such facility for an injury identified by a military medical personnel or as reported by a member of the Armed Forces to such an individual.

(D) **MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT.**—Military law enforcement may directly enter a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault.

(E) **REPORTING OF OUTSIDE INCIDENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance regarding the entry of reportable events involving members of the Armed Forces that occur while in duty status outside of military installations and are initially reported to local non-military law enforcement or non-military medical treatment facilities.

(F) **REPORTING OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS FOR CURRENTLY SERVING SERVICEMEMBERS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance regarding the potential entry of past reportable events involving currently serving members of the Armed Forces that occurred earlier in their career.

(2) **INCLUDED INFORMATION.**—Each entry for a reportable event shall include the following information:

(A) Name, date, location, and unit.

(B) Duty Status.

(C) Type of event.

(D) Whether a physical injury was sustained as a result, and if so, the extent of such injury.

(E) Other information as required by the Secretary of Defense.

(c) **VERIFICATION OF EVENTS.**—

(1) **EVENTS REPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A reportable event entered by an individual member under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be reviewed by the unit commander for purposes of verifying, contesting, or denying the event.

(B) **VERIFICATION TOOLS.**—In reviewing reportable events under subparagraph (A), the unit commander shall use all available verification tools, including Department of Defense reports, unit logs, reports from credible witnesses such as patrol leaders, and any other evidence deemed appropriate by the unit commander.

(C) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance designed to ensure that entries submitted to a unit commander for review are handled accurately with discretion and in a timely fashion while recognizing the challenges posed by operational tempo and competing time demands.

(2) **EVENTS REPORTED BY THE UNIT COMMANDERS OR DELEGATES.**—Reportable events entered by a unit commander or delegate under subsection (b)(1)(A), other than reportable events involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, shall be submitted directly to the respective unit's commanding officer for review under subsection (d). Reportable events involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(3) **EVENTS REPORTED BY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.**—Reportable events entered by medical treatment facilities under subsection (b)(1)(C) shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(4) **EVENTS REPORTED BY MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT.**—Reportable events entered by military law enforcement under subsection (b)(1)(D) shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(d) **COMMAND REVIEW.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.**—The commanding officer shall have responsibility

for reviewing and determining the disposition of a reportable event involving the member submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c), other than a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, and submitting the event and such determination to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(2) **DISPOSITION.**—The commanding officer shall, in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of Defense, assign to each such reportable event one of the following designations:

(A) **Approved**, in the case of clear documentation and verification of the facts and the individual's exposure.

(B) **Approved/Contested**, in the case of clear documentation and verification of the occurrence of the event, but where the commanding officer has reasonable doubt for approval of the reportable event.

(C) **Denied/Contested**, in the case of questionable documentation or verification, but where the commanding officer has reasonable doubt for denial of the reportable event.

(D) **Denied**, in the case of no clear evidence of the facts or the member's exposure.

(3) **NON-REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.**—Each reportable entry reviewed under this subsection shall be entered into the secure central tracking database and may not be removed or deleted, regardless of designation.

(e) **SECURE CENTRAL TRACKING DATABASE.**—

(1) **STORAGE OF INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—All reportable events shall be submitted to a secure central tracking database, either indirectly pursuant to subsection (d), or directly pursuant to paragraphs (3) or (4) of subsection (c) or, in the case of a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, paragraph (2) of subsection (c). The database shall serve as the central repository for all reportable events relating to a member of the Armed Forces, including for purposes of preparing the member's official SET record upon separation from service.

(B) **TREATMENT OF INFORMATION.**—

(i) **CLASSIFIED AND SENSITIVE OPERATIONS.**—The secure central tracking database shall include measures to ensure that information related to classified and sensitive operations is coded so as to document the event without violating operational security concerns.

(ii) **SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES.**—The secure central tracking database shall include measures to ensure that information related to sexual assault cases in the secure central tracking database is coded in order to protect privacy and to correctly reflect the status, and protect the integrity, of ongoing investigations.

(iii) **CONFIDENTIALITY OF INDIVIDUAL RECORDS.**—An individual member's complete SET record and individual entries may not be reviewed by the member's unit commander or the chain of command, and may not be used by anyone for the purpose of evaluating promotion, reenlistment, or assignment issues.

(C) **USE BY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.**—Medical treatment facilities shall be provided access to the secure central tracking database for purposes of entering reportable events under subsection (b)(1)(C) and consulting for diagnoses.

(D) **USE BY MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.**—Military law enforcement and criminal investigative services shall be provided general access to the secure central tracking database for purposes of entering reportable events under section (b)(1)(D) and to a limited summary

for purposes of diagnosing patterns and trends related to crimes committed inside their jurisdiction. The summary shall not include specific information about events, evidence, or individual members, including private personal information such as names and social security numbers.

(E) **ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY DISCIPLINARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An individual member's complete SET record and individual entries may, with the explicit consent of the member, be reviewed, evaluated, and shared with—

(I) in the case of a military disciplinary or judicial hearing or proceeding, the member's military and civilian legal representative or representatives, unit commander, or military judge for the purpose of addressing concerns related to such hearing or proceeding; and

(II) in the case of a non-military disciplinary or judicial hearing or proceeding, the member's civilian legal representative or representatives for the purpose of addressing concerns related to such hearing or proceeding.

(ii) **ACCESS IN CASES OF MENTAL INCAPACITY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide guidance for questions related to the accessing a servicemember's SET record for servicemembers who have been determined to be mentally incapable and thus are unable to provide their own consent or objection to the release of personal information.

(F) **UNIT COMMANDER REVIEW.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), unit commanders may only view individual pending entries that have been submitted to them for review and designation, and may not view previous entries that have already been reviewed and designated.

(ii) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACCESS.**—Unit commanders may only access entries that have already been reviewed, designated, and entered into the secure central data base by that individual commander in order to correct roster entries for subunits, provide additional post-incident documentation, or take such other administrative actions as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense. In no instance may such access permit the removal of any entry, regardless of designation.

(G) **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF UNIT COMMANDERS.**—

(i) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance governing the sharing of SET entry statistics among unit commands and other Department of Defense individuals, offices, activities, and agencies for purposes of analyzing the number and types of entries generated over time. Information so shared may not include specific information about events, evidence, or individual members, including private personal information such as names and social security numbers.

(ii) **EVALUATION ON UNIT COMMANDERS.**—Unit commanders may not be evaluated by their superiors for the number and types of entries generated by their command, but may be evaluated by their superior officer in the chain of command for the speed and accuracy of their entries, and the review of their entries.

(H) **ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON ACCESS.**—No non-Department of Defense agencies, organizations, or individuals, such as veterans' service organizations, local law enforcement, judicial courts, or civilian medical treatment facilities, shall be granted access to the secure central tracking database. De-

partment of Defense medical officers may only review an individual member's entire SET record for the medical purposes set forth in subsection (e)(2)(A) and such other purposes as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) **DISTRIBUTION AND CONTROL.**—

(A) **PRE-DISCHARGE.**—

(i) **MEDICAL RETIREMENTS.**—In the case of a member of the Armed Services preparing for medical retirement due to injury or other conditions, the official SET record shall be provided to and used by the Medical Evaluation Board or Physical Evaluation Board.

(ii) **NON-MEDICAL DISCHARGES AND RETIREMENTS.**—In the case of a member of the Armed Services preparing for a non-medical discharge or retirement, the official SET record shall be reviewed by the medical officer of the member's parent unit and serve as the basis for any follow-on actions as determined by the medical officer.

(iii) **BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE CLAIMS.**—In the case of a member of the Armed Services initiating a Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claim, the BDD Specialist shall be provided with the official SET record in order to file a fully developed claim for the member.

(B) **UPON DISCHARGE.**—Upon a member's separation from service in the Armed Forces, including a member of a reserve component thereof, copies of the member's official SET record, including a compilation of all reported events and a summary prepared by an authorizing agent with cleared access to the secure central tracking database, shall be distributed in accordance with the procedures of the military service in which the individual served, including copies to the following recipients:

(i) The separating member.

(ii) The separating member's Service Personnel and Medical File, or other relevant record as determined under the Secretary of Defense's guidance.

(iii) The Department of Veterans Affairs, and if specifically designated by the member, the veteran affairs agency of the State that is the separating member's relevant home of record or intended new residence and such other veterans service organization as may be designated by the member.

SEC. 746. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed as limiting the ability of current and former members of the Armed Forces to provide documentation other than the SET record, including handwritten statements, for purposes of appealing, documenting, or presenting evidence related to post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury claims.

SA 3871. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 234. PILOT PROGRAM ON SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF VETERANS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense may establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of supporting activities of covered entities that promote the participation of covered veterans in science and technology activities of the Department of Defense to promote the education and training of such veterans in science, technology, engineering, and math fields that are relevant to the needs of the Department.

(b) **COVERED ENTITIES.**—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered entity is any entity that is in receipt of a contract or grant from the Department of Defense to carry out research, development, testing, or evaluation.

(c) **COVERED VETERANS.**—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered veteran is any veteran who—

- (1) is pursuing a program of education;
- (2) is a teacher;
- (3) has a service-connected disability; or
- (4) is a member of the faculty at a community college.

(d) **SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING.**—The Secretary may carry out the pilot program through the award of supplementary funding to covered entities to support—

(1) participation of covered veterans in research activities otherwise funded by the Secretary; or

(2) internships and fellowships at—
(A) Department laboratories or research facilities; or

(B) university or industry research facilities.

(e) **DERIVATION OF AMOUNTS.**—Amounts used to carry out the pilot program shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 201.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on September 30, 2019.

(g) **REPORT.**—Not less frequently than once each fiscal year in which the Secretary carries out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program.

SA 3872. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a review and assessment by the Comptroller General of the current state of electronic waste recycling by the Department of Defense, including an assessment of recycling, reuse, refurbishment, and demanufacturing activities of Department with respect to used electronics.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information on the disposition of used Department electronics, including the volume of electronics that are recycled, reused, refurbished, and demanufactured.

(2) Information on the value of all strategic and critical materials recovered from recycled electronics of the Department during fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

(3) Information on the economic models used by the Department for the collection and capture of strategic or critical materials from used electronics, including any benefits and challenges associated with the models.

(4) An identification and assessment of potential opportunities for improving the efficiency or effectiveness of Department efforts to recover strategic and critical materials from used Department electronics.

SA 3873. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “29” and insert “27”.

SA 3874. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. SMALL BUSINESS CYBER EDUCATION.

The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, may make every reasonable effort to promote an outreach and education program to assist small businesses (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) contracted by the Department of Defense to assist such businesses to—

- (1) understand the gravity and scope of cyber threats;
- (2) develop a plan to protect intellectual property; and
- (3) develop a plan to protect the networks of such businesses.

SA 3875. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 476, line 15, strike “\$20,000,000” and insert “\$10,000,000”.

On page 492, line 19, strike “SURFACE”.

On page 492, line 22, insert “AND SUB-SURFACE” after “SURFACE”.

On page 492, line 25, insert “and subsurface” after “surface”.

On page 493, line 5, insert “and subsurface” after “surface”.

On page 493, line 17, insert “and subsurface” after “surface”.

On page 496, line 25, strike “\$30,000,000” and insert “\$140,000,000”.

Strike subtitle A of title XV and insert the following:

Subtitle A—Authorization of Additional Appropriations

SEC. 1501. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to authorize appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 to provide additional funds for overseas contingency operations being carried out by the Armed Forces.

SEC. 1502. PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for procurement accounts for the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and Defense-wide activities, as specified in the funding table in section 4102.

SEC. 1503. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation, as specified in the funding table in section 4202.

SEC. 1504. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4302.

SEC. 1505. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for military personnel, as specified in the funding table in section 4402.

SEC. 1506. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1507. DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1508. DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1509. DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Defense Health Program, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1510. COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1511. EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the European Reassurance Initiative, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1512. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for military construction, as specified in the funding table in section 4602.

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1526. COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund shall be available for the following purposes:

(1) To enhance counterterrorism and crisis response activities undertaken by the United States Armed Forces under authority provided by any other provision of law.

(2) To provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support, or facilitate counterterrorism and crisis response activities under authority provided by any other provision of law.

(b) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—Activities using amounts available pursuant to subsection (a) may be conducted by contract, including contractor-operated capabilities, if the Secretary of Defense typically acquires services or equipment by contract in conducting a similar activity for the Department of Defense.

(c) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY FORCES.**—The provision of support and assistance to foreign security forces using amounts available pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the provisions of section 2246 of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 1202 of this Act).

(d) **TRANSFER REQUIREMENT AND AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **USE OF FUNDS ONLY PURSUANT TO TRANSFER.**—Amounts in the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund may be used for the purposes specified in subsection (a) only pursuant to transfers authorized by this subsection.

(2) **TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.**—Amounts in the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund may be transferred from the Fund to any of the following accounts of the Department of Defense for the purposes specified in subsection (a):

(A) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(B) Procurement accounts.

(C) Research, development, test, and evaluation accounts.

(3) **LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT TRANSFERRABLE BY FISCAL YEAR.**—The total amount transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Funds under the authority in paragraph (2) in any fiscal year may not exceed \$4,000,000,000.

(4) **TRANSFER FOR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.**—

(A) **LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.**—With respect to a program specified in subparagraph (B), the maximum amount that may be available in a fiscal year in connection with such program, including by transfer from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund under paragraph (2), is the amount specified for that program in subparagraph (B), notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of

funds available for that program in a fiscal year that is specified in the applicable provision of law referred to in subparagraph (B).

(B) **COVERED PROGRAMS.**—The programs specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) The Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program under section 2249c of title 10, United States Code, the amount of \$50,000,000.

(ii) Programs under section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163), the amount of \$700,000,000.

(iii) Programs under section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375), the amount of \$80,000,000.

(5) **EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.**—The transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(6) **TRANSFERS BACK TO FUND.**—Upon a determination that all or part of the amounts transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund under paragraph (2) are not necessary for the purpose for which transferred, such amounts shall be transferred back to the Fund.

(7) **CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (2) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(e) **MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET MATERIALS.**—

(1) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the intended management and use of the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

(2) **BUDGET MATERIALS.**—The budget justification materials for the Department of Defense for any fiscal year in which amounts are requested for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund (as submitted to Congress with the budget of the President for such fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) shall include a separate request, and justifying materials, for amounts for the Fund.

(f) **MANAGER.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate a senior civilian employee of the Department of Defense to serve as manager of the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

(g) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 15 days before transferring amounts from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing of such transfer. Each notice of a transfer shall include the following:

(1) A detailed description of the project or activity to be supported by the transfer, including the request of the commander of the combatant command concerned for support, urgent operational need, or emergent operational need.

(2) The amount planned to be expended on such project or activity, and the timeline for such expenditure.

(h) **BIANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the end of the first half of a fiscal year and after the end of the second half of a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) A description of the expenditure of funds from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund during such half fiscal year, including expenditures of funds in direct or indirect support of the counterterrorism activities of foreign governments.

(B) A description of any funds considered not necessary for the purpose for which transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund and transferred back to the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund pursuant to subsection (d)(6) during such half fiscal year.

(2) **INFORMATION ON SUPPORT OF COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**—The information in a report under paragraph (1)(A) on direct or indirect support of the counterterrorism activities of foreign governments shall include, for each foreign government so supported, the following:

(A) The total amount of such assistance provided to, or expended on behalf of, the foreign government pursuant to this section.

(B) A description of the types of counterterrorism activities conducted using the assistance.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) The term “first half of a fiscal year” means the period beginning on October 1 of any year and ending on March 31 of the following year.

(B) The term “second half of a fiscal year” means the period beginning on April 1 of any year and ending on September 30 of such year.

(i) **DURATION OF AUTHORITY.**—No amounts may be transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund after September 30, 2017.

SEC. 1527. EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE.

(a) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for the European Reassurance Initiative shall be available for the purpose of providing support and assistance to allies and partner nations in Europe under authority provided by any other provision of law, including through such activities as the following:

(1) Activities to increase the presence of the United States Armed Forces in Europe.

(2) Bilateral and multilateral military exercises and training with allies and partner nations in Europe.

(3) Activities to improve infrastructure in Europe to enhance the responsiveness of the United States Armed Forces.

(4) Activities to enhance the prepositioning in Europe of equipment of the United States Armed Forces.

(5) Activities to build the defense and security capacity of allies and partner nations in Europe.

(b) **TRANSFER REQUIREMENT AND RELATED AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **USE OF FUNDS ONLY PURSUANT TO TRANSFER.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative may be used for the purpose specified in subsection (a) only pursuant to transfers authorized by this subsection.

(2) **TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.**—Amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative may be transferred from the Initiative to any of the following accounts of the Department of Defense for the purpose specified in subsection (b):

(A) Military personnel accounts.

(B) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(C) Procurement accounts.

(3) **MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative, \$163,000,000 may be used for military construction

projects in connection with activities undertaken as described in subsection (a). Such funds may be used for any such project only if, not later than 15 days before the contract for any such project is awarded, the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees for such project the following:

(i) A complete Military Construction Project Data Form DD 1391.

(ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a certification that such project—

(I) is consistent with the basing assessment initiated by the Secretary of Defense on January 25, 2013 (known as the “European Infrastructure Consolidation Assessment”);

(II) is of an enduring nature; and

(III) most effectively meets requirements of the Commander of the United States European Command at the location specified in the Military Construction Project Data Form DD 1391.

(B) EXCEPTION.—A certification is not required under subparagraph (A)(ii) for a military construction project if the project is to be carried out under the authority of, and subject to the limits specified in, section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

(C) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “military construction project” means a military construction project within the meaning of section 2801 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) TRANSFER FOR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—With respect to a program specified in section 1526(d), the maximum amount that may be available in a fiscal year in connection with such program, including by transfer from the European Reassurance Initiative under paragraph (2), is the amount specified for that program in section 1526(d), notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of funds available for that program in a fiscal year that is speci-

fied in the applicable provision of law referred to in section 1526(d).

(5) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—The transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(6) TRANSFERS BACK TO FUND.—Upon a determination that all or part of the amounts transferred from the European Reassurance Initiative under paragraph (2) are not necessary for the purpose for which transferred, such amounts shall be transferred back to the Initiative.

(7) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (2) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(c) PLAN FOR USE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the intended use of the European Reassurance Initiative.

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 15 days before transferring amounts from the European Reassurance Initiative pursuant to subsection (b) for activities specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing of such transfer. Each notice of a transfer shall include the following:

(1) A detailed description of the project or activity to be supported by the transfer, including any request of the Commander of the United States European Command for support, urgent operational need, or emergent operational need.

(2) The amount planned to be expended on such project or activity, and the timeline for such expenditure.

(e) BIENNIAL REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the first half of a fiscal year and after the end of the second half of a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) A description of the expenditure of funds from the European Reassurance Initiative during such half fiscal year, including expenditures of funds in direct or indirect support of the activities of foreign governments described in subsection (a).

(B) A description of any funds considered not necessary for the purpose for which transferred from the European Reassurance Initiative and transferred back to the European Reassurance Initiative pursuant to subsection (d)(6) during such half fiscal year.

(2) INFORMATION ON SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The information in a report under paragraph (1)(A) on direct or indirect support of the activities of foreign governments described in subsection (a) shall include, for each foreign government so supported, the following:

(A) The total amount of such assistance provided to, or expended on behalf of, the foreign government pursuant to this section.

(B) A description of the types of activities conducted using the assistance.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term “first half of a fiscal year” means the period beginning on October 1 of any year and ending on March 31 of the following year.

(B) The term “second half of a fiscal year” means the period beginning on April 1 of any year and ending on September 30 of such year.

(f) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—No amounts may be transferred or obligated from the European Reassurance Initiative after September 30, 2016.

On page 750, between section 4101 and title XLII, insert the following:

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
FIXED WING			
3	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR (ACS) (MIP)	36,000	36,000
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	36,000	36,000
MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM			
4	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	29,100	29,100
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	29,100	29,100
PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY			
SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION			
7	CTG, 30MM, ALL TYPES	35,000	35,000
MORTAR AMMUNITION			
9	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	5,000	5,000
ARTILLERY AMMUNITION			
13	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES	10,000	10,000
14	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES	15,000	15,000
ROCKETS			
20	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES	66,905	66,905
OTHER AMMUNITION			
21	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	3,000	3,000
22	GRENADERS, ALL TYPES	1,000	1,000
23	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES	5,000	5,000
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY TOTAL	140,905	140,905
OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY			
TACTICAL VEHICLES			
05	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLES (FHTV)	95,624	95,624
8	PLS ESP	60,300	60,300

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
10	HVY EXPANDED MOBILE TACTICAL TRUCK EXT SERV	192,620	192,620
15	MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH-PROTECTED (MRAP) MODS	197,000	197,000
	ELECT EQUIP—TACT INT REL ACT (TIARA)		
63	DCGS-A (MIP)	48,331	48,331
67	CI HUMINT AUTO REPRTING AND COLL(CHARCS)	4,980	4,980
	ELECT EQUIP—ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)		
71	FAMILY OF PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIES	32,083	32,083
72	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES	17,535	17,535
	COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
133	FORCE PROVIDER	51,500	51,500
135	CARGO AERIAL DEL & PERSONNEL PARACHUTE SYSTEM	2,580	2,580
	OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
170	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	25,000	25,000
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	727,553	727,553
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND		
	NETWORK ATTACK		
01	ATTACK THE NETWORK	189,700	189,700
	JIEDDO DEVICE DEFEAT		
02	DEFEAT THE DEVICE	94,600	94,600
	FORCE TRAINING		
03	TRAIN THE FORCE	15,700	15,700
	STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
4	OPERATIONS	79,000	79,000
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND TOTAL	379,000	379,000
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	1,312,558	1,312,558
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	COMBAT AIRCRAFT		
11	H-1 UPGRADES (UH-1Y/AH-1Z)	30,000	30,000
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
27	MQ-8 UAV	40,888	40,888
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT		
39	EP-3 SERIES	34,955	34,955
49	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT	2,548	2,548
54	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT	31,920	31,920
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
67	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	936	936
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	141,247	141,247
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	TACTICAL MISSILES		
10	LASER MAVERICK	7,656	7,656
11	STAND OFF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS (SOPGM)	4,800	4,800
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	12,456	12,456
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		
	NAVY AMMUNITION		
1	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	5,086	5,086
2	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	8,862	8,862
3	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION	3,473	3,473
6	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES	29,376	29,376
11	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION	3,919	3,919
12	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO	3,561	3,561
13	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION	2,913	2,913
14	AMMUNITION LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	2,764	2,764
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION		
15	SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION	9,475	9,475
16	LINEAR CHARGES, ALL TYPES	8,843	8,843
17	40 MM, ALL TYPES	7,098	7,098
18	60MM, ALL TYPES	5,935	5,935
19	81MM, ALL TYPES	9,318	9,318
20	120MM, ALL TYPES	6,921	6,921
22	GRENADES, ALL TYPES	3,218	3,218
23	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	7,642	7,642
24	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES	30,289	30,289
25	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	1,255	1,255
26	FUZE, ALL TYPES	2,061	2,061
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC TOTAL	152,009	152,009
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	OTHER SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT		
23	UNDERWATER EOD PROGRAMS	8,210	8,210
	SHIPBOARD COMMUNICATIONS		
88	COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS UNDER \$5M	1,100	1,100
	OTHER ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
132	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQUIP	207,860	207,860
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
138	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	1,063	1,063
139	GENERAL PURPOSE TRUCKS	152	152
142	TACTICAL VEHICLES	26,300	26,300
145	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION	3,300	3,300
	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
152	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	10,745	10,745
157	OPERATING FORCES SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	3,331	3,331
158	C4ISR EQUIPMENT	35,923	35,923
159	ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	514	514
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	298,498	298,498
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS		
	OTHER SUPPORT		
7	MODIFICATION KITS	3,190	3,190
	GUIDED MISSILES		
10	JAVELIN	17,100	17,100
	OTHER SUPPORT		
13	MODIFICATION KITS	13,500	13,500
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS		
	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT		
16	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT	980	980
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)		
19	ITEMS UNDER \$5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)	996	996
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
25	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	1,450	1,450
28	RQ-11 UAV	1,740	1,740
	OTHER COMM/ELEC EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
31	NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT	134	134
36	COMM SWITCHING & CONTROL SYSTEMS	3,119	3,119
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
42	MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	584	584
	ENGINEER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT		
52	EOD SYSTEMS	5,566	5,566
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
55	MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIP	3,230	3,230
	GENERAL PROPERTY		
58	TRAINING DEVICES	2,000	2,000
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS TOTAL	53,589	53,589
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY	657,799	657,799
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	OTHER AIRLIFT		
4	C-130J	70,000	70,000
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
18	MQ-9	192,000	192,000
	STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT		
21	B-1B	91,879	91,879
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
50	C-130	47,840	47,840
51	C-130J MODS	18,000	18,000
53	COMPASS CALL MODS	24,800	24,800
63	HC/MC-130 MODIFICATIONS	44,300	44,300
64	OTHER AIRCRAFT	111,990	111,990
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
70	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS	45,410	45,410
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	646,219	646,219
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT—BALLISTIC		
6	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	114,939	114,939
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	114,939	114,939
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE		
	CARTRIDGES		
2	CARTRIDGES	2,163	2,163
	BOMBS		
4	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	41,545	41,545
5	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	90,330	90,330
	FLARES		
11	FLARES	18,916	18,916
	FUZES		
12	FUZES	17,778	17,778
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE TOTAL	170,732	170,732
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		
4	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	3,000	3,000
6	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	1,878	1,878

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
8	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	5,131	5,131
	BASE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT		
9	RUNWAY SNOW REMOV & CLEANING EQUIP	1,734	1,734
10	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	22,000	22,000
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS		
27	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3,857	3,857
33	C3 COUNTERMEASURES	900	900
	SPACE PROGRAMS		
48	MILSATCOM SPACE	19,547	19,547
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE		
55	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE	1,970	1,970
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP		
57	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES	765	765
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
60	BASE PROCURED EQUIPMENT	2,030	2,030
61	CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS	99,590	99,590
63	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT	107,361	107,361
64	ITEMS LESS THAN \$5 MILLION	10,975	10,975
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS		
70	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.	6,100	6,100
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
70A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	2,599,434	2,599,434
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	2,886,272	2,886,272
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE	3,818,162	3,818,162
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA		
10	TELEPORT PROGRAM	4,330	4,330
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
46A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	41,529	41,529
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS		
65	ORDNANCE ITEMS <\$5M	14,903	14,903
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS		
68	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS	13,549	13,549
71	OTHER ITEMS <\$5M	32,773	32,773
76	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <\$5M	78,357	78,357
88	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	3,600	3,600
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE TOTAL	189,041	189,041
	SUBTOTAL, DEFENSE-WIDE	189,041	189,041
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
1	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND	50,000	50,000
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND TOTAL	50,000	50,000
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, PROCUREMENT OCO	6,027,560	6,027,560

On page 764, between section 4201 and title XLIII, insert the following:

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY		
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
60	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	4,500	4,500
		SUBTOTAL, ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	4,500	4,500
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	4,500	4,500
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY		
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
229A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	35,080	35,080
		SUBTOTAL, OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	35,080	35,080
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	35,080	35,080
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW		
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		

**SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)**

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
265A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	40,397	40,397
		SUBTOTAL, OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	40,397	40,397
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	40,397	40,397
		TOTAL, TITLE XV, RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT TEST & EVAL, OCO	79,977	79,977

On page 771, between section 4301 and title XLIV, insert the following:

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

**SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)**

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	77,419	77,419
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	3,827	3,827
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	22,353	22,353
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	1,231,128	1,231,128
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	452,332	452,332
060	AVIATION ASSETS	47,522	47,522
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,043,683	1,043,683
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	166,725	166,725
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	87,636	87,636
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	291,977	291,977
140	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	7,041,667	7,041,667
150	COMMANDERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM	10,000	10,000
160	RESET	2,834,465	2,834,465
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	13,310,734	13,310,734
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	1,776,267	1,776,267
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	45,537	45,537
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	32,264	32,264
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	98,171	98,171
430	OTHER SERVICE SUPPORT	99,694	99,694
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	137,053	137,053
525	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	856,002	856,002
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	3,044,988	3,044,988
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	16,355,722	16,355,722
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	3,726	3,726
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,242	1,242
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	608	608
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	30,996	30,996
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	36,572	36,572
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES	36,572	36,572
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	12,593	12,593
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	647	647
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	6,670	6,670
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	664	664
060	AVIATION ASSETS	22,485	22,485
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	14,560	14,560
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	13,923	13,923
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	4,601	4,601
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	76,143	76,143
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
150	ADMINISTRATION	318	318
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	318	318
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	76,461	76,461
	AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND		
	MINISTRY OF DEFENSE		

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
011	SUSTAINMENT	2,514,660	2,514,660
012	INFRASTRUCTURE	20,000	20,000
013	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	21,442	21,442
014	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	359,645	359,645
021	SUSTAINMENT	953,189	953,189
022	INFRASTRUCTURE	15,155	15,155
023	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	18,657	18,657
024	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	174,732	174,732
	SUBTOTAL, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE	4,077,480	4,077,480
	DETAINEE OPS		
031	SUSTAINMENT	29,603	29,603
032	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	2,250	2,250
	SUBTOTAL, DETAINEE OPS	31,853	31,853
	TOTAL, AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	4,109,333	4,109,333
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	547,145	547,145
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	2,600	2,600
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	22,035	22,035
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	192,411	192,411
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,116	1,116
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	33,900	33,900
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	1,105,500	1,105,500
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	20,068	20,068
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,922,829	1,922,829
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	29,303	29,303
160	WARFARE TACTICS	26,229	26,229
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	20,398	20,398
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	676,555	676,555
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	10,662	10,662
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	90,684	90,684
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	189,196	189,196
300	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	16,220	16,220
310	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	88,688	88,688
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	4,995,539	4,995,539
	MOBILIZATION		
360	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	5,307	5,307
380	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	213,319	213,319
	SUBTOTAL, MOBILIZATION	218,626	218,626
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
420	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	48,270	48,270
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	48,270	48,270
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
500	ADMINISTRATION	2,464	2,464
510	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	520	520
530	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5,205	5,205
540	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	1,439	1,439
570	SERVICEMAN TRANSPORTATION	186,318	186,318
590	PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN	1,350	1,350
600	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	11,811	11,811
640	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	1,468	1,468
705	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	4,230	4,230
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	214,805	214,805
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	5,477,240	5,477,240
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	467,286	467,286
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	353,334	353,334
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	426,720	426,720
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	12,036	12,036
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	1,259,376	1,259,376
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	52,106	52,106
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	52,106	52,106
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
150	SERVICEMAN TRANSPORTATION	162,000	162,000
160	ADMINISTRATION	1,322	1,322
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	163,322	163,322

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	1,474,804	1,474,804
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	16,133	16,133
040	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	6,150	6,150
070	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	12,475	12,475
090	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	2,700	2,700
110	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	8,418	8,418
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	45,876	45,876
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	45,876	45,876
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATING FORCES	9,740	9,740
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	800	800
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	10,540	10,540
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	10,540	10,540
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,136,015	1,136,015
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	803,939	803,939
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	8,785	8,785
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,146,099	1,146,099
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	78,000	78,000
060	BASE SUPPORT	1,113,273	1,113,273
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	92,109	92,109
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	168,269	168,269
090	TACTICAL INTEL AND OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	26,337	26,337
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	852	852
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	4,942	4,942
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	69,400	69,400
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	4,648,020	4,648,020
	MOBILIZATION		
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,417,280	2,417,280
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	138,043	138,043
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	437,279	437,279
170	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	2,801	2,801
180	BASE SUPPORT	15,370	15,370
	SUBTOTAL, MOBILIZATION	3,010,773	3,010,773
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	39	39
200	RECRUIT TRAINING	432	432
230	BASE SUPPORT	1,617	1,617
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	2,145	2,145
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	163	163
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	4,396	4,396
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	85,016	85,016
350	TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	934	934
380	BASE SUPPORT	6,923	6,923
390	ADMINISTRATION	151	151
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	162,106	162,106
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	246,256	246,256
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	60	60
465	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,921	12,921
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	514,367	514,367
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	8,177,556	8,177,556
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	72,575	72,575
050	BASE SUPPORT	5,219	5,219
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	77,794	77,794
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	77,794	77,794
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG		
	OPERATING FORCES		
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	20,300	20,300
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	20,300	20,300

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	20,300	20,300
	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
020	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	2,390,521	2,390,521
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	2,390,521	2,390,521
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
080	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	22,847	22,847
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY	21,516	21,516
110	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	36,416	36,416
130	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	105,000	105,000
150	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	6,251	6,251
170	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	1,660,000	1,660,000
230	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	93,000	93,000
270	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	28,264	28,264
290	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	2,424	2,424
295	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,341,224	1,341,224
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	3,316,942	3,316,942
	TOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	5,707,463	5,707,463
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, OCO	41,569,661	41,569,661

On page 772, between section 4401 and title XLV, insert the following:

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	MILITARY PERSONNEL		
	MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS		
	MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS	5,394,983	5,394,983
	SUBTOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS	5,394,983	5,394,983
	MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS		
	MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	58,728	58,728
	SUBTOTAL, MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	58,728	58,728
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, MILITARY PERSONNEL, OCO	5,453,711	5,453,711

On page 773, between section 4501 and title XLVI, insert the following:

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE		
010	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	5,000	5,000
	TOTAL, WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	5,000	5,000
	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE		
010	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	86,350	86,350
	TOTAL, WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	86,350	86,350
	TOTAL, ALL WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS	91,350	91,350
	OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		
010	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	7,968	7,968
	TOTAL, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	7,968	7,968
	DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF		
010	DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	189,000	189,000
	TOTAL, DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	189,000	189,000
	DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM		
	DHP OPERATION & MAINTENANCE		

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
010	IN-HOUSE CARE	65,902	65,902
020	PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	214,259	214,259
030	CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	15,311	15,311
060	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	5,059	5,059
	SUBTOTAL, DHP OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	300,531	300,531
	TOTAL, DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	300,531	300,531
	COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND		
010	COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	4,000,000	4,000,000
	TOTAL, COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	4,000,000	4,000,000
	EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE		
010	EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE	925,000	925,000
	TOTAL, EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE	925,000	925,000
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, OCO	5,513,849	5,513,849

On page 779, after section 4601, add the following:

SEC. 4602. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4602. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State or Country and Installation	Project Title	Budget Request	Senate Authorized
Military Construction				
Military Construction, Defense-Wide				
	Worldwide Classified			
MC, Def-Wide	Classified Location	Classified Project	46,000	46,000
	Subtotal, Military Construction, Defense-Wide		46,000	46,000
	Total, Title XV, Military Construction, OCO		46,000	46,000

SA 3876. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION ____ PURCHASE OF PRISON-MADE PRODUCTS BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.—Section 4124 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking “shall purchase” and inserting “may purchase”; and

(B) by inserting “and services” after “such products”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “subject to the requirements of subsection (a)” and inserting “that purchases such products or services of the industries authorized by this chapter”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8504 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC..

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal agency may not award a contract to Federal Prison Industries after competition restricted to small business concerns under section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) or the program established under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).

SEC. ____ SHARE OF INDEFINITE DELIVERY/INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to require that if the head of an executive agency reduces the quantity of items or services to be delivered under an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract to which Federal Prison Industries is a party, the head of the executive agency shall reduce Federal Prison Industries's share of the items or services to be delivered under the contract by the same percentage by which the total number of items or services to be delivered under the contract from all sources is reduced.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and

(2) the term “Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council” means the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302(a) of title 41, United States Code.

SA 3877. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1047. PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION OF C-130 ACTIVE ASSOCIATE UNITS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of the Air Force may not—

(1) terminate any C-130 active associate unit of a reserve component of the Air Force in existence as of October 1, 2013;

(2) reduce the authorized number, or number, of airmen assigned to C-130 active associate units of the reserve components of the Air Force to fewer than the number authorized for assignment, or assigned, to such units as of October 1, 2013; or

(3) reduce the number of aircraft assigned to C-130 active associate units of the reserve components of the Air Force from the number so assigned as of October 1, 2014.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by title XV for operation and maintenance is hereby reduced by \$13,850,000.

SA 3878. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. AMENDMENTS TO JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CERTAIN SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS.

(a) **EXPANSION OF SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS COVERED.**—Paragraph (1) of section 811(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2405) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) **COVERED PROCUREMENT.**—The term ‘covered procurement’ means either of the following:

“(A) A procurement covered by chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code.

“(B) A procurement covered by division C of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code.”.

(b) **TREATMENT OF OTHER JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL ACTIONS.**—Section 811 of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **TREATMENT OF OTHER JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL ACTIONS.**—In the case of any contract for which a justification and approval is required under section 2304(f) of title 10, United States Code, or section 3304(e) of title 41, United States Code, a justification and approval meeting the requirements of such section shall be treated as meeting the requirements of this section for purposes of the award of a sole-source contract.”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 811 of such Act is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to provide that the” and inserting “The”;

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “sections 303(f)(1)(C) and 303(j) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253(f)(1)(C) and 253(j))” and inserting “sections 3304(e)(1)(C) and 3304(f) of title 41, United States Code”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “section 309(a)” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “section 151 of title 41, United States Code.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “section 303(f)(1)(B)” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “section 3304(e)(1)(B) of title 41, United States Code.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **REGULATIONS.**—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to implement this section.”.

SA 3879. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the De-

partment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 102 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6502), the Secretary of the Air Force shall convey to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in the parcels of real property described in subsection (d) and known as the Distant Early Warning line site in the National Petroleum Reserve near Wainwright, Alaska, that is currently subject to a right-of-way reservation issued to the United States Air Force by the Bureau of Land Management, BLM case file number F–81468.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the Corporation shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed, as determined by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary and in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(c) **PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **PAYMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary shall require the Corporation to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a). If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Corporation.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.**—The parcel of real property conveyed in subsection (a) consists of Lots 1, 2, and 3 of United States Survey 5252, approximately 1,518.95 acres, including improvements thereon.

(e) **DATE OF TRANSFER.**—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall take place as soon as practicable after any necessary environmental remediation activities at the parcel are certified by the applicable State or Federal Government entities as complete.

(f) **REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary of the Air Force shall retain responsibility for the implementation and completion of remedial action upon the parcels of conveyed real property described in subsection (b) as well as for implementation of any necessary response actions at areas of contamination identified in the future where the contamination was the result of Air Force activities.

(g) **REVOCATION OF RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS AND LEASES.**—Upon completion of the conveyance, all existing right-of-way grants or leases issued by the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment or the Air Force authorizing use of the parcels by the Air Force or Olgoonik Corporation shall be revoked.

(h) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3880. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 69, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 317. BROWNFIELDS UTILIZATION, INVESTMENT, AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**—Section 104(k)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

“(J) a limited liability corporation in which all managing members are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I);

“(K) a limited partnership in which all general partners are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I); or

“(L) a qualified community development entity (as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”.

(b) **MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.**—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (10) and (13) through (15), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “subject to paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (D) and paragraphs (5) and (6), the Administrator shall establish a program to provide multipurpose grants to an eligible entity based on the considerations under paragraph (3)(C), to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, or remediation activities at 1 or more brownfield sites in a proposed area.

“(B) **GRANT AMOUNTS.**—

“(i) **INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.**—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall not exceed \$950,000.

“(ii) CUMULATIVE GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 percent of the funds made available for the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

“(C) CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the extent to which an eligible entity is able—

“(i) to provide an overall plan for revitalization of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used;

“(ii) to demonstrate a capacity to conduct the range of eligible activities that will be funded by the multipurpose grant; and

“(iii) to demonstrate that a multipurpose grant will meet the needs of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area.

“(D) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, each eligible entity shall expend the full amount of the grant not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the grant is awarded to the eligible entity unless the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, provides an extension.”

(C) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Section 104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity that is a governmental entity may receive a grant under this paragraph for property acquired by that governmental entity prior to January 11, 2002, even if the governmental entity does not qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser (as that term is defined in section 101(40)).”

(d) INCREASED FUNDING FOR REMEDIATION GRANTS.—Section 104(k)(3)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “\$200,000 for each site to be remediated” and inserting “\$500,000 for each site to be remediated, which limit may be waived by the Administrator, but not to exceed a total of \$650,000 for each site, based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or ownership status of the site”.

(e) ALLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Paragraph (5) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking subclause (III); and

(ii) by redesignating subclauses (IV) and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;

(B) by striking clause (ii);

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(D) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), by striking “Notwithstanding clause (i)(IV)” and inserting “Notwithstanding clause (i)(III)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use up to 8 percent of the amounts made available under a grant or loan under this subsection for administrative costs.

“(ii) RESTRICTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘administrative costs’ does not include—

“(I) investigation and identification of the extent of contamination;

“(II) design and performance of a response action; or

“(III) monitoring of a natural resource.”.

(f) SMALL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Paragraph (7)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”; and

(2) by inserting after clause (i) (as added by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(ii) SMALL COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS.—In carrying out the program under clause (i), the Administrator shall give priority to small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, or low-income areas with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, as determined by the latest available decennial census.”.

(g) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD GRANTS.—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) the following:

“(11) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITE.—In this paragraph, the term ‘waterfront brownfield site’ means a brownfield site that is adjacent to a body of water or a federally designated floodplain.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

“(i) take into consideration whether the brownfield site to be served by the grant is a waterfront brownfield site; and

“(ii) give consideration to waterfront brownfield sites.”.

(h) CLEAN ENERGY BROWNFIELD GRANTS.—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as amended by subsection (g)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS AT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘clean energy project’ means—

“(i) a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; and

“(ii) any energy efficiency improvement project at a facility, including combined heat and power and district energy.

“(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants—

“(i) to eligible entities to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, feasibility analysis, design, or remediation activities to locate a clean energy project at 1 or more brownfield sites; and

“(ii) to capitalize a revolving loan fund for the purposes described in clause (i).

“(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$500,000.”.

(i) TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES.—Paragraph (15) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) TARGETED FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Administrator may use not more than \$2,000,000 to provide grants to States for purposes authorized under section 128(a), subject to the condition that each

State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall have used at least 50 percent of the amounts made available to that State in the previous fiscal year to carry out assessment and remediation activities under section 128(a).”.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUNDING.—Paragraph (15)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2016”.

(2) STATE RESPONSE PROGRAMS.—Section 128(a)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9628(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2016”.

SA 3881. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVI, add the following:

SEC. 2614. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ARMY RESERVE PROJECT, TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2602 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2135) for Tustin, California, for construction of an Army Reserve Center at that location, the Secretary of the Army may, instead of constructing a new facility in Tustin, construct a new facility in the vicinity of Tustin, California.

SA 3882. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. USE OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE FOR INITIAL AIRBORNE RESPONSE TO FIGHTING WILDFIRES.

(a) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—Subject to subsection (b), in order to prevent the loss of life and reduce property losses from wildfires, section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply to limit the use of interagency agreements with the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve to procure the services of a unit of the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve to conduct Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA) missions utilizing military fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) units, in the airborne response to fighting wildfires.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply to

interagency agreements described in subsection (a) only when a requesting agency determines that—

(1) privately contracted fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft are unavailable;

(2) there is an unfilled request for fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including MAFFS units, to perform an initial airborne response; or

(3) fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including MAFFS units, are needed to supplement privately contracted fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as diminishing the role of contractor owned and operated fixed-wing aircraft as the primary source of aerial firefighting assets for the Federal wildland firefighting agencies.

SA 3883. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO REFERENCES TO GI BILL AND POST-9/11 GI BILL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3699. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill

“(a) **PROHIBITION.**—(1) No person may, except with the written permission of the Secretary, use the words and phrases covered by this subsection in connection with any promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity in a manner that reasonably and falsely suggests that such use is approved, endorsed, or authorized by the Department or any component thereof.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, the words and phrases covered by this subsection are as follows:

“(A) ‘GI Bill’.

“(B) ‘Post-9/11 GI Bill’.

“(3) A determination that a use of one or more words and phrases covered by this subsection in connection with a promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity is not a violation of this subsection may not be made solely on the ground that such promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity includes a disclaimer of affiliation with the Department or any component thereof.

“(b) **ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—(1) When any person is engaged or is about to engage in an act or practice which constitutes or will constitute conduct prohibited by subsection (a), the Attorney General may initiate a civil proceeding in a district court of the United States to enjoin such act or practice.

“(2) Such court may, at any time before final determination, enter such restraining orders or prohibitions, or take such other action as is warranted, to prevent injury to the United States or to any person or class of

persons for whose protection the action is brought.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3698 the following new item:

“3699. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill.”.

SA 3884. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. PILOT PROGRAM ON JOB PLACEMENT AND RELATED EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE RESERVES.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of various mechanisms to enhance Department of Defense efforts in providing job placement assistance and related employment services to members of the National Guard and the Reserves.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

(b) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.**—The members of the National Guard and the Reserves eligible for job placement assistance and related employment services under the pilot program are such categories of members as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(c) **ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES.**—The mechanisms assessed under the pilot program shall include mechanisms as follows:

(1) To identify unemployed and underemployed members of the National Guard and the Reserves.

(2) To provide job placement assistance and related employment services to members of the National Guard and the Reserves on an individualized basis, including—

(A) resume writing and interview preparation assistance and services;

(B) cost-effective job placement services;

(C) post-employment follow up services; and

(D) such other assistance and services as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(d) **DISCHARGE.**—

(1) **DISCHARGE THROUGH ADJUTANTS GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide for the carrying out of the pilot program through the Adjutants General of the States.

(2) **OUTREACH.**—The Adjutants General shall take appropriate actions to facilitate participation in the pilot program by eligible members of the National Guard and the Reserves, including through outreach to unit commanders.

(e) **STATE MATCHING SHARE OF FUNDS.**—In order for the pilot program to be carried out in a State, the State shall agree to contribute to the carrying out of the pilot program an amount, derived from non-Federal sources, equal to at least 30 percent of the funds provided by the Secretary for carrying out the pilot program in the State.

(f) **EVALUATION METRICS.**—The Secretary shall establish metrics for purposes of evaluating the success of the pilot program.

(g) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees on an annual basis a report on the activities, if any, under the pilot program during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A description of the activities under the pilot program during the fiscal year covered by such report, set forth by State in which the pilot program was carried out, including—

(i) the number of members of the National Guard and the Reserves who participated in the pilot program;

(ii) the job placement assistance and related employment services provided to such members under the pilot program; and

(iii) the number of members of the National Guard and Reserves who obtained employment through participation in the pilot program.

(B) A comparison of the pilot program with other programs conducted by the Department of Defense during such fiscal year to provide job placement assistance and related employment services to unemployed and underemployed members of the National Guard and the Reserves, including the costs of services per individual under such programs.

(C) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program, and increased employment among members of the National Guard and the Reserves as a result of the pilot program, on the readiness of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(D) Such recommendations for improvement or extension of the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(E) Such other matters relating to the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(h) **LIMITATION ON FUNDING.**—The amount obligated by the Secretary in any fiscal year to carry out the pilot program may not exceed \$20,000,000.

(i) **SUNSET.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the authority to carry out the pilot program shall expire on September 30, 2018.

(2) **TWO-YEAR EXTENSION.**—The Secretary may continue to carry out the pilot program for a period, not in excess of two years, after September 30, 2018, if the Secretary considers continuation of the pilot program for such period to be advisable.

SA 3885. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2470, to provide for drought relief measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; as follows:

On page 7, line 2, strike “or possible removal”.

SA 3886. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. RETALIATORY INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2302(a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xii), by adding “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xii) the following:

“(xiii) an investigation, other than a ministerial or nondiscretionary investigation, if the investigation or a series of investigations is ongoing for a period of—

“(I) not less than 90 consecutive days; or

“(II) not less than a total of 181 days in any 1-year period;”.

SA 3887. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) For purposes of subsection (b)(8), the public disclosure of information is specifically prohibited by law only if a statute—

“(A) leaves no discretion on the prohibition;

“(B) establishes particular criteria for the prohibition; or

“(C) refers to particular types of matters to be prohibited.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any matter pending on, or filed or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3888. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

SEC. — COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON SERIOUS MISCONDUCT WITHIN THE NATIONAL GUARD

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report evaluating the effectiveness of—

(1) the authorities of the Secretary of Defense and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to investigate and respond on their own initiative to allegations of serious misconduct, including but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, violations of federal law, retaliation and waste, fraud and abuse arising in operations of the National Guard in Title 32 and Title 10 status.

(2) the mechanisms available to the Secretary of Defense, each of the Armed Serv-

ices, and the Chief of the National Guard to receive, process and monitor the disposition of allegations of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) whether first brought to the attention of the federal government or the Adjutant Generals.

(3) the process used to determine whether allegations of the nature referred to in subsection (1) are investigated by the Department of Defense, the Department of Defense Inspector General, the Inspector General of the National Guard Bureau, the Inspectors General of the Armed Services, the Office of Complex Investigations of the National Guard Bureau, federal military and civilian law enforcement agencies or other agencies in the first instance and the coordination of investigations among such agencies

(4) the monitoring of investigations into allegations of the nature referred to in subsection (1) by the Secretary of Defense, the Armed Services and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau which are undertaken by federal agencies and those undertaken under the direction of the Adjutant Generals.

(5) the process used for disposing of substantiated allegations whether by prosecution or administrative action and the consistency in the disposition of allegations of a similar nature across the National Guard

(6) state codes of military justice in prosecuting members of the National Guard for serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) and an evaluation of whether the Uniform Code of Military Justice should be extended to authorize prosecution of some or all offenses committed by members of the National Guard while in Title 32 status

(7) mechanisms to protect the confidentiality of members of the National Guard who report allegations of serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) and to prevent retaliation against such persons.

(8) the National Guard Bureau in preventing and proactively identifying instances of serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1), including the availability and effectiveness of hotlines through which members of the National Guard who are uncomfortable reporting their concerns through state channels may bring them to the attention of the National Guard Bureau and the use of command climate surveys in identifying serious misconduct.

SA 3889. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, WEST NOME TANK FARM, NOME, ALASKA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, to the City of Nome (in this section referred to as the “City”) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, known as the USAF West Nome Tank Farm, located adjacent to the City’s port facilities along Port Road in Nome, Alaska. To the extent practicable, the Secretary is encouraged to complete the conveyance by September 30, 2015.

(b) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCES.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the City to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs and costs related to environmental documentation. If amounts are collected from the City in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursements under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(c) RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND CLEAN-UP.—The Department of the Air Force shall retain liability for environmental restoration and clean-up activities for the real property conveyed under this section.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect or limit the application of, or any obligation to comply with, any environmental law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERM AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3890. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. EXTENSION OF PART-TIME REEMPLOYMENT AUTHORITY FOR ANNUITANTS.

(a) CSRS.—Section 8344(1)(7) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by strike “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

(b) FERS.—Section 8468(i)(7) of such title is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

SA 3891. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, line 17, insert “or personnel” after “aircraft”.

SA 3892. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR SUPPORT OF CIVILIAN FIRE-FIGHTING ACTIVITIES.

(a) OPERATIONAL USE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities

“(a) BASIS OF AUTHORITY.—The authority in this section is based on a recognition of the basic premises of the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework that—

“(1) incidents are typically managed at the local level first; and

“(2) local jurisdictions retain command, control, and authority over response activities for their jurisdictional areas.

“(b) ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED.—Members and units of the National Guard are authorized to support firefighting operations, missions, or activities, including aerial firefighting employment of the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS), undertaken in support of a Federal or State agency or other civilian authority.

“(c) ROLE OF GOVERNOR AND STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL.—For the purposes of subsection (a)—

“(1) the Governor of a State shall be the principal civilian authority; and

“(2) the adjutant general of the State—

“(A) shall be the principal military authority, when acting in the adjutant general’s State capacity; and

“(B) has the primary authority to mobilize members and units of the National Guard of the State in any duty status under this title the adjutant general considers appropriate to employ necessary forces when funds to perform such operations, missions, or activities are reimbursed.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities.”.

(b) ACTIVE GUARD AND RESERVE (AGR) SUPPORT.—Section 328(b) of such title is amended by inserting “duty as specified in section 116(b) of this title or may perform” after “subsection (a) may perform”.

(c) FEDERAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT.—Section 709(a)(3) of such is amended by inserting “duty as specified in section 116(b) of this title or” after “the performance of” the first place it appears.

SA 3893. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. REIMBURSEMENT OF STATES FOR LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF FIRE CAUSED BY MILITARY TRAINING OR OTHER ACTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE ARMED FORCES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, upon application by a State, reimburse the State for the reasonable costs of the State for services provided in connection with loss or destruction of property, or mitigation of damage, loss, or destruction of property, whether or not property of the State, as a result of a fire caused by military training or other actions in the United States of units or members of the Armed Forces or employees of the Department of Defense.

(2) SERVICES COVERED.—Services reimbursable under this subsection shall be limited to services proximately related to the fire for which reimbursement is sought under this subsection.

(b) APPLICATION.—Each application of a State for reimbursement for costs under subsection (a) shall set forth an itemized request of the services covered by the application, including the costs of such services.

(c) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (a) shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance.

SA 3894. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development

SEC. 2851. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2014” or the “BUILD Act”.

SEC. 2852. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 104(k)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

“(J) a limited liability corporation in which all managing members are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I);

“(K) a limited partnership in which all general partners are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I); or

“(L) a qualified community development entity (as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”.

SEC. 2853. MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (10) and (13) through (15), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “subject to paragraphs (4) and (5)” and inserting “subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (D) and paragraphs (5) and (6), the Administrator shall establish a program to provide multipurpose grants to an eligible entity based on the considerations under paragraph (3)(C), to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, or remediation activities at 1 or more brownfield sites in a proposed area.

“(B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

“(i) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall not exceed \$950,000.

“(ii) CUMULATIVE GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 percent of the funds made available for the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

“(C) CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the extent to which an eligible entity is able—

“(i) to provide an overall plan for revitalization of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used;

“(ii) to demonstrate a capacity to conduct the range of eligible activities that will be funded by the multipurpose grant; and

“(iii) to demonstrate that a multipurpose grant will meet the needs of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area.

“(D) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, each eligible entity shall expend the full amount of the grant not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the grant is awarded to the eligible entity unless the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, provides an extension.”.

SEC. 2854. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.

Section 104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity that is a governmental entity may receive a grant under this paragraph for property acquired by that governmental entity prior to January 11, 2002, even if the governmental

entity does not qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser (as that term is defined in section 101(40)), so long as the eligible entity has not caused or contributed to a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the property.”.

SEC. 2855. INCREASED FUNDING FOR REMEDIATION GRANTS.

Section 104(k)(3)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “\$200,000 for each site to be remediated” and inserting “\$500,000 for each site to be remediated, which limit may be waived by the Administrator, but not to exceed a total of \$650,000 for each site, based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or ownership status of the site”.

SEC. 2856. ALLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.

Paragraph (5) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (B)—
 - (A) in clause (i)—
 - (i) by striking sub clause (III); and
 - (ii) by redesignating subclauses (IV) and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;
 - (B) by striking clause (ii);
 - (C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and
 - (D) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), by striking “Notwithstanding clause (i)(IV)” and inserting “Notwithstanding clause (i)(III)”;

- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use up to 8 percent of the amounts made available under a grant or loan under this subsection for administrative costs.

“(ii) RESTRICTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the term ‘administrative costs’ does not include—

“(I) investigation and identification of the extent of contamination;

“(II) design and performance of a response action; or

“(III) monitoring of a natural resource.”.

SEC. 2857. SMALL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Paragraph (7)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “The Administrator may provide,” and inserting the following:

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

“(I) DISADVANTAGED AREA.—The term ‘disadvantaged area’ means an area with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the State-wide annual median household income, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

“(II) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘small community’ means a community with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

“(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants that provide,”; and

- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sub clause (II), in carrying out the program under clause (ii), the Administrator shall use not more than \$600,000 of the amounts made available to carry out this paragraph to pro-

vide grants to States that receive amounts under section 128(a) to assist small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, or disadvantaged areas in achieving the purposes described in clause (ii).

“(II) LIMITATION.—Each grant awarded under sub clause (I) shall be not more than \$7,500.”.

SEC. 2858. WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) the following:

“(11) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITE.—In this paragraph, the term ‘waterfront brownfield site’ means a brownfield site that is adjacent to a body of water or a federally designated floodplain.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

“(i) take into consideration whether the brownfield site to be served by the grant is a waterfront brownfield site; and

“(ii) give consideration to waterfront brownfield sites.”.

SEC. 2859. CLEAN ENERGY BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as amended by section 2858) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS AT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘clean energy project’ means—

“(i) a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; and

“(ii) any energy efficiency improvement project at a facility, including combined heat and power and district energy.

“(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants—

“(i) to eligible entities to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, feasibility analysis, design, or remediation activities to locate a clean energy project at 1 or more brownfield sites; and

“(ii) to capitalize a revolving loan fund for the purposes described in clause (i).

“(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed \$500,000.”.

SEC. 2860. TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES.

Paragraph (15) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) TARGETED FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Administrator may use not more than \$2,000,000 to provide grants to States for purposes authorized under section 128(a), subject to the condition that each State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall have used at least 50 percent of the amounts made available to that State in the previous fiscal year to carry out assessment and remediation activities under section 128(a).”.

SEC. 2861. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUNDING.—Paragraph (15)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2016”.

(b) STATE RESPONSE PROGRAMS.—Section 128(a)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9628(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2016”.

SEC. 2862. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) Describes the options to use the Brownfields program to redevelop domestic defense facilities that are no longer being used by the military for the purposes of revitalizing local communities;

(2) Describes potential joint funding opportunities between the two agencies to advance redevelopment of unused domestic defense facilities; and

(3) Analyzes the impact that redeveloped facilities would have on improving local economies and employment.

SEC. 2863. CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS BEGINNING IN 2014 FOR 402(A)(2) FROZEN PLAN RELIEF UNDER THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (26 U.S.C. 430 note) is amended by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k), and by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS BEGINNING IN 2014.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The rules of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall apply in the case of a plan sponsor of an eligible plan that—

“(A) made an initial election under subsection (a)(2) prior to January 1, 2008, and

“(B) satisfies the requirements of paragraph (2).

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this paragraph are satisfied if—

“(A) no applicable benefit increase (as defined in subsection (b)(3)(B)) takes effect at any time during the period beginning on November 29, 2011, and ending on the day before the first day of the first plan year beginning in 2014, and

“(B) the requirements of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) are satisfied as of January 1, 2013, for the plan for which the initial election under subsection (a)(2) was made (treating the plan year commencing on January 1, 2013, as the first applicable plan year for purposes of such requirements).

“(3) CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—Effective for the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and for each subsequent plan year through the end of the 17-year period determined under subparagraph (A), the plan sponsor shall apply section 303 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by—

“(A) determining the amortization period as a 17-year period beginning on January 1, 2008,

“(B) amortizing any funding shortfall in equal annual installments over the portion of the 17-year amortization period remaining as of the date of the enactment of the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013 (with all previously established shortfall amortization bases considered fully amortized),

“(C) using an interest rate of 8.25 percent (rather than the segment rates calculated on the basis of the corporate bond yield curve) in determining the funding target and shortfall amortization charge, and

“(D) excluding any plan-related expenses expected to be paid from plan assets during the plan year.

“(4) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION OF ELECTION MADE UNDER THE PRESERVATION OF ACCESS TO CARE FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES AND PENSION RELIEF ACT OF 2010.—In the case of a plan sponsor that made an election under section 303(c)(2)(D)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, such election shall be automatically revoked notwithstanding sub clause (III) of section 303(c)(2)(D)(iv) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iv) of such Code.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3895. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defense articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section;

(2) a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training; and

(3) a list of defense articles, defense services, and training authorized to be provided by subsection (a) that have been requested by the Government of Ukraine but are not being provided and an explanation with respect to why such defense articles, defense services, and training are not being provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to pro-

cure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms “defense article”, “defense service”, and “training” have the meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 3896. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1025. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT.—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) MEXICO.—To the Government of Mexico, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG-38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG-41).

(2) THAILAND.—To the Government of Thailand, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS RENTZ (FFG-46) and USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48).

(b) TRANSFER BY SALE.—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG-50), USS GARY (FFG-51), USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS ELROD (FFG-55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office of the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))) on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(c) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding the authority provided in subsections (a) and (b) to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the President is authorized, subject to the same conditions that would apply for such country under this Act, to transfer any vessel named in this Act to any country named in this Act such that the total number of vessels transferred to such country does not exceed the total number of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this Act.

(d) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) or (c) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(e) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(f) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(g) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3897. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. REPORT ON NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the “Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty” or “INF Treaty”).

(2) This behavior poses a threat to the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty; and

(2) the President should demand the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminate the military systems that constitute the material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the President’s efforts, in cooperation with United States allies, to hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of its military systems that constitute the material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(B) The President’s assessment as to whether it remains in the national security

interests of the United States to remain a party to the INF Treaty, and other related treaties and agreements, while the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(C) Notification of any deployment by the Russian Federation of a ground launched ballistic or cruise missile system with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(D) A plan, prepared by the Secretary of Defense, for the research and development of United States systems for which there is a military requirement but the flight test or deployment of which is prohibited by the INF treaty as well as a description of the military countermeasures being developed by the United States to respond to Russia's potential deployment of systems current prohibited by the INF.

(E) A plan developed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), to verify that Russia has fully and completely dismantled any ground launched cruise missiles or ballistic missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, including details on facilities that inspectors need access to, people inspectors need to talk with, how often inspectors need the accesses for, and how much the verification regime would cost.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3898. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle E—Palestinian Authority Reform

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Palestinian and United Nations Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014”.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On April 23, 2014, representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, signed an agreement to form a government of national consensus.

(2) On June 2, 2014, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced a unity government as a result of the April 23, 2014, agreement.

(3) United States law requires that any Palestinian government that “includes Hamas as a member”, or over which Hamas exercises “undue influence”, only receive United States assistance if certain certifications are made to Congress.

(4) The President has taken the position that the current Palestinian government

does not include members of Hamas or is influenced by Hamas and has thus not made the certifications required under current law.

(5) The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has failed to completely denounce and distance itself from Hamas' campaign of terrorism against Israel.

(6) President Abbas has refused to dissolve the power-sharing agreement with Hamas even as more than 2,300 rockets have targeted Israel since July 2, 2014.

(7) President Abbas and other Palestinian Authority officials have failed to condemn Hamas' extensive use of the Palestinian people as human shields.

(8) The Israeli Defense Forces have gone to unprecedented lengths for a modern military to limit civilian casualties.

(9) On July 23, 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a one-sided resolution criticizing Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza.

(10) The United Nations Human Rights Council has a long history of taking anti-Israel actions while ignoring the widespread and egregious human rights violations of many other countries, including some of its own members.

(11) On July 16, 2014, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered 20 rockets in one of the organization's schools in Gaza, before returning the weapons to local Palestinian officials rather than dismantling them.

(12) On multiple occasions during the conflict in Gaza, Hamas has used the facilities and the areas surrounding UNRWA locations to store weapons, harbor their fighters, and conduct attacks.

SEC. 1273. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to deny United States assistance to any entity or international organization that harbors or collaborates with Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, until Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, renounces violence, disarms, and accepts prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

(2) to seek a negotiated settlement of this conflict only under the condition that Hamas and any United States-designated terrorist groups are required to entirely disarm; and

(3) to continue to provide security assistance to the Government of Israel to assist its efforts to defend its territory and people from rockets, missiles, and other threats.

SEC. 1274. RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

For purposes of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378b), any power-sharing government, including the current government, formed in connection with the agreement signed on April 23, 2014, between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas is considered a “Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority”.

SEC. 1275. REFORM OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the requirements described in subsection (b) have been satisfied—

(1) the United States contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations shall be reduced by an amount equal to the percentage of such contribution that the Secretary determines would be allocated by the United Nations to support the United Nations Human Rights Council or any of its Special Procedures;

(2) the Secretary shall not make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Council; and

(3) the United States shall not run for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The annual certification referred to in subsection (a) is a certification made by the Secretary of State to Congress that the United Nations Human Rights Council's agenda does not include a permanent item related to the State of Israel or the Palestinian territories.

(c) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated and available for a United States contribution to the United Nations but withheld from obligation and expenditure pursuant to this section shall immediately revert to the United States Treasury and the United States Government shall not consider them arrears to be repaid to any United Nations entity.

SEC. 1276. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA).

Section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) PALESTINE REFUGEES; CONSIDERATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR FURNISHING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No contributions by the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, a successor entity or any related entity, or to the regular budget of the United Nations for the support of UNRWA or a successor entity for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, may be provided until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(A) no official, employee, consultant, contractor, subcontractor, representative, or affiliate of UNRWA—

“(i) is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group; or

“(ii) has propagated, disseminated, or incited anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric or propaganda;

“(B) no UNRWA school, hospital, clinic, other facility, or other infrastructure or resource is being used by Hamas or an affiliated group for operations, planning, training, recruitment, fundraising, indoctrination, communications, sanctuary, storage of weapons or other materials, or any other purposes;

“(C) UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized third party independent auditing firm and has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent the use, receipt, or diversion of any UNRWA resources by Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group, or their members; and

“(D) no recipient of UNRWA funds or loans is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 1277. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

The equivalent amount of all United States contributions withheld from the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East under this subtitle is authorized to be provided to—

(1) the Government of Israel for the Iron Dome missile defense system and other missile defense programs; and

(2) underground warfare training and technology and assistance to identify and deter tunneling from Palestinian-controlled territories into Israel.

SA 3899. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 332. REPORT ON EASTERN RANGE SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and investments needed to modernize the Eastern Range off the coast of Florida to support launches in support of United States defense and commercial interests.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of the investigation into the failure of the radar system supporting the range in March 2014, including the causes for the failure.

(2) An assessment of each current radar and other system as well as supporting infrastructure required to support the mission requirement of the range, including back-up systems.

(3) An estimate of the annual level of dedicated funding required to maintain the range infrastructure in adequate condition to meet national security requirements.

(4) A review of requirements to repair, upgrade, and modernize the radars and other mission support systems to current technologies.

(5) A prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SA 3900. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON ADDITIONAL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH REPORT ON THE FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to Congress a report on the matters specified in subsection (b) with respect to the report of the Secretary on the force structure of the United States Army submitted under section 1066 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1943).

(b) MATTERS.—The matters specified in this subsection with respect to the report referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) An update of the planning assumptions and scenarios used to determine the size and force structure of the Army, including the reserve component, for the future-years defense program for fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

(2) An updated evaluation of the adequacy of the proposed force structure for meeting the goals of the national military strategy of the United States.

(3) A description of any new alternative force structures considered, if any, including the assessed advantages and disadvantages of each and a brief explanation of why those not selected were rejected.

(4) The estimated resource requirements of each of the new alternative force structures referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) An updated independent risk assessment of the proposed Army force structure, to be conducted by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

(6) A description of plans and actions taken to implement and apply the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States regarding force reduction analysis and decision process improvements in the report entitled “Defense Infrastructure: Army Brigade Combat Team Inactivations Informed by Analysis but Actions Needed to Improve Stationing Process” (GAO-14-76, December 2013) used in the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment of the Army.

(7) A description of various alternative options for allocating funds available to the Army to ensure that the end strengths of the Army do not fall below the end strengths contemplated in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and accompanying defense guidance.

(8) Such other information or updates as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3901. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 221, line 20, insert “, including the availability of inpatient mental health care” before the period.

On page 222, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(8) With respect to each military medical treatment facility covered by the study that serves a major training center of the Armed

Forces, an assessment whether the Secretary consulted with the appropriate training directorate, training and doctrine command, and forces command of the military department concerned with respect to the frequency of high-tempo, live-fire military operations at such training center.

(9) An assessment of the capacity of each medical facility in the surrounding area of a major training center of the Armed Forces to treat battlefield related injuries, including whether such facility has a helipad capable of receiving medical evacuation airlift patients arriving from the primary evacuation aircraft platform used by such training center.

SA 3902. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 713, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 2835. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CORPORATION.—The term “Corporation” means the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and after the date of completion of the appraisal required under subsection (d)(1)(B), the Secretary shall convey to the Corporation by quitclaim deed for the amount of consideration determined under subsection (d)(1), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (b) consists of approximately 1,518 acres and improvements comprising a former Distant Early Warning Line site in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska near Wainwright, Alaska, and described as United States Survey Number 5252 located within the Umiat Meridian.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance of the property under subsection (b), the Corporation shall pay to the Secretary an amount not less than the fair market value of the conveyed property, to be determined as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) APPRAISAL.—The fair market value of the property to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined based on an appraisal that—

(i) is conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser that is approved by the Secretary and the Corporation;

(ii) is based on the highest and best use of the property;

(iii) is approved by the Secretary; and

(iv) is paid for by the Corporation.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the

conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3903. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Vessel Incidental Discharge Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Regulation and enforcement.
- Sec. 5. Uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.
- Sec. 6. Treatment technology certification.
- Sec. 7. Exemptions.
- Sec. 8. Alternative compliance program.
- Sec. 9. Judicial review.
- Sec. 10. Effect on State authority.
- Sec. 11. Application with other statutes.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning with enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in 1980 (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 21,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) Over the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted statutes on a number of occasions dealing with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) in 1980;

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 415 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3434) and section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residue;

(E) title XIV of division B of Appendix D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1902a),

which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural cargo residue material in the form of hold washings; and

(G) title X of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), which provided for the implementation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.**—The term “aquatic nuisance species” means a non-indigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(3) **BALLAST WATER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “ballast water” means any water, including any sediment suspended in such water, taken aboard a vessel—

(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment technology of the vessel.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “ballast water” does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology under this Act.

(4) **BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.**—The term “ballast water performance standard” means the numerical ballast water discharge standard set forth in section 151.2030 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, or section 151.1511 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (a)(1)(B), (b), or (c) of section 5 of this Act.

(5) **BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “ballast water treatment technology” or “treatment technology” means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, alone or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

(6) **BIOCIDE.**—The term “biocide” means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into or produced by a ballast water treatment technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this Act.

(7) **DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” means—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I)(aa) ballast water, graywater, bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch

propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust, sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel;

(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, welldeck effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, or repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the vessel is waterborne.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” does not include—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

(II) oil or a hazardous substance as those terms are defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321);

(III) sewage as defined in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6)); or

(IV) graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6));

(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

(8) **GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.**—The term “geographically limited area” means an area—

(A) with a physical limitation, including limitation by physical size and limitation by authorized route, that prevents a vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(9) **MANUFACTURER.**—The term “manufacturer” means a person engaged in the manufacture, assembly, or importation of ballast water treatment technology.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) **VESSEL.**—The term “vessel” means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or practically or otherwise capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

SEC. 4. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish and implement enforceable uniform

national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. The standards and requirements shall—

(1) be based upon the best available technology economically achievable; and

(2) supersede any permitting requirement or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under any other provision of law.

(b) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall administer and enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this Act. Each State may enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this Act.

SEC. 5. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements set forth in the final rule, Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (77 Fed. Reg. 17254 (March 23, 2012), as corrected at 77 Fed. Reg. 33969 (June 8, 2012)), shall be the management requirements for a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water performance standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) ADOPTION OF MORE STRINGENT STATE STANDARD.—If the Secretary makes a determination in favor of a State petition under section 10, the Secretary shall adopt the more stringent ballast water performance standard specified in the statute or regulation that is the subject of that State petition in lieu of the ballast water performance standard in the final rule described under subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD; 8-YEAR REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the feasibility review under paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water performance standard under subsection (a)(1) so that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension;

(B) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension;

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxigenic *Vibrio cholera* (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples;

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of *Escherichia coli* per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of intestinal enterococci per 100 milliliters; and

(D) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes and of viruses as may be specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) FEASIBILITY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1).

(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—In conducting a review under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water performance standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

(ii) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

(I) the capability of such treatment technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

(II) the effectiveness and reliability of such treatment technology in the shipboard environment;

(III) the compatibility of such treatment technology with the design and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(IV) the commercial availability of such treatment technology; and

(V) the safety of such treatment technology;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

(II) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) LOWER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water treatment technology can be certified under section 6 to comply with the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the treatment technology that achieves the performance levels of the best treatment technology available.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) COMPLIANCE.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall recommend action to ensure compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) HIGHER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that ballast water treatment technology exists that exceeds the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water performance standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher performance standard.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024.

(4) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water performance standard under this subsection.

(B) PROCESS FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(D) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(c) FUTURE REVISIONS OF VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further revision of the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) REVISED STANDARDS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may include in a decennial review under this subsection best management practices for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more best management practices for such discharges after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising 1 or more of such practices would substantially reduce the impacts on navigable waters of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall consider the criteria under section 5(b)(2)(B).

(4) REVISION AFTER DECENNIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water performance standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

SEC. 6. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Beginning 1 year after the date that the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (i), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for a vessel unless the treatment technology has been certified under this section.

(b) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the treatment technology in achieving the current ballast water performance standard when installed on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel);

(B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations;

(C) the effect of the treatment technology on vessel safety;

(D) the impact on the environment;

(E) the cost effectiveness; and

(F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL.—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the treatment technology meets the criteria, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(3) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a process

to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this section.

(c) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment technology onboard a vessel as is necessary for—

(A) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;

(B) the protection of the environment; or

(C) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condition imposed under paragraph (1) shall be considered a violation of this section.

(d) PERIOD FOR USE OF INSTALLED TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allow a vessel on which a system is installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard under this Act to continue to use that system, notwithstanding any revision of a ballast water performance standard occurring after the system is ordered or installed until the expiration of the service life of the system, as determined by the Secretary, so long as the system—

(1) is maintained in proper working condition; and

(2) is maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and any treatment technology certification conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(e) CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL FOR THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—If the Secretary approves a ballast water treatment technology for certification under subsection (b), the Secretary shall issue a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology to the manufacturer in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—A certificate of type approval issued under paragraph (1) shall specify each condition imposed by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(3) OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology under this subsection shall provide a copy of the certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

(f) INSPECTIONS.—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under subsection (e)(3) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

(g) BIOCIDES.—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water treatment technology under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide, as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under that Act or the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator, has approved the use of the biocide in such treatment technology; or

(2) it uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

(h) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the use of a ballast water treatment technology by an owner or operator of a vessel shall not satisfy the requirements of this Act unless it has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

(B) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) TESTING PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue requirements for land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

(1) certifying the performance of each ballast water treatment technology under this section; and

(2) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

SEC. 7. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this Act apply to—

(1) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is less than 79 feet in length and engaged in commercial service (as defined in section 2101(5) of title 46, United States Code);

(2) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a fishing vessel, including a fish processing vessel and a fish tender vessel, (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code);

(3) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a recreational vessel (as defined in section 2101(25) of title 46, United States Code);

(4) the placement, release, or discharge of equipment, devices, or other material from a vessel for the sole purpose of conducting research on the aquatic environment or its natural resources in accordance with generally recognized scientific methods, principles, or techniques;

(5) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or part 153 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or human life, or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shore-side facility; or

(7) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standards under this Act apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area;

(B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of introduction or establishment of an aquatic nuisance species;

(C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code, or an equivalent restriction issued by the country of registration of the vessel; or

(D) continuously take on and discharge ballast water in a flow-through system that does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters;

(2) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel consisting entirely of water suitable for human consumption; or

(3) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel in an alternative compliance program established pursuant to section (8).

(c) **VESSELS WITH PERMANENT BALLAST WATER.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standard under this Act apply to, a vessel that carries all of its permanent ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge.

(d) **VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to a vessel as follows:

(1) A vessel owned or operated by the Department of Defense (other than a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel).

(2) A vessel of the Coast Guard, as designated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

SEC. 8. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may promulgate regulations establishing 1 or more compliance programs as an alternative to ballast water management regulations issued under section 5 for a vessel that—

(1) has a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters;

(2) is less than 3 years from the end of the useful life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary; or

(3) discharges ballast water into a facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards promulgated by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

(b) **PROMULGATION OF FACILITY STANDARDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate standards for—

(1) the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility; and

(2) the disposal or treatment of the ballast water under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An interested person may file a petition for review of a final regulation promulgated under this Act in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—A petition shall be filed not later than 120 days after the date that notice of the promulgation appears in the Federal Register.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a petition that is based solely on grounds that arise after the deadline to file a petition under subsection (b) has passed

may be filed not later than 120 days after the date that the grounds first arise.

SEC. 10. EFFECT ON STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No State or political subdivision thereof may adopt or enforce any statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State or political subdivision thereof may enforce a statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that specifies a ballast water performance standard that is more stringent than the ballast water performance standard under section 5(a)(1)(A) and is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator and any other Federal department or agency the Secretary considers appropriate, makes a determination that—

(1) compliance with any performance standard specified in the statute or regulation can in fact be achieved and detected;

(2) the technology and systems necessary to comply with the statute or regulation are commercially available; and

(3) the statute or regulation is consistent with obligations under relevant international treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party.

(c) **PETITION PROCESS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION.**—The Governor of a State seeking to enforce a statute or regulation under subsection (b) shall submit a petition requesting the Secretary to review the statute or regulation.

(2) **CONTENTS; DEADLINE.**—A petition shall—
(A) be accompanied by the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based; and

(B) be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall make a determination on a petition under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date that the petition is received.

SEC. 11. APPLICATION WITH OTHER STATUTES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this Act shall be the exclusive statutory authority for regulation by the Federal Government of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this Act applies. Except as provided under section 5(a)(1)(A), any regulation in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act relating to any permitting requirement for or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this Act applies shall be deemed to be a regulation issued pursuant to the authority of this Act and shall remain in full force and effect unless or until superseded by new regulations issued hereunder.

SA 3904. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Reciprocal visas for Nationals of Republic of Korea

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101(a)(15)(E)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(15)(E)(ii)) is amended by inserting “or of the Republic of Korea” after “Australia”.

(b) **NUMERICAL LIMITATION.**—Section 214(g)(11)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(11)(B)), is amended by inserting after “10,500” the following: “for nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia and 15,000 for nationals of the Republic of Korea”.

SA 3905. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. TREATMENT OF AGREEMENTS FOR NURSING HOME CARE, ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, OR OTHER EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.

Section 1720(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) An agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) may not be treated as a Federal contract for the acquisition of goods or services and is not subject to any provision of law governing Federal contracts or the acquisition of goods or services.”.

SA 3906. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 163, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 164, line 3, and insert the following:

the uniformed services are increased by 1.8 percent for enlisted member pay grades, warrant officer pay grades, and commissioned officer pay grades below pay grade O-7.

(c) **APPLICATION OF EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE LEVEL II CEILING ON PAYABLE RATES FOR GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.**—Section 203(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, shall be applied for rates of basic pay payable for commissioned officers in pay grades O-7 through O-10 during calendar year 2015 by using the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule in effect during 2014.

(d) **INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.**—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by section 421 for military personnel is hereby increased by \$600,000,000.

SA 3907. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 577. PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN.

Section 8003(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by inserting “and for the subsequent fiscal year” before the period at the end.

SA 3908. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, GORDO ARMY RESERVE CENTER, GORDO, ALABAMA.

(a) **CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of the Army may convey, without consideration, to the town of Gordo, Alabama (in this section referred to as the “Town”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 3.79 acres and containing the Gordo Army Reserve Center located at 25226 Highway 82 in Gordo, Alabama, for the purpose of permitting the Town to use the parcel for municipal government purposes.

(b) **REVERSIONARY INTEREST.**—If the Secretary of the Army determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to such real property, including any improvements thereto, shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto such real property. A determination by the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) **ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERATION OPTION.**—In lieu of exercising the reversionary interest under subsection (b), if the Secretary of the Army determines that the conveyed property is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance, the Secretary may require the Town to pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the property, excluding the value of any improvements on the property constructed by the Town, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) **PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—The Secretary of the Army shall require the Town to cover costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the Town in advance of the Secretary incur-

ring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Town.

(e) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—

(1) **CONSIDERATION.**—Amounts received as consideration under subsection (c) shall be credited to the account established pursuant to section 572(b)(5) of title 40, United States Code, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such account.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Amounts received as reimbursement under subsection (d) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(f) **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

(g) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3909. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 234. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS PERFORMANCE A CENTER WITHIN THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Center for Advanced Materials Performance was established in 2005.

(2) Since it was established, the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance has accelerated advancements in processing and fabrication technologies for the purpose of refining and enhancing the composite material property shared database process in partnership with the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Composite Materials Handbook-17 (CMH-17).

(3) Through the joint collaboration of the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration, National Center for Advanced Materials Performance reduces the time required for certification of new composite materials by a factor of four and the cost of certification by a factor of ten.

(4) The processes and procedures of National Center for Advanced Materials Performance to integrate matured materials ultimately benefit the Department of Defense and reduces Federal spending.

(5) According to the Air Force Research Laboratory, databases of the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance eliminate redundant materials qualification and increase material trade study efficiencies; two immeasurable benefits in times of fiscal austerity.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should consider the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance a center within the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation to complement the framework of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, improve national security, and reduce Federal spending.

SA 3910. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XIV, add the following:

SEC. 1412. ENHANCING DOMESTIC DEFENSE-RELATED PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES.

(a) **POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.**—It is the policy of the United States that, in order to ensure domestic manufacturing capabilities essential to national defense, the Federal Government should encourage and facilitate the development of a reliable domestic supply of minerals and metals necessary to defense-related production.

(b) **ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC DEFENSE-RELATED METALS AND MINERALS SUPPLY.**—To implement the policy described in subsection (a), the Federal Government shall take such measures outlined in the Reconfiguration of the National Defense Stockpile Report, dated April 2009, as may be necessary to encourage and facilitate the development of adequate sources of domestic supply of metals and minerals necessary to defense-related production.

SA 3911. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Alternative Fuel Vehicle Development Act”.

SEC. 602. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.

(a) **MAXIMUM FUEL ECONOMY INCREASE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.**—Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “(except an electric automobile)” and inserting “(except an electric automobile or, beginning with model year 2016, an alternative fueled automobile that does not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))”.

(b) **MINIMUM DRIVING RANGES FOR DUAL FUELED PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.**—Section 32901(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, except that beginning with model year 2016, alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1) shall have a minimum driving range of 150 miles” after “at least 200 miles”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following: “Beginning with model year 2016, if the Secretary prescribes a minimum driving range of 150 miles for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1), subparagraph (A) shall not apply to dual fueled automobiles (except electric automobiles).”.

(c) MANUFACTURING PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking “For any model” and inserting the following:

“(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2015.—For any model”;

(3) in paragraph (1), as redesignated, by striking “2019” and inserting “2015”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2015.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile manufactured by a manufacturer after model year 2015, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy as a weighted harmonic average of the fuel economy on gaseous fuel as measured under subsection (c) and the fuel economy on gasoline or diesel fuel as measured under section 32904(c). The Administrator shall apply the utility factors set forth in the table under section 600.510-12(c)(2)(vii)(A) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(3) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2016.—Beginning with model year 2017, the manufacturer may elect to utilize the utility factors set forth under subsection (e)(1) for the purposes of calculating fuel economy under paragraph (2).”.

(d) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the manufacturer, the Administrator may measure the fuel economy for any model of dual fueled automobile manufactured after model year 2015 that is capable of operating on electricity in addition to gasoline or diesel fuel, obtains its electricity from a source external to the vehicle, and meets the minimum driving range requirements established by the Secretary for dual fueled electric automobiles, by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

“(A) the percentage utilization of the model on gasoline or diesel fuel, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c); and

“(B) the percentage utilization of the model on electricity, as determined by a formula based on the model’s alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(a)(2).

“(2) ALTERNATIVE UTILIZATION.—The Administrator may adapt the utility factor established under paragraph (1) for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1).”.

“(3) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—If the manufacturer does not request that the Administrator calculate the manufacturing incentive for its electric dual fueled automobiles in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator shall calculate such incentive for such automobiles manufactured by such manufacturer after model year 2015 in accordance with subsection (b).”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32906(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 32905(e)” and inserting “section 32905(f)”.

SEC. 603. HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE FACILITIES.

Section 166 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b)(5), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) INHERENTLY LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES.—If a State agency establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of a HOV facility by vehicles listed in clauses (i) and (ii), the State agency may allow the use of the HOV facility by—

“(i) alternative fuel vehicles; and

“(ii) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined in section 30D(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).”;

(2) in subparagraph (f)(1), by inserting “solely” before “operating”.

SEC. 604. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) describes options to incentivize the development of public compressed natural gas fueling stations; and

(2) analyzes a variety of possible financing tools, which could include—

(A) Federal grants and credit assistance;

(B) public-private partnerships; and

(C) membership-based cooperatives.

SECTION 605. STUDY

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

a. Describe the national security impact a robust natural gas refueling system would have on the country.

b. Analyses the possibility of the Department of Defense adopting the use of more natural gas vehicles if a robust natural gas refueling system existed; and

c. Describes the budgetary impact a robust natural gas refueling system would have on the Department of Defense if the Department used more natural gas vehicles

SA 3912. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON VALUE OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) military working dogs have been valuable to the Armed Forces in support of military training and combat operations;

(2) the military working dogs program covers a broad range of military missions, including security and patrol, explosives detection, search and rescue, and guard duties;

(3) military working dogs are expected to operate in the harshest of climates and support United States troops in combat;

(4) the joint nature of the military working dogs program requires a high level of interoperability, and the military working dog program should continue its current collaboration efforts in the field of training and research in order to better serve United States security and combat capabilities; and

(5) through a coordinated effort between the Department of Defense, Federal agencies, the veterinary community, universities, and other research centers, the military working dogs program will continue to provide useful mission support.

SA 3913. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Federal Purchase Requirement

SEC. 2851. FEDERAL PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.

Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “a number equivalent to” before “the total amount of electric energy”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term ‘renewable energy’ means electric or, if resulting from a thermal energy project placed in service after December 31, 2014, thermal energy generated from, or avoided by, solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or an addition of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) SEPARATE CALCULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this section, any energy consumption that is avoided through the use of renewable energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.

“(B) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Avoided energy consumption that is considered to be renewable energy produced under subparagraph (A) shall not also be counted for purposes of achieving compliance with a Federal energy efficiency goal required under any other provision of law.”.

SA 3914. Mr. UDALL of Colorado submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REVIEW AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGIES USED TO TREAT CANCER.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council to conduct a review of the following:

(1) The range of technologies currently used to treat cancer, including emerging technologies used in the United States or abroad.

(2) The strategies and plans of the Department of Defense to treat cancer through the use of emerging technologies, including carbon ion therapy, and how those strategies and plans compare to the strategies and plans of the medical community at large.

(3) The feasibility and advisability of the Department entering into agreements with research partners outside the Federal Government, including institutions of higher education, to study technologies used to treat cancer, including emerging technologies.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Research Council shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) and any recommendations that were identified during such review.

SA 3915. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2813. ACCEPTANCE OF IN-KIND GIFTS ON BEHALF OF HERITAGE CENTER FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES.**—Subsection (c)(2)(A) of section 4772 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “accept funds from the Army Historical Foundation” and insert “accept funds and in-kind gifts, including services, construction materials, and equipment used in construction, from the Army Historical Foundation and industry donors”.

(b) **REMOVAL OF CAP ON GIFTS.**—Subsection (e)(1) of such section is amended by striking “of a value of \$250,000 or less”.

SA 3916. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X of division A, insert the following:

Subtitle I—Metal Theft Prevention Act

SEC. 1090. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2014”.

SEC. 1091. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle—

(1) the term “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given the term in section 1016(e) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e));

(2) the term “specified metal” means metal that—

(A)(i) is marked with the name, logo, or initials of a city, county, State, or Federal government entity, a railroad, an electric, gas, or water company, a telephone company, a cable company, a retail establishment, a beer supplier or distributor, or a public utility; or

(ii) has been altered for the purpose of removing, concealing, or obliterating a name, logo, or initials described in clause (i) through burning or cutting of wire sheathing or other means; or

(B) is part of—

(i) a street light pole or street light fixture;

(ii) a road or bridge guard rail;

(iii) a highway or street sign;

(iv) a water meter cover;

(v) a storm water grate;

(vi) unused or undamaged building construction or utility material;

(vii) a historical marker;

(viii) a grave marker or cemetery urn;

(ix) a utility access cover; or

(x) a container used to transport or store beer with a capacity of 5 gallons or more;

(C) is a wire or cable commonly used by communications and electrical utilities; or

(D) is copper, aluminum, and other metal (including any metal combined with other materials) that is valuable for recycling or reuse as raw metal, except for—

(i) aluminum cans; and

(ii) motor vehicles, the purchases of which are reported to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (established under section 30502 of title 49); and

(3) the term “recycling agent” means any person engaged in the business of purchasing specified metal for reuse or recycling, without regard to whether that person is engaged in the business of recycling or otherwise processing the purchased specified metal for reuse.

SEC. 1092. THEFT OF SPECIFIED METAL.

(a) **OFFENSE.**—It shall be unlawful to knowingly steal specified metal—

(1) being used in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce; and

(2) the theft of which is from and harms critical infrastructure.

(b) **PENALTY.**—Any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

SEC. 1093. DOCUMENTATION OF OWNERSHIP OR AUTHORITY TO SELL.

(a) **OFFENSES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase specified metal described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1091(2), unless—

(A) the seller, at the time of the transaction, provides documentation of ownership of, or other proof of the authority of the seller to sell, the specified metal; and

(B) there is a reasonable basis to believe that the documentation or other proof of authority provided under subparagraph (A) is valid.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a requirement on recycling agents to obtain documentation of ownership or proof of authority to sell specified metal before purchasing specified metal.

(3) **RESPONSIBILITY OF RECYCLING AGENT.**—A recycling agent is not required to independently verify the validity of the documentation or other proof of authority described in paragraph (1).

(4) **PURCHASE OF STOLEN METAL.**—It shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase any specified metal that the recycling agent—

(A) knows to be stolen; or

(B) should know or believe, based upon commercial experience and practice, to be stolen.

(b) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation.

SEC. 1094. TRANSACTION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **RECORDING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent shall maintain a written or electronic record of each purchase of specified metal.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth recording requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements described in paragraph (3) for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) **CONTENTS.**—A record under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the name and address of the recycling agent; and

(B) for each purchase of specified metal—

(i) the date of the transaction;

(ii) a description of the specified metal purchased using widely used and accepted industry terminology;

(iii) the amount paid by the recycling agent;

(iv) the name and address of the person to which the payment was made;

(v) the name of the person delivering the specified metal to the recycling agent, including a distinctive number from a Federal or State government-issued photo identification card and a description of the type of the identification; and

(vi) the license plate number and State-of-issue, make, and model, if available, of the vehicle used to deliver the specified metal to the recycling agent.

(4) **REPEAT SELLERS.**—A recycling agent may comply with the requirements of this subsection with respect to a purchase of specified metal from a person from which the recycling agent has previously purchased specified metal by—

(A) reference to the existing record relating to the seller; and

(B) recording any information for the transaction that is different from the record

relating to the previous purchase from that person.

(5) **RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.**—A recycling agent shall maintain any record required under this subsection for not less than 2 years after the date of the transaction to which the record relates.

(6) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—Any information collected or retained under this section may be disclosed to any Federal, State, or local law enforcement authority or as otherwise directed by a court of law.

(b) **PURCHASES IN EXCESS OF \$100.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent may not pay cash for a single purchase of specified metal of more than \$100. For purposes of this paragraph, more than 1 purchase in any 48-hour period from the same seller shall be considered to be a single purchase.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a maximum amount for cash payments for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) **PAYMENT METHOD.**—

(A) **OCCASIONAL SELLERS.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for any purchase of specified metal of more than \$100 a recycling agent shall make payment by check that—

(i) is payable to the seller; and

(ii) includes the name and address of the seller.

(B) **ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.**—A recycling agent may make payments for a purchase of specified metal of more than \$100 from a governmental or commercial supplier of specified metal with which the recycling agent has an established commercial relationship by electronic funds transfer or other established commercial transaction payment method through a commercial bank if the recycling agent maintains a written record of the payment that identifies the seller, the amount paid, and the date of the purchase.

(c) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation, except that a person who commits a minor violation shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$1,000.

SEC. 1095. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Attorney General may bring an enforcement action in an appropriate United States district court against any person that engages in conduct that violates this subtitle.

SEC. 1096. ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An attorney general or equivalent regulator of a State may bring a civil action in the name of the State, as parens patriae on behalf of natural persons residing in the State, in any district court of the United States or other competent court having jurisdiction over the defendant, to secure monetary or equitable relief for a violation of this subtitle.

(b) **NOTICE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days before the date on which an action under subsection (a) is filed, the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State involved shall provide to the Attorney General—

(1) written notice of the action; and

(2) a copy of the complaint for the action.

(c) **ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.**—Upon receiving notice under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall have the right—

(1) to intervene in the action;

(2) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;

(3) to remove the action to an appropriate district court of the United States; and

(4) to file petitions for appeal.

(d) **PENDING FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.**—If a civil action has been instituted by the Attorney General for a violation of this subtitle, no State may, during the pendency of the action instituted by the Attorney General, institute a civil action under this subtitle against any defendant named in the complaint in the civil action for any violation alleged in the complaint.

(e) **CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of bringing a civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this section regarding notification shall be construed to prevent the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State from exercising any powers conferred under the laws of that State to—

(1) conduct investigations;

(2) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(3) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

SEC. 1097. DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and policy statements applicable to a person convicted of a criminal violation of section 1092 of this subtitle or any other Federal criminal law based on the theft of specified metal by such person.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out this section, the Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements reflect the—

(A) serious nature of the theft of specified metal; and

(B) need for an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment to prevent such theft;

(2) consider the extent to which the guidelines and policy statements appropriately account for—

(A) the potential and actual harm to the public from the offense, including any damage to critical infrastructure;

(B) the amount of loss, or the costs associated with replacement or repair, attributable to the offense;

(C) the level of sophistication and planning involved in the offense; and

(D) whether the offense was intended to or had the effect of creating a threat to public health or safety, injury to another person, or death;

(3) account for any additional aggravating or mitigating circumstances that may justify exceptions to the generally applicable sentencing ranges;

(4) assure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and with other sentencing guidelines and policy statements; and

(5) assure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 1098. STATE AND LOCAL LAW NOT PRE-EMPTED.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to preempt any State or local law regulating the sale or purchase of specified metal, the reporting of such transactions, or any other aspect of the metal recycling industry.

SEC. 1099. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3917. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be

proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN EVENTS FOR WHICH LEAVE IS AVAILABLE UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993.

Section 701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (i) and (j); and

(2) by adding after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

“(i)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a member of the armed forces shall be entitled to not less than 12 weeks of leave for a reason or reasons as set out in section 102(a)(1) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)) during any twelve-month period.

“(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a member of the armed forces shall be entitled to not less than 26 weeks of leave for the reason set out in section 102(a)(3) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(3)) during any twelve-month period.

“(3) Leave under this subsection is in addition to other leave authorized under this section.

“(4) Leave authorized by this subsection may not be—

“(A) accumulated; or

“(B) paid for as unused accrued leave upon discharge as otherwise provided for in section 501 of title 37.”.

SA 3918. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REPORT ON TREATMENT OF INFERTILITY OF MILITARY FAMILIES.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of providing access to reproductive counseling and treatments for infertility, including in vitro fertilization, to members of the Armed Forces and the dependents of such members.

(b) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of treatment options for infertility available at military medical treatment facilities throughout the military health system.

(2) An identification of factors that might disrupt treatment for infertility, including availability of options, lack of timely access

to treatment, change in duty station, or overseas deployments.

(3) The number of members of the Armed Forces who have used specific treatment options for infertility, including in vitro fertilization.

(4) The number of dependents of members who have used specific treatment options for infertility, including in vitro fertilization.

(5) An identification of treatment options for infertility currently covered by private health plans that are not provided by the military health care system.

(6) An estimate of the cost to the Department of providing access to additional counseling and treatment options for infertility to members and dependents of members.

(7) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3919. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 557. MODIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF APPLICABILITY OF REVISIONS TO PRELIMINARY HEARING REQUIREMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

Section 1702(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 958; 10 U.S.C. 802 note) is amended by striking “and shall apply” and all that follows and inserting a period.

SA 3920. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 528, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 1268. RECIPROCAL VISA FOR NATIONALS OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)(iii)) is amended by inserting “or of the Republic of Korea” after “Australia”.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Section 214(g)(11)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(11)(B)) is amended to read as follows: “(B) The applicable numerical limitation referred to in subparagraph (A) is, for each fiscal year—

“(i) 10,500 for nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia; and

“(ii) 15,000 for nationals of the Republic of Korea.”.

SA 3921. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for

military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 2842. WEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.

Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to allow a vehicle, if operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas, to exceed any vehicle weight limit under this section by an amount that is equal to the difference between—

“(1) the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle; and

“(2) the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.”.

SA 3922. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 708. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES UNDER TRICARE.—Section 1077 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g)(1) Subject to paragraph (4), in providing health care under subsection (a), the treatment of developmental disabilities (as defined by section 102(8) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002(8))), including autism spectrum disorder, shall include behavioral health treatment, including applied behavior analysis, when prescribed by a physician or psychologist.

“(2) In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(A) except as provided by subparagraph (B), behavioral health treatment is provided pursuant to this subsection—

“(i) in the case of such treatment provided in a State that requires licensing or certification of applied behavioral analysts by State law, by an individual who is licensed or certified to practice applied behavioral analysis in accordance with the laws of the State; or

“(ii) in the case of such treatment provided in a State other than a State described in clause (i), by an individual who is licensed or certified by a State or accredited national certification board; and

“(B) applied behavior analysis or other behavioral health treatment may be provided

by an employee, contractor, or trainee of a person described in subparagraph (A) if the employee, contractor, or trainee meets minimum qualifications, training, and supervision requirements as set forth in applicable State law, by an appropriate accredited national certification board, or by the Secretary.

“(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting or otherwise affecting the benefits provided to a covered beneficiary under—

“(A) this chapter;

“(B) title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

“(C) any other law.

“(4)(A) Treatment may be provided under this subsection in a fiscal year only to the extent that amounts are provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the provision of such treatment for such fiscal year in the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account.

“(B) Funds for treatment under this subsection may be derived only from the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account.”.

(b) DEFENSE DEPENDENTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACCOUNT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established on the books of the Treasury an account to be known as the “Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account” (in this subsection referred to as the “Account”).

(B) SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—The Account shall be a separate account for the Department of Defense, and shall not be a subaccount within the Defense Health Program account of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The Account shall consist of amounts authorized to be appropriated or transferred to the Account.

(3) EXCLUDED SOURCES OF ELEMENTS.—Amounts in the Account may not be derived from transfers from the following:

(A) The Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund under chapter 56 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) The Coast Guard Retired Pay Account.

(C) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations, Research, and Facilities Account.

(D) The Public Health Service Retirement Pay and Medical Benefits for Commissioned Officers Account.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Account shall be available for the treatment of developmental disabilities in covered beneficiaries pursuant to subsection (g) of section 1077 of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)). Amounts in the Account shall be so available until expended.

(5) FUNDING.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account, \$20,000,000.

(B) TRANSFER FOR CONTINUATION OF EXISTING SERVICES.—From amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall transfer to the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account \$250,000,000.

SA 3923. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 3924. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3923 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 3925. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 3926. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 3927. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3926 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “4” and insert “5”.

SA 3928. Mr. PRYOR (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy action plan” means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas” means American Samoa, the Com-

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (90 Stat. 263; 122 Stat. 854) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

SA 3929. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BENNET)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies

to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; as follows:

On page 22, strike lines 11 through 24, and insert the following:

(d) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

SA 3930. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; as follows:

On page 16, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

SA 3931. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents; as follows:

On page 25, line 16, strike “agency” and insert “agent”.

On page 28, line 2, strike “agency” and insert “agent”.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), add the following:

“SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.—The term ‘collective bargaining agreement’ has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term ‘excepted service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

“(4) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—The term ‘preference eligible’ has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

“(5) QUALIFIED POSITION.—The term ‘qualified position’ means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the incumbent performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

“(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘Senior Executive Service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) ESTABLISH POSITIONS, APPOINT PERSONNEL, AND FIX RATES OF PAY.—

“(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may—

“(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

“(I) senior level positions designated under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(II) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

“(ii) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

“(iii) subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

“(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

“(2) BASIC PAY.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES OF BASIC PAY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under paragraph (1) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

“(B) PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may, consistent with section 5341 of title 5, United States Code, adopt such provisions of that title as provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay and may apply

those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of that title.

“(3) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.—

“(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BASED ON TITLE 5 AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

“(B) ALLOWANCES IN NONFOREIGN AREAS.—An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under paragraph (2)(A) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section 5941, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

“(4) PLAN FOR EXECUTION OF AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with a plan for the use of the authorities provided under this subsection.

“(5) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

“(6) REQUIRED REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

“(1) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans’ preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

“(2) describes—

“(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

“(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress; and

“(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

“(3) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

“(4) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

“(A) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

“(C) the total number of veterans hired;

“(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(E) the number of retirements of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(5) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

“(d) THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

“(e) INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

“(f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

“(1) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting “or” after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

“Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention.”.

SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms

“Cybersecurity Work Category”, “Data Element Code”, and “Specialty Area” have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management’s Guide to Data Standards.

(3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) **NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions within the Department;

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(C) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management’s Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education’s National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) **EMPLOYMENT CODES.**—

(A) **PROCEDURES.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures—

(i) to identify open positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the OPM Guide to Data Standards); and

(ii) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(B) **CODE ASSIGNMENTS.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to—

(i) each employee within the Department who carries out cybersecurity functions; and

(ii) each open position within the Department that have been identified as having cybersecurity functions.

(3) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) **IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), and annually through 2021, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need in the Department’s cybersecurity workforce; and

(B) submit a report to the Director that—

(i) describes the Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) substantiates the critical need designations.

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—The Director shall provide the Secretary with timely guidance for identifying Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(A) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(B) Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(3) **CYBERSECURITY CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

retary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

SA 3932. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe with tribal headquarters at Fort Hall, Idaho—

(A) adopted a tribal constitution and bylaws on March 31, 1936, that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”);

(B) has entered into various treaties with the United States, including the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger, executed on July 3, 1868; and

(C) has maintained a continuous government-to-government relationship with the United States since the earliest years of the Union;

(2)(A) in 1867, President Andrew Johnson designated by Executive order the Fort Hall Reservation for various bands of Shoshone and Bannock Indians;

(B) the Reservation is located near the cities of Blackfoot and Pocatello in southeastern Idaho; and

(C) article 4 of the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger secured the Reservation as a “permanent home” for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

(3)(A) according to the Executive order referred to in paragraph (2)(A), the Blackfoot River, as the river existed in its natural state—

(i) is the northern boundary of the Reservation; and

(ii) flows in a westerly direction along that northern boundary; and

(B) within the Reservation, land use in the River watershed is dominated by—

(i) rangeland;

(ii) dry and irrigated farming; and

(iii) residential development;

(4)(A) in 1964, the Corps of Engineers completed a local flood protection project on the River—

(i) authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 170); and

(ii) sponsored by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7;

(B) the project consisted of building levees, replacing irrigation diversion structures, re-

placing bridges, and channel realignment; and

(C) the channel realignment portion of the project severed various parcels of land located contiguous to the River along the boundary of the Reservation, resulting in Indian land being located north of the Realigned River and non-Indian land being located south of the Realigned River;

(5) beginning in 1999, the Cadastral Survey Office of the Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys of—

(A) 25 parcels of Indian land; and

(B) 19 parcels of non-Indian land; and

(6) the enactment of this Act and separate agreements of the parties would represent a resolution of the disputes described in subsection (b)(1) among—

(A) the Tribes;

(B) the allottees; and

(C) the non-Indian landowners.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the land ownership and land use disputes resulting from realignment of the River by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(2) to achieve a final and fair solution to resolve those disputes.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ALLOTTEE.**—The term “allottee” means an heir of an original allottee of the Reservation who owns an interest in a parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the allottee; and

(B) located north of the Realigned River within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

(2) **BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT NO. 7.**—The term “Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7” means the governmental subdivision in the State of Idaho, located at 75 East Judicial, Blackfoot, Idaho, that—

(A) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the Realigned River; and

(B) represents the non-Indian landowners relating to the resolution of the disputes described in section 2(b)(1) in accordance with this Act.

(3) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” means any parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes or the allottees;

(B) located north of the Realigned River; and

(C) identified in exhibit A of the survey of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Survey of the Blackfoot River of 2002 to 2005”, which is located at—

(i) the Fort Hall Indian Agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

(4) **NON-INDIAN LAND.**—The term “non-Indian land” means any parcel of fee land that is—

(A) located south of the Realigned River; and

(B) identified in exhibit B, which is located at the areas described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(C).

(5) **NON-INDIAN LANDOWNER.**—The term “non-Indian landowner” means any individual who holds fee title to non-Indian land and is represented by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for purposes of this Act.

(6) **REALIGNED RIVER.**—The term “Realigned River” means that portion of the

River that was realigned by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in section 2(a)(4)(A).

(7) **RESERVATION.**—The term “Reservation” means the Fort Hall Reservation established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

(8) **RIVER.**—The term “River” means the Blackfoot River located in the State of Idaho.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) **TRIBES.**—The term “Tribes” means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO CERTAIN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OWNED LANDS.

(a) **RELEASE OF CLAIMS.**—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) all existing and future claims with respect to the Indian land and the non-Indian land and all right, title, and interest that the Tribes, allottees, non-Indian landowners, and the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may have had to that land shall be extinguished;

(2) any interest of the Tribes, the allottees, or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribes or allottees, in the Indian land shall be extinguished under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Intercourse Act”) (25 U.S.C. 177); and

(3) to the extent any interest in non-Indian land transferred into trust pursuant to section 5 violates section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Intercourse Act”) (25 U.S.C. 177), that transfer shall be valid, subject to the condition that the transfer is consistent with all other applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

(b) **DOCUMENTATION.**—The Secretary may execute and file any appropriate documents (including a plat or map of the transferred Indian land) that are suitable for filing with the Bingham County clerk or other appropriate county official, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. NON-INDIAN LAND TO BE PLACED INTO TRUST FOR TRIBES.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the non-Indian land shall be considered to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes.

SEC. 6. TRUST LAND TO BE CONVERTED TO FEE LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for use or sale in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **USE OF LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 shall use any proceeds from the sale of land described in subsection (a) according to the following priorities:

(A) To compensate, at fair market value, each non-Indian landowner for the net loss of land to that non-Indian landowner resulting from the implementation of this Act.

(B) To compensate the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for any administrative or other expenses relating to carrying out this Act.

(2) **REMAINING LAND.**—If any land remains to be conveyed or proceeds remain after the sale of the land, the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may dispose of that remaining land or proceeds as the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON ORIGINAL RESERVATION BOUNDARY.

Nothing in this Act affects the original boundary of the Reservation, as established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

SEC. 8. EFFECT ON TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act extinguishes or conveys any water right of the Tribes, as established in the agreement entitled “1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement” and ratified by section 4 of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–602; 104 Stat. 3060).

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act affects the obligation of Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 to maintain adequate rights-of-way for the operation and maintenance of the local flood protection projects described in section 2(a)(4) pursuant to agreements between the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 and the Corps of Engineers.

(b) **RESTRICTION ON FEES.**—Any land conveyed to the Tribes pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to fees assessed by Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

SEC. 10. DISCLAIMERS REGARDING CLAIMS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects in any manner the sovereign claim of the State of Idaho to title in and to the beds and banks of the River under the equal footing doctrine of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) affects any action by the State of Idaho to establish the title described in paragraph (1) under section 2409a of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Quiet Title Act”);

(3) affects the ability of the Tribes or the United States to claim ownership of the beds and banks of the River; or

(4) extinguishes or conveys any water rights of non-Indian landowners or the claims of those landowners to water rights in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

SA 3933. Mr. PRYOR (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel; as follows:

Beginning on page 8, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 9, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SA 3934. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1360, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improper Payments Agency Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DEATH INFORMATION FURNISHED TO OR MAINTAINED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and to ensure the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of,” after “transmitting”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection in accordance with subparagraph (B), subject to such safeguards as the Commissioner of Social Security determines are necessary or appropriate to protect the information from unauthorized use or disclosure, by any Federal or State agency providing federally-funded benefits or administering a Federal program for such benefits, including the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system for ensuring proper payment of those benefits, through a cooperative arrangement with the agency (that includes the agency’s Inspector General) or with an agency’s Inspector General, if—

“(i) under such arrangement the agency (including, if applicable, the agency’s Inspector General) provides reimbursement to the Commissioner of Social Security for the reasonable cost of carrying out such arrangement, including the reasonable costs associated with the collection and maintenance of information regarding deceased individuals furnished to the Commissioner pursuant to paragraph (1), and

“(ii) such arrangement does not conflict with the duties of the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (1).

“(B) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, through a cooperative arrangement in order for a Federal agency to carry out any of the following purposes, if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) are met:

“(i) Operating the Do Not Pay working system established by section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012. Under such arrangement, the agency operating the working system may compare death information disclosed by the Commissioner with personally identifiable information reviewed through the working system, and may redisclose such comparison of information, as appropriate, to any Federal or State agency authorized to use the working system.

“(ii) To ensure proper payments under a Federal program or the proper payment of federally-funded benefits, including for purposes of payment certification, payment disbursement, and the prevention, identification, or recoupment of improper payments.

“(iii) To carry out tax administration or debt collection duties of the agency.

“(iv) For use by any policing agency of the Federal Government with the principle function of prevention, detection, or investigation of crime or the apprehension of alleged offenders.

“(4) The Commissioner of Social Security may enter into similar arrangements with States to provide information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, for any of the purposes specified in paragraph (3)(B), for use by States in programs wholly funded by the States, or for use in the administration of a benefit pension plan or retirement system for employees of a State or a political subdivision thereof, if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A) are met. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms ‘retirement system’ and ‘political subdivision’ have the meanings given such terms in section 218(b).

“(5) The Commissioner of Social Security may use or provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, subject to such safeguards as the Commissioner of Social Security determines are necessary or appropriate to protect the information from unauthorized use or disclosure, for statistical purposes and research activities by Federal and State agencies if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A) are met. For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘statistical purposes’ has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002.”; and

(C) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)” and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A)”.

(2) REPEAL.—Effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this subsection to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (8) of section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)) are repealed, and the provisions of section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 605(r)) so amended are restored and revived as if such amendments had not been enacted.

(b) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section 6103(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “Secretary of Health and Human Services” each place it appears and inserting “Commissioner of Social Security”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “such Secretary” and all that follows through “deceased individuals.” and inserting “such Commissioner pursuant to such contract, except that such contract may provide that such information is only to be used by the Social Security Administration (or any other Federal agency) for purposes authorized in the Social Security Act or this title.”.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF DEATH DATA.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall conduct a review of potential alternative sources of death data maintained by the non-Federal sources, including sources maintained by State agencies or associations of State agencies, for use by Federal agencies and programs. The review shall include analyses of—

(A) the accuracy and completeness of such data;

(B) interoperability of such data;

(C) the extent to which there is efficient accessibility of such data by Federal agencies;

(D) the cost to Federal agencies of accessing and maintaining such data;

(E) the security of such data;

(F) the reliability of such data; and

(G) a comparison of the potential alternate sources of death data to the death data distributed by the Commissioner of Social Security.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the review and analyses required under paragraph (1). The report shall include a recommendation by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget regarding whether to extend the agency access to death data distributed by the Commissioner of Social Security provided under the amendments made by subsection (a)(1) beyond the date on which such amendments are to be repealed under subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE SHARING AND USE OF DATA BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CURB IMPROPER PAYMENTS.

The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) is amended—

(1) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) The death records maintained by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) USE OF DEATH AND PRISONER INFORMATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security, and the head of any other agency that obtains information on deaths or incarcerated individuals directly from the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an agreement under section 205(r) or sections 202(x) and 1611(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r), 405(x), 1382(e)) or the Department of the Treasury’s Do Not Pay program, shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements of this section as such requirements relate to payments or to identifying, preventing, or recovering improper payments in the case of deaths or incarcerated individuals. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as exempting the Commissioner of Social Security or the head of any other agency that obtains information on deaths or incarcerated individuals directly from the Commissioner of Social Security under an agreement under section 205(r) or sections 202(x) and 1611(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r), 405(x), 1382(e)) or the Department of the Treasury’s Do Not Pay program from being subject to any improper payment reporting requirement of the Director of the Office of Management.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 7. IMPROVING THE USE OF DEATH DATA BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

“(a) PROMPT REPORTING OF DEATH INFORMATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a procedure under which each Secretary shall, promptly and on a regular basis, submit to the Commissioner information relating to the deaths of individuals.

The Commissioner shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of death information submitted under this subsection for the purpose specified in clause (i) of section 205(r)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(3)(B)).

“(b) GUIDANCE BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—

“(1) GUIDANCE TO AGENCIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and in consultation with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency and the heads of other relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance for each agency or component of an agency that operates or maintains a database of information relating to beneficiaries, annuity recipients, or any purpose described in section 205(r)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(3)(B)) for which improved data matching with databases relating to the death of an individual (in this section referred to as ‘death databases’) would be relevant and necessary regarding implementation of this section to provide such agencies or components access to the death databases no later than 6 months after such date of enactment.

“(2) PLAN TO ASSIST STATES AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall develop a plan to assist States and local agencies, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, in providing electronically to the Federal Government records relating to the death of individuals, which may include recommendations to Congress for any statutory changes or financial assistance to States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations that are necessary to ensure States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations can provide such records electronically. The plan may include recommendations for the authorization of appropriations or other funding to carry out the plan.

“(c) REPORTS.—

“(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IMPROVING DATA MATCHING REGARDING PAYMENTS TO DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and in consultation with States and local agencies, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, shall submit to Congress a plan to improve how States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations that provide benefits under a federally-funded program will improve data matching with the Federal Government with respect to the death of individuals who are recipients of such benefits.

“(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and for each of the 4 succeeding years, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this section. The first report submitted under this paragraph shall include the recommendations of the Director required under subsection (b)(2).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).”.

SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF THE DO NOT PAY INITIATIVE TO THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND STATES.

Section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note), as amended by section 3, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “BY AGENCIES”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “States and any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of a State, and the judicial and legislative branches of the United States (as defined in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 202(e) of title 18, United States Code), shall have access to, and use of, the Do Not Pay Initiative to verify payment or award eligibility for payments (as defined in section (2)(g)(3) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, 31 U.S.C. 3321 note) when, with respect to a State, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the Do Not Pay Initiative is appropriately established for that State and any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the State, and, with respect to the judicial and legislative branches of the United States, when the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the Do Not Pay Initiative is appropriately established for the judicial branch or the legislative branch, as applicable.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) may include States and their quasi-government entities, and the judicial and legislative branches of the United States (as defined in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 202(e) of title 18, United States Code) as users of the system in accordance with subsection (b)(3).”.

SEC. 5. DATA ANALYTICS.

Section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note), as amended by sections 3 and 4, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) REPORT ON IMPROPER PAYMENTS DATA ANALYSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Improper Payments Agency Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2014, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report which shall include a description of—

“(1) data analytics performed as part of the Do Not Pay Initiative for the purpose of detecting, preventing, and recovering improper payments through pre-award, post-award pre-payment, and post-payment analysis, which shall include a description of any analysis or investigations incorporating—

“(A) review and data matching of payments and beneficiary enrollment lists of State programs carried out using Federal funds for the purposes of identifying eligibility duplication, residency ineligibility, duplicate payments, or other potential improper payment issues;

“(B) review of multiple Federal agencies and programs for which comparison of data could show payment duplication; and

“(C) review of other information the Secretary of the Treasury determines could prove effective for identifying, preventing, or recovering improper payments, which may include investigation or review of information from multiple Federal agencies or programs; and

“(2) the metrics used in determining whether the analytic and investigatory efforts have reduced, or contributed to the reduction of, improper payments or improper awards.”.

SA 3935. Mr. BURR (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 479, recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special “Welcome Home Commemoration” for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001; as follows:

In the 6th whereas clause of the preamble, strike “marines” and insert “Marines”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Assessing and Enhancing Protections in Consumer Financial Services.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 18, 2014, at 11 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, “Tax Audits of Large Partnerships.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jennifer Winkler, a member of my staff, be given floor privileges during the course of H. Res. 124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDRESSING THE ENERGY NEEDS OF U.S. INSULAR AREAS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 83, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that a Murkowski substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3928) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3928

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy action plan” means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas” means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The energy action plan shall not be imple-

mented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (90 Stat. 263; 122 Stat. 854) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection” and inserting “ending on December 31, 2019”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 83), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

PAUL D. WELLSTONE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 529, H.R. 594.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 594) to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 594) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

INTERSTATE LAND SALES FULL DISCLOSURE ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2600 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2600) to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time

and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2600) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3043.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3043) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3043) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

WATER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AFFECTING THE PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 484, H.R. 3716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3716) to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3716) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IMPACT ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4994, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4994) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4994) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXAMINATION AND SUPERVISORY PRIVILEGE PARITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5062 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5062) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5062) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5404, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5404) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5404) was ordered to a third reading, was read a third time, and passed.

FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 372, S. 1611.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1611) to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1611

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Data Center Consolidation Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INITIATIVE.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:*

(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.*

(2) *COVERED AGENCY.—The term "covered agency" means the following (including all associated components of the agency):*

(A) Department of Agriculture;
(B) Department of Commerce;
(C) Department of Defense;
(D) Department of Education;
(E) Department of Energy;
(F) Department of Health and Human Services;
(G) Department of Homeland Security;
(H) Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(I) Department of the Interior;
(J) Department of Justice;
(K) Department of Labor;
(L) Department of State;
(M) Department of Transportation;
(N) Department of Treasury;
(O) Department of Veterans Affairs;
(P) Environmental Protection Agency;
(Q) General Services Administration;
(R) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(S) National Science Foundation;
(T) Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
(U) Office of Personnel Management;
(V) Small Business Administration;
(W) Social Security Administration; and
(X) United States Agency for International Development.

(3) *FDCCI.—The term "FDCCI" means the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, dated February 26, 2010, or any successor thereto.*

(4) *GOVERNMENT-WIDE DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND OPTIMIZATION METRICS.—The term "Government-wide data center consolidation*

and optimization metrics" means the metrics established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(2)(G).

(b) *FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INVENTORIES AND STRATEGIES.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—*

(A) *ANNUAL REPORTING.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, assisted by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall submit to the Administrator—*

(i) *a comprehensive inventory of the data centers owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and*

(ii) *a multi-year strategy to achieve the consolidation and optimization of the data centers inventoried under clause (i), that includes—*

(I) *performance metrics—*

(aa) *that are consistent with the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and*

(bb) *by which the quantitative and qualitative progress of the agency toward the goals of the FDCCI can be measured;*

(II) *a timeline for agency activities to be completed under the FDCCI, with an emphasis on benchmarks the agency can achieve by specific dates;*

(III) *year-by-year calculations of investment and cost savings for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e), broken down by each year, including a description of any initial costs for data center consolidation and optimization and life cycle cost savings and other improvements, with an emphasis on—*

(aa) *meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and*
(bb) *demonstrating the amount of agency-specific cost savings each fiscal year achieved through the FDCCI; and*

(IV) *any additional information required by the Administrator.*

(B) *USE OF OTHER REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Administrator may require a covered agency to include the information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures determined by the Administrator to be appropriate.*

(C) *STATEMENT.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—*

(i) *(I) submit a statement to the Administrator stating whether the agency has complied with the requirements of this Act; and*

(II) *make the statement submitted under subclause (I) publicly available; and*

(ii) *if the agency has not complied with the requirements of this Act, submit a statement to the Administrator explaining the reasons for not complying with such requirements.*

(D) *AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES.—Each covered agency, under the direction of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—*

(i) *implement the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and*

(ii) *provide updates to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis, of—*

(I) *the completion of activities by the agency under the FDCCI;*

(II) *any progress of the agency towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and*

(III) *the actual cost savings and other improvements realized through the implementation of the strategy of the agency.*

(E) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the reporting of information by a covered agency to the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress.*

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish the deadline, on an annual basis, for covered agencies to submit information under this section;

(B) establish a list of requirements that the covered agencies must meet to be considered in compliance with paragraph (1);

(C) ensure that information relating to agency progress towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics is made available in a timely manner to the general public;

(D) review the inventories and strategies submitted under paragraph (1) to determine whether they are comprehensive and complete;

(E) monitor the implementation of the data center strategy of each covered agency that is required under paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

(F) update, on an annual basis, the cumulative cost savings realized through the implementation of the FDCCI; and

(G) establish metrics applicable to the consolidation and optimization of data centers Government-wide, including metrics with respect to—

(i) costs;

(ii) efficiencies, including at least server efficiencies; and

(iii) any other metrics the Administrator establishes under this subparagraph.

(3) **COST SAVING GOAL AND UPDATES FOR CONGRESS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop, and make publically available, a goal, broken down by year, for the amount of planned cost savings and optimization improvements achieved through the FDCCI during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e).

(B) **ANNUAL UPDATE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the goal described in subparagraph (A) is made publically available, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall aggregate the reported cost savings of each covered agency and optimization improvements achieved to date through the FDCCI and compare the savings to the projected cost savings and optimization improvements developed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) **UPDATE FOR CONGRESS.**—The goal required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and shall be accompanied by a statement describing—

(I) whether each covered agency has in fact submitted a comprehensive asset inventory, including an assessment broken down by agency, which shall include the specific numbers, utilization, and efficiency level of data centers; and

(II) whether each covered agency has submitted a comprehensive consolidation strategy with the key elements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(4) **GAO REVIEW.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and verify the quality and completeness of the asset inventory and strategy of each covered agency required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, on an annual basis, publish a report on each review conducted under subparagraph (A).

(c) **ENSURING CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing a data center consolidation and optimization strategy under this Act, a covered agency shall do so in a manner that is consistent with Federal guidelines on cloud computing security, including—

(A) applicable provisions found within the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP); and

(B) guidance published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the ability of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to update or modify the Federal guidelines on cloud computing security.

(d) **WAIVER OF DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director of National Intelligence may waive the applicability to any element (or component of an element) of the intelligence community of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(e) **SUNSET.**—This Act is repealed effective on October 1, 2018.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered, the Bennet and Carper amendments, which are at the desk, be agreed to en bloc, and the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3930) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify reporting requirements for the Department of Defense)

On page 16, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(C) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.**—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

The amendment (No. 3929) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the provision relating to waiver of requirements)

On page 22, strike lines 11 through 24, and insert the following:

(d) **WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1611), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1611

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Data Center Consolidation Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INITIATIVE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator for the Office of E-Government and Information Technology within the Office of Management and Budget.

(2) **COVERED AGENCY.**—The term “covered agency” means the following (including all associated components of the agency):

- (A) Department of Agriculture;
- (B) Department of Commerce;
- (C) Department of Defense;
- (D) Department of Education;
- (E) Department of Energy;
- (F) Department of Health and Human Services;
- (G) Department of Homeland Security;
- (H) Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (I) Department of the Interior;
- (J) Department of Justice;
- (K) Department of Labor;
- (L) Department of State;
- (M) Department of Transportation;
- (N) Department of Treasury;
- (O) Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (P) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (Q) General Services Administration;
- (R) National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- (S) National Science Foundation;
- (T) Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
- (U) Office of Personnel Management;
- (V) Small Business Administration;
- (W) Social Security Administration; and
- (X) United States Agency for International Development.

(3) **FDCCI.**—The term “FDCCI” means the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative

described in the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum on the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative, dated February 26, 2010, or any successor thereto.

(4) GOVERNMENT-WIDE DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND OPTIMIZATION METRICS.—The term “Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics” means the metrics established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(2)(G).

(b) FEDERAL DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION INVENTORIES AND STRATEGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, assisted by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall submit to the Administrator—

(i) a comprehensive inventory of the data centers owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

(ii) a multi-year strategy to achieve the consolidation and optimization of the data centers inventoried under clause (i), that includes—

(I) performance metrics—

(aa) that are consistent with the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) by which the quantitative and qualitative progress of the agency toward the goals of the FDCCI can be measured;

(II) a timeline for agency activities to be completed under the FDCCI, with an emphasis on benchmarks the agency can achieve by specific dates;

(III) year-by-year calculations of investment and cost savings for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date described in subsection (e), broken down by each year, including a description of any initial costs for data center consolidation and optimization and life cycle cost savings and other improvements, with an emphasis on—

(aa) meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(bb) demonstrating the amount of agency-specific cost savings each fiscal year achieved through the FDCCI; and

(IV) any additional information required by the Administrator.

(B) USE OF OTHER REPORTING STRUCTURES.—The Administrator may require a covered agency to include the information required to be submitted under this subsection through reporting structures determined by the Administrator to be appropriate.

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

(D) STATEMENT.—Each year, beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the head of each covered agency, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i)(I) submit a statement to the Administrator stating whether the agency has complied with the requirements of this Act; and

(II) make the statement submitted under subclause (I) publically available; and

(ii) if the agency has not complied with the requirements of this Act, submit a statement to the Administrator explaining the reasons for not complying with such requirements.

(E) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES.—Each covered agency, under the direction of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, shall—

(i) implement the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(ii) provide updates to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis, of—

(I) the completion of activities by the agency under the FDCCI;

(II) any progress of the agency towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics; and

(III) the actual cost savings and other improvements realized through the implementation of the strategy of the agency.

(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the reporting of information by a covered agency to the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Congress.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish the deadline, on an annual basis, for covered agencies to submit information under this section;

(B) establish a list of requirements that the covered agencies must meet to be considered in compliance with paragraph (1);

(C) ensure that information relating to agency progress towards meeting the Government-wide data center consolidation and optimization metrics is made available in a timely manner to the general public;

(D) review the inventories and strategies submitted under paragraph (1) to determine whether they are comprehensive and complete;

(E) monitor the implementation of the data center strategy of each covered agency that is required under paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

(F) update, on an annual basis, the cumulative cost savings realized through the implementation of the FDCCI; and

(G) establish metrics applicable to the consolidation and optimization of data centers Government-wide, including metrics with respect to—

(i) costs;

(ii) efficiencies, including at least server efficiency; and

(iii) any other metrics the Administrator establishes under this subparagraph.

(3) COST SAVING GOAL AND UPDATES FOR CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop, and make publically available, a goal, broken down by year, for the amount of planned cost savings and optimization improvements achieved through the FDCCI during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act

and ending on the date described in subsection (e).

(B) ANNUAL UPDATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the goal described in subparagraph (A) is made publically available, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall aggregate the reported cost savings of each covered agency and optimization improvements achieved to date through the FDCCI and compare the savings to the projected cost savings and optimization improvements developed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) UPDATE FOR CONGRESS.—The goal required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and shall be accompanied by a statement describing—

(I) whether each covered agency has in fact submitted a comprehensive asset inventory, including an assessment broken down by agency, which shall include the specific numbers, utilization, and efficiency level of data centers; and

(II) whether each covered agency has submitted a comprehensive consolidation strategy with the key elements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(4) GAO REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and verify the quality and completeness of the asset inventory and strategy of each covered agency required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, on an annual basis, publish a report on each review conducted under subparagraph (A).

(c) ENSURING CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS FOR DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION AND CLOUD COMPUTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing a data center consolidation and optimization strategy under this Act, a covered agency shall do so in a manner that is consistent with Federal guidelines on cloud computing security, including—

(A) applicable provisions found within the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP); and

(B) guidance published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the ability of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to update or modify the Federal guidelines on cloud computing security.

(d) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(e) SUNSET.—This Act is repealed effective on October 1, 2018.

BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 548, S. 1691.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1691) to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1691

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—
(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents are sufficiently ready to conduct necessary work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retains the right to assign scheduled and unscheduled work for mission requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) RATES OF PAY.—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:

“§5550. Border patrol rate of pay

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(A) the term ‘basic border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol, as determined without regard to this section;

“(2) the term ‘border patrol agent’ means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

“(3) the term ‘level 1 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

“(4) the term ‘level 2 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.125 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

“(5) the term ‘work period’ means a 14-day bi-weekly pay period.

“(b) RECEIPT OF BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—

“(1) VOLUNTARY ELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a border patrol agent shall make an election whether the border patrol agent shall, for that year, be assigned to—

“(i) the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) the level 2 border patrol rate of pay; or

“(iii) the basic border patrol rate of pay, with additional overtime assigned as needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate

regulations establishing procedures for elections under subparagraph (A).

“(C) INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION.—Not later than 60 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide each border patrol agent with information regarding each type of election available under subparagraph (A) and how to make such an election.

“(D) ASSIGNMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

“(i) a border patrol agent who fails to make a timely election under subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) a border patrol agent who is assigned a canine shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(iii) if at any time U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis in accordance with this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall assign the border patrol agent to the basic border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis;

“(iv) unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be allowed to elect or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, a border patrol agent shall be assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

“(I) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

“(II) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

“(III) in an administrative position; or

“(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

“(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (E).

“(E) FLEXIBILITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(ii) WAIVER.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if, based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

“(iii) CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(F) CANINE CARE.—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii)—

“(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

“(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be

counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on the regular workday; and

“(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

“(G) PAY ASSIGNMENT CONTINUITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the assignment of a border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the average border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

“(ii) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, or the basic border patrol rate of pay, to implement the plan developed under this subparagraph.

“(iii) REPORTING.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (i) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(iv) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection issues the plan required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

“(v) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(vi) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

“(2) LEVEL 1 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 25 percent supplement within the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime

hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agency is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(3) LEVEL 2 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 12.5 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is excused from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agency is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(4) BASIC BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with 8 hours of regular time per workday; and

“(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

“(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER PREMIUM PAY.—A border patrol agent—

“(1) shall receive premium pay for nightwork in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 5545 and Sunday and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

“(A) no premium pay for night, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) or (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (b), consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) or (3)(C) of subsection (b); and

“(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

“(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

“(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

“(d) TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as part of basic pay solely for—

“(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8704(c);

“(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

“(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

“(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

“(e) TRAVEL TIME.—Travel time to and from home and duty station by a border patrol agent shall not be considered hours of work under any provision of law.

“(f) LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND SUBSTITUTION OF HOURS.—

“(1) REGULAR TIME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent, but in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

“(C) PRIORITY FOR REGULAR TIME SUBSTITUTION.—Hours of work shall be substituted for regular time work under this paragraph before

being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

“(2) OVERTIME WORK.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and credited as scheduled overtime; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

“(3) APPLICATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME.—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient additional work in a work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

“(4) INSUFFICIENT HOURS.—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied towards the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

“(g) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OVERTIME WORK.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform hours of overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including if needed in the event of a local or national emergency.”.

(c) OVERTIME WORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) In applying subsection (a) with respect to a border patrol agent covered by section 5550, the following rules apply:

“(1) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(2) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime

work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(3) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a 14-day biweekly pay period, a border patrol agent may not earn compensatory time off for more than 10 hours of overtime work.

“(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, as it determines appropriate, waive the limitation under subparagraph (A) for an individual border patrol agent for hours of irregular or occasional overtime work, but such waiver must be approved in writing in advance of the performance of any such work for which compensatory time off is earned under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), or (3)(B)(ii). If a waiver request by a border patrol agent is denied, the border patrol agent may not be ordered to perform the associated overtime work.

“(5) A border patrol agent—

“(A) may not earn more than 240 hours of compensatory time off during a leave year;

“(B) shall use any hours of compensatory time off not later than the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period during which the compensatory time off was earned;

“(C) shall be required to use 1 hour of compensatory time off for each hour of regular time not worked for which the border patrol agent is not on paid leave or other paid time off or does not substitute time in accordance with section 5550(f);

“(D) shall forfeit any compensatory time off not used in accordance with this paragraph and, regardless of circumstances, shall not be entitled to any cash value for compensatory time earned under section 5550;

“(E) shall not receive credit towards the computation of the annuity of the border patrol agent for compensatory time, whether used or not; and

“(F) shall not be credited with compensatory time off if the value of such time off would cause the aggregate premium pay of the border patrol agent to exceed the limitation established under section 5547 in the period in which it was earned.”

(2) MINIMIZATION OF OVERTIME.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid the use of scheduled overtime work by border patrol agents.

(d) RETIREMENT.—Section 8331(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(3) by inserting a new subparagraph after subparagraph (H) as follows:

“(I) with respect to a border patrol agent, the amount of supplemental pay received through application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for scheduled overtime within the regular tour of duty of the border patrol agent as provided in section 5550;” and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (H), by striking “subparagraphs (B) through (H)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) through (I)”.

(e) COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, and submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report, that—

(A) examines the staffing requirements for U.S. Border Patrol to most effectively meet its operational requirements at each Border Patrol duty station;

(B) estimates the cost of the staffing requirements at each Border Patrol duty station; and

(C) includes—

(i) a position-by-position review at each Border Patrol station to determine—

(I) the duties assigned to each position;

(II) how the duties relate to the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol; and

(III) the number of hours border patrol agents in that position would need to work each pay period to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol;

(ii) the metrics used to determine the number of hours of work performed at each Border Patrol station, broken down by the type of hours worked;

(iii) a cost analysis of the most recent full fiscal year by the type of full-time equivalent hours worked;

(iv) a cost estimate by the type of full-time equivalent hours expected to be worked during the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(v) an analysis that compares the cost of assigning the full-time equivalent hours needed to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol to existing border patrol agents through higher rates of pay versus recruiting, hiring, training, and deploying additional border patrol agents.

(2) INDEPENDENT VALIDATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(2) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(3) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code is amended by—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, “and” before “5546”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and 5550” after “5546 (a) and (b)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Any supplemental pay resulting from receipt of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550 shall be considered premium pay in applying this section.”

(2) Section 13(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(18) any employee who is a border patrol agent, as defined in section 5550(a) of title 5, United States Code.”

(3) The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

“5550. Border patrol rate of pay.”

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered; the Carper amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3931) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in Today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 1691), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1691

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents are sufficiently ready to conduct necessary work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retains the right to assign scheduled and unscheduled work for mission requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) **RATES OF PAY.**—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:

“§ 5550. Border patrol rate of pay

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘basic border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol, as determined without regard to this section;

“(2) the term ‘border patrol agent’ means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

“(3) the term ‘level 1 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

“(4) the term ‘level 2 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.125 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

“(5) the term ‘work period’ means a 14-day biweekly pay period.

“(b) **RECEIPT OF BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—

“(1) **VOLUNTARY ELECTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a border patrol agent shall make an election whether the border patrol agent shall, for that year, be assigned to—

“(i) the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) the level 2 border patrol rate of pay; or

“(iii) the basic border patrol rate of pay, with additional overtime assigned as needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(B) **REGULATIONS.**—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations establishing procedures for elections under subparagraph (A).

“(C) **INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION.**—Not later than 60 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide each border patrol agent with information regarding each type of election available under subparagraph (A) and how to make such an election.

“(D) **ASSIGNMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

“(i) a border patrol agent who fails to make a timely election under subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(ii) a border patrol agent who is assigned a canine shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(iii) if at any time U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis in accordance with this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall assign the border patrol agent to the basic border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis;

“(iv) unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to

more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be allowed to elect or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, a border patrol agent shall be assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

“(I) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

“(II) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

“(III) in an administrative position; or

“(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

“(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (E).

“(E) **FLEXIBILITY.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(ii) **WAIVER.**—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if, based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

“(iii) **CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Clause (i) shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(F) **CANINE CARE.**—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii)—

“(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

“(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on the regular workday; and

“(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

“(G) **PAY ASSIGNMENT CONTINUITY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the assignment of a border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the average border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

“(ii) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, the level 2 border

patrol rate of pay, or the basic border patrol rate of pay, to implement the plan developed under this subparagraph.

“(iii) **REPORTING.**—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (i) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(iv) **GAO REVIEW.**—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection issues the plan required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

“(v) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(vi) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

“(2) **LEVEL 1 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.**—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 25 percent supplement within the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(3) LEVEL 2 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

“(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

“(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

“(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

“(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 12.5 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

“(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

“(ii) any compensatory time off;

“(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

“(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is excused from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

“(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

“(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

“(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

“(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall be paid at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

“(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

“(4) BASIC BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

“(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with 8 hours of regular time per workday; and

“(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

“(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER PREMIUM PAY.—A border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive premium pay for night-work in accordance with subsections (a) and

(b) of section 5545 and Sunday and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

“(A) no premium pay for night, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) or (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (b), consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) or (3)(C) of subsection (b); and

“(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

“(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

“(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

“(d) TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

“(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as part of basic pay solely for—

“(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8704(c);

“(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

“(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

“(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

“(e) TRAVEL TIME.—Travel time to and from home and duty station by a border patrol agent shall not be considered hours of work under any provision of law.

“(f) LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND SUBSTITUTION OF HOURS.—

“(1) REGULAR TIME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent, but in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

“(C) PRIORITY FOR REGULAR TIME SUBSTITUTION.—Hours of work shall be substituted for regular time work under this paragraph before being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

“(2) OVERTIME WORK.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

“(i) shall be substituted and credited as scheduled overtime; and

“(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

“(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

“(3) APPLICATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME.—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient additional work in a work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

“(4) INSUFFICIENT HOURS.—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied towards the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

“(g) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OVERTIME WORK.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform hours of overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including if needed in the event of a local or national emergency.”.

(c) OVERTIME WORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) In applying subsection (a) with respect to a border patrol agent covered by section 5550, the following rules apply:

“(1) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(2) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(3) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

“(A) hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

“(B) the border patrol agent—

“(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

“(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a 14-day biweekly pay period, a border patrol agent may not earn compensatory time off for more than 10 hours of overtime work.

“(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, as it determines appropriate, waive the limitation under subparagraph (A) for an individual border patrol agent for hours of irregular or occasional overtime work, but such waiver must be approved in writing in advance of the performance of any such work for which compensatory time off is earned under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), or (3)(B)(ii). If a waiver request by a border patrol agent is denied, the border patrol agent may not be ordered to perform the associated overtime work.

“(5) A border patrol agent—

“(A) may not earn more than 240 hours of compensatory time off during a leave year;

“(B) shall use any hours of compensatory time off not later than the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period during which the compensatory time off was earned;

“(C) shall be required to use 1 hour of compensatory time off for each hour of regular time not worked for which the border patrol agent is not on paid leave or other paid time off or does not substitute time in accordance with section 5550(f);

“(D) shall forfeit any compensatory time off not used in accordance with this paragraph and, regardless of circumstances, shall not be entitled to any cash value for compensatory time earned under section 5550;

“(E) shall not receive credit towards the computation of the annuity of the border patrol agent for compensatory time, whether used or not; and

“(F) shall not be credited with compensatory time off if the value of such time off would cause the aggregate premium pay of the border patrol agent to exceed the limitation established under section 5547 in the period in which it was earned.”.

(2) MINIMIZATION OF OVERTIME.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid the use of scheduled overtime work by border patrol agents.

(d) RETIREMENT.—Section 8331(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(3) by inserting a new subparagraph after subparagraph (H) as follows:

“(I) with respect to a border patrol agent, the amount of supplemental pay received through application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for scheduled overtime within the regular tour of duty of the border patrol agent as provided in section 5550;” and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (H), by striking “subparagraphs (B) through (H)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) through (I)”.

(e) COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, and submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report, that—

(A) examines the staffing requirements for U.S. Border Patrol to most effectively meet its operational requirements at each Border Patrol duty station;

(B) estimates the cost of the staffing requirements at each Border Patrol duty station; and

(C) includes—

(i) a position-by-position review at each Border Patrol station to determine—

(I) the duties assigned to each position;

(II) how the duties relate to the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol; and

(III) the number of hours border patrol agents in that position would need to work each pay period to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol;

(ii) the metrics used to determine the number of hours of work performed at each Border Patrol station, broken down by the type of hours worked;

(iii) a cost analysis of the most recent full fiscal year by the type of full-time equivalent hours worked;

(iv) a cost estimate by the type of full-time equivalent hours expected to be worked during the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(v) an analysis that compares the cost of assigning the full-time equivalent hours needed to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol to existing border patrol agents through higher rates of pay versus recruiting, hiring, training, and deploying additional border patrol agents.

(2) INDEPENDENT VALIDATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(2) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(3) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code is amended by—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, “and” before “5546”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and 5550” after “5546 (a) and (b)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Any supplemental pay resulting from receipt of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550 shall be considered premium pay in applying this section.”.

(2) Section 13(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(18) any employee who is a border patrol agent, as defined in section 5550(a) of title 5, United States Code.”.

(3) The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

“5550. Border patrol rate of pay.”.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), add the following:

“SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.—The term ‘collective bargaining agreement’ has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term ‘excepted service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

“(4) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—The term ‘preference eligible’ has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

“(5) QUALIFIED POSITION.—The term ‘qualified position’ means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the incumbent performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

“(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘Senior Executive Service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5, United States Code.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

“(1) ESTABLISH POSITIONS, APPOINT PERSONNEL, AND FIX RATES OF PAY.—

“(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may—

“(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

“(I) senior level positions designated under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(II) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

“(ii) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

“(iii) subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

“(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

“(2) BASIC PAY.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES OF BASIC PAY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under paragraph (1) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

“(B) PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may, consistent with section 5341 of title 5, United States Code, adopt such provisions of that title as provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay and may apply those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of that title.

“(3) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.—

“(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BASED ON TITLE 5 AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

“(B) ALLOWANCES IN NONFOREIGN AREAS.—An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under paragraph (2)(A) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section 5941, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

“(4) PLAN FOR EXECUTION OF AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with a plan for the use of the authorities provided under this subsection.

“(5) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

“(6) REQUIRED REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

“(1) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans' preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

“(2) describes—

“(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

“(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress; and

“(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

“(3) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

“(4) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

“(A) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

“(C) the total number of veterans hired;

“(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

“(E) the number of retirements of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

“(5) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

“(d) THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

“(e) INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

“(f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

“(1) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting “or” after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under sec-

tion 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002;”

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

“Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention.”

SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms “Cybersecurity Work Category”, “Data Element Code”, and “Specialty Area” have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions within the Department;

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(C) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—

(A) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures—

(i) to identify open positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the OPM Guide to Data Standards); and

(ii) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(B) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to—

(i) each employee within the Department who carries out cybersecurity functions; and

(ii) each open position within the Department that have been identified as having cybersecurity functions.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to

subsection (c)(2)(B), and annually through 2021, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need in the Department's cybersecurity workforce; and

(B) submit a report to the Director that—
(i) describes the Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) substantiates the critical need designations.

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—The Director shall provide the Secretary with timely guidance for identifying Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(A) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(B) Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(3) **CYBERSECURITY CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLACKFOOT RIVER LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2040.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2040) to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Crapo substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment No. (3932) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe with tribal headquarters at Fort Hall, Idaho—

(A) adopted a tribal constitution and by-laws on March 31, 1936, that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”);

(B) has entered into various treaties with the United States, including the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger, executed on July 3, 1868; and

(C) has maintained a continuous government-to-government relationship with the United States since the earliest years of the Union;

(2)(A) in 1867, President Andrew Johnson designated by Executive order the Fort Hall Reservation for various bands of Shoshone and Bannock Indians;

(B) the Reservation is located near the cities of Blackfoot and Pocatello in southeastern Idaho; and

(C) article 4 of the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger secured the Reservation as a “permanent home” for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

(3)(A) according to the Executive order referred to in paragraph (2)(A), the Blackfoot River, as the river existed in its natural state—

(i) is the northern boundary of the Reservation; and

(ii) flows in a westerly direction along that northern boundary; and

(B) within the Reservation, land use in the River watershed is dominated by—

(i) rangeland;

(ii) dry and irrigated farming; and

(iii) residential development;

(4)(A) in 1964, the Corps of Engineers completed a local flood protection project on the River—

(i) authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 170); and

(ii) sponsored by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7;

(B) the project consisted of building levees, replacing irrigation diversion structures, replacing bridges, and channel realignment; and

(C) the channel realignment portion of the project severed various parcels of land located contiguous to the River along the boundary of the Reservation, resulting in Indian land being located north of the Realigned River and non-Indian land being located south of the Realigned River;

(5) beginning in 1999, the Cadastral Survey Office of the Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys of—

(A) 25 parcels of Indian land; and

(B) 19 parcels of non-Indian land; and

(6) the enactment of this Act and separate agreements of the parties would represent a resolution of the disputes described in subsection (b)(1) among—

(A) the Tribes;

(B) the allottees; and

(C) the non-Indian landowners.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the land ownership and land use disputes resulting from realignment of the River by the Corps of Engineers during

calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(2) to achieve a final and fair solution to resolve those disputes.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ALLOTTEE.**—The term “allottee” means an heir of an original allottee of the Reservation who owns an interest in a parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the allottee; and

(B) located north of the Realigned River within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

(2) **BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT NO. 7.**—The term “Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7” means the governmental subdivision in the State of Idaho, located at 75 East Judicial, Blackfoot, Idaho, that—

(A) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the Realigned River; and

(B) represents the non-Indian landowners relating to the resolution of the disputes described in section 2(b)(1) in accordance with this Act.

(3) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” means any parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes or the allottees;

(B) located north of the Realigned River; and

(C) identified in exhibit A of the survey of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Survey of the Blackfoot River of 2002 to 2005”, which is located at—

(i) the Fort Hall Indian Agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

(4) **NON-INDIAN LAND.**—The term “non-Indian land” means any parcel of fee land that is—

(A) located south of the Realigned River; and

(B) identified in exhibit B, which is located at the areas described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(C).

(5) **NON-INDIAN LANDOWNER.**—The term “non-Indian landowner” means any individual who holds fee title to non-Indian land and is represented by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for purposes of this Act.

(6) **REALIGNED RIVER.**—The term “Realigned River” means that portion of the River that was realigned by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in section 2(a)(4)(A).

(7) **RESERVATION.**—The term “Reservation” means the Fort Hall Reservation established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

(8) **RIVER.**—The term “River” means the Blackfoot River located in the State of Idaho.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) **TRIBES.**—The term “Tribes” means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO CERTAIN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OWNED LANDS.

(a) **RELEASE OF CLAIMS.**—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) all existing and future claims with respect to the Indian land and the non-Indian land and all right, title, and interest that the Tribes, allottees, non-Indian landowners, and the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may have had to that land shall be extinguished;

(2) any interest of the Tribes, the allottees, or the United States, acting as trustee for

the Tribes or allottees, in the Indian land shall be extinguished under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the "Indian Trade and Intercourse Act") (25 U.S.C. 177); and

(3) to the extent any interest in non-Indian land transferred into trust pursuant to section 5 violates section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the "Indian Trade and Intercourse Act") (25 U.S.C. 177), that transfer shall be valid, subject to the condition that the transfer is consistent with all other applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

(b) **DOCUMENTATION.**—The Secretary may execute and file any appropriate documents (including a plat or map of the transferred Indian land) that are suitable for filing with the Bingham County clerk or other appropriate county official, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. NON-INDIAN LAND TO BE PLACED INTO TRUST FOR TRIBES.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the non-Indian land shall be considered to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes.

SEC. 6. TRUST LAND TO BE CONVERTED TO FEE LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for use or sale in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **USE OF LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 shall use any proceeds from the sale of land described in subsection (a) according to the following priorities:

(A) To compensate, at fair market value, each non-Indian landowner for the net loss of land to that non-Indian landowner resulting from the implementation of this Act.

(B) To compensate the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for any administrative or other expenses relating to carrying out this Act.

(2) **REMAINING LAND.**—If any land remains to be conveyed or proceeds remain after the sale of the land, the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may dispose of that remaining land or proceeds as the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON ORIGINAL RESERVATION BOUNDARY.

Nothing in this Act affects the original boundary of the Reservation, as established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

SEC. 8. EFFECT ON TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act extinguishes or conveys any water right of the Tribes, as established in the agreement entitled "1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement" and ratified by section 4 of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-602; 104 Stat. 3060).

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act affects the obligation of Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 to maintain adequate rights-of-way for the operation and maintenance of the local flood protection projects described in section 2(a)(4) pursuant to agreements between the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 and the Corps of Engineers.

(b) **RESTRICTION ON FEES.**—Any land conveyed to the Tribes pursuant to this Act

shall not be subject to fees assessed by Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

SEC. 10. DISCLAIMERS REGARDING CLAIMS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects in any manner the sovereign claim of the State of Idaho to title in and to the beds and banks of the River under the equal footing doctrine of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) affects any action by the State of Idaho to establish the title described in paragraph (1) under section 2409a of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the "Quiet Title Act");

(3) affects the ability of the Tribes or the United States to claim ownership of the beds and banks of the River; or

(4) extinguishes or conveys any water rights of non-Indian landowners or the claims of those landowners to water rights in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The bill (S. 2040), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 565, S. 2061.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2061) to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2061

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Conflicts of Interest with Contractors Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "agency" means—

(A) an executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) a military department (as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code);

(C) an element of the intelligence community (as that term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(D) the United States Postal Service; and

(E) the Postal Regulatory Commission;

(2) the term "background investigation fieldwork services" means the investigatory fieldwork conducted to determine the eligibility of an individual for logical and physical access to Federally-controlled facilities or information systems, suitability or fitness for Federal employment, eligibility for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position, or fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Federal Government as a contractor or employee, including—

(A) interviews of the individual, the employer of the individual, former employers of the individual, and friends, family, and other sources who might have relevant knowledge of the individual; and

(B) reviews of—

(i) educational and employment records;

(ii) criminal and other legal records; and

(iii) credit history;

(3) the term "background investigation support services" means the clerical, administrative, and technical support services provided to various functions critical to the background investigation process, including—

(A) initial processing and scheduling of investigative requests;

(B) information technology and information technology support;

(C) file maintenance;

(D) imaging or copying of investigation documents; and

(E) mail processing; and

(4) the term "quality review process" means performing the final quality review of a background investigation to ensure investigative, administrative, and other required standards have been met before the completed background investigation is delivered to the adjudicating agency.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING TO PREVENT ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the date of enactment of this Act, a contract may not be entered into, and an extension of or option on a contract may not be exercised, with a contractor to conduct a quality review process relating to background investigation fieldwork services or background investigation support services if the contractor is performing the services to be reviewed.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2061), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENHANCE LABELING, ACCESSING, AND BRANDING OF ELECTRONIC LICENSES ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 570, S. 2583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2583) to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill S. 2583 was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014” or the “E-LABEL Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Federal Communications Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) first standardized physical labels for licensed products such as computers, phones, and other electronic devices in 1973, and the Commission has continually refined physical label requirements over time.

(2) As devices become smaller, compliance with physical label requirements can become more difficult and costly.

(3) Many manufacturers and consumers of licensed devices in the United States would prefer to have the option to provide or receive important Commission labeling information digitally on the screen of the device, at the discretion of the user.

(4) An electronic labeling option would give flexibility to manufacturers in meeting labeling requirements.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC LABELING.

Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 720. OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC LABELING OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘electronic labeling’ means displaying required labeling and regulatory information electronically; and

“(2) the term ‘radiofrequency device with display’ means any equipment or device that—

“(A) is required under regulations of the Commission to be authorized by the Commission before the equipment or device may be marketed or sold within the United States; and

“(B) has the capability to digitally display required labeling and regulatory information.

“(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRONIC LABELING.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014, the Commission shall promulgate regulations or take other appropriate action, as necessary, to allow manufacturers of radiofrequency devices with display the option to use electronic labeling for the equipment in place of affixing physical labels to the equipment.”.

SEC. 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The amendment made by section 3 shall not be construed to affect the authority of the Federal Communications Commission under section 302 of the Communications Act

of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 302a) to provide for electronic labeling of devices.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 492, S. 2673.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask unanimous consent that the Boxer amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3933) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To designate Israel as a program country under the Visa Waiver Program if Israel complies with the generally applicable requirements)

Beginning on page 8, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 9, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

The bill (S. 2673), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2673

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people and the Governments of the United States and of Israel share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.

(2) Today, the people and Governments of the United States and of Israel are facing a dynamic and rapidly changing security environment in the Middle East and North Africa, necessitating deeper cooperation on a range of defense, security, and intelligence matters.

(3) From Gaza, Hamas continues to deny Israel’s right to exist and persists in firing rockets indiscriminately at population centers in Israel.

(4) Hezbollah—with support from Iran—continues to stockpile rockets and may be

seeking to exploit the tragic and volatile security situation within Syria.

(5) The Government of Iran continues to pose a grave threat to the region and the world at large with its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

(6) Given these challenges, it is imperative that the United States continues to deepen cooperation with allies like Israel in pursuit of shared policy objectives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the security of Israel as a Jewish state;

(2) to reaffirm the principles and objectives enshrined in the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150) and ensure its implementation to the fullest extent;

(3) to reaffirm the importance of the 2007 United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on United States assistance to Israel and the semi-annual Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Israel;

(4) to pursue every opportunity to deepen cooperation with Israel on a range of critical issues including defense, homeland security, energy, and cybersecurity;

(5) to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System; and

(6) to support the Government of Israel in its ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinian people that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER.

It is the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking “more than 10 years after” and inserting “more than 11 years after”.

(b) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “and 2014” and inserting “, 2014, and 2015”.

SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Israel—

(1) has adopted high standards in the field of export controls;

(2) has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and

(3) is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on October 26, 1979.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United

States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, subject to existing law—

(1) to undertake activities in cooperation with Israel; and

(2) to provide assistance promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President is authorized, subject to existing requirements of law and any applicable agreements or understandings between the United States and Israel—

(1) to share and exchange with Israel research, technology, intelligence, information, equipment, and personnel, including through sales, leases, or exchanges in kind, that the President determines will advance the national security interests of the United States and are consistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent provisions of law; and

(2) to enhance scientific cooperation between Israel and the United States.

(c) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized, subject to existing law, to enter into cooperative research pilot programs with Israel to enhance Israel's capabilities in—

- (1) border, maritime, and aviation security;
- (2) explosives detection; and
- (3) emergency services.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON INCREASED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report, in a classified format or including a classified annex, as appropriate, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding United States-Israeli cooperation on cyber issues, including sharing and advancing technologies related to the prevention of cybercrimes.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SEC. 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF 2012.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, to the extent practicable and in an appropriate manner, provide an update to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current and future ef-

forts undertaken by the President to fulfill the objectives of section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act (22 U.S.C. 8603).

SEC. 11. IMPROVED REPORTING ON ENHANCING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE AND SECURITY POSTURE.

(a) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT REEVALUATIONS.—Section 201(c) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—Two years after the date on which each quadrennial report is transmitted to Congress, the President shall—

“(A) reevaluate the assessment required under subsection (a); and

“(B) inform and consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the results of the reevaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).”.

(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—A determination under paragraph (1) relating to the sale or export of major defense equipment shall include—

“(A) a detailed explanation of Israel's capacity to address the improved capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(B) a detailed evaluation of—

“(i) how such sale or export alters the strategic and tactical balance in the region, including relative capabilities; and

“(ii) Israel's capacity to respond to the improved regional capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(C) an identification of any specific new capacity, capabilities, or training that Israel may require to address the regional or country-specific capabilities provided by such sale or export; and

“(D) a description of any additional United States security assurances to Israel made, or requested to be made, in connection with, or as a result of, such sale or export.”.

SEC. 12. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 917(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “possible many” and inserting “possible—

“(A) many”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “and

“(B) significant contributions to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the established programs of the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;”;

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) United States-Israel energy cooperation and the development of natural re-

sources by Israel are in the strategic interest of the United States;

“(9) Israel is a strategic partner of the United States in water technology;

“(10) the United States can play a role in assisting Israel with regional safety and security issues;

“(11) the National Science Foundation of the United States, to the extent consistent with the National Science Foundation's mission, should collaborate with the Israel Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;

“(12) the United States and Israel should strive to develop more robust academic cooperation in—

“(A) energy innovation technology and engineering;

“(B) water science;

“(C) technology transfer; and

“(D) analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response;

“(13) the United States supports the goals of the Alternative Fuels Administration of Israel with respect to expanding the use of alternative fuels;

“(14) the United States strongly urges open dialogue and continued mechanisms for regular engagement and encourages further cooperation between applicable departments, agencies, ministries, institutions of higher education, and the private sector of the United States and Israel on energy security issues, including—

“(A) identifying policy priorities associated with the development of natural resources of Israel;

“(B) discussing and sharing best practices to secure cyber energy infrastructure and other energy security matters;

“(C) leveraging natural gas to positively impact regional stability;

“(D) issues relating to the energy-water nexus, including improving energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, water treatment in gas and oil production processes, and other water treatment refineries;

“(E) technical and environmental management of deep-water exploration and production;

“(F) emergency response and coastal protection and restoration;

“(G) academic outreach and engagement;

“(H) private sector and business development engagement;

“(I) regulatory consultations;

“(J) leveraging alternative transportation fuels and technologies; and

“(K) any other areas determined appropriate by the United States and Israel;

“(15) the United States—

“(A) acknowledges the achievements and importance of the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

“(B) supports continued multiyear funding to ensure the continuity of the programs of the foundations specified in subparagraph (A); and

“(16) the United States and Israel have a shared interest in addressing immediate, near-term, and long-term energy, energy poverty, energy independence, and environmental challenges facing the United States and Israel, respectively.”.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 917(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable energy or energy efficiency” and inserting “covered energy”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) natural gas energy, including conventional and unconventional natural gas technologies and other associated technologies, and natural gas projects conducted by or in conjunction with the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation; and

“(I) improvement of energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, and other water treatment refiners.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “energy efficiency or renewable” and inserting “covered”.

(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS; REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—

(1) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may enter into cooperative agreements supporting and enhancing dialogue and planning involving international partnerships between the Department, including National Laboratories of the Department, and the Government of Israel and its ministries, offices, and institutions.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may not pay more than 50 percent of Federal share of the costs of implementing cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—If the Secretary enters into agreements authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that describes—

“(A) actions taken to implement such agreements; and

“(B) any projects undertaken pursuant to such agreements.

“(d) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY CENTER.—The Secretary may establish a joint United States-Israel Energy Center in the United States leveraging the experience, knowledge, and expertise of institutions of higher education and entities in the private sector, among others, in offshore energy development to further dialogue and collaboration to develop more robust academic cooperation in energy innovation technology and engineering, water science, technology transfer, and analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats

from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response.”; and

(D) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking “the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

(2) CONSTRUCTIVE REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of State shall continue the ongoing diplomacy efforts of the Secretary of State in—

(A) engaging and supporting the energy security of Israel; and

(B) promoting constructive regional energy cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO OFFER REWARDS FOR INFORMATION ON THE KIDNAPING AND MURDER OF JAMES FOLEY AND STEVEN SOTLOFF

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 574, S. 2778.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2778) to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2778) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2778

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REWARDS AUTHORIZED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Rewards for Justice program authorized under section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)), the Secretary of State shall offer a reward to any individual who furnishes information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of any individual for committing, conspiring or attempting to commit, or aiding or abetting in the commission of the kidnapping and murder of James Foley or Steven Sotloff.

(b) LIMITATION.—The total amount of rewards offered under subsection (a) may not exceed \$10,000,000, and the total amount of rewards offered in connection with the kidnapping and murder of either one of the individuals named in such subsection may not exceed \$5,000,000.

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY JOHNSON

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Armed Services

Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2793 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2793) to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2793) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2793

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY JOHNSON FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR I.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Henry Johnson for the acts of valor during World War I described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Henry Johnson while serving as a member of Company C, 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, during combat operations against the enemy on the front lines of the Western Front in France on May 15, 1918, during World War I for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4980, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4980) to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4980) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IMPROPER PAYMENTS AGENCY COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 260, S. 1360.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1360) to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Coburn substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3934) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 1360), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 420 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 420) designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as "Naturopathic Medicine Week" to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 420) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 10, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING VETERANS DAY 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 479 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 479) recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 479) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3935) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: Of a perfecting nature.)

In the 6th whereas clause of the preamble, strike "marines" and insert "Marines".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 479

Whereas the United States, pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40), commenced a war against individuals responsible for the 9/11 attacks;

Whereas in the intervening 13 years, members of the United States Armed Forces have engaged in warfare around the globe, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas there have been 2,600,000 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 500,000 soldiers have completed multiple tours;

Whereas over 110,000 sailors have deployed as individual augmentees in support of the war ashore and additional sailors have deployed on navy vessels serving over 180,000 days at sea, providing power projection, regional stability, and global presence;

Whereas over 238,000 airmen have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 201,000 airmen have deployed to the Area of Responsibility, delivering flights in support of the war effort;

Whereas over 330,000 Marines have deployed afloat and ashore, ensuring peace in some of the most dangerous provinces in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and January 10, 2014, 287,911 cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI), often referred to as a signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 7,100 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas of the members of the Armed Forces who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, more than 6,800 have been killed in action and more than 52,000 have been wounded in action;

Whereas United States Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn combat military operations in Iraq are complete and United States direct military operations in Afghanistan will end in 2014 as the United States transitions to a training and assistance role;

Whereas the sacrifices of United States servicemembers and their families during the last 13 years should be recognized by all citizens of the United States;

Whereas November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of hostilities in World War I, and Veterans Day has been a legal holiday since May 13, 1938, when it was originally dedicated as "Armistice Day" to honor veterans of World War I and was subsequently amended to honor United States veterans of all wars in 1954; and

Whereas November 11th is the day for the Nation to reflect on the service and sacrifice of every generation of veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Veterans Day 2014 as a special "Welcome Home Commemoration" for all who have served in the United States Armed Forces since September 14, 2001;

(2) promotes awareness of the services and contributions of all post-9/11 veterans; and

(3) encourages communities in the United States to plan activities for Veterans Day 2014 to honor and support all who have served during this time and to provide citizens of the United States an opportunity to present unified recognition of the service and sacrifices of post-9/11 veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 529.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 529) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and commending its members for their courage and sacrifice in service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 529) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 30, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAQ

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 575, S. Res. 530.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 530) expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which was reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble and an amendment to the title.

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas Iraq is currently embroiled in a surge of violence arising from an ISIL-led offensive that began in Anbar province and has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit, and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability;

Whereas, on June 29, 2014, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi renamed the group the Islamic State and pronounced himself Caliph of a new Islamic caliphate encompassing the areas under his control, and Mr. al-Baghdadi has a stated mission of spreading the Islamic State and caliphate across the region through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims, and unsupportive Sunnis;

Whereas Iraq's population is approximately 31,300,000 people, with 97 percent identifying themselves as Muslim and the approximately 3 percent of religious minorities groups comprising of Christians, Yazidis, Sabeen-Mandaeans, Bahais, Shabaks, Kakais, and Jews;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian population is estimated to be between 400,000 and 850,000, with two-thirds being Chaldean, one-fifth Assyrian, and the remainder consisting of Syriacs, Protestants, Armenians, and Anglicans;

Whereas the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating that "no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy," "no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms stipulated in this Constitution," and "[this Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandeans Sabeans";

Whereas the fall of Mosul in particular has sparked enough anxiety among the Christian population that, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no Mass in that city;

Whereas over 50 percent of Iraq's Christian population has fled since the fall of Saddam Hussein, and the government under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did not uphold its commitment to protect the rights of religious minorities;

Whereas the United States Government has provided over \$73,000,000 of cumulative assistance to Iraq's minority populations since 2003 through economic development, humanitarian services, and capacity development;

Whereas 84,902 Iraqis have resettled to the United States between 2007 and 2013 and over 300,000 Chaldean and Assyrians currently reside throughout the country, particularly in Michi-

gan, California, Arizona, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, "Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to promoting and to protecting religious freedom around the world;

(2) calls on the Department of State to work with the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, neighboring countries, the diaspora community in the United States, and other key stakeholders to address the urgent plight of those Iraqi minority groups seeking safety and protection from persecution in Iraq;

(3) respectfully requests the Government of Iraq to prioritize the issue of protecting religious minorities and take concrete action to enact and enforce laws protecting religious freedom; and

(4) urges the President to ensure the timely processing of visas for Iraq's minority groups fleeing religious persecution, in accordance with existing United States immigration law and national security screening procedures.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 530), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)."

RECOGNIZING THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 572, S. Res. 541.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 541) recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if

not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas Ebola hemorrhagic fever is an extremely infectious virus that causes severe illness with a fatality rate that can well exceed 50 percent;

Whereas Ebola is spread through contact with blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids of infected humans and animals and can have an incubation period of up to 21 days;

Whereas the Ebola virus first appeared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976 and has afflicted communities in Africa at least 20 times since then;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak first occurred in February 2014 in forested areas of southeastern Guinea and subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently discovered the outbreak of a separate strain of the virus;

Whereas this is the first outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and the biggest and most complex to date, due to its emergence in populated, transient border areas, making containment a significant challenge;

Whereas, to date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ebola had infected more than 4,400 people in West Africa and caused nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak has occurred in countries with some of the weakest health systems in the world facing severe shortages of healthcare workers, laboratories essential for testing and diagnosis, clinics and hospitals required for treatment, and medical supplies and protective gear, such as latex gloves and face masks required to prevent contamination of health facilities;

Whereas these weak and inadequate healthcare facilities, a lack of health staff trained in Ebola response, and misconceptions about the virus have resulted in numerous infections of health workers and patients unable to receive appropriate response and care;

Whereas effective countermeasures for stemming the spread of Ebola, such as isolation, meticulous infection control practices, case investigation, and contact tracing require more trained personnel and resources than are currently available in West Africa;

Whereas, although Ebola can be contained with good public health and burial practices, it continues to spread due to a lack of accurate public information, insufficient treatment facilities, limited local language capacities required for health education, and an unwillingness to allow those infected to be isolated from family members;

Whereas governments are collaborating closely with international donors and taking strong measures to contain the virus, including announcing states of emergency and establishing emergency response centers;

Whereas the limitations on transportation and travel and closing of businesses have had a devastating economic impact throughout the region and may cause social instability and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis if not properly managed and offset;

Whereas the international community has committed to support solutions to the current limitations on air traffic and establish a common operational platform to address acute problems associated with food security, protection,

water, sanitation and hygiene, primary and secondary health care, and education, as well as the longer-term recovery effort that will be needed in the face of the complex social consequences of this emergency;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda have sent experts familiar with such outbreaks to Liberia to assist with the outbreak response, and the Governments of Senegal and Ghana have agreed to serve as logistics and coordination centers for the international assistance effort, providing vital corridors for supplies and personnel;

Whereas, after visiting affected communities in West Africa, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden said on September 2, 2014, "There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing... we need action now to scale up the response.";

Whereas the United States Government has provided more than \$175,000,000 in support through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and the United States Armed Forces since February 2014 and intends to mobilize additional resources and support as announced by President Obama on September 16, 2014;

Whereas the United States Government helped to fund the development of the Zmapp biopharmaceutical experimental drug that was given to United States health workers afflicted with the virus and was recently donated to Liberian doctors with encouraging effect and has prompted calls for further research and development of such vaccines;

Whereas, on August 5, 2014, the United States Government deployed a multi-agency Disaster Assistance Response Team composed of staff from Federal agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Forest Service to coordinate the United States Government's response efforts;

Whereas the World Health Organization published on August 28, 2014, a roadmap for scaled-up response that aims to stop the virus in 6 to 9 months and calls for 750 international and 12,000 local health workers to contribute to the halt of the Ebola outbreak; and

Whereas, earlier this year, the United States Government joined with partner governments, the World Health Organization, other multilateral organizations, and nongovernmental actors to launch the Global Health Security Agenda, a 5-year commitment to prevent, detect, and effectively respond to infectious disease threats such as Ebola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 541) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, is as follows:

S. RES. 541

Whereas Ebola hemorrhagic fever is an extremely infectious virus that causes severe illness with a fatality rate that can well exceed 50 percent;

Whereas Ebola is spread through contact with blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids of infected humans and animals and can have an incubation period of up to 21 days;

Whereas the Ebola virus first appeared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976 and has afflicted communities in Africa at least 20 times since then;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak first occurred in February 2014 in forested areas of southeastern Guinea and subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently discovered the outbreak of a separate strain of the virus;

Whereas this is the first outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and the biggest and most complex to date, due to its emergence in populated, transient border areas, making containment a significant challenge;

Whereas, to date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ebola had infected more than 4,400 people in West Africa and caused nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths;

Whereas the current Ebola outbreak has occurred in countries with some of the weakest health systems in the world facing severe shortages of healthcare workers, laboratories essential for testing and diagnosis, clinics and hospitals required for treatment, and medical supplies and protective gear, such as latex gloves and face masks required to prevent contamination of health facilities;

Whereas these weak and inadequate healthcare facilities, a lack of health staff trained in Ebola response, and misconceptions about the virus have resulted in numerous infections of health workers and patients unable to receive appropriate response and care;

Whereas effective countermeasures for stemming the spread of Ebola, such as isolation, meticulous infection control practices, case investigation, and contact tracing require more trained personnel and resources than are currently available in West Africa;

Whereas, although Ebola can be contained with good public health and burial practices, it continues to spread due to a lack of accurate public information, insufficient treatment facilities, limited local language capacities required for health education, and an unwillingness to allow those infected to be isolated from family members;

Whereas governments are collaborating closely with international donors and taking strong measures to contain the virus, including announcing states of emergency and establishing emergency response centers;

Whereas the limitations on transportation and travel and closing of businesses have had a devastating economic impact throughout the region and may cause social instability and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis if not properly managed and offset;

Whereas the international community has committed to support solutions to the current limitations on air traffic and establish a common operational platform to address acute problems associated with food security, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, primary and secondary health care, and education, as well as the longer-term recovery effort that will be needed in the face of the complex social consequences of this emergency;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda have sent experts familiar with such outbreaks to Liberia to assist with the outbreak response, and the Governments of Senegal and Ghana have agreed to serve as logistics and coordination centers for the international assistance effort, providing vital corridors for supplies and personnel;

Whereas, after visiting affected communities in West Africa, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden said on September 2, 2014, "There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing... we need action now to scale up the response.";

Whereas the United States Government has provided more than \$175,000,000 in support through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and the United States Armed Forces since February 2014 and intends to mobilize additional resources and support as announced by President Obama on September 16, 2014;

Whereas the United States Government helped to fund the development of the Zmapp biopharmaceutical experimental drug that was given to United States health workers afflicted with the virus and was recently donated to Liberian doctors with encouraging effect and has prompted calls for further research and development of such vaccines;

Whereas, on August 5, 2014, the United States Government deployed a multi-agency Disaster Assistance Response Team composed of staff from Federal agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Forest Service to coordinate the United States Government's response efforts;

Whereas the World Health Organization published on August 28, 2014, a roadmap for scaled-up response that aims to stop the virus in 6 to 9 months and calls for 750 international and 12,000 local health workers to contribute to the halt of the Ebola outbreak; and

Whereas, earlier this year, the United States Government joined with partner governments, the World Health Organization, other multilateral organizations, and nongovernmental actors to launch the Global Health Security Agenda, a 5-year commitment to prevent, detect, and effectively respond to infectious disease threats such as Ebola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the severe immediate threat that Ebola poses to populations, governments, and economies in Africa;

(2) recognizes that the limited capacity of the initial outbreak countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to combat the epidemic has been exhausted and the potential threat to regions beyond Africa if this, the largest of all Ebola outbreaks, is not contained;

(3) expresses support for those affected by this epidemic and affirms its sympathy for victims of Ebola and their families;

(4) supports the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for their ongoing efforts to combat the Ebola virus in their countries and regionally;

(5) urges citizens of affected countries to respect preventative guidelines provided by their governments and medical professionals from Africa and around the world in order to stem the outbreak;

(6) supports the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of State, the Forest Service, and other United States Government agencies providing technical, logistical, and material support to address the Ebola crisis in West Africa;

(7) encourages deepened United States and international commitments to the global Ebola response;

(8) welcomes the delivery of assistance and increased engagement from donors such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Government of Canada;

(9) expresses support for the promotion of investments in global health in order to ensure that governments can better prevent and detect, contain, and eventually eliminate outbreaks of disease while also providing other essential health services;

(10) supports the World Health Organization's Ebola Response Roadmap and a common operational platform in response to the crisis;

(11) encourages the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone to work together and with other nations and regional and subregional organizations to establish institutional emergency response systems to more effectively respond to this and future outbreaks of Ebola and other highly infectious diseases;

(12) welcomes proactive measures taken by governments in West Africa to formulate national plans of action in response to the crisis; and

(13) recognizes the work of thousands of African, United States, and international officials and volunteers on the ground in West Africa, particularly healthcare workers, who are working diligently and at great risk to help address this multidimensional crisis, and encourages other healthcare workers and logisticians to volunteer.

DON'T TAX OUR FALLEN PUBLIC SAFETY HEROES ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2912, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2912) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2912) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2912

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act".

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

Subsection (a) of section 104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting "; and", and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) amounts received pursuant to—

"(A) section 1201 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796); or

"(B) a program established under the laws of any State which provides monetary compensation for surviving dependents of a public safety officer who has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty,

except that subparagraph (B) shall not apply to any amounts that would have been payable if death of the public safety officer had occurred other than as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 571, S. Res. 572, S. Res. 573, S. Res. 574, and S. Res. 575.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 44, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PRYOR. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, September 18 through Wednesday, November 12, the majority leader and Senators ROCKEFELLER, REED of Rhode Island, CARPER, COONS, and CARDIN be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, THROUGH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session, unless the Senate receives a message from the House that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, the adjournment resolution: Monday, September 22 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, September 25 at 12 noon; Monday, September 29 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 2 at 12 noon; Monday, October 6 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, October 9 at 12 noon; Monday, October 13

at 12 noon; Thursday, October 16 at 12 noon; Monday, October 20, at 10:15 a.m.; Thursday, October 23 at 12 noon; Monday, October 27 at 12 noon; Thursday, October 30 at 12 noon; Monday, November 3 at 12 noon; Thursday, November 6 at 12 noon; and Monday, November 10 at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on November 10, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014; further, that if the Senate receives a message that the House has adopted S. Con. Res. 44, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, for a pro forma session only, and that following the pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until Wednesday, November 12, at 2 p.m.; that on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately proceed to vote on cloture on the Moss and May nominations, as provided for under the previous order, and that this be the first rollcall vote of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, there will be two rollcall votes on cloture on the nominations of Randolph Moss to be United States district judge for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to be United States district judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, AT 4 P.M.

Mr. PRYOR. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:31 p.m., conditionally adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2014, at 4 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

FRANCINE BERMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A

TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE GARY D. GLENN, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA ANN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2016, VICE JAMES PALMER, TERM EXPIRED.

ERIC P. LIU, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 27, 2017, VICE LAYSHAE WARD, TERM EXPIRED.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JOSEPH PIUS PIETRZYK, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2017. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DEBORAH WILLIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE CAROL M. SWAIN, TERM EXPIRED.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

DALLAS P. TONSAGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2020, VICE JILL LONG THOMPSON, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MARIO CORDERO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

THO DINH-ZARR, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018, VICE DEBORAH HERSMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARIA ECHAVESTE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

BRIAN JAMES EGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE HAROLD HONGJU KOH, RESIGNED.

PAUL A. FOLMSBEE, OF OKLAHOMA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALI.

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

RICHARD RAHUL VERMA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

ALLISON BECK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE GEORGE H. COHEN, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

EARL L. GAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, VICE CHRISTINE M. GRIFFIN.

THE JUDICIARY

JOAN MARIE AZRACK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOANNA SEYBERT, RETIRED.

ALFRED H. BENNETT, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE KENNETH M. HOYT, RETIRED.

LORETTA COPELAND BIGGS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE JAMES A. BEATY, JR., RETIRED.

ELIZABETH K. DILLON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE SAMUEL GRAYSON WILSON, RETIRED.

GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE NANCY FRIEDMAN ATLAS, RETIRED.

JOSE ROLANDO OLVERA, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE HILDA G. TAGLE, RETIRED.

JILL N. PARRISH, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, VICE DEE V. BENSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. RONALD P. CLARK

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, September 18, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADAM M. SCHEINMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIC ROSENBAUGH, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK WILLIAM LIPPERT, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALFONSO E. LENHARDT, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEVIN F. O'MALLEY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

D. NATHAN SHEETS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT W. HOLLEYMAN II, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELIZABETH SHERWOOD-RANDALL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CHARLES H. FULGHUM, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS FRIEDEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 18, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

RHEA SUN SUH, OF COLORADO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE THOMAS L. STRICKLAND, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

ALISON RENEE LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE CAMERON M. CURRIE, RETIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 19, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 19, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As our world finds itself in armed conflict in so many volatile regions, give those who work for peace, a cessation of violence, and the care of refugees and the victims of these tragedies the strength and fortitude they need to meet such great needs. Grant success to the work of their hands.

The Members of this assembly have returned home to engage in campaigns for election. Bless them with peace, honesty, and fairness. Bless the people of this great Nation with the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2014.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 19, 2014 at 10:13 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 44.

That the Senate passed S. 1611.

That the Senate passed S. 1691.

That the Senate passed S. 2040.

That the Senate passed S. 2061.

That the Senate passed S. 2583.

That the Senate passed S. 2673.

That the Senate passed S. 2778.

That the Senate passed S. 2793.

That the Senate passed S. 1360.

That the Senate passed S. 2912.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 83.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 594.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2600.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3043.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3716.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4994.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5062.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5404.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4980.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Thursday, September 18, 2014:

H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Tuesday, October 14, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, it stand adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Friday, November 7, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles:

July 25, 2014:

H.R. 255. An Act to amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 272. An Act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 291. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

H.R. 330. An Act to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

H.R. 356. An Act to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes".

H.R. 507. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 697. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 876. An Act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1158. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

H.R. 1216. An Act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

H.R. 1376. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 1813. An Act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

H.R. 2337. An Act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

H.R. 3110. An Act to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

August 1, 2014:

H.R. 1528. An Act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

August 4, 2014:

H.J. Res. 76. A joint resolution making an emergency supplemental appropriation for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, to provide funding to Israel for the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats.

August 7, 2014:

H.R. 3230. An Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

August 8, 2014:

H.R. 606. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".

H.R. 1671. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office".

H.R. 2291. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office".

H.R. 3212. An Act to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3472. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3548. An Act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.

H.R. 3765. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".

H.R. 4028. An Act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

H.R. 4360. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".

H.R. 4386. An Act to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4631. An Act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4838. An Act to redesignate the railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly known as "30th Street Station", as the "William H. Gray III 30th Street Station".

H.R. 5021. An Act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5195. An Act to provide additional visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates

he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

August 1, 2014:

S. 517. An Act to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

August 8, 2014:

S. 653. An Act to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

S. 1104. An Act to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 1799. An Act to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1611. An act to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; in addition, to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1691. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; in addition, to the Committee on Homeland Security for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2061. An act to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. 2778. An act to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 2793. An act to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ENROLLED BILL AND A JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 4323. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 44, 113th Congress, the

House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7348. A letter from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Eliminate the 6-Day Reservation Period Requirement for Rural Development Obligations (RIN: 0575-ZA01) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7349. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Bovine Tuberculosis Status of Michigan; Advance Counties From Modified Accredited Advanced to Accredited-Free [Docket No.: APHIS-2014-0058] received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7350. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Limitation on Use of Cost-reimbursement Line Items (DFARS Case 2013-D016) (RIN: 0750-AI16) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7351. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Storage, Treatment, and Disposal of Toxic or Hazardous Materials-Statutory Update (DFARS Case 2013-D013) (RIN: 0750-AI07) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7352. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Taxes (DFARS Case 2013-D025) (RIN: 0750-AI19) September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7353. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priorities, Rehabilitation Services Administration — Capacity Building Program for Traditionally Underserved Populations — Vocational Rehabilitation Training Institute for the Preparation of Personnel in American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects [CFDA Number: 84.315C.] [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0024] received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7354. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Access to and Own-

ership of Records (RIN: 1991-AB85) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7355. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Annual Eligibility Redeterminations for Exchange Participation and Insurance Affordability Programs; Health Insurance Issuer Standards under the Affordable Care Act, Including Standards Related to Exchanges [CMS-9941-F] (RIN: 0938-AS32) received September 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7356. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2015 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2015 [Docket No.: NHTSA-2014-0059] (RIN: 2127-AL50) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7357. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Propenoic acid, butyl ester, polymer with 1,6-diisocyanatohexane, N-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methyl-2-propenamide and 2-propenenitrile; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0332; FRL-9915-82] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7358. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Open Burning Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0968; FRL-9916-47-Region 5] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7359. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; 2014 Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0596; FRL-9917-82-Region 3] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7360. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, New Source Review [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0881; FRL-9916-06-Region 9] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7361. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Butanedioic acid, 2-methylene-, polymer with 2,5-fuandione, sodium and ammonium salts, hydrogen peroxide-initiated; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0324; FRL-9915-81] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7362. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

cy's final rule — National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 59 [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2013-0635, 0319, 0320, 0321, and 0322; FRL-9916-74-OSWER] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7363. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan; State Stationary Source Rules [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0469; FRL-9912-67-Region 9] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7364. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0512; FRL-9915-35-Region 9] received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7365. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-32, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7366. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-089, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7367. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-051, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7368. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-054, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7369. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-043, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7370. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-096, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7371. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-067, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7372. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-038, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7373. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7374. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies

and Consulates — Visa and Citizenship Services Fee Changes; Correction [Public Notice: 8858] (RIN: 1400-AD47) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7375. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7376. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting five reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7377. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7378. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for *Physaria globosa* (Short's bladderpod), *Helianthus verticillatus* (whorled sunflower), *Leavenworthia crassa* (fleshy-fruit gladiolus) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0087] (RIN: 1018-AZ11) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7379. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for Oregon Spotted Frog [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2013-0013] (RIN: 1018-AZ04) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7380. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Early Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0017] [FF09M21200-134-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-AZ80) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7381. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Vandenberg Monkeyflower [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0078] (RIN: 1018-AY27) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7382. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0083;4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY55) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7383. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department

of the Interior, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MN-2014-0017] [FF09M21200-134-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-AZ80) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7384. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Physaria globosa* (Short's bladderpod), *Helianthus verticillatus* (whorled sunflower), and *Leavenworthia crassa* (fleshy-fruit gladiolus) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0086] (RIN: 1018-AZ60) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7385. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0008;45003011] (RIN: 1018-AZ34) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7386. A letter from the Acting Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Contiguous United States Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx and Revised Distinct Population Segment Boundary [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2013-0101] (RIN: 1018-AZ77) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7387. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding 10 Species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2014-0037] (RIN: 1018-BA55) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7388. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Agave eggersiana*, *Gonolocalyx concolor*, and *Varronia rupicola* [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0040] (RIN: 1018-AZ79) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7389. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Agave eggersiana* and *Gonolocalyx concolor*, and Threatened Species Status for *Varronia rupicola* [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2003-0103] (RIN: 1018-AZ10) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7390. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Brickellia mosieri* (Florida Brickell-bush) and *Linum carteri* var. *carteri*

(Carter's Small-flowered Flax) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0033] (RIN: 1018-AZ15) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7391. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Florida Leafwing and Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak Butterflies [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0031] (RIN: 1018-AZ59) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7392. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Florida Leafwing and Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak Butterflies [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0084] (RIN: 1018-AZ08) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7393. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Georgia Rockcress [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0030] (RIN: 1018-AZ55) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7394. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Arabis georgiana* (Georgia rockcress) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0100] (RIN: 1018-AY72) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7395. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Regulations and Ceded Lands for the 2014-15 Early Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2014-0017] (RIN: 1018-AZ80) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7396. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD440) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7397. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations [Docket No.: 130201095-4400-02] (RIN: 0648-BC90) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7398. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD389) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7399. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Line Component [Docket No.: 120404257-3325-02] (RIN: 0648-XD352) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7400. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North and South Atlantic 2014 Commercial Swordfish Quotas [Docket No.: 140207123-4657-02] (RIN: 0648-BD96) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7401. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 140106011-4338-02] (RIN: 0648-XD474) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7402. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Closure for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 140106011-4338-02] (RIN: 0648-XD458) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7403. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Gulf of Mexico Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) in the Gulf of Mexico Region [Docket No.: 130402317-3966-02] (RIN: 0648-XD475) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7404. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2014 Commercial Fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Closed in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130722647-4403-02] (RIN: 0648-XC000) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7405. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Closure of the 2014 South Atlantic Commercial Sector for Red Snapper [Docket No.: 121004515-3608-02]

(RIN: 0648-XD478) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7406. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD439) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7407. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD438) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7408. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Rex Sole in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD450) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7409. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD451) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7410. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Application Requirements [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0022] (FHWA RIN: 2125-AF50; FRA RIN: 2130-AC45; FTA RIN: 2132-AB15) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7411. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Application Requirements [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0022] (FHWA RIN: 2125-AF450; FRA RIN: 2130-AC45; FTA RIN: 2132-AB15) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7412. A letter from the Procurement Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Senior Procurement Executive, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organization and Delegation of Powers and Duties in the Transportation Acquisition Regulation [Docket No.: OST-2014-0119] (RIN: 2105-AE34) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7413. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Value Engineering [FHWA Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0039] (RIN: 2125-AF64) received September 18, 2014,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7414. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Department of the Treasury Regulations for the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC44) received August 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7415. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Use of Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods for Permit Applications and Reporting; Correction [EPA-HQ-OW-2009-1019; FRL-9916-33-OW] (RIN: 2040-AC84) received September 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7416. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-50] received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7417. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Authority for Voluntary Withholding on Other Payments [TD 9692] (RIN: 1545-BL92) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7418. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1298(f) Reporting Requirements for U.S. Persons that Hold Stock of a Passive Foreign Investment Co. [Notice 2014-51] received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7419. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance on Allocation of After-Tax Amounts to Rollovers [Notice 2014-54] received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7420. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — October 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-26) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7421. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Method Changes for Final Disposition Regulations (Rev. Proc. 2014-54) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7422. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Additional Rules Regarding Hybrid Retirement Plans [TD 9693] (RIN: 1545-BI16) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7423. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — The \$500,000 deduction limitation for remuneration provided by certain health insurance

providers [TD 9694] (RIN: 1545-BK88) received September 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4299. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing; with an amendment (Rept. 113-565, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4867. A bill to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-606). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 5672. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rollovers from other retirement plans into simple retirement accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 5673. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to reimburse States and political subdivisions of States for expenses related to the presence of aliens having no lawful immigration status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5674. A bill to provide for higher education reform; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HULTGREN (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 5675. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, to establish an Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5676. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that members of a reserve component who are pursuing a course of education using educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are accommodated by the institution of higher learning for an absence caused by performing certain training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 5677. A bill to implement reforms to the Federal land management agency fire

programs in order to address the complexities of 21st century wildfires in a more cost-effective and efficient manner; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 5678. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study to determine the relationship between school start times and adolescent health, well-being, and performance; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. SALMON, Mr. MESSER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. LONG, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 5679. A bill to clarify the ownership of crude oil produced within the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq and to authorize the President to provide defense articles and defense services to the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 5680. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry for certain toxic exposures, to direct the Secretary to include certain information in the electronic health records of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.J. Res. 128. A joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LONG, and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 747. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there be support for a referendum on the independence of the Kurdish region of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5672. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 5673. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Power to tax and pay debts—Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general

Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

The Commerce Clause—Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: "To regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;"

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 5675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sect. 8, Clause 3 as this legislation regulates commerce between the states.

Article 1, Sect. 8, Clause 18 providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Art. 1, Sect. 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 5677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This measure would address the employment classification of federal firefighting employees, a power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution, which provide the authority to pay the debts and provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 5678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 5679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations.

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 5680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.J. Res. 128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8, Clause 11

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 494: Mr. TITUS.

H.R. 956: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1015: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1070: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 1339: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 1852: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2827: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 3485: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 3698: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 3877: Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 3930: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4172: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4426: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 4510: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4567: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 4634: Mr. REED.

H.R. 4748: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4814: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4837: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4916: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5012: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 5071: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 5083: Mr. FORBES, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 5087: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 5098: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 5186: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 5226: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 5229: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5242: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 5252: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 5357: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 5391: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 5403: Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 5439: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5441: Mr. KLINE, Mr. JONES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. COLE, Ms. ESTY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 5470: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 5475: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 5478: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CHU, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 5481: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 5520: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 5524: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 5555: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 5561: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 5566: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5567: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5596: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 5598: Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 5617: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 5631: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5636: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5646: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 5670: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H. J. Res. 113: Mr. DOYLE.

H. Res. 72: Ms. TSONGAS.

H. Res. 556: Mr. GARCIA.

H. Res. 730: Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. KILDEE.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petitions were filed:

Petition 11, September 17, 2014, by Mr. JARED POLIS on House Resolution 678, was signed by the following Members: Jared Polis, Rush Holt, Gerald E. Connolly, John Garamendi, Joe Garcia, Sheila Jackson Lee, Barbara Lee, Jared Huffman, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Eliot L. Engel, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Eric Swalwell, Joe Courtney, Peter A. DeFazio, Juan Vargas, Brad Sherman, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Mike Quigley, Loretta Sanchez, Gwen Moore, Tammy Duckworth, Robin L. Kelly, Frank Pallone Jr., Doris O. Matsui, Mark Pocan, William L. Enyart, Albio Sires, Bruce L. Braley, John A. Yarmuth, Denny Heck, Earl Blumenauer, Timothy J. Walz, Grace F. Napolitano, Elizabeth H. Esty, George Miller, Suzanne Bonamici, Suzan K. DelBene, Derek Kilmer, Matt Cartwright, Janice D. Schakowsky, Steven A. Horsford, Tony Cárdenas, Katherine M. Clark, Stephen F. Lynch, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Sean Patrick Maloney, Henry A. Waxman, Raúl M. Grijalva, Luis V. Guterrez, Michael H. Michaud, Lois Capps, James A. Himes, Bill Foster, Ben Ray Lujan, Paul Tonko, Ami Bera, Dina Titus, Daniel T. Kildee, Terri A. Sewell, John F. Tierney, Jackie Speier, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Danny K. Davis, Ann M. Kuster, Theodore E. Deutch, Ann Kirkpatrick, Scott H. Peters, Rick Larsen, Allyson Y. Schwartz, Ron Kind, Bobby L. Rush, Susan A. Davis, James R. Langevin, Carol Shea-Porter, Elijah E. Cummings, James E. Clyburn, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Joyce Beatty, Mark Takano, Marcia L. Fudge, Alcee L. Hastings, Nita M. Lowey, Michael M. Honda, Daniel B. Maffei, Gene Green, Michael F. Doyle, Michael E. Capuano, Jim Cooper, James P. McGovern, Jerry McNerney, Beto O'Rourke, Kathy Castor, Tulsi Gabbard, Adam B. Schiff, Joaquin Castro, Timothy H. Bishop, Betty McCollum, Bradley S. Schneider, Carolyn McCarthy, Rosa L. DeLauro, Zoe Lofgren, G. K. Butterfield, Ron Barber, Chaka Fattah, Judy Chu, Janice Hahn, Jim McDermott, Robert A. Brady, Xavier Becerra, John P. Sarbanes, Bill Pascrell Jr., Henry Cuellar, Karen Bass, Chellie Pingree, Donna F. Edwards, Emanuel Cleaver, Yvette D. Clarke, Julia Brownley, Lois Frankel, Jim Costa, Ed Pastor, Charles B. Rangel, Lloyd Doggett, John Lewis, Rubén Hinojosa, Richard M. Nolan, Alan S. Lowenthal, Anna G. Eshoo, Steve Cohen, Nancy Pelosi, Steny H. Hoyer, Al Green, Gary C. Peters, Raul Ruiz, John C. Carney Jr., Patrick Murphy, Wm. Lacy Clay, David Loebsack, Niki Tsongas, Chris Van Hollen, Diana DeGette, Corrine Brown, Richard E. Neal, Mike Thompson, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., John B. Larson, André Carson, Cedric L. Richmond, Gregory W. Meeks, John D. Dingell, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Marcy Kaptur, Brian Higgins, Maxine Waters, Nydia M. Velázquez, Ed Perlmutter, Grace Meng,

David N. Cicilline, Joseph P. Kennedy III, William R. Keating, John K. Delaney, Sander M. Levin, David Scott, Jerrold Nadler, Lucille Roybal-Allard, José E. Serrano, Frederica S. Wilson, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr., Donald M. Payne Jr., Tim Ryan, William L. Owens, Sam Farr, Joseph Crowley, Filemon Vela, John Conyers Jr., Adam Smith, Steve Israel, Peter Welch, Carolyn B. Maloney, David E. Price, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Kurt Schrader, Keith Ellison, Marc A. Veasey, Alan Grayson, James P. Moran, Bennie G. Thompson, Cheri Bustos, and Kyrsten Sinema.

Petition 12, September 18, 2014, by Ms. FREDERICA WILSON on the bill (H.R. 2821), was signed by the following Members: Frederica S. Wilson, Donna F. Edwards, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Brian Higgins, Mike Thompson, Nydia M. Velázquez, Maxine Waters, Ed Perlmutter, Adam B. Schiff, Grace Meng, Lois Frankel, Alan S. Lowenthal, David N. Cicilline, Bill Pascrell Jr., Hakeem S. Jeffries, Joseph P. Kennedy III, William R. Keating, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Doris O. Matsui, Judy Chu, Mark Takano, Raul Ruiz, Joyce Beatty, Sander M. Levin, David Scott, Jerrold Nadler, Eliot L. Engel, Lucille Roybal-Allard, William L. Enyart, Colleen W. Hanabusa, José E. Serrano, Ann Kirkpatrick, Tammy Duckworth, Robin L. Kelly, Mark Pocan, Peter Welch, Kathy Castor, Joe Courtney, John C. Carney Jr., John Lewis, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr., Sheila Jackson Lee, James R. Langevin, Donald M. Payne Jr., Juan Vargas, Theodore E. Deutch, Betty McCollum, Daniel T. Kildee, Steven A. Horsford, Sam Farr, Elizabeth H. Esty, Frank Pallone Jr., Steve Cohen, John B. Larson, Lois Capps, Terri A. Sewell, Yvette D. Clarke, Joseph Crowley, Elijah E. Cummings, Jared Polis, John Conyers Jr., Adam Smith, Grace F. Napolitano, Gerald E. Connolly, Jackie Speier, Michael F. Doyle, Timothy H. Bishop, Karen Bass, Steve Israel, Daniel B. Maffei, Richard E. Neal, Rush Holt, Zoe Lofgren, Marcia L. Fudge, André Carson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Janice Hahn, Chaka Fattah, Carolyn McCarthy, Jim McDermott, Robert A. Brady, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Joe Garcia, Loretta Sanchez, Carolyn B. Maloney, Suzanne Bonamici, G. K. Butterfield, Peter A. DeFazio, Joaquin Castro, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Mike Quigley, Gwen Moore, Jerry McNerney, Ben Ray Lujan, Rosa L. DeLauro, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Raúl M. Grijalva, Gregory W. Meeks, Brad Sherman, Suzan K. DelBene, Rick Larsen, Janice D. Schakowsky, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Charles B. Rangel, Henry A. Waxman, James P. McGovern, Keith Ellison, John A. Yarmuth, Corrine Brown, Cedric L. Richmond, James E. Clyburn, Gene Green, Julia Brownley, Ron Barber, Matt Cartwright, Alan Grayson, James P. Moran, Tony Cárdenas, Xavier Becerra, Al Green, Bennie G. Thompson, Emanuel Cleaver, Nancy Pelosi, and Carol Shea-Porter.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MARIPOSA COUNTY
DISTRICT THREE SUPERVISOR
JANET BIBBY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Honorable Janet Bibby, Mariposa County Supervisor.

Janet Bibby was born and raised in Mariposa County. She grew up in a ranching family with five generations of deep roots in the community.

Ms. Bibby's love of community forged the beginnings of her career as a public servant in Mariposa County in 1985. Janet served as the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, and worked in the District Attorney's office and the Farm Advisors office. As a clerk in the District Attorney's office, she devoted herself to making the community a better place to live, work, and recreate. She was elected to the Mariposa Board of Supervisors in 2003 to represent the third district—an honor she has held for the past eleven years.

Janet Bibby has taken her commitment to public service seriously, tirelessly working for the constituents of Mariposa County. Her contributions to the advancement of agriculture in Mariposa are notable, as she has promoted the industry throughout her career. Janet has been involved in a variety of county-improvement projects to benefit those she represents, including: the Yosemite Wastewater Treatment Project, the construction of the Don Pedro Wastewater Treatment Facility, a multitude of projects to improve the local airport, and innumerable efforts to improve funding and support for fire stations.

Janet has also made significant efforts to make the county family-focused, such as the creation of the Recreational Sports Complex, the Mariposa Park Amphitheatre, the Arts Park, and the Skate Park.

This is only a sampling of the work Ms. Bibby has done for the community. She constantly strives to make Mariposa safer, stronger, and more united. I am proud to honor and thank Mariposa County District Three Supervisor Janet Bibby for her many years of public and community service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL EVAN C. EWACHIW FOR
HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO
THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND
TO OUR NATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Evan C. Ewachiw for his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the United States Army and to the United States of America. Lieutenant Colonel Evan Ewachiw will be transitioning from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison (SAFM-BUL) to serve as an operations research analyst for the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, United States Army.

A native of Fallston, Maryland, Lieutenant Colonel Ewachiw was accepted into the College of William and Mary's Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1991 and, upon graduation in 1995, was commissioned a Regular Army Infantry Officer. LTC Ewachiw graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. He has subsequently earned Master's degrees in Legislative Affairs and Operations Research from the George Washington University and Florida Institute of Technology, respectively.

Lieutenant Colonel Evan Ewachiw's assignments have been diverse and include service within the Active Duty Army, as well as the Army National Guard. His assignments include Infantry Platoon Leader in B Company 1-503 Infantry, Camp Casey, the Republic of Korea; Information Management Officer, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colorado; Signal Detachment Commander and Battalion Signal Officer, 19th Special Forces Group, Colorado Army National Guard; Operations Research Analyst, National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Virginia; Army Congressional Fellow in the office of Representative JOHN CULBERSON (TX-17); and most recently as a Congressional Budget Liaison Officer. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Ewachiw deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Ewachiw's leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. As an Army Budget Liaison Officer for the past two years with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, he worked directly with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Representatives, Senators, and congressional staff about military and civilian personnel issues, force structure, operation and maintenance, and the Army Working Capital Fund. Additionally, he served as the Army's liaison to the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

Our country has been enriched by Lieutenant Colonel Ewachiw's extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work. As a personal matter, I have benefited from his counsel and I deeply respect this officer for his dedication to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Lieutenant Colonel Evan C. Ewachiw during his time as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Lieutenant Colonel Evan Ewachiw for almost two decades of service to his country. We wish Evan, his wife Carrie, and his children Ana and Rhys all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

HONORING SARAH KENNEDY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young lady from California's 25th district who is making a lasting difference in our community, one friendship at a time.

I've been blessed with the honor of serving in Congress for nearly 22 years, and I've had the pleasure of meeting many extraordinary people. However, today, it is a privilege to share a few words about the inspiring work of Sarah Kennedy.

Sarah is a 14-year old student from Santa Clarita, California. I had the joy of meeting Sarah and her family not too long ago. It was evident from our brief conversation that Sarah is a person who can transcend boundaries, and her honest and sincere personality lights up a room. Sarah is the type of person you want to know and befriend.

Actually, friendship is her secret weapon. Sarah is behind a growing anti-bullying movement that recognizes the good in everyone. Through the power of relationships, Sarah breaks down the boundaries that often divide students in our schools. Upon meeting someone, Sarah offers the individual a gumball, and soon they are fast friends. I wouldn't be surprised if every student in Santa Clarita has a gumball by now.

Too often in our busy lives, we forget about the power of the simple things in life. A simple "hello", a modest "how are you", these humble words make a difference. Through Sarah's inspiring and wise actions, she is bringing students together. Adults should stand ready to learn from her as well. We all have time in our busy days to make a friend.

As a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, I am grateful for the noble pursuit Sarah has undertaken. Mr. Speaker, we know that Sarah is fighting the good fight. I know that her family is proud of her, and I stand here today to congratulate Sarah on her

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

progress. I hope everyone has the chance to have a true friend like Sarah Kennedy.

Sarah is an inspiration to all of us, and she has a friend in me.

RECOGNIZING THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY OF DOUBLE TEN DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the upcoming celebration of the 103rd anniversary of "Double Ten Day." Double Ten Day traces its roots to the Wuchang Uprising that occurred on October 10, 1911. The Wuchang Uprising signaled the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of a democratic movement that we continue to celebrate and recognize. Double Ten Day is a celebration of the birth of democracy and the Republic of China.

I want to especially recognize the people of Taiwan on this important occasion. The strength of the relationship between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States is strong. I look forward to continue working to expand business opportunities as well as deepen our mutual appreciation for each other's unique cultures. Exchange of our cultures is clearly evidenced on Guam, which is home to many people of Chinese ancestry. Guam continues to benefit from their cultural contributions to our community and the promotion of trade and economic opportunities.

Again, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 103rd anniversary of Double Ten Day. We celebrate this historic occasion with them and we honor their friendship with the American people.

COMFORT WOMEN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, the Japanese military forced thousands of women mostly from Korea and China to serve as sex slaves for the Japanese Imperial Army. Estimates vary as to how many women were involved, but most agree the number is around 200,000.

These women were referred to as "comfort women." But there was nothing comfortable about their role. The first so-called "comfort station" opened in Shanghai in 1932. These stations were used to satisfy the sexual desires of Japanese troops.

When demand outstripped supply, the Japanese military responded by abducting more women in occupied countries. In other instances, women were lured with promises of work in factories or restaurants before being incarcerated in comfort stations abroad.

An estimated 75 percent of these enforced sex slaves died. Many survivors were left infertile due to sexual trauma or STDs. They

also suffered from depression, impaired anger control, and PTSD. These symptoms exist even today, over 60 years later.

Since WWII, the Japanese government has been inconsistent in its message.

Some officials insisted no women were forced into sexual servitude. Other officials claimed their role was "necessary." Still others tried to discredit the few victims that are still alive. Japan would do well to accurately report the history regarding this tragedy.

In 1993, the Japanese released the Kono Statement. In it, they finally confessed to forcing women to work in military-run brothels.

Earlier this year, the Japanese announced that they would be reviewing the "background" of the Kono Statement.

It is time for Japan to own up to its actions. Covering these atrocities behind a smoke screen will not change the truth. The stories of these women have been well documented. Victims have a right to be acknowledged. After so many have died, the few remaining survivors deserve an apology. They deserve justice. This would help the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Korea.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING THE BIONEERS 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT CONFERENCE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Bioneers on the occasion of the organization's 25th Anniversary Summit Conference, which will take place in October of 2014.

Since Kenny Asubel and Nina Simons founded Bioneers, the organization has become an important resource for innovators seeking to solve the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Through the annual conference and various educational programs, Bioneers connects diverse groups of people to share new, creative ideas and generate positive change at local, regional and international levels. Bioneers has provided one of the planet's primary incubators to help lay the foundation for sustainable and restorative alternatives to the environmentally destructive aspects of the modern global economy.

Bioneers has been a vital tool for the people of California's Second Congressional District and beyond, and I am confident that the organization will continue to serve as a leading-edge think tank for many years to come. Please join me in congratulating Bioneers on their 25th anniversary celebration and wish them many more successful years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during Sep-

tember 17, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall No. 509: H.J. Res 124, "aye."

HONORING COMMANDER AUNDREA E. TAPLIN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Aundrea E. Taplin who is retiring after 21 years of faithful service to our nation in the United States Navy.

Commander Taplin began her dedicated career in public service after graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1993. Already a distinguished Officer, over the course of the next 21 years, Commander Taplin served the Navy in a wide variety of roles, travelling throughout the country and overseas.

Her assignments included Naval Air Station Sigonella; Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47; Naval Legal Service Office Southwest; Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Submarine Group Nine, USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74); the Office of the Judge Advocate General and the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

Throughout her career, Commander Taplin has demonstrated a commitment to self-improvement, re-dedicating herself to her education at various points. In 1999, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego and in 2009 she earned her LLM in Environmental Law from George Washington University.

Commander Taplin has also earned a variety of awards for her outstanding service to our country. Her personal awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

I commend Commander Taplin for her commitment to our country and the sacrifices she has made on our behalf. On the occasion of her retirement, I thank her and her family for over two decades' honorable service to our nation and wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial today in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Albert Azar, Army; Clarence Brace, Army; Howard Christopherson, Army; Jacob Egger, Army; Theodore Flaiz, Army; Henry

Krebs, Army; Loyal Lee, Army; Richard Lovett, Army; Eddie Morris, Army; Henry Nelsen, Army; Lewellyn Renville, Army; Robert Strick, Army; Henry Tiano, Army; James Rose, Army Air Corps; Richard Smith, Army Air Corps; Frederick Parish, Army Air Force; Ray Burgess, Coast Guard; Helen Hansen, Coast Guard; Richard Shettler, Coast Guard; Marvin Adams, Navy; Robert Bigler, Navy; Harold Candland, Navy; Paul Clayton, Navy; Byron Dougan, Navy; Joseph Fahey, Navy; John Faust, Navy; John Ferguson, Navy; Troy Grimshaw, Navy; Herman Hansen, Navy; Cecil Hector, Navy; Imer Henry, Navy; Richard Higgins, Navy; Marvin Johnson, Navy; Glenn Lewis, Navy; Robert Montgomery, Navy; Bob Moore, Navy; James Stangland, Navy; Gordon Stone, Navy; Neil Swarthout, Navy; Paul Swenson, Navy; Arthur Tooze, Navy; Gilbert Turner, Navy; Harold Wakefield, Navy; George Yates, Navy; Robert Ganson, USMC; Edward Kimball, USMC; Richard Mann, USMC; Harold Reeves, USMC; Albert Riney, USMC; Thomas Teela, USMC.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Dick Tobiason for his tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon and trip leaders Erik Tobiason and Pam Kelsay for their efforts.

HONORING THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Anacostia Watershed Society, a nonprofit organization based in Maryland and Washington, DC tasked with restoring the Anacostia River for the health and enjoyment of its watershed communities, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Since its founding, it has been cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage of the Anacostia River for the benefit of all who live in its watershed and for visitors.

Founded in 1989 by Robert Boone, the Anacostia Watershed Society overcame early challenges as it sought to raise awareness of the deteriorating health of the river and its watershed after nearly two hundred years of urban settlement and industrial activity. Mr. Boone worked with local activists and attorneys to take steps to turn the situation around

by working to relocate plans to build a new football stadium away from the river, to stop the Navy Yard from dumping toxic waste into the water, and to end the flow of sewage into the river—a project that will be completed in 2022 with the opening of underground tunnels built to capture and treat sewage overflows.

During this time, Mr. Boone and program manager Jim Connolly were also working to raise consciousness in the local community about the river. Mr. Boone and Mr. Connolly hosted trash clean-ups, tree plantings, and numerous public events to get Marylanders and Washingtonians engaged with the river and to promote it as a source of outdoor recreation. The programs and events they developed in the early days of the Anacostia Watershed Society set the stage for the many important activities the organization undertakes today.

Over the next twenty-five years, the Anacostia Watershed Society grew to become a powerful advocate for the river, its watershed, and the communities it benefits. The organization has expanded to include four departments essential to its success: Stewardship, Education, Advocacy, and Recreation. The Anacostia Watershed Society engages local residents of all ages in the cleanup and restoration of the river while involving the community in advocating for policies to reduce and regulate the pollutants entering its waters.

I have been proud to serve as an advocate for the Anacostia and its watershed throughout my time in Congress. My first association with the Anacostia Watershed Society was as a co-sponsor of an Earth Day boat tour of the river, aimed at gaining attention in Congress for the Society's advocacy efforts. Later, I was proud to work in Congress to promote policies authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help restore the Anacostia. Throughout my involvement with the Anacostia Watershed Society, I have met many engaged and energized local activists who are deeply concerned about the future not only of the river but of our region as a sustainable place to raise healthy families.

The Anacostia Watershed Society's vision for the future includes a river that is fishable and swimmable—as per the Clean Water Act—and serves as an urban oasis and destination for those in Maryland, Washington, DC, and visitors from around the country. I congratulate its members on twenty-five years of service to the communities of our region, and I look forward to continue to work with them to advance the Society's mission for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE EL RIO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF TUCSON, ARIZONA IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF ITS NEW CONGRESS HEALTH CENTER

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the El Rio Community Health Center of Tucson, Arizona,

which is celebrating the opening of its new Congress Health Center.

The El Rio Community Health Center is one of the largest non-profit community health centers in the United States. Founded in 1970 by Tucsonans committed to bringing accessible and affordable health care to all, the El Rio Community Health Center serves over 900 people each day, more than three-fourths of whom live at or below the federal poverty level.

El Rio's brand new, 54,000 square foot facility makes state-of-the-art healthcare accessible to all residents of southeastern Arizona's largest city. The new facility will help El Rio serve an additional six thousand patients each year, as well as creating numerous new health care jobs and helping our local economy thrive.

I congratulate the El Rio Community Health Center and support its continued efforts to make sure all people are able to access the health services they need.

CELEBRATING THE NORTH BAY CHILDREN'S CENTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the North Bay Children's Center on the occasion of the organization's 25th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place on November 8, 2014.

Incorporated in 1986, the North Bay Children's Center was founded on the fundamental belief that every child should have equal access to quality care and early education. Over the last 25 years, the Center has continually met this expectation and become an invaluable asset to the local community. Each year, new programs are added as the Center's staff continues to create positive change by locally addressing key national priorities, such as promoting early literacy, combating childhood obesity and reducing poverty.

The Center serves over 100,000 nutritious meals annually to children in California's Second Congressional District. By teaching families about nutrition, incorporating local gardens to enhance early education, and encouraging childhood literacy, the North Bay Children's Center promotes parent engagement and works to ensure that every child is ready to succeed in school and life from an early age.

Please join me in congratulating the North Bay Children's Center on 25 years of outstanding service to the children and families of Marin and Sonoma counties and wish them many years of future success.

RECOGNIZING HEART OF FLORIDA UNITED WAY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Heart of Florida United

Way as they celebrate 75 years of service in Central Florida. Heart of Florida United Way is the largest provider of funds to nonprofit agencies in Central Florida. These agencies provide critical services including job training, financial literacy classes, healthcare and educational opportunities. This year, Heart of Florida United Way committed more than \$9.2 million in funding over three years to nonprofit partner agencies in Central Florida.

Additionally, Heart of Florida United Way provides direct services that aid the homeless, connect individuals with volunteer opportunities and ensure accessibility of lifesaving medications. Their dedicated work to engage many aspects of the community has undoubtedly made Central Florida a better place to live and work. I thank Heart of Florida United Way for their dedicated work, and I congratulate them on 75 years of remarkable contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING JAY
WOLVOVSKY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend Jay Wolvovsky on his 30 years of outstanding service to the residents of the greater Baltimore community. At the end of this month, Jay will retire from his position as CEO of the Baltimore Medical System (BMS), a position he has held since he founded BMS in 1984. Under Jay's stewardship, BMS has grown into Maryland's largest Federally Qualified Health Center system. Since taking over the operation of four East Baltimore clinics from the Baltimore City Health Department in 1984, BMS has expanded to thirteen health centers reaching the whole city and even Baltimore County, including eight school-based health centers that provide essential medical care to more than 1,000 children each year. When struggling communities have faced the loss of healthcare providers, BMS has stepped in, absorbing practices and patients from the Baltimore neighborhoods of Highlandtown and O'Donnell Heights. All told, BMS provides medical care to over 45,000 underserved patients each year.

I consider myself lucky to have worked with Jay for many years. He has had an enormous impact on the Baltimore region and he has changed the lives of countless families in the State of Maryland and beyond. His compassion and dedication to give back to his community and to bring medical care to those who could not otherwise receive it has been the driving force behind BMS' incredible success over the past three decades. His keen eye for innovation, whether in working with the Baltimore City Health Department to provide seniors with pharmacy services 20 years before Medicare Part D, or in building relationships and partnerships with local foundations and national groups to expand BMS' reach, has been an invaluable asset to the organization. Jay has been a true friend to the Baltimore community and to me; I thank him for all he

has accomplished and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HISPANIC READING ROOM OF THE
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, October 12, 2014, marks the 75th anniversary of the Hispanic Reading Room of the Library of Congress which is located in the Jefferson Building. Since 1939, the Hispanic Division has been systematically acquiring books, journals, newspapers, photographs, prints, maps, posters, sound recordings, and other materials from and about the greater Hispanic world. Today with more than 13 million items, the Library of Congress possesses the most extensive collection in the world on the history and culture of Latin America, the Caribbean, Iberia, and U.S. Hispanics/Latinos.

Hispanic Division specialists assist scholars from all over the United States and indeed around the world with information about materials in all formats in the Library's collections. The reading room's website [www.http://loc.gov/r/hispanic](http://www.loc.gov/r/hispanic) which can be accessed in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, is an important resource for students as well as the wider public for finding books, maps, images, audio-visual materials, music, and many other sources to learn about the history and culture of the greater Hispanic world. The website is visited more than 100,000 times per month.

The recently issued Hispanic American Members of Congress, 1922–2013, published by the Government Printing Office and available online, was compiled by the Office of the Historian of the Clerk of the House, with help from specialists in the Hispanic Division who provided expertise and access to the vast collections of the Library of Congress. The first and much smaller edition of this directory was prepared in the Hispanic Division in 1994 and published in 1995 by the GPO.

The Hispanic Division's major annual publication is the Handbook of Latin American Studies, an annotated bibliography providing an indispensable guide to publication about Latin America. Compiled and annotated in the Hispanic Division since 1939 and currently published by the University of Texas Press, the Handbook is a collaborative effort drawing on the knowledge and expertise of a network of contributing U.S.-based scholars who volunteer their efforts to the project. Available in print and searchable through an online database www.loc.gov/hlas the Handbook lists and describes the most important scholarly publications in the humanities and social sciences from and about Latin America and the Caribbean.

A unique resource in the Hispanic Division is the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape, begun in 1943, which holds audio recordings by more than 700 multi-lingual poets and prose writers from the U.S., Hispanic areas, and the Caribbean, including Haiti and Suriname. Richard Blanco, the poet who read

at President Obama's second inauguration, recorded in 2013, and Octavio Paz is one of nine Nobel laureates in the archive.

Two years ago the Hispanic Division inaugurated a bilingual portal "Distant Neighbors: The United States and the Mexican Revolution, 1910–1917," which contains photographs, manuscripts, maps, and other rare documents from the Library's collections chronicling this important period in the history of both countries. It is invaluable for students and researchers because it provides access to rare documents about the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Hispanic Reading Room is "... a home away from home for researchers from all over the world," according to Jaime Benitez, noted educator and Puerto Rican Commissioner during 1973–1977. With its arched ceilings, vivid murals by Brazilian artist Candido Portinari, and architecture reminiscent of renaissance Spain, the reading room provides an inspiring space for those seeking to research their ancestors, complete school assignments, or write books. With its vast Hispanic collections, the Library provides both exploratory materials for beginning students and rare published or other materials—maps, manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings—for advanced scholars. These materials allow those of us in the United States and in other parts of the world to better understand Hispanic heritage and history, and its lasting and ongoing influence within our country.

My husband, Latin American historian Dr. Thomas C. Wright, can personally attest to the incredible resources available through the Division to scholars and authors. We congratulate the Hispanic Division and its staff and celebrate the valuable work they have done over the past 75 years.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUDY
BRADSHAW

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Des Moines Police Chief Judy Bradshaw, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to law enforcement.

Since beginning her storied career as a police cadet in 1980, Chief Bradshaw has been an integral part of the Des Moines Police Department for more than three decades. As the Des Moines Police Department's first female lieutenant, captain, major, and chief of police, Chief Bradshaw has continually broken new ground while both innovating and improving the department.

Throughout her career, Chief Bradshaw has worked and supervised in every area of the department while developing several programs and policies. Since assuming the role of Chief of Police in 2007, Chief Bradshaw has revitalized the community's relationship with the department and its officers. Two of her programs, the Community Ambassador Program and Mentoring Youth with Cops Program, incentivize productive relationships with at-risk youth and community leaders alike. Chief

Bradshaw's tenure has shown that when the Des Moines community and its police work together, great things are possible.

Throughout her illustrious and lengthy career, Judy has never wavered in her commitment to justice and security. Chief Bradshaw is a testament to the high quality character instilled in Iowans, and the city of Des Moines owes her a great debt of gratitude for her service. While Judy's leadership will be sorely missed, she leaves behind a more secure community that will continue to benefit from her service for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great honor to represent the brave men and women that comprise the Des Moines Police Department in the United States Congress. I thank Judy for her wonderful work and I wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

REMEMBERING MAYOR JOHN
FORD

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and remember the life of former Hazleton Mayor John Ford, a well known member of the community. Mayor Ford passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2014 after a long and distinguished career of public and civil service.

Prior to serving as mayor of Hazleton, Mayor Ford was the founder and owner of John Ford Trucking and the Hazleton Standard Fuel Co., a small company that continues to service the Hazleton area to this day. Beyond his role as a small business owner, Mayor Ford was very active in the area. He was a member of the Hazleton Elks, West Hazleton Lions, and was on the board of numerous charitable organizations. Mayor Ford continued to serve on multiple committees at the local, state, and federal level after completing his term as mayor.

During his tenure as mayor from 1986–1987, Mayor Ford saw the city of Hazleton change from a commission form of mayor to a strong mayor form, finishing his last two years of government as a member of the city council from 1988–1989. He is remembered by all who knew him as a hard working and generous man committed to making Hazleton a better city.

My sincerest condolences go out to his wife Rose, who survives him, as well as his sisters Marie and Ida, brother Robert, and several nieces and nephews.

HONORING TYRONE HOSPITAL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of Tyrone Hospital in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. It is a milestone in this outstanding facility's history of

providing essential healthcare services to the residents of its community.

In the early 1900s, Harvey Gray, a prominent Tyrone businessman had a vision to build a hospital to care for the people of Tyrone and surrounding areas. Mr. Gray and his wife Adda ultimately donated \$150,000 after their deaths toward the establishment of Tyrone Hospital. The Tyrone Borough Water department provided the location, donating nearly 17 acres of wooded land west of the Laurel Ridge. The people of Tyrone realized the Gray's vision of a community hospital over a period of years. Numerous community residents, businesses, and social and civic organizations donated time and funds to support the construction of the hospital. A contribution was also made by Tyrone's famous son, Fred Waring who gave a concert in Tyrone to benefit Tyrone Hospital.

On September 20, 1954, Tyrone Hospital opened its doors and accepted its first patient. Over the years, the hospital has grown to bring personalized health care not only to the residents of northern Blair County but also to communities in neighboring counties. That growth has included state of the art medical equipment, an expanded range of services, and a diverse medical staff.

The hospital's 60th year has been marked by the recent introduction of its new name—Tyrone Regional Health Network—reflecting its developing system of new providers and services throughout Central Pennsylvania. The 60th year also coincided with the announcement of plans for a 38,000 square foot expansion that will provide a new hospital facility.

A lot has changed since Tyrone Hospital first opened its doors in 1954. However, its presence as a community hospital and its mission to provide needed healthcare services to local residents has remained the same.

I wish to thank Tyrone Hospital's dedicated staff, Board of Directors and CEO Stephen Gildea for their commitment to quality healthcare. I congratulate them and the people of Tyrone and surrounding communities on this important anniversary for their local hospital. I'm proud to have such a wonderful facility in the 9th District, and wish Tyrone Hospital continued success in the next sixty years and beyond.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan's national day, known as Double Ten Day, approaches on October 10, I rise to remind my colleagues that Taiwan, our democratic ally, continues to be left out of international organizations at the insistence of China.

Taiwan's exclusion does not befit a society that is modern, prosperous, and democratic, and a government whose institutions have implemented the operating procedures and guidelines set forth by the very international organizations from which it has been shut out. America shares many values with Taiwan, including our commitment to democracy, human

rights, and free markets, and this is a voice from which we should hear in the forums debating the complex issues and challenges of our time.

The best way we can honor our friends in Taiwan as they celebrate their national day, in addition to extending our best wishes and congratulations—which I do now—is to continue to build on the work we have done to strengthen Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations where Taiwan's membership is impossible due to its unique political status. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort and also join me in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF
QUAKEWRAP FOR ITS SUCCESS
IN IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE
SAFETY WORLDWIDE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of QuakeWrap, a growing business in Tucson, Arizona that is improving the safety of infrastructure around the globe. On October 1, 2014, they will be honored by the District Export Council of Arizona for their success in exporting.

QuakeWrap is to be recognized and celebrated for its job creation and sales here in the United States and in multiple international markets, including Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Vietnam, as well as its work with the United Nations. Both private and public sector customers are utilizing its patented carbon fiber technology to repair, modernize and secure vital infrastructure for public safety and commerce, such as bridges, pipelines, buildings and piers. Among their diverse portfolio of projects, they have repaired the tunnel system under the University of Arizona, done retrofit work on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay, provided seismic retrofit for the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, provided blast protection for the new UN building in Beirut, Lebanon and begun an extensive infrastructure pile project in Nigeria.

QuakeWrap is an example of a small U.S. business that has grown by being a leader in state-of-the-art technology and by embracing exporting as key to their growth strategy. Even in the face of great economic recession, QuakeWrap increased its revenues and created jobs in our community. QuakeWrap has also made strategic and effective utilization of key export resources at both the federal and state levels, including the U.S. Commercial Service and its Arizona Export Assistance Center in Arizona, the Arizona Commerce Authority, and the U.S. Small Business Administration—demonstrating the impactful collaboration that can indeed exist between the private and public sectors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,770,878,224,353.80. We've added \$7,144,001,175,440.72 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 495 I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA'S FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Bedford's Fall Foliage Festival. This wonderful event celebrates not only the changing of the seasons, but all that the town of Bedford has to offer.

Every year, the coming of fall brings about a beautiful transformation across Central Pennsylvania. From the changing color of the leaves, to the return of autumn favorites like Sunday football and pumpkin pie, there truly is no better place to experience all that the season has to offer than in the heart of our state. That is why I am honored to stand here today to celebrate 50 years of the Bedford Fall Foliage Festival.

In 1964, the Bedford County Motor Club and the Antique Auto Club joined together to create the Historical and Fall Tour, an event which then came to be known as the Fall Foliage Festival in 1966 and has grown ever since. Today, the event draws an estimated 70,000 visitors to Bedford over the course of two weekends, and features the work of over 400 artists and craftsmen. In addition, parades, antique cars, the crowning of the fall foliage queen, and a wide range of musical entertainment offer excitement for people of all ages. The event is one of the largest fall foliage festivals in the Northeast, and its 50th anniversary this year promises to be the best one yet.

I would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who have put so much effort into mak-

ing the Bedford Fall Foliage Festival such a lasting success. Their hard work has ensured that the festival continues to be a highlight every autumn, and I know that it will only get better in the years to come. I'm proud to have such a wonderful event in the 9th District, and hope that everyone has a chance to visit and experience fall in Bedford County.

HONORING RON TINGLEY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of Ron Tingley, who passed way September 8th in a tragic traffic accident. Ron was born to Ethel and Richard Tingley January 31, 1947. His lifelong interest in our veterans started with his father who was a World War II vet stationed primarily in Guam. In addition, his grandfather served as a motorcycle courier in Germany during World War I. After retiring from 41 years of service as a counselor at Modesto Junior College, Ron wanted to give back and continued his work with our country's veterans.

Mr. Tingley played an instrumental part in establishing the Veteran's Resource Center (VRC) at Modesto Junior College (MJC). The VRC opened three years ago as a permanent location for vets to meet, study, and share camaraderie. Once in place, Ron worked with veteran students to solidify the purposes and services of the VRC. Uniting partners in the community helped the VRC extend services beyond the college campus.

In addition, Mr. Tingley collaborated with off-campus resources to educate and train MJC veteran students to facilitate peer support groups. He became keenly aware of the needs of spouses and dependents and it was crucial for him to develop a veterans' spousal support group and network.

Beyond meeting the needs of the veterans, Ron educated a wide variety of MJC personnel about the challenges that veterans face on a daily basis as they acclimate to civilian life. Campus staff and faculty leaned on Ron to handle the most sensitive situations. The crisis responses he managed and resolved kept students in school and, for some, kept them alive.

It was a passion for Ron to remain connected with and support the heroes of our country. Ron is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jeanette; his sister, Janice Clair; brother-in-law, Duane Clair; nephew, Eric Cole & his wife Chris; & by many loving friends and relatives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Ron Tingley and all of his excellent contributions to veterans and the community.

NATIONAL HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hispanic American Heritage Month. For more than 500 years, and long before the founding of the Republic, Hispanic Americans have made significant contributions to American life and culture.

Hispanic Heritage week was formerly proposed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity throughout the United States with a variety of festivities across the country, including parades, festivals, art exhibits, and musical performances.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their communities.

Hispanics have played a vital role in the moments and movements that have shaped our country. They have enriched our culture and brought creativity and innovation to everything from sports to the sciences and from the arts to our economy.

The Hispanic community is an integral part of our country's rich history and economic well-being. According to most recent data Hispanic-owned businesses have generated \$351 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating 1.9 million jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a substantial Hispanic population.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to more than 10 million Hispanic residents and there are 938,882 Hispanics in Houston, comprising 43.4% of the city's population, the third largest number of Hispanics of any city in the nation.

The projected population of Hispanics in the United States in 2060 is estimated to be 128.8 million. According to this projection, the Hispanic population will constitute 31 percent of the nation's population by that date.

Hispanics are greatly diverse people. They come from different countries bringing different cultures, language dialects and customs. Hispanics have enriched our Union and shaped our character. Hispanics are hardworking individuals that try to better themselves but never forget their upbringings.

Hispanic Americans continue to impact every sector of our country, and are leading

officials in all aspects of American life. Many Hispanic Americans serve as elected officials, members of the armed forces, police officers, judges, teachers, construction workers, business men and women, artists, athletes, and civic leaders.

A source of special pride to me is that Texas is the home state of 11 Hispanic recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Many contemporary Hispanic Americans have risen to occupy some of the most important positions in the nation, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; Labor Secretary Tom Perez; U.S. Senators ROBERT MENENDEZ and TED CRUZ, White House Domestic Policy Director Cecelia Munoz; and my colleagues in the Texas House delegation, Congressmen RUBÉN HINOJOSA, HENRY CUELLAR, JOAQUIN CASTRO, BETO O'ROURKE, PETE GALLEGOS, and FILEMON VELA.

As the Hispanic community continues to enrich American society, I urge all Americans to take time during this month to commemorate the contributions of Hispanic Americans in shaping the United States.

The best way to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month is to continue cherishing and respecting the ethnic and cultural diversity that strengthens and enhances our nation.

We celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month to continually honor the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans to our nation.

Celebrating the National Hispanic Heritage helps keep a vivid image of all the hard work Hispanic individuals accomplished throughout history.

I encourage all Americans to join me in marking this important occasion.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN MICHIGAN V. BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on May 27, 2014 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*, wherein the Court affirmed the sovereign immunity of our Nation's federally-recognized Indian tribes for off-reservation commercial activities. Because the United States Constitution expressly and exclusively grants to Congress plenary authority over every one of our Nation's 566 federally-recognized Indian tribes, I rise to provide my views on this decision that can have serious ramifications for Indian Country.

As the Court's *Bay Mills* decision correctly observes, our nation's federally recognized Indian tribes are independent governments whose sovereignty pre-dates the United States Constitution. Our founding fathers wisely chose to subject Indian tribes solely to the authority of the United States Congress, to the exclusion of state governments, as well as the Executive and Judicial branches of the federal government. And though Indian tribes are subject to the authority of Congress, they retain

all of their inherent and historic sovereign powers, except as those powers may be expressly modified by Congress. If Congress does not act to take away the sovereign powers of Indian tribes, those powers are retained.

One of the most important attributes of sovereignty possessed by Indian tribes is sovereign immunity from suit, including suits initiated by State governments. In addition to being consistently affirmed by decisions of our nation's highest court over the past two centuries, tribal sovereign immunity has been repeatedly acknowledged and confirmed in federal case precedent. Thus the Supreme Court correctly upheld the sovereign immunity of the *Bay Mills Indian Community*, and affirmed the express desire of Congress that Indian tribes retain the fullest extent of their immunity from suit.

Like state and federal governments, Indian tribes rely on their inherent sovereign powers, including immunity, to protect their treasuries and further their economies. These sovereign powers are vital for any government to provide essential programs and services for its citizens and are critical in maintaining the viability of our nation's Indian tribes, many of which are located in the most economically depressed regions of the country and have been under constant duress due to severe cutbacks in federal funding over the past several decades. For Indian tribes, sovereign immunity is necessary not only to protect the Tribes from private litigants, but also to prevent state governments from overstepping their constitutional authority and diminishing the rights and sovereignty of Indian tribes through litigation. As the Supreme Court acknowledged in the *Bay Mills Indian Community* decision, only Congress has the authority to diminish the sovereign rights of Indian tribes.

While I applaud the Supreme Court's decision affirming Tribal sovereign immunity, I am deeply disturbed by dicta in the Court's majority opinion that is not only at odds with the Constitution and prior Supreme Court precedent, but is an affront to tribal sovereignty. In its majority opinion, the Court suggests that a state may bring a suit for prospective injunctive relief against tribal officials for alleged violations of state law based on the doctrine of *Ex Parte Young*. Prior Supreme Court precedent, however, has made clear that the doctrine of *Ex Parte Young* only permits suit for prospective injunctive relief against government officials for alleged violations of federal law, not for alleged violations of state law. The basis for authorizing such suits against government officials is that federal law is supreme to state and tribal law, and thus states and tribes cannot officially authorize their officials to violate federal law. However, state law is not supreme to tribal law under the United States Constitution. The Court's suggestion that tribal officials acting in their official capacity are subject to suit for alleged violations of state law is not only in clear conflict with prior Supreme Court precedent, but permitting such suits would eviscerate tribal sovereign immunity by giving states the ability to do indirectly what our Constitution has prohibited from them doing directly: exercising jurisdiction and authority over Indian tribal governments through litigation. Furthermore, it will undoubtedly expose tribal officials to individual liability

and aggravation if they are named in baseless *Ex Parte Young* suits.

Perhaps worse, the Supreme Court's *Bay Mills* decision includes dicta suggesting that, if civil remedies against Indian tribes and their officials "prove[] inadequate," a state may bring criminal charges against tribal officials acting in their official capacity for alleged violations of state law. This also would enable states to trump the sovereign rights of Indian tribes by criminalizing what would otherwise be civil, government-to-government disputes between states and Indian tribes. Such action would violate the United States Constitution and the sovereign rights of Indian tribes that the Constitution guarantees. Again, the Constitution withholds from States the authority to exercise jurisdiction and power over Indian tribes, and grants that power solely to Congress. The Supreme Court does not have the power to usurp Congress' Constitutionally granted plenary power over Indian affairs by granting States the right to criminalize the exercise of tribal sovereignty where Congress has not seen fit to do so. And again, it will be tribal officials acting in their official capacity that could be exposed to potential criminal liability for doing the very same thing that all of us who are here as elected officials are trying to do—be good civil servants.

Therefore, I urge our federal and state judiciaries to treat the above-referenced dicta (and erroneous dicta at that) in the *Bay Mills* decision as just that: non-binding dicta, and to instead uphold the United States Constitution by deferring to Congress on all issues involving tribal-state conflicts. Where Congress has not expressly chosen to subject Indian tribes to state jurisdiction or authority, the states cannot usurp Congress' plenary and exclusive authority over Indian tribes by bringing suits or criminal charges against tribal officials for alleged violations of state law as a means of exercising control over sovereign Indian tribes.

HONORING LISA DALE MOORE

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Lisa Dale Moore, who turns 60 years old on September 21, 2014.

Lisa Dale Moore was born on September 21, 1954 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. After graduating from George Washington University with a major in Judaic Studies, she received a Master of Social Work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. Professionally, she has dedicated herself to a lifetime of promoting the Jewish people and the state of Israel through her work for the Jewish Federation and Hadassah. She has also been a mentor to my wife, Jill, who said that Lisa taught her everything she knows.

Lisa is truly an exceptional woman, and I am proud to call her a friend. I join her friends and family in wishing her good health and continued success in the coming year.

SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION ACT**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly submit the Urban Agriculture Production Act.

Across America, too many of our urban neighborhoods are absent stores where community members can purchase fresh, healthy foods. There are more than 23 million individuals residing in these so called "food desert" neighborhoods, where there are no stores within one mile in which they can buy healthy food.

Without healthy options, people are forced to eat unhealthy, processed, junk food, because that is all that is available and affordable. The Urban Agriculture Production Act is a step to correct this unacceptable trend.

I am pleased to recognize and support the growing resurgence of locally grown and produced product. I see it in my own community at the Sustainable Local Foods and Frederick Douglass Center Association Community Garden, of Toledo, Ohio.

Individuals, non-profits, and co-ops are stepping up and taking action to address the challenge of access to healthy food, by developing local food sources and community gardens to provide fresh, affordable produce throughout underserved communities. Not only are they growing product to provide to communities though, they are engaging and encouraging community participation all throughout the process. They are teaching community members how to farm.

As the ancient proverb says, "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." And so goes my bill, the Urban Agriculture Production Act.

The measure will encourage economic development in underserved communities by furthering the mission of local farming. It provides programmatic funds to educate people on health and wellness, supports marketing and development networks, and will inspire communities to create self sufficient food production systems to stimulate community development and healthy eating options.

All throughout our urban communities there are an abundance of unused land and space that are conveniently located to neighborhoods that are ripe for agriculture development. We must support and encourage the means to develop these plots so they become local sources of wholesome food options.

Communities that lack access to fresh produce are facing growing epidemics of obesity related diseases. We must get serious about the increased incidents of preventable disease in these communities. Prevention is paramount, and encouraging a balanced diet while also providing access to healthier foods is an obvious solution.

Farmer's Markets, greenhouses and other community agriculture initiatives can help diversify American food production so we rely less on imports and create American jobs that cannot be outsourced. My bill will spur the de-

velopment and expansion of community agriculture in nontraditional agricultural production areas across this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, urban farming and food production is a viable solution to support healthier dietary options and improve overall health of urban communities. The Urban Agriculture Production Act is the appropriate means to further develop alternative, urban agricultural production and to help meet all communities' food production needs of the future.

HONORING INDIANA REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Indiana Regional Medical Center in Indiana, Pennsylvania. It is a milestone in this wonderful community hospital's long history of providing exceptional healthcare services to the people of Indiana County and surrounding areas.

Resting in the heart of western Pennsylvania, Indiana offers the perfect blend of history, progress, industry, scenery, culture, and charm. When Indiana Regional Medical Center first welcomed the public in November of 1914, it was a 40-bed facility with 13 private rooms. From the time of its opening, the hospital's mission has been to serve the community with quality, progressive, compassionate patient care.

Over the years, this nonprofit institution has grown to become the county's sole full-service health care provider. Throughout its many renovations, expansions in services and continued advancements in knowledge and technology, Indiana Regional Medical Center has remained unchanged in its commitment to the community. It truly lives by its mission to serve the health care needs of every life it touches with compassion, respect and dignity. The hospital and its people certainly have made a difference in making Indiana County a better place to live, and they continue to have a positive impact on the region.

I wish to thank Indiana Regional Medical Center's dedicated staff, Board of Directors and CEO Stephen Wolfe for their commitment to quality healthcare. I congratulate them and the residents of Indiana County and surrounding communities on this important anniversary for their local hospital. I'm proud of having such an outstanding facility in the 9th District, and wish Indiana Regional Medical Center continued success in the next one hundred years and beyond.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARY R.
McCORMICK**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Captain Mary R.

McCormick, a proud veteran of our United States Navy, on her retirement after 26 years of service.

After graduating first in her class as an Ensign in the JAG Corps Student Program from the Navy Justice School in 1988, Captain McCormick was released from active duty on June 30, 1992 and soon was affiliated with the Select Reserves. Captain McCormick has impeccable knowledge concerning military and civilian appellate criminal law. She has represented servicemembers from all military branches during her six-year civilian military appellate practice, and she has served five years as appellate counsel.

Captain McCormick served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado from October 1992 through June 1995 where she was lead appellate attorney. She was recalled to active duty from November 2010 through September 2013, to serve as Appellate Defense Counsel for Guantanamo detainees.

Captain McCormick was named Missouri's Elder Law Attorney of the Year for 2006 and she is author of the treatise Missouri Elder Law published annually by West/Thomson Reuters.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Captain Mary R. McCormick for her admirable service to our country as well as her passion for the law.

GLOBAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT
EBOLA**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I convened a second hearing in just five weeks on the Ebola crisis in West Africa to underscore just how serious a crisis we are facing—an international pandemic which threatens to balloon unless confronted head on.

Earlier this week, I spoke with Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the lead witness at our August 7 emergency recess hearing on Ebola and he said that this is the worst health crisis he has ever seen and that Ebola is at risk of spreading beyond those countries currently affected—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Since our emergency hearing in August, we have seen a constant movement upwards in the number of cases predicted. The World Health Organization now estimates that we will see as many as 20,000 cases of Ebola in this epidemic before it is ended. One hopes that that number does not increase further, but it may be a conservative estimate.

I held yesterday's hearing to take stock of where our intervention efforts stand, particularly in light of the President's decision to commit U.S. military personnel to Liberia to fight this disease. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, with whom I also spoke earlier this week, has conceded that the Ebola epidemic "has overwhelmed" her country's containment and treatment capabilities. A global response,

with the United States in the lead, is thus necessary.

It is important to note that in a letter last week to President Obama, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf wrote that "The virus is spreading at an exponential rate and we have a limited time window to arrest it. Mr. President, well over 40% of total cases occurred in the last 18 days. Our message has gotten out and our citizens are self-reporting or bringing in their relatives. But our treatment centers are overwhelmed. MSF is now running a 160 bed-unit that will expand even further. I am being honest with you when I say that at this rate, we will never break the transmission chain and the virus will overwhelm us."

I held the follow-up hearing yesterday morning to determine if there is a reasonable hope for vaccines, treatments and detection strategies in time to help with this health emergency.

I hesitate to provide figures for the number of people infected or who have succumbed to this virus because even as we hold this hearing, dozens, if not hundreds, of new infections will be documented. According to the latest figures, infections are approaching 5,000 people, and 2,500 deaths.

Ebola, which is mostly unknown in West Africa, presents itself early in the infection like usually non-fatal diseases such as Lassa fever, malaria or even the flu. The temperature seen in early stages might even be brought down with regular medicines. Therefore, many people may not believe, or may not want to believe, they have this often fatal disease.

If someone is in denial or unknowledgeable about this disease, they may not seek treatment until it is too late—both for them and for the people they unknowingly infect. Families in Africa tend to help one another in times of need, an admirable trait that unfortunately increases the risk of infection. The sicker a person gets with Ebola, the more contagious they are, and never more so than when they die. So burials that don't involve strict precautions to avoid direct contact with highly contagious corpses make transmission of this deadly disease almost inevitable. Burial traditions make avoidance of infection problematic.

The porous, lightly-monitored borders in West Africa lend themselves to cross-border transmission, as people go back and forth along well-travelled roads and into marketplaces where hundreds of people, also traveling, make contact with those who are infected.

Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian-American, reportedly was caring for his dying sister a few weeks ago. After she died, apparently of Ebola, he left Liberia on his way to his daughter's birthday party in Minnesota. He collapsed at the Lagos airport in Nigeria and died within days. Had he left Liberia a week or even days earlier, he might have made it home to Minnesota, but he likely would have infected people along the way, including his own family. We can say that because Sawyer infected several people in Nigeria, which led to Ebola being transmitted to health care workers and then to dozens of other people.

We'll never know now if Sawyer realized he had contracted Ebola and just wanted to go home for treatment or whether he thought his symptoms were from some other illness. Many

people are just like him, however, and they are spreading this disease even to places where it had been brought under control. For example, the Macenta region of Guinea on the Liberian border was one of the first places this disease surfaced, but by early September, no new cases had been seen for weeks. Doctors Without Borders closed one of its Ebola treatment centers to focus on harder-hit areas. Infected people leaving Liberia for better treatment in Guinea have once again made Macenta a hotspot for the disease.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established teams in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria to help local staff do fever detection and to administer questionnaires on potential troublesome contacts. The agency also is helping to establish sites at airports for further testing and/or treatment.

Liberia and Sierra Leone are the hardest hit by this Ebola outbreak. This is undoubtedly partly because of the weak infrastructures of two countries emerging from long conflicts. However, post-conflict countries also have significant segments of the population who don't trust the central government. The unfortunate mishandling by the Liberian government of an attempted quarantine in the capital demonstrates why trust has been so difficult to come by.

The Liberian government established barriers to block off the West Point slum area after a holding center for Ebola victims was ransacked and contaminated materials were taken. This quarantine was done without informing its 80,000 inhabitants or consulting with health care workers. Not only did this prevent people from pursuing their livelihoods or bringing in much-needed supplies, this move created great suspicions over the motives of the Liberian government. This suspicion was heightened when the official in charge of the area was called to a meeting and was seen leaving just as everyone else was trapped behind barriers.

The furor over this quarantine forced the government to abandon it 10 days into its planned 21-day term. Liberian officials assure us they have learned from their mistakes, that the quarantine and has alerted Liberians to the reality of the Ebola epidemic. The human rights of victims and those who live in proximity to them must not be sacrificed by the emergency situation Ebola presents.

Despite the fact that the drug ZMapp appears to have saved the lives of Americans Nancy Writebol and Dr. Kent Brantly, one of the witnesses from yesterday, there are no proven, readily available treatments for Ebola. The death rate for this disease, once more than 90%, is now down to 53% despite the number of cases growing exponentially.

In Africa, a few patients apparently have been successfully treated with ZMapp, and some others have been saved using other treatment methods, especially when the disease was identified early. Yet there is not now, nor will there be in the short term, large quantities of this medicine or any others. There are several Ebola therapeutics under development, but if this outbreak cannot be brought under control soon, even the most optimistic timetable for the testing and production of these drugs will not be sufficient to meet the ever-expanding need.

ZMapp was used with the informed consent of those to whom it was given. But how can we guarantee that the many Ebola victims whose most likely salvation would be to use an experimental drug truly understand the risks of using a drug that has not been fully tested and vetted by the authorities in the country in which it is developed? No drug is 100% effective, so what will other victims think if some people die despite taking experimental treatments? We must protect the rights of those willing to take a chance on unproven treatment when they have no other alternatives.

Lack of faith in national and international systems fighting Ebola also has impeded the replacement of the many African health care workers who have died from this disease. For example, even before this Ebola outbreak, Liberia had fewer than two doctors for every 100,000 people. As of late August, 164 Liberian health care workers had contracted Ebola, and 78 had died.

African health care workers face an epidemic that threatens to defy control. The lack of diagnostic techniques and insufficient supplies of safety equipment have put these health care workers at extreme risk. These health workers know that the lack of treatment centers and medicines means that those on the front lines of this epidemic are most at risk. Some have asked for insurance for their families should they succumb to Ebola and certain evacuation for treatment outside the hot zone. These heroes deserve all the support we can muster.

Ebola not only challenges the collective ability of the world community to meet the demands it poses, it threatens the progress made over the last decade by African countries in overcoming conflict and improving economic development. Even after this outbreak is finally brought under control, its damage will be seen in lowered gross domestic product and diminished foreign investment.

So we must be prepared to create effective strategies to help affected African nations recover. A large part of any successful strategy will feature efforts to recreate and dramatically expand health care systems in West African and other countries on the continent. This epidemic has shown that we must not be complacent about weak governance or health care systems. To that end, Ranking Member BASS and I will soon introduce a bill to address the emergency and ongoing needs in the fight to contain the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

We live in a world that is increasingly interconnected, and Ebola has demonstrated that our neighbor's problems can soon become our problems.

HONORING COLONEL CATHLEEN HARMS' SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Cathleen Harms of Great Neck, New York, who on July 31, 2014

ended 38 years of military service, including 31 years of commissioned service and rejoins the Retired Reserves. Colonel Harms is also a retired Lieutenant in the New York City Police Department.

Colonel Harms began her military career as a dental hygienist. Her enlisted career with the Army National Guard spanned from March 12, 1976 until May 18, 1983. She began her career in the New York Army National Guard in 1976 when she received her Associate of Applied Science degree from the State University of New York at Farmingdale. In addition to serving as a dental hygienist she also served as a Platoon Sergeant in the 824th Medical Detachment.

She then earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Health from Saint Joseph's College, Brooklyn, NY and Saint John's University, Jamaica, NY, being cross-enrolled in both schools for ROTC purposes. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve on May 19, 1983, earning the honor of Distinguished Military Graduate.

After commissioning, Colonel Harms completed the Army Medical Department Officer Basic Course. Her first assignment in the Medical Service Corps was as Administrative Officer, 824th Medical Detachment, New York Army National Guard, from May 1983 until May 1989. During this tour she attended the Army Medical Department Theater Medical Operation Course in 1985, was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant on May 18, 1986, and promoted again to the rank of Captain on May 19, 1987. Her next assignment was as the Medical Regulating Officer, for the 244th Medical Group, New York Army National Guard from 1990 until 1993. During this time she served in both a National Guard Status and a Title 10 Active Duty Status and attended the Army Medical Department Officer Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College Mobilization and Deployment Planning Course.

Colonel Harms' next assignment was as the Personnel Officer for the 244th Medical Group of the New York Army National Guard from September 1993 until June 1994, during which time she completed the Patient Administration Course as the Honor Graduate. She then served in the 244th as Patient Administration Officer from July 1994 until July 1997, and graduated from the Command and General Staff Course in 1995. In 1997 she completed the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's (DEOMI) Equal Opportunity Advisor's Course in which she made the Commandant's list for academic achievement.

Her next assignment was as Detachment Commander, 53rd Troop Command New York Army National Guard from August 1997 until December 2000. She was promoted to Major, Army National Guard in October 6, 1997. During this period of command she also completed the National Guard Bureau Military Discrimination Complaint Investigator Course in 1998.

Colonel Harms' following assignment was as Equal Opportunity Advisor, 53rd Troop Command, New York Army National Guard, from January 2000 until August 2004. In 2001 she completed the DEOMI Mediation Course and in 2004 she completed the Army National Guard Facilitator Course. She was promoted

to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard on April 8, 2003.

Colonel Harms returned to Active Duty in Title 10 status in August 2004 to the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants, Guantanamo Bay and Washington, D.C. She served in multiple billets including: Lead Recorder, Chief of Staff, Deputy Branch Chief, Tiger Team, Operations Officer, Special Liaison to Department of State, and Guantanamo Review Task Force Member. She was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Army National Guard on May 12, 2008. During this assignment, in 2008, she also completed a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

She next served at the Periodic Review Secretariat in Arlington, Virginia beginning in April 2012, where she served as the Deputy Director for Operations. She entered the Retired Reserves on July 31, 2013, but continued to serve on Retiree Recall orders until May 2014.

Colonel Harms' final uniformed assignment was at the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir, VA, from June 2014 until July 2014.

Cathleen Harms also had a distinguished career in public service as a New York City Police Officer. She retired as a Lieutenant in the New York City Police Department. During her NYPD career, she held the ranks of Police Officer, Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Her positions included Patrol Officer, Patrol Supervisor, Detective Investigator, Supervisor of Narcotics Investigations and Operations, Platoon Commander, and Integrity Control Lieutenant. She was trained and experienced in performing internal and external investigations, conducting interviews and interrogations, preparing and reviewing reports and investigative findings, conducting and supervising search warrants, developing and managing confidential informants, and reviewing and managing overtime budgets.

The distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Harms culminate a long and distinguished career in the service of her community and country and reflect great credit upon herself, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

Her Defense Superior Service Medal citation is attached to this submission.

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL TO
COLONEL CATHLEEN A. HARMS

Colonel Cathleen A. Harms, United States Army, distinguished herself by exceptionally superior service while serving in various positions of increased responsibility, culminating as Deputy Director for Operations, Periodic Review Secretariat (PRS), Arlington, VA, from August 2004 through May 2013. Under her expert guidance, over 1,150 cases were prepared for processes that determined enemy combatant status, the transfer, continued detention or release of detainees held at U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She managed the sensitive interface with foreign governments on their nationals' status and handled numerous requests from Congress, non-governmental organizations and the media. Colonel Harms participated in the Presidential Task Force under Executive Order 13492, which comprehensively reviewed 240 detainee cases. She was vital in the planning and execution of the transition from the Office for Administrative Review of

the Detention of Enemy Combatants to the PRS per Executive Order 13567. Her outstanding leadership resulted in major contributions to national security and the success of the PRS and OARDEC missions in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Harms culminated a long and distinguished career in the service of her country and reflect great credit upon herself, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF
COLLIERVILLE, "AMERICA'S
BEST MAIN STREET"

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate the Town of Collierville, TN on winning Parade Magazine's "America's Best Main Street" contest. Over 2,000 main streets were nominated and ultimately trimmed down to the best 16 representatives. The finalists faced off in a bracket-styled competition that demonstrated not only Collierville's beauty and livability, but also the dedication and pride of the citizens of the Town of Collierville.

The history of Collierville dates back to 1836, when Jessie Collier divided his farm into lots and posted an advertisement that lots were for sale in the Town of Collier. Originally incorporated in 1850, Collierville was the scene of a bloody Civil War battle that featured famed Union General William T. Sherman. Following war and reconstruction, Collierville was re-incorporated in 1870 with a picturesque downtown square with the town's businesses surrounding it. The Square's iconic gazebo today serves as the focal point of annual fairs, festivals, and political activities with the ever-changing colors of the season the backdrop. The Town of Collierville's Historic Town Square doubles as the business and social center of the town, playing host to a wide array of small businesses and local restaurants that exemplify what small-town America is all about.

From inception to war, from cotton to dairy, from the industrial revolution to information age, the Town of Collierville has maintained its southern tradition and charm. The voters of Parade Magazine could not have made a better choice and I am indeed privileged to represent the Town of Collierville. On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate the Town of Collierville on winning Parade Magazine's "America's Best Main Street" contest.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE OF
TOURISM THROUGH LITERATURE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding English professors for

their innovative contributions toward promoting tourism through literature.

First, Professor Mary S. Palmer's short story "Raisin' Cain" recently won the Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative Tourism Writing Contest Award.

Professor Palmer's story highlighted the family-friendly nature of Mobile's Mardi Gras and was published online at the Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative's website. The story includes photos and tourism links at the end so readers can learn how to visit the real Mardi Gras parades and other nearby Mobile attractions included in the inspiring story.

I also want to recognize Dr. Sue Walker who currently teaches tourism writing to several of her English classes at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

Dr. Walker is using the examples of tourism writing from this initiative to challenge her students to compose original short works of literature that encourage their readers to visit the actual places included in the stories.

Mr. Speaker, on Alabama's Gulf Coast, we know just how important tourism is to our local economies. I proudly support any effort to encourage tourism in our region, and I especially applaud innovative methods in the classroom, like tourism writing. Professor Palmer and Dr. Walker have found a unique way to highlight the heritage and culture of South Alabama while providing an enriching experience for their students.

I hope my colleagues in the House will invite their state's writers and teachers to take a look at what is going on in Mobile and consider ways to incorporate these types of college courses into their curriculum, and in turn, highlight their state's unique tourism attractions.

I will be honored to present Professor Palmer with the 2014 SELTI Tourism Fiction Award on October 15 at the Mobile Carnival Museum, and I am excited to highlight these types of innovative teaching methods.

A DAY TO HONOR "ROSIE THE RIVETER"

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague GEORGE MILLER, to honor the important contributions of women on the Home Front during World War II.

During World War II, 6 million women entered the workforce nationwide, increasing the female percentage in the workforce from 27 percent to 37 percent. Women replaced men in many traditionally male jobs as men enlisted in active military service. They worked as riveters, welders, electricians, and draftsmen, among others.

Working women during World War II set the stage for working women today. African American women overcame long-held policies of discrimination and made significant contributions to the war effort by working in the shipyards and in supporting the Home Front. Federal, state, and local public and private agen-

cies coordinated efforts to develop child care programs for working mothers.

Today, the image of "Rosie the Riveter" and the phrase "We Can Do It" have come to symbolize women's empowerment.

On October 24, 2000, the Rosie the Riveter-World War II Home Front National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2000 was enacted into law. As we approach the anniversary of that date, we ask that you take time on that day to honor the important contributions of women on the Home Front during World War II.

HONORING THE CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of Thousand Oaks as it celebrates 50 years as a thriving and prosperous municipality in Ventura County, California. I would like to congratulate the city, along with its residents, on this momentous milestone.

The City of Thousand Oaks was incorporated on October 7th, 1964, and was named for the beautiful and bountiful oak trees that are the hallmark and symbol of the city to this day. In the early years of its incorporation, nearly 20,000 people lived within the 14.28 square miles that was Thousand Oaks.

Since its incorporation, Thousand Oaks has developed into a flourishing community, growing to 56 square miles with over 127,000 residents. This successful expansion is due to collaborative partnerships among city administrators and involved citizens working towards a vision to create a family-oriented community.

Additionally, city officials have done an outstanding job to maintain the healthy growth of this community, while conserving and integrating the natural beauty that surrounds Thousand Oaks through its development. Over the last 50 years, more than 15,000 square acres of land have been designated as "Open Space," including more than 75 miles of trails that have been protected to ensure that residents of the city today can enjoy the same beauty that the Chumash Native Americans experienced hundreds of years ago.

While this natural acreage gives our community the best of nature, another source of pride is the Civic Arts Plaza, which is a jewel of cultural arts. Thousand Oaks has become a beacon for our region featuring world-class entertainment, musicals, concerts, children's shows, ballets, and much more. In addition, some of the city's most impressive accomplishments have come in the realm of infrastructure improvements, which have significantly enhanced the quality of life and ensured the mobility of its residents and businesses.

Over the last five decades, the City of Thousand Oaks has grown into an exceptional and premiere community that has been recognized for being one of the most desirable places in all of California to live, work, recreate, and raise a family. It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the City of Thousand Oaks on their 50th anniversary!

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR. JAMES CHERRY, SR. OF AENON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the life and ministry of the Reverend Dr. James Cherry, Sr. Reverend Cherry is the long-serving, revered and accomplished pastor of the highly regarded Aenon Missionary Baptist Church in Rochester, New York.

Throughout his thirty-four year tenure as pastor of Aenon Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Cherry has earned the love and respect of Aenon congregants and countless others throughout the United States and abroad. His teaching and preaching have enabled innumerable people to lift themselves from the depths of despair, given them hope for a brighter future and the determination to reach their full potential in life. His outstanding ministry can be credited in great part for the unprecedented growth of the Aenon Missionary Baptist Church.

His compassionate spirit and boundless love for humanity have guided Aenon to reach far beyond its four walls and into the darker places of our society. With his guidance, the church established ministries such as Dorcas's Closet, Monks Bread, and the Urban Farm Stand to address the basic needs of people in the southwest area of Rochester, New York. Through his work with the New York State Empire Baptist Mission of America, Reverend Cherry has ministered to the needs of countless people throughout our nation and in foreign countries.

Often referred to as the "pastor's pastor" by his colleagues, Reverend Cherry is notable for sharing wise and profound counsel with other ministers and pastors. Not being one to promote himself or a personal agenda, he has always freely shared his wisdom; thereby aiding younger pastors to excel in ministry and more seasoned pastors to benefit from his wealth of experience and ministerial expertise.

Reverend Cherry faithfully served our nation through his service in the United States Marine Corps (1954–1957). He has faithfully served as an American Baptist pastor for 54 years and as pastor of Aenon Missionary Baptist Church for 34 years. He has received numerous accolades and many awards, including awards from the National Baptist Convention, the Great Lakes Baptist Association, the Empire State Congress of Christian Education, the Urban League, the NAACP, the YMCA and the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS.

Through his ministry and works, Reverend Cherry has proven himself to be a servant of God and a friend to all of humanity. In tribute to his lifetime of service to the Rochester, New York community and far beyond, I stand to honor him today. As Reverend Cherry enters into retirement at the end of 2014, let the record show that his legacy is one of love, compassion, empathy and great works. Today

I am proud to honor the life and legacy of one of the finest residents of New York's 25th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, the Rochester community, the State of New York and our nation are far better places because Reverend Dr. James Cherry, Sr. has walked among us.

MARKING THE PASSING OF
THOMAS HALE BOGGS, JR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a civic-minded giant and one of our nation's leading legal minds: Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr., who passed earlier this week at the age of 73.

Thomas Boggs, Jr. belonged to a great American family—a family devoted to public policy and leadership. His father, Congressman Hale Boggs, represented the people of Louisiana in the House for almost 28 years, elected by his colleagues to become Democratic Whip and Majority Leader. When Leader Boggs tragically died, Thomas's mother Lindy won the election to fill his seat, serving for 18 years as a forceful and dynamic Congresswoman unafraid to know her own power and make her own mark. Tommy's late sister Barbara Boggs Sigmund won public office as mayor of Princeton, N.J., and his sister Cokie Roberts is one of our nation's finest journalists.

Thomas Boggs's family taught him that public service was a noble calling, leaving a sterling legacy of leadership and civic engagement that would guide and define his entire life. As an undergraduate at Georgetown University, he studied government from within the halls of Congress, working as an elevator operator in the House of Representatives. As a law student at Georgetown, he worked with the Joint Economic Committee, at one point helping to advance President Johnson's 1964 anti-poverty tour of Appalachia.

Later, he spent 15 months as Assistant to the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, before leaving to pursue a life in law.

In 1966, he joined the law firm that would become Squire Patton Boggs, building a list of accomplishments that includes critical victories for American automakers and preserving thousands of American jobs. Although he lost an election for Congress in 1970, he continued his commitment to public service as part of the Presidential Commission on Executive Exchange and as a Presidential Delegate to our trade mission to China in 1979.

In recognition of his intellect and ability, The National Law Journal has named him to their list of the top 100 lawyers in the United States every year since the list's inception.

Thomas Boggs was a towering advocate for American workers and middle-class families—carrying forward the legacy of public service that his family continues to exemplify. I hope that it is a comfort to his wife, Barbara, his children, his sister Cokie, and all of his loved ones that so many people throughout the

world share their grief and mourn the loss of the devoted and loving patriarch of the Boggs family during this most difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, I inadvertently voted "no" on roll No. 503—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: Gun Lake Trust Land Reaffirmation Act. I had meant for my vote to be recorded as "aye".

HONORING JAMES LINTOTT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. James W. Lintott, a constituent who recently stepped down as chairman of the board for the Children's National Medical Center. Mr. Lintott has held this post since 2010 and has been a passionate advocate for access to quality health care for all children.

Jim's leadership has helped to advance pediatric health in our community and beyond. He has been actively involved with Children's National for more than 12 years and has served as a member of a number of governance committees and boards. He began his involvement as a member of Children's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors in 2002 and later served as chairman of that board.

Jim has been a champion for children by leading philanthropic giving initiatives and building awareness in the community of the importance of supporting the mission and goals of Children's National. Under his leadership, Children's National secured a gift to establish an institute for pediatric surgical innovation. This institute is advancing pediatric medicine by discovering new treatments and devices and implementing innovative approaches to improving children's health.

Lintott's efforts have helped to advance pediatric medicine and research. He is truly a passionate advocate for children's health. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Jim Lintott for his leadership as chairman of the board of Children's National Medical Center.

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN
SPIRIT

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, 2014, Honor America, Inc. will celebrate its 40th Anniversary and hold its 3rd Annual Patriot Awards Dinner at the Rialto Hilton in Mel-

bourne, Florida. Founded in 1974 in Washington, D.C. by the Rev. Billy Graham, Bob Hope, Hobart Lewis, and J. W. Marriott, Honor America seeks to reawaken a sense of pride in American traditions, ideals, and accomplishments.

It's critical to the survival of our nation and our freedom for young people to learn about our nation's cultural heritage, our Constitution and history. That's what Honor America is all about—promoting awareness of the great blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—instilling both pride in American citizenship and respect for our flag.

To do this, Honor America sponsors the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum, the Brevard Hall of Fame, and the Melbourne Military Memorial Park in Melbourne, Florida. They also sponsor the City of Melbourne's Independence Day Parade and Veteran's Day Parade to pay homage to the many Americans who have made tremendous sacrifices protecting and defending our liberty.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Honor America for their tireless efforts to remind us all what it means to be an American and celebrate it.

HONORING BILL SCHWERI

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tireless advocate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mr. Bill Schweri, who is retiring from his position as the Director of Federal Relations at the University of Kentucky. As Bill retires, I want to personally thank him not only for the work he has done to better the Sixth District of Kentucky and the broader Commonwealth, but also for the relationship he has developed with me and my staff.

Bill has always been happy to spend the time to get to know my office, and we all have fond memories of working with Bill—not to mention remembrances of chatting about UK sports in the front office. Bill's ability to build lasting relationships is unmatched, and he leaves large shoes to fill.

Few people have contributed as much to our Commonwealth and UK as Bill has during his 42 years at the University including the last 20 as Director of Federal Relations. His contribution to the success of UK—from the NCI designation at the Markey Cancer Center to advances in energy research to programs in agriculture and education—speaks for itself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the Big Blue Nation as we honor Bill Schweri and wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

HONORING DAVID SMITH

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize David M. Smith,

President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Ventura County, on the occasion of his retirement from an exemplary career in dedicated public service and outstanding contributions to our community.

David Smith has had a remarkable and distinguished career as a community leader and philanthropist. His passion and dedication to the mission of United Way has fostered a thriving and prosperous environment for numerous community programs that serve the citizens of Ventura County with an array of invaluable health and human services.

In October 2001, David took on the weighty role and responsibilities as the leader of United Way of Ventura County, and served as a steward for the organization's vision and shared purpose of changing lives and shaping communities.

With over a decade of dedicated service, David has created a powerful strategy of encouraging individuals to invest in their community's needs, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all of Ventura County's residents and delivering positive community results.

In addition, David holds an impressive volunteer track record as a member of the Board of Directors of Ventura County Economic Development Association. David has also served as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Casa Pacifica, the Ventura County Taxpayers Association, and the American Cancer Society Ventura County Chapter. For his selfless service to his community, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce honored David Smith as Man of the Year in 2010.

David Smith's lifetime career of leadership, community service, and his many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to Ventura County. As this chapter in his career comes to an end, I want to express my sincere appreciation for David's years of honorable and selfless dedication that greatly contributed to the success of the United Way of Ventura County, and our community as a whole.

For these reasons, I commend David M. Smith and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, 1964, President Johnson signed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) into law, establishing a dedicated and permanent means for the protection of America's irreplaceable recreational, natural, historic, cultural and outdoor resources.

The 50th anniversary is an occasion for celebration, but also a reminder that LWCF's authorizing legislation expires in within a year. As we commemorate LWCF's half-century track record of success, it is imperative to secure reauthorization of the program before that date.

LWCF is fully paid for without relying on the support of American taxpayer dollars. Every

year, \$900 million of the many billions of dollars the U.S. Treasury collects from offshore oil and gas drilling is deposited into the LWCF trust fund. These revenues are a promise made to the many communities across America that rely on these resource lands, and on the conservation and recreation economies they support.

This arrangement has served our nation well, helping to realize a long list of conservation successes over the past 50 years without costing taxpayers a dime. This includes creating outdoor recreation opportunities in every state and 98 percent of counties across the country—opening up key areas for hunting, fishing, and other recreational access; supporting working forests and ranches; and acquiring inholdings and protecting critical lands in national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, Civil War battlefields and other federal areas. From the Pacific Crest Trail to the North Cascades, the Mountains to Sound Greenway to Lake Chelan, the high quality of life and outdoor opportunities in Washington have been protected by LWCF.

Outdoor recreation activities in Washington directly support 227,000 jobs and consumers spend \$22.5 billion on outdoor recreation equipment, apparel, lodging, and other services, generating \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue. Further investments are needed to replace funds that have been redirected and to ensure that we can continue to protect our national treasures, such as the Yakima River Basin in my home state. This is an area not only used and beloved by hikers, campers, hunters, and fisherman but is also critical in providing drinking water and irrigation.

LWCF does more than simply add acreage to our public lands—it provides an entire suite of conservation tools to address national, state, local and regionally driven priorities across the country. These include working land easements that keep working forests in production and jobs in rural economies—rather than forcing family forest owners to subdivide and sell off portions of their land to developers. Additionally, these often include purchase of inholdings within the boundaries of existing public lands which make management more efficient by reducing the cost of fencing, boundary surveying, firefighting and other costs and ensuring access for land management.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary, the best way to honor the Land and Water Conservation Fund is to make sure Congress provides the necessary funding levels so it can continue its history of success for our great nation.

HONORING JIM REES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Rees, who passed away on September 9, 2014, at his home in Markham, Virginia.

Jim served as president of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate for two decades,

from 1994 to 2013. I had the privilege of working closely with Jim over the years on many important issues, especially working to improve historical literacy among young Americans. Jim was a tireless advocate of George Washington's legacy, his estate at Mount Vernon and the leadership virtues of our nation's indispensable founding father. Because of his work building Mount Vernon's endowment and revitalizing interest in the estate, Jim was called "an indispensable man to Mount Vernon in his time" by Barbara Lucas, regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, who spoke to the Washington Post about Rees' legacy.

Jim was beloved not only by the board of the Ladies' Association, staff and volunteers but also by all those who share his commitment to preserving the legacy of the Father of our Country. His passing is a loss to the Mount Vernon community and indeed the nation. I respectfully submit Jim Rees' obituary from The Washington Post and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jim's life and achievements.

[Sept. 13, 2014]

JAMES C. REES, 62, LONGTIME PRESIDENT OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON, DIES

(By Emily Langer)

James C. Rees, who endeavored to keep George Washington first in the hearts of his countrymen, and particularly in the hearts of his country's tourists, as president for nearly two decades of the founding father's Mount Vernon estate, died Sept. 9 at his home in Markham, Va. He was 62.

The cause was multiple system atrophy, a neurological disorder, said his husband, Kirk Blandford.

Mr. Rees spent nearly his entire career at Mount Vernon, the stately home 15 miles outside the District in Virginia, where George Washington lived for decades and where he was buried after his death in 1799.

After working in the development office and as the estate's associate director, Mr. Rees became in 1994 Mount Vernon's executive director, a title later changed to president. He moved into a home on the grounds overlooking the Potomac River and became, he said, the public relations agent for the nation's first president.

The nonprofit Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which has independently owned and maintained the property since 1860, credited Mr. Rees with leading fundraising initiatives that brought more than \$250 million to the estate. During his nearly three decades with the institution, its endowment grew from \$4 million to more than \$100 million, according to the group.

"It has been said that George Washington was the 'indispensable man,'" observed Barbara B. Lucas, the regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, adding that Mr. Rees "likewise was an indispensable man to Mount Vernon in his time."

Mr. Rees's tenure as president coincided with what he and other George Washington enthusiasts feared was a growing ignorance about American history, particularly among the young. Once, Mr. Rees encountered a group of students and began joking with them—"you know, playing off some of the Washington myths," he told the Weekly Standard.

"I said, 'Well, it's a good thing this isn't a cherry tree, or it might be in danger—you never know who might come chop it down.' And there was no reaction. Nothing. So I

said, 'But I guess we could always use the wood to make some teeth.' Nothing. Blank stares."

Mr. Rees led a years-long mission to enliven the visitor experience at Mount Vernon and to invigorate the image of the president who lived there. Washington, Mr. Rees remarked, seemed to be locked in the national imagination as the rather dour-looking gentlemen on the \$1 bill.

"Washington was athletic, adventurous and risk-taking, known to be one of the finest horsemen of his day and willing to meet challenges head-on," Mr. Rees once told the *New York Times*. "Some have called him the nation's first action hero."

At the Ford Orientation Center, a building opened in 2006 with sponsorship from the Ford Motor Co., visitors watch a film described as an "action-adventure" movie about Washington's military exploits and personal life.

The Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, which also opened at Mount Vernon in 2006, includes theaters, interactive displays and galleries with artifacts from Washington's life, including the bedstead he used during the Revolutionary War, his sword and, perhaps best known, his dentures.

The teeth in particular represented a departure from what had previously been the organization's conservative presentation of the former president.

"We used to be so discreet that we didn't want to display Washington's dentures," Mr. Rees told the *Times*. "When we finally broke down and showed them, they turned out to be a sensation. That taught us something."

Mr. Rees also oversaw the restoration and reconstruction of Mount Vernon's whiskey distillery and gristmill. One of his last undertakings was fundraising for the \$106 million Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, which opened in 2013, the year after Mr. Rees retired.

James Conway Rees IV was born May 5, 1952, in Richmond. The history textbooks he used as a youngster, he often said with chagrin, devoted significantly more space to Washington than can be found in books used today.

He was a 1974 English graduate of the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg and received a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University in 1978. Before joining Mount Vernon in 1983, he did development work for William & Mary and for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Mr. Rees often reflected on the challenges of promoting Washington in the modern age.

"I suppose it has to do with lots of things," he once told the *Weekly Standard*. "The rise of social history—filling up history with all kinds of people who'd been ignored before means there's less room for old heroes. And I suppose it has to do with the end of the great man theory of history, too."

"But there's something else that worries me," he continued. "The qualities Washington possessed just aren't as appreciated as they were. Honesty. Good judgment. Modesty—my God, who in late-20th-century America gets credit for being modest anymore?"

In 2007, Mr. Rees published a book, "George Washington's Leadership Lessons: What the Father of Our Country Can Teach Us About Effective Leadership and Character."

Survivors include Kirk Blandford, his partner of 29 years, whom he married last year, of Markham; and a brother.

On one occasion, Mr. Rees was called upon to correct an oversight by Washington, who

had borrowed from the New York Society Library "The Law of Nations," Emer de Vattel's 18th-century political treatise, and failed to return it.

By the time the matter came to Mr. Rees's attention, the item was more than two centuries overdue. He returned a copy to its rightful owner.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY DEAL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jerry Deal who is retiring after serving for eight years on the Burlingame City Council, the last four as Vice Mayor, and for 13 years on the Planning Commission, three times as the Chair. His work on the Planning Commission earned him the nickname "Father of Design Review." Jerry's commitment to his beloved home community and public service has benefitted the city of Burlingame and the quality of life of its residents.

As an architect, Jerry has used his training and skills to inform many of his public policy decisions. He was instrumental in the transformation of Burlingame Avenue and the building of the new Safeway, roof garden, pocket park and retail and office spaces. As a business owner himself and a member of the Burlingame Economic Development Committee, Jerry helped foster a business-friendly environment. His pragmatism and humor, essential to any good architect, have allowed him to be effective in leading the public and his colleagues.

Due in part to Jerry's leadership, the library was saved and Burlingame still maintains its own police department. Jerry is also a tireless advocate for children, promoting and protecting our schools and developing additional recreational fields.

Jerry's passion for community service began with a seat on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Repertory Company, and as a board member of the free Shakespeare in the Park festival. During his time on the Burlingame City Council he was involved in a long list of issues and committees. In addition to the already-mentioned Economic Development Committee, Jerry served as a liaison between the city and the Burlingame Chamber of Commerce. He has one of the better attendance records at Chamber functions, and he listened closely when the Chamber made important suggestions to improve the quality of life in Burlingame. He was also a member of the Fire Advanced Life Support (ALS) Joint Powers Authority, a public-private partnership launched in 1977 to provide improved emergency medical care to Burlingame citizens.

It isn't just the citizens of Burlingame who trust Jerry Deal to be fair and insightful. Jerry was elected by San Mateo County's 20 mayors to serve on the SamTrans Board of Directors overseeing fixed-route and para-transit bus services in San Mateo County. The county's mayors also elected him to serve as Vice Chair of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board which owns and operates Caltrain. The Caltrain Board of Directors appointed Jerry as

its representative on the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA), the body responsible for overseeing the new Transbay Transit Center, a rail extension for Caltrain and High-Speed Rail and adjacent transit-oriented developments in downtown San Francisco. As you can surmise from this list, Jerry is smart, self-effacing, and is passionate about improving the quality of life for all Bay Area residents directly impacted by city planning, housing and transportation.

Jerry's expertise, enthusiasm and effectiveness have left an indelible mark on the city of Burlingame which he has called home for over 35 years. He and his wife JoAnn Johnson-Deal, a teacher at Franklin Elementary School, have five children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Jerry Deal, the Vice Mayor of Burlingame, a proud resident and a dear friend, for over two decades of outstanding public service. He will be leaving us shortly to move to Oregon, but his legacy will live on in the beauty of Burlingame, in its architecture, in its family-focused activities and lifestyle, and in the example of fairness that Jerry exhibited during his time in public office. We will say farewell to a friend of decades who has etched his mark on decades yet to come.

HONORING JON C. FOSTER

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jon C. Foster, a distinguished and exemplary Firefighter for Fire Station 74, San Nicolas Island, for the Federal Fire Department Ventura County, on the occasion of his retirement from a remarkable career of over 35 years of dedicated service to our community and our country.

Firefighter Foster has had an outstanding and admirable career, which began when he enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Firefighter in 1976. He quickly rose to the ranks of Staff Sergeant and Crew Chief before the end of his enlistment in 1982. Firefighter Foster continued his commitment and service to the community by working at the Construction Battalion Center, where he served as a Firefighter for the United States Coast Guard and worked with the CBC Fire Department.

Firefighter Foster was transferred to Point Mugu Fire Department, where he served for two years before being assigned to San Nicolas Outlying Field. Firefighter Foster has shown his impeccable dedication to Ventura County by serving for the last 25 years at Fire Station 74, San Nicolas Island. His unwavering service to Ventura County has been invaluable to the safety of this community.

With over three and a half decades of exceptional work dedicated to the Department of Defense, Fire and Emergency Services, Firefighter Foster has set a superior standard of performance for those who serve with him. His service has truly lived up to the meaning of the Department of Defense, Fire and Emergency Services' motto, "Protecting Those Who Defend America."

Firefighter Foster's lifetime career of leadership and his many accomplishments are indicative of his steadfast commitment and dedication to our community. As this chapter in his career comes to an end, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Firefighter Foster's years of honorable and selfless dedication that greatly contributed to the success of the Federal Fire Department Ventura County.

For these reasons, I commend Firefighter Jon C. Foster and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise regarding the continuing maritime disputes in the waters of the East China Sea, particularly surrounding a group of particular islands. Known as the Senkaku Islands to Japan, the Diaoyutai Islands in Taiwan, and the Diaoyu Islands in China, these islands are the focal point of the many disputes over the waters of the East China and South China seas.

Although tensions remain, Taiwan has emerged as a pro-active voice urging countries to work together to insure prosperity and security for all. Japan, China, and Taiwan all have claims to islands in the East China Sea, and the resulting tensions—particularly between China and Japan—threaten our political, economic, and security interests in the region.

Taiwan's President, Ma Ying-jeou, is determined to peacefully resolve this problem by working to build a trusting relationship with the countries involved. In 2012 President Ma proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which demonstrates Taiwan's genuine interest in finding a permanent solution that benefits all stakeholders. The general response to the initiative has been positive in this country, and I believe it holds much promise. I am hopeful that regional tensions can be lessened because of the constructive steps taken by Taiwan.

Taiwan has proven time and again to be a friend working to ensure the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific. With the National Day of Taiwan fast approaching on October 10, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Taiwan for their friendship, thank President Ma for his contribution towards regional peace, and to wish all of Taiwan's people a wonderful and most happy National Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC IN PLEASANTON

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the construction of a new community health clinic in Pleasanton, which

is set to break ground in October. Axis Community Health is the sole provider of health services for indigent and low income families in Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore.

For over 42 years, Axis has ensured access to primary and preventative care to residents of the Tri-Valley. The rapid growth of the area's population coupled with changes in family income and changes made by the Affordable Care Act have left the Tri-Valley in need of additional facilities to accommodate residents in need of accessible health services.

Fourteen thousand residents rely on Axis Community Health and it is projected that by 2015, 20,000 residents will turn to Axis for medical and behavioral health services. The new clinic, slated to open next summer, will be critical to answering the growing needs of the community.

The new 24,000 square foot clinic will house 27 exam rooms, seven mental health counseling rooms, a health education classroom, an on-site patient pharmacy and a laboratory draw station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the expansion of the Axis Community Health Center and honoring its commitment to ensuring that every Tri-Valley resident, regardless of income, can achieve and maintain good health.

SAFE PLAY ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month this month.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, or CCF, is a non-profit group dedicated to raising awareness for the risk of sudden cardiac arrest in the young and helping to prevent tragic deaths.

The CCF works to raise awareness for serious cardiac conditions and provides resources and supports to families struggling with the impossible reality of discovering that their young children have critical conditions. CCF's work to bring attention to this issue and encourage better detection, prevention, and treatment for patients is important, and I thank them for these efforts. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this organization's lifesaving work.

Today, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5324, the Supporting Athletes, Families and Educators to Protect the Lives of Athletic Young Act, known as the SAFE PLAY Act. This legislation will provide school systems with resources to raise awareness for youth athlete safety, encourage the development of best practices to prevent, report, and address injuries, and educate teachers, students, and coaches on the risks of cardiomyopathy and other critical cardiac conditions. It will also allow students to learn CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to help prevent death in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. This legislation will increase school safety and help reduce the

number of deaths from this condition on school property.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT JESSEY J. BACA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Jessey J. Baca, a dedicated service member, proud family man and loyal civil servant who is entering a well-deserved retirement.

Jessey's burning passion for his country is a distinctive characteristic that he has embodied throughout his life. On October 1, 1977, just a year before graduating high school in Los Lunas, New Mexico, Jessey enlisted in the United States Navy delayed entry program.

Jessey went on to serve 4 years in the Navy aboard the USS *Coral Sea* CV 43 with Squadron VA 27 out of Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. In 1983, Jessey joined the New Mexico Air National Guard as an Electronics Technician in the Avionics department to work on A-7s and F-16 fighters. In total Jessey would spend over 37 years in military service and 32 years in federal service to the United States of America, seeing to our interests across the globe, from Belgium to Chile, France to Iceland, and halfway around the world to China.

But it was Jessey's service in Iraq that would ultimately alter the course of his life. When Jessey returned to the United States, he was confronted with a multitude of ailments: everything from cancer, to chronic bronchiolitis, chemical induced asthma, brain lesions, TBI, PTSD and a host of other health complications. There was strong reason to believe that this was caused by exposure to burn pits in Iraq.

As Jessey explained:

"Contractors were burning all the waste. Anything from body parts to metal and everything in between. Computer parts, batteries, whatever could go in there were burned and it would burn 24-7."

In unprecedented fashion, Jessey spearheaded a movement to create a national registry for veterans affected by burn pits during their service. Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico, after meeting with Jessey, decidedly introduced the Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2011 (S. 1798) with Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee.

On January 10, 2013, Jessey's vision became a reality when President Obama signed into law legislation creating a national burn pit registry. The truth is that Jessey's life's work is a testament to true patriotism; not only did he fight and serve bravely on behalf of the American people, he spoke up for his fellow service members and successfully created lasting protections for current, and future veterans returning home.

As Jessey enters his retirement, he looks forward to celebrating loving memories and time with his wife, and high school sweetheart,

Maria Margaret Baca, his two girls Victoria Baca-Garcia, and Racheal Elizabeth Baca-Sweeney, and three grandchildren Ireland Ajai Lowe, Logan Kai Sweeney, and Zachary Kaikoa Garcia. Jessey's esteemed character, defined by selflessness, enthusiasm, and love of life are felt by all who know him. As he enters retirement I hope he continues to inspire future generations to give back as much as he has to our wonderful country.

TRIBUTE TO MG (RET) JOE ROBLES

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank an important leader in the San Antonio community, MG (Ret) Joe Robles. Joe will retire at the end of this year after an admirable career as a military officer, war hero, philanthropist, and the CEO and President of USAA. He will be profoundly missed by the employees at USAA, but his retirement will no doubt be felt by the greater San Antonio community and beyond.

Joe was the eldest of nine children born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. His father, a waiter at the time, was recruited to work in a steel mill in Ohio—just as World War II ended and America was reindustrializing. When Joe was three years old, he came to the U.S. to reunite with his father who had saved enough money to bring his family to Ohio. For the next 35 years, his father worked at the steel mill and part time as a carpenter and plumber to make ends meet.

Joe learned the value of hard work early in life. At age 11, he began working as a stock boy and cashier at the local grocery store. As a teenager, he did yard work in the summers and helped his father on plumbing and construction jobs. It was this hard work that motivated Joe to pursue higher education. While in high school, Joe was awarded a medical school scholarship sponsored by the local medical society. The scholarship would pay for his education under the condition of returning to his hometown to practice medicine. He had to first earn an undergraduate degree and be accepted to medical school on his own. Joe graduated from high school in 1964 and worked that summer painting a house. The job paid enough to cover his first year of tuition at Lorain County Community College. Soon thereafter, Joe got married and took a full time job at a NASA nuclear plant.

In 1966, Joe was drafted into the United States Army. By any measure, Joe's military service was stellar. Joe served as the Chief of the Program and Budget office at the U.S. Army Headquarters, the Division Artillery commander of the 1st Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, Kansas; and the Army Planner and Director for Operations and Support at Department of the Army Headquarters.

As assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, he prepared and deployed the division for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He also served as the director of the Army budget and

as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, Kansas—the legendary "Big Red One."

Joe has earned the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Joe joined USAA in 1994 after retiring from the U.S. Army. He assumed the position of President and CEO in 2007 after serving as the CFO for several years. Under his leadership as CEO, USAA has thrived. Despite the economic slump Joe steered USAA to earn the highest possible ratings for financial strength from Moody's, A.M. Best, and Standard & Poor's.

Committed to advocating for military families, Joe has guided USAA to a leadership role in hiring veterans and military spouses and offering them careers in the private sector. Joe was invited to the White House and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to be recognized for USAA's efforts in this area and demonstrating their commitment by ensuring that veterans and military spouses were 30 percent of USAA's new hires in 2013.

All of these achievements are astounding by themselves, but Joe also became a dedicated and active member of his community. Joe is the Chairman of the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System and of the P16Plus Council of Greater Bexar County Foundation. He also serves on the American Red Cross Board of Governors and on the boards of directors of The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas—San Antonio Branch, DTE Energy, the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation, and San Antonio's Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation, as well as the Advisory Board of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Latin America Law at the University of Texas.

In 2009, The Christian Science Monitor named Joe the "No. 1 Veteran in Business." That same year, American Banker named him "Innovator of the Year." In 2012, Robles was honored as "Executive of the Year" by Arizona State University and, in 2013, Bank Innovation named him one of the "10 Most Innovative CEOs in Banking in the U.S."

In 2010, Joe led the San Antonio and Bexar County United Way campaign to a record result, and in 2012, he was tapped by my brother, then-San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, to co-chair the city's Brainpower Initiative, which led to the Pre-K 4 SA program to fund preschool education for thousands of San Antonio's children.

Joe has left an indelible mark on the military, USAA, and the San Antonio community. He will be sorely missed for his leadership, sound judgment, and commitment to the community. But what those closest to him will miss most are his immense compassion and genuine care for all those around him. Joe's character is, indeed, his hallmark. Congratulations, Joe Robles, on your successful career, incredible accomplishments—but most of all—your lasting impact on all those you have led and worked with along the way! As a native of San Antonio—I hope and expect I will see much more of you in the years to come.

HONORING CHARLES GARNATI FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS WILLIAMSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Charles Garnati, who retired this month after 30 years as State's Attorney for Williamson County, Illinois.

Charles Garnati has actually served in the Williamson County State's Attorney's office for parts of five decades. He worked in the office for a brief time in the 1970s and then was elected to his first term as State's Attorney in 1984. He would serve continuously as State's Attorney until retiring this month due to health reasons. At his retirement, Garnati was the longest continuously serving state's attorney in the State of Illinois.

During his career as State's Attorney, Garnati has prosecuted perpetrators of the most heinous crimes, including 30 murder trials. He was able to get first degree murder convictions in 29 of those 30 trials. Garnati is quick to praise his legal staff in the State's Attorney's office as well as the law enforcement agencies within his jurisdiction for the success rate of his office.

Garnati always approached his job as both making those who commit crimes pay for their actions and also to provide justice to the victims of those crimes. Particularly in murder cases, he was keenly aware of the pain suffered by the families of victims.

Garnati accepted as a personal challenge the prosecution of those who harmed children. As part of that crusade, he helped found two programs for children, the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center and the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Williamson County program. His annual golf scramble has raised more than \$350,000 for these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Charles Garnati well and thanking him for a lifetime of service to the people of Southern Illinois.

REGARDING H. RES. 707

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor in support of H. Res. 707, a resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism. I also rise to spotlight the troubling and rising tide of hate crimes against Jews that has recently begun sweeping the globe. There have been violent attacks against Jews in the Middle East, death threats in Latin America, synagogues fire-bombed in Europe and the desecration of the property of Jews in North Africa.

World leaders have spoken out against these acts of violence and condemned those

responsible. The resolution I helped to introduce expresses that same sentiment by unequivocally condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and urging the secretary of state to maintain as a foreign policy priority of the United States the fight against anti-Semitism in all of its forms.

The resolution also recognizes that condemnation alone will do little without the added threat of strong and effective laws to back it up. The resolution urges governments around the world to ensure that adequate laws are in place to monitor and punish those responsible for anti-Semitic violence and hate crimes.

Today I stand with my colleagues on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in solidarity with all those around the world who will not permit these hate crimes to pass without comment and who believe that acts of religiously and ethnically motivated violence against one of us is an act perpetrated against all of us.

HONORING THE PLEASANT
VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Pleasant Valley Historical Society as it celebrates 50 years as an exceptional organization that has been dedicated to promoting community pride, encouraging historical interest, and preserving and presenting the history of the Pleasant Valley.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society was founded in 1964, when a small group of community members, including the Honorable Stanley J. Daily, Mayor Emeritus of Camarillo, Ms. Pat Meredith, and Mr. Jack Fulkerson, established the organization with the intent to preserve the history and artifacts of the region, which is comprised of the areas of Camarillo, Pleasant Valley, Somis, and Santa Rosa.

The diverse people and cultures that have encompassed Pleasant Valley have contributed to making the area a unique and special place. From the time of the Chumash that resided in the region to the Spanish and Mexican settlers to the Americanos who settled there when the newly formed State of California emerged, the Pleasant Valley has a rich heritage and history.

Throughout the past five decades, the Pleasant Valley Historical Society has attracted hundreds of local residents and out of state visitors to enjoy and learn about the heritage of the Pleasant Valley. In 1985, the Museum and Botanical Gardens were established to showcase native plant species and educate visitors about the history of the land.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society also holds annual celebrations recognizing valued longtime residents of Pleasant Valley and honoring these volunteers as pillars of the community; bestowing the title of Don and Doña upon them for their civic service and philanthropy. In addition, the Pleasant Valley Historical Society holds numerous events on local

history that foster a sense of community within the region which is valued by all who have interacted with the organization.

For fifty years, the Pleasant Valley Historical Society has promoted and celebrated the history and culture of the Pleasant Valley area. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer the Pleasant Valley Historical Society my sincere congratulations in reaching this significant milestone, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating the 50th anniversary of their establishment.

TURKEY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern for Turkey's actions, or should I say lack thereof, vis-à-vis regional security in the Middle East.

As ISIS sweeps across Iraq and Syria, we know many foreign fighters have joined their ranks. But what I find incredibly disturbing is that Turkey, a NATO ally, is one of the most active recruitment sources for ISIS. According to reports, as many as 1,000 Turks have joined the ranks of ISIS.

Turkey must do more to stop its citizens from joining ISIS, and a good starting point would be to shut down the recruitment operation that has thus far been ignored.

Also problematic are the dozens of oil fields and refineries that ISIS now controls across Iraq and Syria. Control of this oil has given ISIS a steady flow of funds placed around \$1-\$2 million per day on the black market. Turkey again needs to step up and do more to curb the flow of this oil through its territory and put a stop to ISIS's smuggling network.

I would also like to express my concern for the erosion of civil liberties and rule of law in Turkey. Intimidation of the press, private businesses, and other civil society actors has been reported. This, along with abuses of religious freedom and surface-level reforms, has made clear that Turkey's democracy is not moving in the right direction.

It's time for the Turkish government to take a stand. It's time to lift restrictions on the media and religion, among other key sectors of society. And it's time to put a stop to ISIS's financial and personnel networks that flow through Turkey.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEDICARE RIGHTS CENTER FOR 25 YEARS OF QUALITY SERVICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, the Medicare Rights Center was created. Since then, seniors, people with disabilities, their friends and family members, and policymakers have benefitted from the Center's expertise.

Since its founding in 1989, the Medicare Rights Center has provided critical advice to individuals who want to find out about Medicare's benefits, learn about enrollment and eligibility, and get help in resolving any problems that they may face. My constituents—and constituents around the country—have called the Medicare Rights Center's hotline and received help—whether from the Center's excellent staff or from one of its many well-trained volunteer counselors.

The Medicare Rights Centers' newsletters—"Dear Marci," "Medicare Watch," and "Inside Medicare Rights"—are invaluable. "Dear Marci" is a great tool for individuals who want clear and user-friendly information about how they can get the most from their Medicare benefits, avoid problems, get help and voice their views. Other publications and special reports provide those of us in Congress with critical information about the specifics of the law and its implementation. Because the Medicare Rights Center sees the actual, on-the-ground impacts of Medicare policies, they help us determine the actual effects of current policies and identify specific improvements that can be made.

Medicare Rights Center president Joe Baker and federal policy adviser Stacy Sanders are frequently found on Capitol Hill, testifying and responding to information requests from Congressional offices. The Seniors Task Force, which I co-chair, has been privileged to have Medicare Rights Center representatives join us to brief members and staff about Medicare trends, policies and impacts.

I want to congratulate and thank Diane Archer, the founder of the Medicare Rights Center, and all the past and current staff, volunteers and board members for the work that you have done to provide quality, affordable care for seniors, people with disabilities and all Americans.

Congratulations on your first 25 years of service to America, and I wish you many more productive years in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE WILDERNESS ACT BEING SIGNED INTO LAW

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, September marks the 50th anniversary of both the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act being signed into law. I rise in celebration of these two milestones, as they have resulted in the preservation of our nation's most treasured resources.

For 50 years, LWCF has remained the nation's premier conservation and recreation support program. While authorized by Congress, the program is not funded by taxpayer dollars, making it a responsible, practical method to protect our nation's natural landscape and beauty.

The parks, trails, forests, wildlife refuges, battlefields, historic sites, and working lands

sustained by LWCF funding support an outdoor recreation and tourism sector that contributes a total of \$1.06 trillion annually to the American economy. This program supports 9.4 million jobs that are vital to our nation's recovery.

Additionally, since President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law, Congress has added over 100 million acres to the unique land preservation system. This landmark conservation bill created a way for Americans to protect their cherished wild lands for future generations.

Polling has found that a strong majority of the American people believe that Congress should continue to honor its commitment to both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act. I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to preserve and protect these programs.

OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN
AT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
AVIATION ORGANIZATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, greater, more meaningful participation for Taiwan in international organizations is based on the need for the international community to marshal all of its expertise in meeting today's global challenges. For example, in a world trying to contain what is a grave Ebola epidemic, it would make no sense for a nation with Taiwan's resources and expertise to be completely shut out of the deliberations of the World Health Organization. It took the SARS crisis for Taiwan to achieve observer status, but its participation should be maximized as much as possible, given that global health crises may grow more frequent with increased globalization.

Additionally, while I welcome the invitation that was extended to Taiwan by the leadership of the International Civil Aviation Organization to attend last September's assembly, Taiwan should at the very least have an ongoing seat at the table. The number of air travelers has grown, the threat of terrorism has not dissipated, and yet Taiwan is unable to receive the real-time safety information made available to all ICAO members.

These are just two examples of how the world does not benefit from Taiwan's isolation from the technical and expert deliberations of international organizations. There are others. Working to assist Taiwan to gain entry as an observer into the ICAO, just as we did in the case of the World Health Assembly and as we must do on other fronts, is the right thing to do for Taiwan, for the United States, and for the world. I urge my colleagues to redouble our efforts on this front.

HONORING NANCY ANN
MCCALLISTER

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of New Mexico resident Nancy Ann McCallister, who passed away on August 16, 2014.

Nancy was a lifelong resident of New Mexico, with family ties to some of New Mexico's oldest families. She was a descendant of Don Juan Vigil y Montes de Santa Anna, and Michel des Marais, who would later become one of the founders of the city of Las Vegas in 1835. To this day Nancy's family continues to live in New Mexico, preserving the rich cultural heritage of their ancestors.

For Nancy, there was nothing more important than her loving family, friends and helping those in need. Her love extended far beyond her eight children to her eighteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. She was a loving mother and nurturing caretaker.

Nancy loved gatherings with family and friends, and like a true New Mexican, enchiladas were mandatory. As her kids will tell you, she loved to entertain dozens of people and nothing brought her more delight and pleasure than making them smile. She would often tell her favorite story about training a young William G. "Bing" Grady when she worked at Albuquerque National Bank in the 1950s. Mr. Grady would go on to become president of the bank.

Nancy was a great listener and many people came to her for advice and wisdom. She was inclusive and never judgmental. Whether it was raising her kids or helping individuals overcome the burden of alcoholism, she always embraced the opportunity to help someone by teaching them with words of wisdom, a helping hand and a guiding heart. This kind-heartedness and understanding made Nancy an exceptional person, cherished by her family and respected as a role model for all her kids.

A lifelong New Mexican with deep family roots in our state, Nancy represents the best of our state. The qualities she exemplified—love, compassion and empathy—are the qualities New Mexico strives toward each and every day. Our state is richer and fuller because Nancy taught us to love more, not less; to be selfless, not selfish, and to always remember that it is the people around us who make life worth living.

PROTECTING AMERICAN SHARE-
HOLDER RIGHTS FROM RUSSIAN
EXPROPRIATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we and our allies deal with the numerous problems caused by Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin, we should not lose sight of the 10-year

legal battle against Putin's illegal expropriation of Yukos Oil Company. After Yukos was privatized and stock was sold to investors in the United States and Europe, Putin manufactured a spurious tax claim against Yukos and manipulated the Russian legal system to seize the company's assets, most of which were turned over to Rosneft, a Putin-allied oil company.

For 10 years, representatives of the 55,000 Yukos shareholders have pursued judgments against the Russian Federation and compensation for their financial losses. In July, 2014, this massive legal effort culminated in two judgments in European courts in favor of the claimants and against the Russian government.

In the first case, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled that the Russian government must pay \$51.6 billion to the largest Yukos shareholder, GML, Ltd, for what the court found was Russia's illegal confiscation of Yukos.

In the second case, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the Russian government must pay \$2.5 billion in partial compensation to the Yukos shareholders who were registered owners of the company at the time of the illegal tax proceedings used to forcibly bankrupt Yukos.

In both cases, the Russian government has an opportunity to appeal the rulings. Moreover, Russia could simply refuse to comply with the compensation orders. However, the two court rulings, if upheld, hold the possibility that the Russian government will be compelled to make some compensation, through seizure of Russian assets that come within the jurisdiction of the European authorities.

Under Vladimir Putin, the Russian government unfortunately has taken major steps backwards and now must be considered a rogue regime. Perhaps the court actions in Europe in the Yukos case will contribute to the international effort to turn Russia back to a path of international cooperation and constructive behavior.

HONORING MEL B. O'REILLY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mel B. O'Reilly for his dedicated work as a lawyer in New Mexico and tireless service to the Democratic Party of New Mexico.

From an early age Mel was a committed family member and disciplined individual. At the ripe age of 12, Mel's father fell ill which meant working extra shifts in the family restaurant and bar.

The extra hours he spent supporting his family meant less time for other activities and put a strain on Mel's attendance at morning chapel services. The parochial school's counselor, a monsignor, took notice and chastised Mel in front of his peers, called him a "barmaid" and threatened to expel him. Mel stood up to the monsignor and said: "There's no need to expel me, I'll quit school. I've got to go to work."

This hardship did not stop Mel's drive to succeed. He continued both working in the bar and studying, and during his senior year of high school, at 15 years old, Mel was ranked at the top of his class.

Still, none of the colleges Mel applied to accepted him; he would later find out that the monsignor wrote to every school and told them to reject him. It was not until Mel took a trip with some friends to Long Island that Mel met a recruiter from St. Michael's College in Santa Fe, NM. That recruiter saw a bright young man in Mel, and St. Michael's College welcomed him with open arms, forever changing his life.

Mel would go on to graduate from St. Michael's College, and afterward from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1971. That same year, Mel married Monica McCormick, daughter of Don G. McCormick, and moved to Carlsbad to join the late Mr. McCormick's law firm.

A few years later, Mel and Monica moved to Ruidoso where they raised twins, Colm and Dylan, and their youngest son, Brendan. Mel eventually opened his own law firm in Ruidoso in the late 70s. Mel practiced in all areas of law while in Ruidoso and developed an expertise in banking, commercial, corporate, real estate, and probate law.

In 1989, Mel and the family moved to Albuquerque where he set up his private practice working on everything from personal injury and wrongful death to contract and collection cases. It was in Albuquerque where Mel volunteered his legal services to the Democratic Party of New Mexico, and served as a long-time ward chairman and Democratic Party supporter. He served many roles, including Chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico's Resolutions Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Platform and By-Laws Committee and respective committees for the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County.

A successful lawyer, community icon, and loving father—Mel is a talented man of courage and integrity. His character, love of life, enthusiasm and selflessness are felt by all who know him. As Mel enters retirement and reflects on his life and career, his proudest accomplishment is his family. He is very proud that he and his wife Monica raised three successful children: Dylan of Farmington and Brendan of Albuquerque who are both lawyers, and Colm who is an electrical engineer and renewable energy consultant living abroad.

I wish Mel all the best as he looks forward to traveling with Monica, diving with Colm, and spending time with Dylan and Brendan in his retirement. His achievements and accomplishments are truly remarkable. I join his family and friends in celebrating the contributions he made, throughout his life, to his family, his community, and the great State of New Mexico.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER SHIRLEY SAUNDERS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Shirley Ann Saunders as she celebrates her 25th anniversary as First Lady of North Stelton A.M.E. Church in Piscataway, NJ. Sister Shirley's service to the congregation and the Piscataway community will be honored at North Stelton A.M.E.'s Women's Day Celebration and is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The wife of Pastor Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr., Sister Shirley has been an active member of her faith for 37 years. She began her service to the church as a pastor's spouse and as the Youth Choir Director and the Young People's Division Director at Bright's Temple in Bermuda.

Currently, Sister Shirley serves as the Office Administrator of North Stelton A.M.E. Church, the Advisor for the Women's Ministry and the Anna Howard Missionary School. She is also the founder of the Shirley A. Saunders Praise Angels Liturgical Dance Ministry, which is named in her honor.

In addition to her roles within the North Stelton A.M.E. Church, Sister Shirley serves on the Board of Directors of the North Stelton Economic Development Corporation, as Vice President of KLS Positive Image, Inc. and as Executive Director of the Nubian Sisters for Christ Ministry, which she also founded.

Prior to her service in the church, Sister Shirley worked for Columbia Broadcasting Systems (CBS) in New York City and the College of Medicine and Dentistry Dental School in Newark. She is a graduate of Jersey City's Lincoln High School and Taylor Business Institute in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Sister Shirley Saunders on her 25 years of service to North Stelton A.M.E. Church.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM LAWSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. William Lawson for his work as the Dean of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Howard University. Dr. Lawson has published over eighty-five articles, books, and other publications involving mental illness and its relationship to psychopharmacology, substance abuse and racial and ethnic issues, and is also an outspoken advocate for access to services for the severely mentally ill.

Dr. Lawson received his bachelor's degree from Howard University, master's from the University of Virginia, Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and his M.D. from the University of Chicago, com-

pleting his residency at Stanford University Medical Center.

He has been named one of "America's Leading Black Doctors" by Black Enterprise Magazine, was the Andrea Delgado Honoree and Lecturer for the Black Psychiatrists of America, received the Jeanne Spurlock Award, E.Y. Williams Clinical Scholar Distinction Award from the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Section of the National Medical Association, a Multicultural Workplace Award from the Veterans Administration for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of diversity and multicultural understanding, recognized as a national mentor by the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, numerous awards for excellence in teaching, and state, federal, and foundation support for pharmacological research new and effective treatments.

Dr. Lawson is boarded in Psychiatry and Neurology with added qualifications in Drug and Alcohol Addictions. He is also a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, National Depression and Manic Depressive Society, and on the boards of the DC Mental Health Association for the DC Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He is currently directing a \$6.5 million contract with the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Program to research Mood and Anxiety Disorders in African Americans and other minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. William Lawson for his extraordinary works in the field of Psychiatry.

IN TRIBUTE TO MARILYN BUEL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend, Marilyn Buel of Essex, Connecticut.

When I was a freshman state legislator in Hartford a long time ago, Governor Bill O'Neill's Chief of Staff, Chad McCullom, called me in for a meeting. McCullom was an Irish politician straight out of central casting—a cigar-chomping, hard-bitten veteran. It was a contentious meeting, but after we worked out the issue, we shook hands and he said to me, "the thing about this business, unlike other walks of life, is that you really get a chance to see inside of people. Sometimes what you see is not very pretty, and sometimes it can be quite inspiring."

I recount this story because over the last 12 years, I had a chance to see inside Marilyn Buel due to our political struggles together. And what I saw was beautiful and exquisite.

Twice, Marilyn stood beside me when I ran as a challenger for the United States Congress. Running as a challenger for Congress is probably one of the lowest percentage gigs you can imagine. This felt especially true when I ran the second time. It was hard to convince friends and family that I even had a chance. I remember one couple sent me a mass card when I announced, and it included a prayer to St. Jude. As the Roman Catholics in this body can attest, St. Jude is the patron

saint of lost causes—which did not give me a great warm feeling about people's confidence in my ability to win this race.

When I called Marilyn Buel though, her first reaction was, "what took you so long?" And from that point on, she immediately got to work for the next 2 years—working tirelessly on what turned out to be the closest race for Congress in the last 20 years. Marilyn was passionate about the cause and focused on making her greatest impact. In the Town of Essex where I ran and lost in 2002, the losing margin was 716 votes. In 2006, the year we won the total district by 83 votes, my losing margin in Essex was only nine. In a race that was decided by 83 votes, picking up a 707 vote swing from one race to another was a major deciding factor in my victory. Marilyn helped open the door for me in 2006, which I will never forget as long as I live.

The one time in office Marilyn called me about a vote, she asked me to cosponsor a bill which would provide for more visas to Iraqi interpreters who, as the US troops were being drawn down at the end of the conflict, were being left behind. What was so telling about her request is that there was probably no one I knew who was more passionately opposed to President Bush's decision to take us into the war in Iraq. Nonetheless, her opposition to the war did not blind her to the human consequences of people who were selflessly trying to help our troops communicate in a foreign environment.

Elie Wiesel famously said, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." During my time in elected office, I have had the privilege of meeting scores of political activists dedicated to changing our nation for the better. In my experience, however, no one embodies or personifies Wiesel's quote better than Marilyn Buel. She was always trying to improve her community, state, and nation, and never expected anything in return—except to be a part of the solution to our challenges, rather than complaining or being negative. I was privileged to have the benefit of her support and will never forget it as long as I live.

We lost Marilyn in August after a long and brave battle with cancer. On behalf of this entire House and my colleagues, I want to extend my deepest condolences to Dick, Elizabeth and her family for their loss. Connecticut will never be the same without Marilyn Buel.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JAMES STEM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. DENHAM to recognize Mr. James Stem to congratulate him as he celebrates 48 years of service to America's unions and railroads. James will be retiring as the national legislative director at the United Transportation Union (UTU). James' extraordinary career and service to our country deserve to be honored.

James was born on June 19, 1948, in Raleigh, North Carolina. His career in the railroad

industry started early at the age of 18 when he became a trainman for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. James' interest in the union movement began early on in his career, and he quickly became active in Local 1129 in Raleigh.

By 1973, James worked part-time as a special UTU organizer, and two years later, was elected to be the secretary-treasurer of the Local 1129. He was also elected as a local chairperson and legislative representative. Because of his extensive background at the UTU, James served as delegate at five UTU international conventions from 1979 to 1995.

In 1984, James was elected as the North Carolina state legislative director. In 1998, with the necessary experience and knowledge, James was appointed the alternate national legislative director. He was then re-elected to that position at the UTU conventions in 1999, 2003, and 2007, and since 2009, James has served as the national legislative director.

Throughout his career, James held many positions including: trainman, switchman, hostler helper, hostler, fireman, and locomotive engineer. Additionally, he is a member of the original Positive Train Control Working Group which is sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DENHAM and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. James A. Stem. The contributions he made to the United Transportation Union and the railroad industry deserve to be commended.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th Anniversary of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Redwood City, California. This congregation cherishes its diversity and welcomes anyone who wants to join its spiritual journey.

Father Giles Alexander Easton founded the church in 1864 a few months after he led the first Episcopal service in Redwood City in a room at the old county courthouse. He named the congregation after St. Peter's Church in Smyrna, Delaware, where he had been baptized and confirmed.

St. Peter's was the second church in Redwood City to organize and construct a church building. In 1867, the "Little Red Church" was built and became a landmark for six decades.

In the 20th century, as the population in Redwood City increased, the parish outgrew its building and moved to its current location at 178 Clinton Street. In 1925, the congregation built a parish hall that served as the church and a meeting space. In 1952, the sanctuary, offices and classrooms were added as the baby boom reached its peak. While many of the baby boomers are thinking about retirement now, the young generations continue to utilize St. Peter's buildings and grounds. The

church houses a Montessori preschool, the Ragazzi Boys Choir and its own youth group.

Over the last 150 years Redwood City has changed dramatically. The railroad transformed a small logging port into a suburb, and the explosive growth of Silicon Valley turned the suburb into the hometown of many technology companies and their employees. This explosive growth has brought wealth to many residents, but it has also left some of them behind. Many families struggle with skyrocketing housing prices and rents, a high cost of living and job insecurity. One thing that has not changed in Redwood City is that the doors of St. Peter's Church are open to everyone.

The parish is proud to include people from all walks of life and of all ages. It is also very active in mentoring young people to give back to the community. St. Peter's has delivered hundreds of backpacks and uniforms to local schools, has served many meals and filled many "Hope Bags" for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives rise with me to acknowledge the good that St. Peter's Episcopal Church has done over the last 150 years for its parishioners and the community at large. May it continue to share its welcoming spirit for at least another 150 years.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, Friendship Industries, Inc. in Harrisonburg, Virginia has served the Commonwealth of Virginia well by offering employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities. With a vision of providing "work opportunities to ensure immediate and full employment for all persons with disabilities" who come to them for assistance, Friendship Industries has fostered a community that seeks to value all individuals, regardless of the challenges they may face.

Friendship Industries, founded in 1964, became one of the first social enterprises in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. What first began as the Linville-Edom Sheltered Workshop for post-high school aged males has grown and flourished into a manufacturing company that has earned both private and public contracts. Through all this growth and change, Friendship Industries has retained its social mission of developing and maintaining employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

I applaud Friendship Industries for its contributions to our community. For 50 years now, the business has provided work opportunities for individuals living with disabilities, embracing the sentiment that "work offers community and belonging." It is an honorable goal to extend community and belonging to all people, and it is my great pleasure to congratulate them and celebrate the work they've done to achieve that goal.

Friendship Industries, Inc. will commemorate their 50th anniversary on October 7, 2014. I

am pleased to recognize them here today in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING 2014 MISSOURIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS JIM GIGLIO, CLIF SMART, AND TOM STRONG

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Giglio, Clif Smart, and Tom Strong on receiving the 2014 Missourian Award.

The Missourian Award recognizes Missourians who have positively impacted their communities, state, or nation through contributions in civics, arts, business, or politics.

It is important that we strive to better the community we live in and it is apparent that these three men from Missouri's 7th Congressional District have continually done that.

Jim Giglio served as an officer in the U.S. Army and taught at Missouri State University for 39 years. He has produced eight books, including one of my favorites 'Call Me Tom: The Life of Thomas F. Eagleton,' along with the best seller out of the series on the study of John F. Kennedy in the American Presidency Series.

Since Clif Smart joined the Missouri State University community in 2007, he has not stopped working to better the school. When he became president in 2012, he immediately started to make new changes that would benefit the college and its students. Under President Smart, Missouri State University has met all five of its performance measures established by the Missouri Coordination Board of Higher Education and oversaw many improvements to the campus.

Tom Strong founded Strong, Garner, Bauer P.C. in 1976 and is admitted to practice law in front of the Supreme Court of the United States. The Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys awards the Thomas G. Strong Trial Attorney Award in his name to the attorney who is a great example of what a trial lawyer should be. He also authored a book that I thoroughly enjoyed titled 'Strong Advocate: The Life of a Trial Lawyer.'

I am proud of the initiative these three individuals have taken to make the great state of Missouri the best it can be. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this tremendous honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEANNE FOX

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeanne Fox on her retirement from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Commissioner Fox is a dedicated public servant whose numerous achievements should be celebrated.

Commissioner Fox has been an outstanding advocate for environmental causes. She served as President of the Board of Public Utilities from 2002 until 2010 and served two terms as Commissioner. Prior to her positions at the Board, Commissioner Fox served as Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy. During her tenure as President of the Board of Public Utilities, the Board received several environmental awards, including the Golden Meter Award for Best Statewide Net Metering Program in the U.S. and the Network for New Energy Choices Award.

Additionally, Commissioner Fox has also been an active member of a number of environmental organizations and commissions. She served on the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative from 2003 until 2010, was President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners and was a member of the Advisory Council to the Board of Directors of the Electric Power Research Institute, among others.

Commissioner Fox is a graduate of Rutgers University, earning her Bachelor's Degree from Douglass College and Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jeanne Fox on her retirement. Her commitment to public service and the betterment of our communities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK HALL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jack Hall, who passed away on August 20, 2014 at the age of 57 after a short battle with cancer. Jack made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals, and he will undoubtedly be missed by many.

In 1957, Jack was born to Bill and Maureen in Cork, Ireland. When Jack was a year old, his family immigrated to the United States. After living in Los Angeles and Firebaugh, Jack's family settled in Fresno, California where he graduated from Bullard High School in 1975.

After graduating from high school, Jack worked with his father for a farming operation in Firebaugh. He then worked at an accountancy firm before serving as a fiscal analyst for the State Center Community College District. In 1999, Jack received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno.

Jack's career in politics began in 2000 when he was hired to serve as the Director of the Central Valley and Agricultural Liaison for Governor Gray Davis. During his tenure with the Governor's office, Jack helped to create the "Buy California" marketing program which later became known as the "Californian Grown" initiative.

When Governor Davis left office, Jack served as my first District Director. During his time, he was instrumental in establishing the offices in California's 20th Congressional District. He was an exemplary employee who truly cared about the San Joaquin Valley and our entire nation.

Upon his departure from my office, Jack served as the Southern California Regional Coordinator for the Alliance for a Better California. In addition, he served as the Statewide Political Director for the California Faculty Association. Jack also served on the Big Fresno Fair board, and he created his own firm, Central Valley Strategies.

In January 2010, Jack began working as a regional Director of Governmental Affairs for Comcast Cable. He served as Chairman of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Jack was well respected by community leaders, his colleagues, and many friends.

More important than his career in politics, Jack's family meant everything to him. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christina, with whom he had two children: Liam and Rachel. He was a dedicated father who always took the time to attend his children's athletic events from their days in youth leagues through their collegiate careers. He is survived by his wife and children, as well as his mother, Maureen, his siblings: Patricia, Anne, Kevin, Tom, Bill, and Vince, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Jack Hall. His service to our community and fun-loving spirit will always be remembered.

GEORGIA INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to observe National Disability Employment Month this October, I am honored to recognize Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB). GIB works in partnership with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to generate employment opportunities throughout Georgia in manufacturing and services for people who are blind. It is appropriate, at this time to reflect on and celebrate their achievements.

There remains a significant gap in employment for those with disabilities. Today, nearly seventy percent of workforce-eligible blind individuals remain unemployed.

GIB has helped bridge the employment gap for blind individuals in Georgia since it began in 1949 by providing good jobs in manufacturing and service industries. They currently have four centers in Georgia that employ nearly 200 people, most of whom are blind, and generate over \$12 million in annual sales. Furthermore, GIB was presented with the Commissioner's Cup Safety Award for 2013, a distinction considered to be the top workplace safety award in the State of Georgia.

GIB demonstrates the importance of having an inclusive workforce. Their business success is not only measured in sales and

awards, but also in changed lives by affording opportunities to those with disabilities. It is important for us to raise awareness regarding disability employment and the inherent value that employing those with disabilities brings to the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing GIB for its strong work and contributions to Georgia.

WISHING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
A HAPPY DOUBLE TEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China, commonly called Taiwan, on its upcoming National Day of the Republic of China on October 10, 2014.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which has facilitated a special relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Since 1979, we have enjoyed close security cooperation, culture exchange and trade flows. The economies of the U.S. and Taiwan are tightly linked, and Taiwan has been an important trading partner to the United States.

I would also like to recognize the accomplishments of President Ma Ying-jeou in contributing to peace and security in the region. During his presidency, Taiwan and Mainland China have had constructive dialogue between their leaders. I hope that this dialogue will continue.

As a member of the Taiwan Caucus, I have had the opportunity to learn much more about the amazing country that is Taiwan. As a beacon of freedom and democracy in the global community, I look forward to continuing to work with Taiwan to strengthen our friendship and alliance.

I wish the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten, and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
PARENTS CORPS ACT OF 2014

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Parents Corps Act of 2014. I am proud to author this legislation which intends to combat youth violence and substance abuse in our country's schools.

The National Parents Corps Act aims to continue the successful National Parents Corps program first initiated in 2003. The bill revitalizes a program which trains parent leaders to collaborate with schools, students, and the community in order to proactively work together in deterring and reducing alcohol and drug abuse, bullying, gang involvement, and other dangerous activities.

The program targets middle school students and creates a collaborative network to recog-

nize and respond to dangerous trends in the most susceptible school-age population—middle school. Professionally-trained parent leaders will build critical networks between students, parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, and the community. They will develop prevention programs, share scientific research, best practices, and create spaces of open dialogue and targeted action.

Mr. Speaker, I have always stood for investing in children and for peaceful communities, which is why I am reintroducing this legislation. No child should live his or her life in fear or marked by drugs and violence. This bill responds to a clear need, with a targeted and effective approach, and I hope all of my colleagues will join this common-sense effort to support healthy, safe, schools.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO JAZZ OF GERI ALLEN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, jazz artist Geri Allen will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) at the Jazz Forum and Concert during the 44th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). Ms. Allen is an internationally renowned pianist, composer, and educator, who will also be performing at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. Ms. Allen will receive the 2014 CBCF ALC Jazz Legacy Award for her contributions to jazz and world culture.

Geri Allen was born on June 12, 1957 in Pontiac, Michigan, but she was raised in Detroit, where she attended Detroit public schools. Her early music education came at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, and through the Jazz Development Workshop, where she was taught by Marcus Belgrave.

She then came to Washington, D.C., where she received a degree from Howard University in Jazz Studies in 1979. At Howard, she studied under composers Thomas Kerr, pianists Raymond Jackson, John Malichi, Fred Irby, Arthur Dawkins, and Komla Amoaku. She then left D.C. for New York City, where she learned from bop pianist Kenny Barron. She then moved on to study ethnomusicology at the University of Pittsburgh, earning her masters there. She returned to New York, where she began touring with Mary Wilson and the Supremes in 1982. She later helped charter the Black Rock Coalition and the Brooklyn M-Base movement. She would collaborate on several works with a fellow charter member of that group, Steve Coleman.

Her own albums have displayed a depth of range and skill. Her first album, *The Printmakers*, displays what many have called an avant-garde talent. In 1995, her album *Twenty-One*, won the Soul Train's Lady of Soul Award for album of the year. In 2008, Ms. Allen won a Guggenheim Fellowship in Composition, which allowed her to release her composition *Refractions: Flying Toward the Sound*, which celebrates the work of Cecil Taylor, McCoy Tyner, and Herbie Hancock.

She is the youngest person and the only woman to receive the Danish JAZZPAR award.

In addition to the massive number of awards she has received, which are simply too numerous to mention here, Ms. Allen has also been a remarkable mentor to younger jazz musicians. One example of such efforts is found in the powerful *For the Healing of the Nations*, a tribute to the survivors of 9/11, which was performed with Howard University's Afro-Blue Jazz Choir. In addition to her work with her alma mater, she has been a professional educator for many years, having taught jazz at the University of Michigan, and presently at the University of Pittsburgh.

Despite this list of accomplishments, she has yet to slow down and take a break. She recently released a recording celebrating our collective home town: *Grand River Crossings: Motown & Motor City Inspirations*. On May 10, 2014, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the Berklee College of Music.

Geri Allen is a living national jazz treasure, and I encourage my colleagues to learn more about her tremendous contributions to the most American of art forms.

RECOGNIZING SUNSHINE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL'S SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunshine Elementary School's sesquicentennial.

On October 24th, Sunshine Elementary School will celebrate 150 years of providing the children of Springfield, Missouri, with an outstanding education. Sunshine Elementary has always striven to provide children with the tools and skills necessary for them to be successful in life.

Though many changes have occurred in the past 150 years, one thing has remained constant, and that is the dedication of Sunshine Elementary faculty and staff to their students. Past and current faculty and staff have contributed long hours of committed service in providing each Sunshine Elementary student with the best education possible.

Sunshine Elementary would not be nearly as successful without the help and support provided by the surrounding Springfield community. Its strong ties to the neighborhood have allowed parents and faculty to work closely together, creating an environment especially conducive to learning and success.

Sunshine Elementary started out as a one-room building 150 years ago and over the years has grown into a great elementary school for Springfield students.

I congratulate Sunshine Elementary School as the school celebrates 150 years.

LWCF AND WILDERNESS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of two of our country's most transformational conservation laws, the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act.

Earlier this month I celebrated the Anniversary of LWCF and the Wilderness Act at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. This area was the first wilderness established within the Department of the Interior following the passage of the Wilderness Act.

LWCF money has also contributed to the preservation of the Great Swamp, and in fact LWCF money totaling more than 400 million dollars has come to New Jersey. In other states around the country the LWCF has contributed even more.

I, along with Secretary Jewell and many members of Congress, have advocated making permanent full funding for the LWCF. We must remember that over 50 years, in only ONE year has the LWCF received the full authorized funding. The idea was to take revenues from depleted resources, in other words from off shore oil drilling and mineral extraction, and use that to preserve other resources, land.

Ecologists have made it especially clear in recent years that we really must have interlocking tracts of land, what Frederick Law Olmstead called emerald necklaces, across the country. It is not enough to protect only isolated places; that is not enough for migrating species and even plant communities, who must interact over long distances.

Wilderness is important for so many reasons. Wilderness provides more than simply beautiful vistas, it is how nature heals herself and it is critically important for human well-being. What we forget is that preserving only a few headliner areas is insufficient. And that is why Congress really must reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it is critically important to this whole picture.

One of my proudest moments in my now 16 year career in congress was in the early months in office when some of us junior members managed to revive the state side matching program, of the LWCF the landslide conservation program.

It certainly was a proud moment and since then I have led an annual effort to fund the LWCF.

This year 170 members of congress joined me in a letter to appropriators to provide funding for the LWCF. But it is not enough if we don't reauthorize it now and provide full funding.

This Congress I am also proud to be the sponsor of two wilderness bills of national importance, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, to permanently designate the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain as wilderness, and the Red Rocks Wilderness Act, to protect as wilderness Utah's Red Rocks area.

We're going to get these bills passed one way or another, we must. It is so important,

not just because of the naturalness that is preserved, but because of what it says about our country.

The Wilderness Act, when Hubert Humphrey and others introduced it, sat around on the legislative agenda for years—Congress after congress. It was the support of citizen activists that created the momentum necessary to pass The Wilderness Act. And it will be the work of activists like those with the Alaska Wilderness League, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and the Wilderness Society that will continue to work for the passage of wilderness bills.

The Wilderness Act provides some of the strongest land protections in the world by recognizing wilderness areas as where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by humans, where humans ourselves are visitors who do not remain.

From the Great Swamp Wilderness in New Jersey to the Arctic Refuge in Alaska—wilderness is essential to safeguard our nation's most wild and beautiful areas, not simply to preserve beautiful scenery, but to give nature the necessary resilience to sustain itself, and also to give humans places to renew and master ourselves.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. JOHN
A.M.E. CHURCH'S 144TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 144 years. St. John A.M.E. Church will usher in this milestone with a celebration, aptly named "Stung By The Spirit," and a day of service on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

St. John A.M.E. Church was founded as St. John's Chapel in 1870 and was located on Fifth Avenue in Columbus. Reverend John G. Mitchell served as the first faith leader to the founding congregation, a dynamic group of faithful and steadfast Reconstruction-era Christians who helped bring the church to life.

The church grew and evolved over the next century and on September 30, 1980, it was placed on the list of National Historic Buildings. This honor was attributed to the church's Victorian Gothic architectural design, the melodious bell in the steeple towering over the brilliant stained glass windows, and its long and storied history.

Unfortunately, hardship struck on February 10, 1990, when a tornado swept through the community and severely damaged the church. As plans were drawn to restore the building, a second tornado created further damage to the structure on February 22, 1990. In a demonstration of compassion and unity, a great number of nearby churches opened their doors to the members of St. John. Reverend Elijah Smith, alongside other officers and the congregation, accepted the generous invitation

extended to them by the Reverend Eugene Adams, Jr. from the nearby Saint James A.M.E. Church.

Eventually, the members of the St. John family made the decision to relocate and build a new church on Steam Mill Road in Columbus. The grand opening ceremony for the new location took place on September 2, 1991.

While the original location of the church is no longer in service, its members still consider that first edifice near and dear to their hearts. Thankfully, certain items, such as the stained glass windows, brass railings, and various pieces of furniture, were salvaged from the original location and artfully incorporated into the new church.

The story of St. John A.M.E. and its long history of coming together through the good and difficult times is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord. Today, the church continues to flourish under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Debora F. Grant.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 144 remarkable years of worship and service in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRONWORKERS LOCAL UNION 155

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ironworkers Local Union 155 (Local 155) organization in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

On March 11, 1914, the Local 155 came into existence. The Local 155 was founded by great visionaries who saw an opportunity to extend the services of a Local Union to the Central Valley. Starting off from humble beginnings with just a mere \$28.50 in their general fund, the Local 155 has grown into a leader in the ironworker industry for not only California's Central Valley but also in parts of Nevada.

The Local 155 attributes much of their success to the founding fathers of the union. Their first president, L.R. Boltinghouse, Financial Secretary, Paul Kidd, and Recording Secretary, T.F. Harrigan all took the risk and responsibility of starting a Local Union. Their efforts paved the way for many more officers and workers to follow in their footsteps and become a part of the Local 155.

The Local 155 is a union which works to enrich the lives of residents in the Central Valley. They have proudly served the Fresno area and have made outstanding strides for the local economy. Although the Local 155 has battled some tough times, they always continue on with impressive resiliency. In addition, they have made great progress to improve the working conditions and wages for ironworkers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ironworkers Local Union 155 in celebration of the 100th Anniversary. I would like to thank them for their service in

the Central Valley and wish them many more years of success.

PERIPHERAL AUTOIMMUNE
NEUROPATHIES AWARENESS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to rare and serious autoimmune neuropathies such as Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), Multifocal Motor Neuropathy (MMN), and related conditions. These diseases cause the body's immune system to attack healthy organs and tissues. In the case of conditions like GBS, CIDP, and MMN, the immune system attacks the body's peripheral nervous system.

As we find with so many ailments, awareness, recognition, and an early and accurate diagnosis are key to mitigating the serious health consequences of peripheral autoimmune neuropathies. The earlier treatment begins, the better the prognosis for the affected individual. These conditions can be progressive, and any delays in medical intervention can result in the patient being completely immobilized and using a ventilator to breathe, with the potential for residual damage and disability. Essentially, the more damage that is done to the nervous system, the longer it takes to heal.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), symptoms are related to the type of affected nerve and may be seen over a period of days, weeks, or years. Muscle weakness is the most common symptom of motor nerve damage. Other symptoms may include painful cramps and uncontrolled muscle twitching visible under the skin, muscle loss, bone degeneration, and changes in the skin, hair, and nails. NIH plays a crucial role in the effort to combat these conditions, as treatment options are limited and diagnosis can be difficult. While there are many known triggers for the conditions, the underlying causes have yet to be defined. Investment in medical research and scientific innovation is needed to identify the root cause of these conditions and to improve the lives of affected individuals.

This October, the GBS/CIDP Foundation International is coordinating the 13th International Symposium on GBS, CIDP, MMN, and related conditions. This event will bring leading scientific minds, patients, and other stakeholders together with the goal of advancing our understanding of these conditions and improving care for affected individuals. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this community's ongoing effort to raise awareness and advance medical research. We extend our sincerest gratitude and strong support as these dedicated individuals come together to collectively reach toward knowledge, cures, and the promise of healthier lives for all.

RECOGNIZING ARROWHEAD
BUILDING SUPPLY, INC.

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arrowhead Building Supply, Inc. on receiving the Small Business of the Year award presented by the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Arrowhead Building Supply, Inc. arrived in the Branson area four years ago and has made its mission to develop relationships and trust in the community. Arrowhead prides itself on integrity, a principle that has helped it fit in well with the Branson community.

With services like same day delivery, roofing recycling bins, and job lockers, Arrowhead provides value that other suppliers simply cannot match. Arrowhead designs and builds all of its own delivery equipment, job lockers, and shingling recycling bins. Manufacturing its own products allows it to save time and service more customers in a day.

Arrowhead has gone above and beyond to become a part of the Branson community and we are lucky to have it and the outstanding services it provides to customers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Arrowhead Building Supply, Inc. on receiving the Small Business of the Year award.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF KATHRYN CARANLIK SIMON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a precious friend and an extraordinarily accomplished and loving woman, Kathryn Caranlik Simon, who died on September 17, 2014, at the age of 62.

A native of San Francisco and raised in South San Francisco, Kathy owned her own public affairs consulting business through which she worked as a community relations strategist, building and winning public support and approval of several high-profile projects. She played an instrumental role in several prominent San Francisco Peninsula development projects, including the Bay Meadows residential and retail complex in San Mateo, the IKEA store in East Palo Alto and the substantial renovation of Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City.

A graduate of Skyline College in San Bruno and San Jose State University, where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in public relations, Kathy Simon began her career at Ampex in Redwood City, worked at Shaklee Corp. in Emeryville, and for local public relations agencies before launching her own public affairs consulting business, Simon Communications.

Through her firm she partnered with other leading consultants specializing in strategic communications with residents to win support and approval for many of the Peninsula's high-profile, and often controversial, projects. She

also was a key campaign advisor and communications strategist for local elected officials.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, Kathy was among the organizers of the Community Breast Health Project, a Palo Alto-based organization dedicated to providing information, treatment options and mammograms to breast cancer patients. The group recently expanded its charter to other cancers and was recently renamed Bay Area Cancer Connections.

Active in the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont, Ms. Simon was a member of the Board of Directors of Philoptochos, a women's organization that engages in community-based charitable works.

A resident of Redwood City for more than three decades, Ms. Simon is survived by her lifelong love, her husband, Mark, an executive with a local transit agency; her sons, David of New York City and Alex of Redwood City; her daughter-in-law, Jeanette O'Donoghue Simon; two granddaughters, Dylan Rose Simon and Sloane Kathryn Simon; two sisters, Elaine Adams of Santa Cruz and Beverly Heppler of Concord; and many nieces and nephews.

Kathy Simon's beloved husband Mark perfectly captured the essence of Kathy in his description of her as a woman of extraordinary courage, with an unstinting heart of gold and a fierce and proud love for her family and friends. I consider myself deeply privileged to have known Kathy and to have called her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to the Simon family. Kathy Simon was a special person who has been taken from us too soon, but her life was a gift to each person who had the privilege to know her. Our community and our country were blessed and strengthened by her time with us.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ED
RONTELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Rontell, who passed away on August 20, 2014, at the age of 88. Ed's family and friends as well as community members throughout Fresno will miss him dearly as he dedicated much of his life to the revitalization and wellbeing of the city.

Born in Fresno, California, Ed was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up during the Great Depression. Forced to drop out of Washington Union High School upon his father's death, Ed worked a number of jobs including time spent as a farm laborer and a fireman. Eventually, Ed founded an Auto Shop which he used to launch his lifelong career as a car dealer.

Ed was an honest businessman who often earned the loyalty of his customers for generations. Ed used the money he earned to help those in need. He was an anonymous donor to hundreds of charities throughout the state. Additionally, Ed spent much of his own free time volunteering with local non-profits including the Northern California Cancer Program,

the Fresno Metropolitan Museum development board, the Fresno Community Hospital board, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, the San Joaquin College of Law board, the Fresno Downtown Club, the UC Valley Medical Education Foundation, CaP CURE Prostate Cancer Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Fresno.

Ed was a friend of the late Bishop Steinbock and played a major role in the renovation of St. John's Cathedral. It was a project that Ed, a faithful Catholic who attended mass every morning, was very proud of.

Ed was also a devoted family man. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Margie; a proud father to his five children, Cathie, Eddie, Steve, Marilyn, and Carol; and a loving grandfather to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Ed Rontell. He will be greatly missed, but his dedication to those around him will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING DIANE REHM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Diane Rehm, who this week is observing 35 years in the District of Columbia at the public radio station, WAMU, where she has provided outstanding service to listeners in the District of Columbia, the national capital region, and the nation.

For more than three decades, Diane has been among the nation's most prominent radio hosts. Her reputation for welcoming all sides of every issue has allowed her to attract some of the nation's most influential guests and made her program one of the most popular in radio.

Diane Rehm, a native Washingtonian, began her career as an assistant producer at WAMU before becoming an award-winning journalist. In 1979, Diane became the host of WAMU's local morning talk show, "Kaleidoscope." She grew the show until it was inevitably renamed "The Diane Rehm Show," today with nearly 2.6 million weekly listeners across the country.

Among Diane's many accomplishments are her National Humanities Medal awarded by President Obama, and her George Foster Personal Peabody Award, one of the oldest and most prestigious awards in broadcasting. Diane is also a celebrated writer, authoring three best-selling autobiographical books: *Finding My Voice*, *Toward Commitment: A Dialogue about Marriage*, and *Life With Maxi*.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that most Members of Congress are familiar with Diane's excellence from hearing her program here in the nation's capital or at home. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Diane Rehm for 35 years of extraordinary contributions to the nation with "The Diane Rehm Show" and to wish her many more years of broadcast history.

RECOGNIZING THE CRISIS CENTER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crisis Center on receiving the Charity of the Year award presented by the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Crisis Center was first established in 1990 for the purpose of providing safe shelter, support, and advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Since its establishment, the Crisis Center has grown to be able to accommodate up to 40 women and children at one time.

The Crisis Center provides a large number of invaluable services to victims such as support groups, counseling, case management, crisis intervention, court advocacy and a 24-hour crisis hotline. It is the only non-profit in the area that provides such services, and all free of charge. The Crisis Center shelters an average of 300 women, men and children each year, and also provides services to 700 non-resident women, men and children.

As a member of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and its Board of Directors for the past 15 years, the Crisis Center has become involved with many other organizations that share its vision for providing a community based response to eliminating domestic and sexual abuse.

The services provided by the Crisis Center have greatly helped to make Branson a safer and happier community over the past 24 years.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Crisis Center on receiving the Charity of the Year award.

RECOGNIZING "ONE GRATEFUL MINUTE"

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of "One Grateful Minute", which will be observed at noon on September 21, 2014, for a period of sixty seconds in conjunction with World Gratitude Day and the United Nations World Peace Day.

With all that is going on in our world it is important for us to take this one minute out of our day to reflect and express gratitude for all that we have. This global initiative will allow us to all come together in shared gratitude and appreciation for all that is good in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the "One Grateful Minute" initiative on September 21, and the positive impact that gratitude can have on our lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TIBURCIO VASQUEZ GRAND OPENING IN SAN LEANDRO

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the construction of Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center's (TVHC) state-of-the-art community health center in San Leandro. September 20, 2014, marks the grand opening of this new facility and the center's first health fair.

For over 41 years since its founding in 1971, TVHC has delivered culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services to residents of southern Alameda County. The need is undeniable, and in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that over 195,000 Alameda County residents were uninsured.

The unincorporated areas of Ashland and Cherryland, where the new TVHC facility stands, has the lowest life expectancy rate and the highest rates of teen pregnancy, diabetes, stroke and cancer in Alameda County.

The new TVHC facility answers the evident need for affordable medical and social services in the area. TVHC is now uniquely positioned to ensure every resident has access to quality service, advocacy, and community empowerment.

The new health center continues the TVHC tradition of delivering free and low-cost care with the dignity and respect that every patient deserves. The two-story, 20,000 square foot healthcare facility is equipped to serve 7,200 new patients and will employ 81 professional and administrative staff. This all-inclusive site will serve patients in family practice, women's health and pediatric specialties, dental and health education services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me celebrating the grand opening of this new community health center, and honoring Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center for promoting good health and well-being in our communities.

RECOGNIZING CHATEAU ON THE LAKE RESORT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chateau on the Lake Resort on receiving the Ozark Mountain Hospitality award presented by the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chateau on the Lake prides itself on its outstanding customer service. Its client-based business philosophy has continually ensured that its customers always have the best experience possible during their stay. The Chateau takes the approach that the customer knows what they want and should receive nothing less.

The Chateau, also known as the "Castle in the Ozarks," offers 301 beautifully appointed

guest rooms and 57 spacious hotel suites with a focus on comfort and luxury. Nestled on Table Rock Lake, one can truly let one's cares melt away at this resort.

Chateau on the Lake has shown the community the true spirit of hospitality, and that spirit is exhibited in its employees' drive to meet the needs of its customers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chateau on the Lake on receiving the Ozark Mountain Hospitality award.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVA- TION FUND AND THE WILDER- NESS ACT

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Wilderness Act. This landmark legislation established a dedicated and permanent funding source for the conservation and protection of America's irreplaceable recreational, natural, historic, and cultural landmarks.

All told, New Mexico has received over \$230 million from the LWCF to preserve areas that support our outdoor recreational economy and public well-being. In my district, important sites such as Petroglyphs National Monument and the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge—the first refuge in the Southwest to serve an urban area—will be protected for generations to come thanks to the LWCF.

The LWCF has created outdoor recreation opportunities in every state and 98 percent of counties across the country, yet there are so many other natural and historic wonders that deserve protection.

The best way we can honor the LWCF's half century of success is to reauthorize the fund before it expires next year. We owe it to our children and our children's children to ensure LWCF has the opportunity to celebrate many more anniversaries.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVA- TION FUND

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 was established to assist federal, state and local governments in their efforts to create and sustain public outdoor recreation facilities.

LWCF success stories have taken place in every state in the Nation. My home state of Maine alone has received \$40 million in grants for federal grant program projects since 1965.

The program has helped preserve some of Maine's most treasured spaces—including the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Acadia National Park, the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail—as well as many more nationwide.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for the full funding of the LWCF so that it can continue the great work it has been doing for the past 50 years. And I raise my voice along with those of others who are calling for a reauthorization of this important legislation.

Again, my sincere thanks go to the thousands of people across the country who work to make the LWCF a success. It is my honor to congratulate them and the LWCF program on this important milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM BECKHAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Marion Burkett Beckham III, also known as Tom Beckham. Tom passed away on July 19, 2014, after a long bout with cancer.

Tom served his country honorably during the Vietnam War with the United States Marine Corps from 1965 to 1969. During his service, Tom earned the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, and the Rifle Marksman Badge.

Tom was born in Clovis, California, on February 11, 1947. He was raised in the foothill area above Millerton Lake and graduated from Sierra High School.

A long time musician and singer, he entertained people over a span of 40 years. He played in bands, duos, and single engagements throughout the Central Valley and up and down the State of California, as well as Nevada, Alaska and other Western States. Tom was also well known as an instrument repairman for many years.

Tom spent many years raising show quality poultry that were endangered species or on the Breeds Conservancies Watch List. In addition, he was always happy to help 4-H and FFA students with their poultry projects.

Tom will be remembered for his strong determination, jovial ways, and a unique sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Joy; son, Brad Beckham; step daughter, Pamela Piek; 10 grandchildren and step grandchildren; and his brother, Forest Beckham.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Tom Beckham. His presence will undoubtedly be missed, but the impact he made on our country and the community will never be forgotten.

HONORING REX TILLERSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rex Tillerson. As the former President of the Boy Scouts of America and the current Chief Executive Officer of Exxon Mobil, Mr. Tillerson has touched countless lives and impacted them in a positive way. A Native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Mr. Tillerson attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

He is one of the nation's most successful business leaders, but has always recognized the importance of charitable giving and community development. Mr. Tillerson's contributions to Texas and the country as a whole cannot be ignored. He served as the past national president of the Boy Scouts of America and is a former director of the United Negro College Fund. In those roles he influenced countless lives and provided a positive example for our nation's youths to follow. Under his leadership, Exxon Mobil has contributed greatly to K-12 STEM outreach programs, engaging students from all backgrounds in the STEM disciplines. Mr. Tillerson understands the importance of providing students with math and science skills, ultimately preparing them for competition in a 21st century global economy.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Rex Tillerson's accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND THE AMER- ICAN GRADUATE INITIATIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize support for public broadcasting and the American Graduate initiative in advance of American Graduate Day on September 27th.

Each year nearly one million students fail to graduate on time, and public media is working with partners across the nation to reach a goal of a 90 percent high school graduation rate by the year 2020. With the help of the American Graduate initiative and the many other institutions and initiatives grappling with this issue, remarkable progress toward this goal has been made in recent years. American Graduate Day puts faces on the dropout numbers and increases understanding of the risks and solutions through national and local content, covering all facets of the dropout issue for broadcast, web and mobile platforms.

An October 2013 study conducted by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins School of Education finds that the American Graduate initiative has succeeded in building community capacity to meet the national priority of ending America's high school dropout crisis. More than 80 public radio and television stations in over 30 states have joined forces

with over 1000 partners and at-risk schools to shed light on the problem and share solutions. The dropout rate in the tri-state area is alarming, and I see students in my district struggling to complete their education every day; I support this important initiative that delivers real impact in our fight to end this dropout crisis.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL ELLENBOGEN AND WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of World Alzheimer's Day, my constituent, Michael Ellenbogen, wrote a touching excerpt detailing his experience with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain's nerve cells, or neurons, resulting in loss of memory thinking and language skills, and behavioral changes.

Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America, and is the only one of the top ten causes of death in America that can't be prevented, cured, or even slowed. It is important to work with brave people like Michael to raise awareness and take action on this issue as a legislative body. Please see Michael's touching words below:

It's been over a year since my last writing and since that time I have declined even more. As you see, this disease is slowly robbing me of all of my skill sets and it is becoming so much harder to be a positive person in our society. I cannot even enjoy the hobbies I once loved. This is by far the worst way one can die. I cannot imagine the toll it's taking on my wife because it's like a never ending grieving process and one cannot even see the end in sight, just the horror that's coming.

Dementia, including Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease we face. It is costing us more than heart disease and cancer. I believe it to be the third cause of death in the United States. Breast cancer, heart disease and HIV have all made tremendous progress since the federal government made significant investments into research. Comparable investments must be made for Dementia so we can accomplish the same successes, while saving millions of lives and trillions of dollars.

Senator Pat Toomey recently stated at a Finance Committee Hearing that circumstances have changed historically, and as such we should be changing the way we fund this disease. I have been saying this for years.

Please make my life count and make it worthwhile for me in having this disease. I believe we could be at the tipping point. Make the hard choices; increase funding for Alzheimer's disease and reallocate existing funding sources. Do everything necessary to ensure that Alzheimer's disease gets the exposure, commitment and funding necessary to change the course of the disease.

Regards, Michael Ellenbogen.

Michael Ellenbogen—Advocate for all of those living with dementia, who can no longer speak, write, or have passed.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday will mark history as more New Yorkers than ever before come together to demonstrate their commitment to solving the climate change crisis. During the "People's Climate March", New Yorkers from all walks of life will march through Manhattan in support of a more sustainable future. I am proud to be joining this effort. UPROSE, a grassroots environmental justice organization in my district, is one of the lead organizers in New York City. UPROSE has a long record of working on environmental issues locally and globally through community empowerment and fostering future environmental leaders. I am proud to join with them in Sunday's march.

The backdrop for the New York event will be the United Nations Summit on Climate Change, where representatives from around the globe will convene to discuss this matter. Locally, this timely event will underscore the importance of working now to preserve our planet for future generations. However, this will be a global event with actions taking place throughout the world.

From London to Rio to Johannesburg to New Delhi, people everywhere will speak with one collective voice in calling for environmental justice, an economy that works for people and the planet, clean air and good jobs. I urge all my colleagues to join in these collective actions and show their support for protecting our planet.

RECOGNIZING HERMINE REIRING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Hermine Reiring in celebration of her 100th birthday. Hermine is part of "America's Greatest Generation," and this amazing milestone deserves to be honored.

Hermine was born on August 4, 1914, in Hammond, Indiana. During World War II, Hermine joined the U.S. Army and served three years in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She worked as a storekeeper in a hangar.

In 1945, Hermine married Leonard Reiring, and they built their lives together in California. They lived in San Diego and Burbank before settling in Madera in 1964. Hermine and Leonard raised three children together, and today, Hermine has eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Each day, Hermine's family has the pleasure of learning from a woman who has many special memories and life experiences to share.

The City of Madera has benefitted greatly from Hermine's efforts and service to the community. In addition to working at the Madera County Administrator's office, Hermine was

also a member of the Women's Improvement Group, the Historical Society, and she volunteered as a docent for the county library. Staying active in the community is important to Hermine as she still loves to participate in bake sales and volunteer at her church.

Hermine's generation set an example for the coming together and establishing of our country in the 20th century. We have all been very fortunate to live and build from the investments and many sacrifices made by Hermine and others from her generation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor Hermine Reiring as she celebrates this very exciting time in her life. Her service to the Madera community and the entire nation deserves to be commended.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY E. SINOPOLI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mary Sinopoli, who passed away on August 30, 2014, at the age of 93. Mary was a respected member of the Fresno community who will be greatly missed by residents throughout the Central Valley.

On December 7, 1920, Mary was born at her grandparents home on the corner of Stanislaus and F streets. She was the first child of Americo and Concetta Frediani. She attended Orange Center Elementary School, and Washington Union and Fresno Tech high schools.

Mary married George Sinopoli on May 11, 1941. They were happily married for 65 years until George's passing in 2006. Mary was a dedicated wife and a loving mother. She was a homemaker and took care of her family. Mary had a knack for sewing, making all of her and her daughter's clothing as well as ties for George.

Besides her family, Mary's devotion was to the Fresno Veterans Hospital. She volunteered at the hospital for 60 years and gave over 30,000 hours of service. She was a 63-year life time member of the American Legion Auxiliary and served as their State Hospital Representative to the Veterans Hospital for 40 years. She served as president in the Auxiliary at the Unit and District level.

Mary will be greatly missed by her daughter, Gloria Jean Sinopoli; son, Sam Sinopoli; grandchildren, Anthony, Michael, Julia and Lauren; her sister, Palmira Smith and her husband Don; brother, Americo Frediani Jr. and his wife, Patricia; sister-in-law, Louise Petrucelli, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of Mary Sinopoli, a standup American citizen. Her presence will undoubtedly be missed, but the impact she made on our community will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER FERNANDO
SANCHEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Fernando Sanchez for his 40 years of dedicated service to law enforcement and for his commitment to Webb County and the state of Texas.

Officer Sanchez is a remarkable and highly respected citizen who has dedicated his career to the safety of his community. First serving in 1974, Officer Sanchez worked as a detention officer for Webb County. He then attended Laredo Jr. College, where he worked diligently toward his Basic Texas Peace Officer's Certification which he received in the fall of 1975.

It was then that Officer Sanchez was transferred to the Civil Division, where he began his service as a Bailiff of the first County Court at Law under Judge Antonio Zardenetta. When Judge Zardenetta was elected to the 111th Judicial District Court, Officer Sanchez was appointed as the bailiff of the court from 1979 to 1982. In 1982, he relocated to Victoria, Texas, where he served as a Sergeant in the Sheriff's Department before returning to Laredo to continue his service to the 111th Judicial District Court as a Bailiff.

After serving as the Bailiff for the 111th Court for a combined fourteen years, Officer Sanchez worked as an investigator for the Webb County Attorney's Office from 1997 to 2004. In 2005 he was appointed as Chief Deputy for the Webb County Sheriff's Department, and within the same year was promoted to Senior Lieutenant until 2008. In August of 2009, Officer Sanchez was hired as a criminal investigator for the Webb County Public Defender's Office. He was then appointed the Bailiff and Interpreter for the 406th Judicial District Court under Judge Oscar J. Hale, Jr. from August of 2010 until his retirement in August of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to have had this time to recognize Officer Fernando Sanchez not only on his career, but on his loyal service to his community. His willingness to work in various roles where he is most needed is admirable, and has helped to create a better Laredo and Webb County. I thank you for your time.

RUSSIA'S CONTINUING DISREGARD
FOR THE RULE OF LAW

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention a September 8, 2014 article by David Clark, printed in the Huffington Post UK, entitled, "The Unacceptable Face of Putinism". In this troubling article, Mr. Clark comments on Russia's continued efforts to ignore, and in fact undermine, the rule of law. At the heart of this most recent dem-

onstration is Putin crony, Igor Sechin, a former KGB operative-turned-Rosneft CEO, who, reportedly, upon losing an arbitration case at The Hague under the Energy Charter Treaty and being required to pay \$50 billion in compensation to the majority shareholder of YUKOS Oil, threatened the plaintiff, Mr. Leonid Nevzlin.

The lawsuit stems from the Kremlin's act of taking over YUKOS Oil and imprisoning the company's top executives. As we watch Russia violate Ukraine's sovereignty through its annexation of Crimea and flout the international community's warnings about their actions in Eastern Ukraine, it is important to note that President Putin's government continues to violate the rule of law and must be held accountable. Russia must be required to live up to their international obligations, which includes compliance with rulings by The Hague as prescribed in the Energy Charter Treaty. The international community must ensure that Russia is held accountable for their actions and meets their responsibilities under the law. I hope my colleagues will take the time to read this article.

[From the Huffington Post, UK, Sept. 8, 2014]

THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF PUTINISM

(By David Clark)

There isn't a better weathervane of Kremlin opinion than Igor Sechin. The 53 year old former KGB operative has been Vladimir Putin's most loyal and influential lieutenant since they worked together for the Mayor of St. Petersburg in the 1990s. Officially he has served as Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Deputy Prime Minister and now Chairman of Rosneft, the state oil company. Unofficially he has long been leader of the Kremlin's hardline siloviki faction; the group of senior intelligence and security officers who provide the muscle that makes Putin's leadership possible. So when Sechin publicly threatens the life of an exiled Russian businessman, as he did recently, it's worth paying attention. Russia's behaviour could be about to take another turn for the worse.

Sechin's outburst came at the end of a bad period for Russia. Already facing escalating international sanctions and a setback to its covert military intervention in Eastern Ukraine, an international tribunal in The Hague at the end of July found the Russian government guilty of illegally expropriating Yukos Oil a decade ago and ordered it to compensate the company's former majority shareholders to the tune of \$50bn. This was a particularly bitter blow to Sechin who has been accused of personally orchestrated the destruction of Yukos and who's company, Rosneft, subsequently acquired its main production assets. Indeed, Rosneft stands to lose directly if its assets outside Russia are seized to facilitate payment of the award. Incensed by the loss of face and the possible loss of business, Sechin raged about the unfairness of the ruling before turning his remarks directly to Leonid Nevzlin, the largest former shareholder. Nevzlin, he warned, "should take care of himself."

It's hard to interpret this as anything other than a direct physical threat. Given Sechin's status and connections, it certainly deserves to be treated as more than a throw-away remark. Putin's Russia has a long history of using targeted assassination as a tool of policy, both inside Russia and abroad. Outside Russia the targets have usually been armed Chechen separatists. Investigating au-

thorities in both Qatar and Turkey have accused the Russian intelligence agencies of murdering Chechen exiles on their territory.

Russia is hardly alone in carrying out the targeted assassination of those it deems to be terrorists. But it is also now one of the few countries that appears ready to use the same method against non-violent opponents. Rather than a shocking exception, the 2006 murder in London of former Russian intelligence officer Alexander Litvinenko may prove to be an ominous foretaste of what the Kremlin is capable of. Now the subject of a public inquiry, British officials long ago concluded that there was Russian state involvement in the crime.

Yet even in the Litvinenko case the motive was related to national security, or at least the Kremlin's interpretation of it. If Leonid Nevzlin has now been added to a hit list it marks a further escalation of Moscow's willingness to resort to violence beyond its border. After all, the offence that seems to have made him a target was to do nothing more than exercise his legal rights in a court of law.

In the context of the ongoing violence in Eastern Ukraine, it might be tempting for Western governments to treat Sechin's indiscretion as a matter of comparatively little importance. That would be a mistake. If Russia is allowed, in effect, to announce its willingness to resort to state terrorism, there is no way of knowing what consequences may follow. The Kremlin is strongly suspected of involvement in the dioxin poisoning that almost killed Victor Yushchenko shortly before he became President of Ukraine in 2004. Without a clear signal of international condemnation it might consider doing something similar today to President Poroshenko or Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. The message therefore needs to be sent that murder for political ends would put Russia outside the community of civilised nations.

The first step should be for the European Union to follow U.S. policy in putting Igor Sechin on the sanctions list of individuals subject to travel bans and asset freezes. The U.S. included Sechin on its list because of the immense influence he has exerted during Russia's lurch towards authoritarian nationalism. Perversely, the EU chose to exclude him from its own list for precisely the same reason. He is considered too important to be signalled out for punishment because of his involvement in the strategically vital energy sector where Europe's dependence on Russian imports has all but paralysed its capacity to act. That will need to change if the EU wants to challenge the impunity of the Russian elite.

A second step should be for Western governments to issue a formal *démarche* and put Russia's leaders on notice that the country will be designated a state sponsor of terrorism if any attempt is made to follow through on the threat against Nevzlin or anyone else legitimately standing up to the Kremlin. Difficult as this may be, the lessons of the recent past have to be learned. Every time the West has shied away from tough action in the face of Russian lawlessness the result has been to encourage its leaders to greater and more dangerous policy excess. It's time to draw a line.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL
OF CHARLESTON, S.C.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a church that has been a beacon of hope and a helping people and helping hand to people in Charleston, South Carolina since the 1800's. In 1839, St. John's Chapel opened its doors to welcome people to a spiritual environment and I join them today in celebrating a monumental milestone.

On October 11th St. John's will begin celebrating their 175th anniversary of creating spiritual, social and economic opportunity and advancement for families residing on Charleston's eastside and communities across the peninsula. Their activities include the re-dedication of their historically significant building and its service to the honor and glory of God.

The Charleston community has always seen this Chapel as a place of religious refuge. Their mission is to seek and encourage members to be participants in society through collaboration and empowerment. They attempt to do this in a setting where diversity is cultivated and celebrated. They also try to create an environment and community that are conducive to peaceful interactions of its residents by strengthening ethics and morality, reducing poverty and injustice and promoting community involvement.

The Reverend Dr. Dallas H. Wilson, Jr., Vicar, has served St. John's Chapel and the Charleston community with grace and dignity. He and his staff have spent their tenure at St. John's continuing to grow its mission and pursue goals through scripture, Sacraments and service through uncomplicated worship and wholesome community activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating St. John's Chapel for its 175 years of compassionate service to the Eastside and Charleston communities. As the church grows, I look forward to the services they will offer to the people of that area. I also hope they continue their mission furthering the cultivation of diversity. I offer best wishes and Godspeed on the occasion of this celebration, and hope they will continue their good work for many years to come.

SUTTER DAVIS HOSPITAL'S 2013
BALDRIGE NATIONAL QUALITY
AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Sutter Davis Hospital (SDH) was one of three organizations in the country to receive the 2013 Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence through innovation, improvement, and visionary leadership; and

Whereas, Sutter Davis Hospital was selected from a field of 22 applicants that were

rigorously evaluated by an independent board of examiners in seven areas defined by the Baldrige Criteria: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results. An organization may compete for the award in one of six categories: manufacturing, service, small business, health care, education and nonprofit; and

Whereas, Since 1988, only 102 Baldrige awards have been presented to 96 organizations. To date, more than 1,500 U.S. organizations have applied for the Baldrige Award, and internationally, the program has served as a model for nearly 100 excellence programs; and

Whereas, Thousands of organizations worldwide use the Baldrige Criteria to guide their operations, improve performance and achieve sustainable results. This improvement and innovation framework offers organizations an integrated approach to key management areas. The criteria are regularly updated to reflect the leading edge of validated management practice; and

Whereas, Sutter Davis Hospital has been on a long quality journey to excellence and over the years has made significant improvements. This journey has placed SDH among the best hospitals in the nation, and has now distinguished SDH as a Baldrige winner as a result of the work accomplished by all employees, physicians and volunteers working together; and

Whereas, Sutter Davis Hospital is dedicated to a patient care mission, which aims to enhance the health and well-being of people in the communities it serves, through a not-for-profit commitment to compassion and excellence in health care services; and

Whereas, The community of Davis, and Yolo County as a whole, is proud of Sutter Davis Hospital for serving as a national role model for small hospitals and leading the transformation of health care to achieve the highest levels of quality, accessibility, and affordability; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI expresses his sincere appreciation and gratitude for the vision, leadership and organization shown by Janet Wagner, CEO, and her team of employees, physicians and volunteers at Sutter Davis Hospital, for bringing a national presidential honor to Yolo County, providing quality care to all patients and serving as a steadfast community partner.

TAIWAN'S 103RD NATIONAL DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we join in congratulating our friends in Taiwan on the occasion of their 103rd National Day, I think the best way to celebrate the tremendous progress Taiwan has achieved over the past decades, and its contributions to the world, is through the continuation of our efforts to support Taiwan's

meaningful participation in international organizations.

Twenty years ago, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, the Clinton Administration declared that it would support such participation, a pledge which successive Administrations have upheld.

Ten years ago, the House passed legislation in support of Taiwan's efforts to gain observer status in the World Health Organization. Last year, this House passed bipartisan legislation to secure observer status for Taiwan at the International Civil Aviation Organization, or ICAO.

Taiwan has enjoyed observer status at the World Health Assembly every year since 2009, and was invited last year to be a guest at the ICAO triennial Assembly by the ICAO Council President.

As Taiwan is a key security and trading partner of this country, it is vital for the House to continue its support of Taiwan by bolstering its standing and meaningful participation in international bodies. Taiwan is a democracy of 23 million people who are highly educated, and highly skilled. It is to the benefit of all the world's peoples that experts from Taiwan engage with their colleagues in the international forums that seek to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Taiwan and its people on this issue, and on the other issues vital to our shared values, security, and prosperity. Meanwhile, I also wish the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten Day and continued success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VIRGINIA
CANNINGTON FOR 31 YEARS OF
CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO OUR
COUNTRY

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement from the civil service with the United States Government, I want to recognize Mrs. Virginia (Ginger) Cannington for her 31 years of continuous service to our country. In her most recent position, Mrs. Cannington was an analyst for Medical Officer Special Programs in the Office of the Command Surgeon, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, where she served as the single point of contact for commissioning medical professionals into the Air Force Reserve.

Mrs. Cannington began her career with the United States Government in 1983 working for the Internal Revenue Service in Shreveport, Louisiana. After 17 months, she transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers in Bossier City. She then began working for the 47th Fighter Squadron in October of 1985 on Barksdale AFB, Louisiana—which began her association with the Air Force. Mrs. Cannington would later join her husband with his Air Force assignments and work at 509th Tactical Missile Wing in RAF Greenham Common, England; the 410th Transportation Squadron at K.I.

Sawyer AFB, Michigan; the 480th Intelligence Group at Langley AFB, Virginia; culminating her career at the Medical Directorate for the Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, GA.

During her tenure, Mrs. Cannington was awarded the Air Combat Command Transportation Professional of the Year, Air Intelligence Agency Junior Professional of the Year, National Air Intelligence Professional of the Year, and a National Reserve Recruiting Award for Support Personnel several times. As an analyst at the Air Force Reserve Medical Directorate, she processed 2,811 commissioning packages. Her role was crucial in ensuring there were enough healthcare professionals for those wounded in battle, a mission at which she excelled.

Mrs. Cannington could not have made such a tremendous impact within the Air Force without the love and unfailing support of her family, specifically her husband of 44 years, retired Chief Master Sergeant William Cannington; her children—Jennifer and her husband Bob; Josh; and Matt and his partner Gregg; her sister Cathy and her husband Thor. She also contributes her success to her mother, Virginia Walker and her mother-in-law Ann Cannington.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Virginia Cannington for her outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great Nation. We wish her and her family the best of luck as she transitions into retirement. Mrs. Cannington is a true professional and a credit to herself, her family, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CVS HEALTH FOR RECEIVING THE PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION'S CANCER AWARENESS AWARD

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today CVS Health received the Excellence in Cancer Awareness Award at the Twenty-Second Annual Action for Cancer Awareness Awards Luncheon. The annual award was given by the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program of the Prevent Cancer Foundation to CVS Health for their commitment to health by taking tobacco products off their shelves. Dr. Andrew Sussman accepted the award on behalf of CVS Health and I want to commend him, and CVS Health, for their commitment to prevent cancer and improving the health of every American by removing tobacco from their stores.

PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION

AWARD ACCEPTANCE/RECOGNITION RECEIPT REMARKS FOR CVS HEALTH—ANDREW J. SUSSMAN, MD, PRESIDENT CVS/MINUTECLINIC, SVP AND ASSOCIATE CMO, CVS HEALTH

Thank you very much. I'm very happy to be able to join you all today and am honored to accept this wonderful recognition on behalf of CVS Health.

As you may have heard, we recently marked an important milestone in the history of our company. We officially changed our corporate name to CVS Health.

We made this change to reflect our broader health care commitment.

And along with the start of CVS Health, we also ended the sale of all cigarettes and tobacco products at CVS/pharmacy nationwide.

By removing these items from our store shelves, we believe we can make a difference in the health of all Americans.

In fact, there's evidence that removing tobacco products from retailers with pharmacies may lead to substantially lower rates of smoking with implications for reducing tobacco-related deaths.

A recent CVS Health study found that there was up to a 13 percent reduction in purchasers of tobacco products in Boston and San Francisco AFTER policies eliminating the sale of tobacco products at retailers with pharmacies were put in place.

If retailers with pharmacies across the country were to forego sales of tobacco products, the result could be up to 60,000 fewer tobacco-related deaths annually.

Along with removing tobacco-related products from our stores, we also launched a national smoking cessation campaign to help millions of Americans to quit smoking.

We know that 7 in 10 people who smoke want to quit.

We also know that for most people it will take several tries before they are successful.

That's why, with help from national experts, we designed the CVS Health smoking cessation program.

We've combined the efforts of CVS/pharmacy, CVS/minuteclinic and CVS/caremark to come up with a comprehensive program that will help smokers to quit.

The program is made of up four components—Readiness assessment, Education, Medication Support, and Coaching.

For example, at our 925 walk-in medical clinics called CVS/minuteclinic, our "Start to Stop" program puts all four of these support components into action.

Our Nurse Practitioners begin with an assessment to create a customized treatment plan.

They then provide ongoing education and support to meet the individual needs of smokers who are trying to quit.

Our team also provides an overview of medication options and, if appropriate, can prescribe medication.

And finally, our Nurse Practitioners provide face-to-face personalized coaching to help patients keep the momentum going and avoid relapse.

This is another example of how CVS/minuteclinic is expanding access to walk-in health care seven days a week, as part of the changing health care landscape.

MinuteClinic is also affiliated with 41 major health systems around the country—and growing—affiliations that include integration of electronic medical records, physician medical director collaboration, and collaboration on wellness programs such as smoking cessation.

As we have placed a growing emphasis on our purpose as a health care organization, we've been truly humbled by the outpouring of encouragement and support we've received since announcing the removal of cigarettes and tobacco products from our stores.

It's come from all corners . . . from our customers and colleagues, public health advocates, elected officials and the media.

And we are particularly thankful for today's recognition from the Prevent Cancer

Foundation—a group that has been truly at the forefront of cancer prevention since it was founded, nearly 30 years ago.

I hope through our efforts, along with the work of groups like yours, we can help more Americans embark on their path to better health.

Thank you again for this wonderful honor.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hardworking men and women of Houston and Harris County, who go to work every day without complaint and the failure of this Congress to do its job and pass pressing legislation that the good people of the 29th District of Texas and Americans throughout our country are relying on.

The 113th Congress, which is scheduled to end in less than 4 months, has passed only 142 laws to date. And 34 of those were ceremonial.

Last Congress had passed 151 laws by the same date.

The "Do-Nothing Congress" of 1947 and 1948 that President Harry Truman famously campaigned against passed 906 public laws. That is not even including the 458 private laws that were passed or the modern conveniences that we have today that should enable us to do more for the American people.

Over the past 20 months, our chamber has failed to bring to the floor critical legislation that would extend emergency unemployment insurance, cutting off benefits for 4 million Americans, raise the minimum wage for the 10 million-plus Americans who work full-time and live below the poverty line, or ensure equal pay for equal work for working men and women in our country.

Mr. Speaker, if this Congress ends without this chamber even bringing these bills for a floor vote, historians will have no choice but to rewrite the textbook and name us the true "Do-Nothing Congress."

TO ALLOW RAILROAD EMPLOYEES TO REMAIN ON DUTY AS NECESSARY TO CLEAR A BLOCKAGE OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AT GRADE CROSSINGS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative SENSENBRENNER and Representative DUFFY, I am introducing common sense legislation that would provide flexibility for train crews to remain on duty past their maximum hours of service, when feasible to the extent necessary, in order to clear a blockage of vehicular traffic at grade crossings.

My district and the state of Wisconsin have seen a surge in traffic on our rail lines. This is great, but it has also caused a logjam of

trains waiting on rail lines and blocking crossings, sometimes for hours on end. It was reported that last week near the small community of Byron in my district, a train blocked a state highway for five hours and could not move the fifty feet to clear the crossing because the crew had reached its maximum hours of service. A new crew was required before the train could be moved.

I recognize that the rail system is very complex and there are many factors that go into trains being held and crossings being blocked. But I still struggle with the fact that motorists, including emergency services, were forced to wait five hours for a train to move fifty feet. Part of the benefit in moving goods by rail is to relieve congestion on the roads, not increase it. The goal of this legislation is to provide a common sense solution to scenarios such as the instance in Byron.

While I realize these are the waning days of the 113th Congress, I hope that by at least introducing this legislation now, it will continue a discussion here in Congress and with the rail industry and rail labor on this common sense solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on September 15, 2014, I missed one recorded vote on the House "floor." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 497.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HBCU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Historic Preservation Program. I have always studied history, and taught it at the high school level. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have worked to support historic preservation efforts which preserve and protect our nation's treasured institutions. The bill I am introducing today would continue a tremendously successful program which has been widely supported by many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

HBCUs represent a unique and critical aspect of African American history in the United States. Many of these institutions are over 100 years old, but this history lives on today as these colleges and universities continue to thrive. In 1996, \$29 million was originally provided in grants to preserve historic sites on HBCU campuses. In 1998, at the request of the Congressional Black Caucus, the GAO conducted a study to identify and project the cost of preserving and protecting threatened

historic buildings and sites on the more than 100 HBCU campuses in the United States. The GAO identified 712 historic sites which would require \$755 million to successfully preserve. Truly the costs of this project are challenging, but we have made progress. Responding to the GAO study, in 2002, Congress authorized an additional \$60 million for six years.

I have seen the results firsthand. Several historic buildings at Allen, Claflin, and South Carolina State Universities, and Voorhees and Benedict Colleges in my district have been successfully restored. These structures are icons on their respective campuses and in their communities. They are living testaments to African American and South Carolina history. Arnett Hall at Allen University was designed by an African American architect and built by the students themselves in 1891. If this building were lost, that link to the past would be severed, never to be revived again. Through a grant from this program, it has been stabilized, restored and is being preserved. These results are not limited to South Carolina. Since its origin in 1996, 59 institutions have benefited in 20 different states.

While there are many success stories, the need is still great. Sites identified by the GAO are still threatened and are continuing to deteriorate. The authorization for this program has expired, and it has not received appropriations since the Recovery Act in 2009. Congress must not abandon the progress we have made. This bill would reauthorize the program for ten years at the same funding level. It will not by itself reach the total funding needed for every threatened site, but it will revive this initiative and continue to make progress preserving these historic campuses. I have been privileged to receive strong support from my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and many other members of both parties for these efforts, and I look forward to working with all of them to extend this vital program and preserve our Nation's history.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS BIORUBBER PROCESS RESEARCH CENTER IN MESA, AZ

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Bridgestone Americas Biorubber Process Research Center in Mesa, Arizona on September 22, 2014.

I'm honored to represent this facility, which will serve as a research and development center for advancing the use of the desert-based Guayule plant—native to the Southwestern United States—as an alternative natural rubber source for Bridgestone products.

This research will help further the development of a more diverse domestic, sustainable and renewable source for natural rubber that will decrease the reliance on rubber trees.

The Biorubber facility will be supplied with guayule from the nearby Bridgestone Guayule

Agro Operations Farm in Eloy, AZ which is expected to submit its first sample for research for evaluation by mid-year 2015.

The Biorubber facility will provide significant economic benefits to my district with 40 high-skilled research and technician jobs, in addition to the almost 500 Bridgestone employees already in the state.

The opening of this facility further underscores Bridgestone's ongoing commitment to technological and environmental innovation, and adds to its reputation as a leader in corporate environmental sustainability.

Again, I would like to congratulate Bridgestone Americas on the grand opening of its new Biorubber Process Research Center.

I am proud that Bridgestone is an integral part of our community, and I'm pleased to commemorate this significant development in Arizona's 5th District.

SISTERS OF MERCY CELEBRATE 120 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and wellbeing of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years. I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as they celebrate their upcoming National Day on October 10th.

I visited Taiwan as a state legislator and often welcome its representatives to Las Vegas and to my Washington, DC office. With the expansion of the Visa Waiver Program to include Taiwan, we hope to continue to welcome more Taiwanese tourists and business travelers to Las Vegas.

Nevada's First Congressional District is home to a vibrant Taiwanese American Community that enhances our local culture.

I am proud to consider myself a friend of Taiwan. The relationship between our two nations has been strong over the past century. This mutually beneficial partnership relationship has strengthened and enriched our economic, political, and cultural ties.

It should be fostered and promoted in the coming years.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day and join them in their celebration.

TRIBUTE TO FLATWOODS RED HAT
TULIPS**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips, a local chapter of the National Red Hat Society, an organization of women who provide community service in the town of Flatwoods and throughout Braxton County, West Virginia.

The Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips were founded in 2005 and have spent the past nine years organizing events and volunteering to make their community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. The impact of these women has been felt by an array of causes, including well known groups such as The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, March of Dimes, Bikers for Babies, and The American Heart Association. In addition, the ladies have held fundraisers for local organizations like the Braxton County Animal Shelter and the local Lions Club, which helps provide eye exams and glasses to children. Every year in May, the ladies host a candlelight service at the local Hospice Memorial to honor members of the community who have passed away.

Just next month, the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips will host an event benefitting the local animal shelter's Capture, Neuter, and Release Program, which aims at combating the stray dog and cat problem in the community. They remain an active group through the year and meet regularly at different restaurants in the area and can often be found visiting the Braxton County Senior Center in Sutton.

The Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips are led by Queen Mum Judy Norvell and Vice Queen Joyce Black.

Mr. Speaker, Flatwoods, Braxton County, and indeed the State of West Virginia, owe the Flatwoods Red Hat Tulips many thanks for their hard work and dedication to the community and their neighbors. I am honored to represent such a distinguished group of women in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO
EURNEKIAN**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Eduardo Eurnekian, a truly remarkable man.

As Chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF), Mr. Eurnekian has made a significant contribution to preserving and promoting the extraordinary legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, the WWII Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving scores of Jews in Budapest from the horrors of the Holocaust. Raoul Wallenberg disappeared on January 17, 1945 when he went to meet with members of the Soviet Army to discuss the future of the Jewish refugees in Hungary. Imprisoned by the Stalinist regime along with his loyal driver, Vilmos Langfelder, his fate and whereabouts, now 70 years later, remain shrouded in mystery.

In 1981, our nation honored Raoul Wallenberg by making him an Honorary Citizen of the United States, only the second person to be so honored (following Winston Churchill). More recently, on July 9, 2014, the U.S. Congress presented him the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his humanitarian service.

Under the leadership of Mr. Eurnekian and in collaboration with IRWF founder Baruch Tenenbaum (who was honored by this House on September 10, 2003), the IRWF has worked tirelessly to preserve and promote the legacy of the hero who became a victim himself. It has been reaching out to tens of thousands of young people around the world, instilling Raoul's spirit of civic courage and solidarity in their hearts and minds.

Just recently, Mr. Eurnekian spearheaded the events celebrating the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg. Dozens of Members of Congress had the opportunity to learn about the IRWF and to pay tribute to its outstanding work at a luncheon ceremony prior to the moving award presentation in the Capitol Rotunda. Mr. Eurnekian was there presented with the "Guardian of the Rescuer's Legacy," a magnificent statue symbolizing peace and solidarity that was created by the renowned artist Frank Meisler.

In an effort to raise global awareness of Raoul Wallenberg, and to pay tribute to world leaders who treasure the values of the Swedish hero, Mr. Eurnekian and Mr. Tenenbaum have bestowed the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal upon many distinguished individuals throughout the world. These include the

former British PM Gordon Brown, the former President of Slovakia Ivo Gasparovic, the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, the former Secretary of Pope John XXIII Cardinal Loris Capovilla, the legendary British savior Sir Nicholas Winton, the President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias, the Former Minister of Justice of Canada and long-time Wallenberg supporter and prominent human rights activist Professor Irwin Cotler.

The IRWF strives to raise awareness of Raoul Wallenberg's legacy and fate, urging international leaders to raise their voices. President Obama did so in his video address of April 19, 2012 entitled "Remembering and Honoring Courage." Similarly, former Australian PM Julia Gillard paid tribute in a video address devoted to the Swedish diplomat.

Under Mr. Eurnekian's leadership, the IRWF has not shied away from difficult legal challenges. On August 5, 2014, after a protracted five-year-long battle, the Argentinean Supreme Court overturned a lower court judgment in favor of the grandson of an Argentinean diplomat, Luis Hernan Irigoyen, who had been stationed at the Argentine Embassy in Berlin during the Nazi regime. After the IRWF accused the diplomat of letting Argentine Jews die, the diplomat's grandson sued IRWF for damages. The high court decided that the IRWF will not have to indemnify the diplomat's grandson and that "even the harshest criticism has Constitutional Protection." Years before this unprecedented ruling, following a campaign by the IRWF, the then-Foreign Minister of Argentina, Mr. Rafael Bielsa, ordered the removal of a plaque that was placed inside the Argentine Chancellery in homage to 12 Argentine diplomats (Irigoyen was among them) that allegedly worked in favor of persecuted Jews. The IRWF proved that this honor was undeserved.

Mr. Eurnekian is an internationally recognized entrepreneur. He is CEO and President of Corporacion America, whose diverse holdings include management of more than 50 airports, infrastructure development, mining, financial services, energy, agricultural, wine and nano-technology and microchip production. He serves as First Vice-President of the Argentinean Chamber of Commerce and is a Member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce.

His work has earned him a variety of prestigious awards and prizes, including the following: "Businessman of the Year" from (Argentina 1995); "Leonardo Award" from the Italian Government (1999); "Man of the Year" from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (2010); "Knight of Holy Etchmiadzin Order" from the Catholicos of all Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II (2011); "Certificate of Appreciation" from UNDP for his role as an "advocate for sustainable development" in Armenia (2012); "Business for Peace Award" from the Oslo Business for Peace Foundation (2012); "Businessman of the Year" from CAMACOL—Latin Chambers of Commerce and Industry (2012); and "Businessman of the Year—Services Category" from the Argentine Businessmen Association (2012). In spite of his many commitments, Mr. Eurnekian did not hesitate for a single moment when offered the challenge to lead the IRWF—and he has led with tireless commitment, passion and ingenuity.

Now 82 years old, Eduardo Eurnekian continues his activism with passion and vigor. Although he has never received any compensation for his work on behalf of the IRWF, he has generously contributed his own funds to the mission of this important organization, whose membership includes more than 300 heads of state, Nobel Prize laureates and accomplished individuals from all walks of life. Indeed, the former Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, joined its ranks many years ago, and the IRWF is honored to include him, now known as Pope Francis, in its membership.

Together with Baruch Tenenbaum and in the spirit of the IRWF, Mr. Eurnekian is now working to create an Armenian cultural center in Yerevan, which will highlight the unparalleled contribution of the Armenian diaspora to the world during the last century in the fields of arts, science, culture, social welfare and business.

I am honored to pay tribute and express my gratitude and appreciation to Eduardo Eurnekian, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his outstanding achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF CPL. VINCENT
MANNION-BRODEUR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Dedication of Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur Patient Room at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

This newly-dedicated patient room, located in one of the leading rehabilitation hospitals in the country, recognizes Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur and his valiant service in the United States Army. While serving in Iraq in 2007 with the 82nd Airborne, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur was critically injured by an insurgent trap. After surviving forty operations and a year-long coma, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur became an inspiration for people throughout the country and an example of what it means to serve one's country. His noble actions and enduring strength have deemed him a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient and have earned him the gratitude of an entire nation. With the assistance of his parents, Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur is now at the point in his recovery where he is able to motivate and speak to Walter Reed patients as well as work with other injured soldiers throughout their own recovery process.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor and thank Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur for his invaluable service in the United States Army and to recognize the dedication of the Cpl. Vincent Mannion-Brodeur Patient Room at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognition of Cpl. Mannion-Brodeur and his distinguished service in our Armed Services.

RECOGNIZING TWENTY-TWO FAMILY-OWNED FARMS FOR ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS OR MORE OF FARMING IN MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize twenty-two family-owned farms for reaching the milestone of family farming for one hundred fifty years or more. Throughout our state's history, Minnesota farmers have not only fed the citizens of our great nation, but they help to provide the world with food. These Minnesota families have stood the test of time and passed their farm from generation to generation; sharing their values of hard work, determination, and love of the land. Each family has its own story to tell about the trials and joys of farming, and no matter what those stories are, they can be proud of the heritage of farming that they have passed as parents to their children over and over again.

These are the twenty-two farm families from Minnesota's Sixth Congressional who have been recognized for their family-owned farms of one hundred fifty years or more.

From Benton County: James E. Donovan (Foley); Glenn Seppelt Family (Foley).

From Carver County: Dale Wildung (Cologne); Earl Schmidt Family (Cologne); Dorothy Light (Delano); Rodney Jaus (Hamburg); Meldon Melcher Family (Norwood/Young America); Gerald Schimmelpfennig Family (Norwood/Young America); Eugene Kamann (Norwood/Young America); John H. Eklund (Watertown); James Hendricks Family (Watertown).

From Sherburne County: Shady Nook Farm/Neal Weis Family (St Cloud).

From Stearns County: Ken Zumwalde (Cold Spring); Torberg/Prill Family (Richmond); Joyce Hansen (Rockville); Robert A. Moeller (St Cloud); David J. Morreim (St Cloud); Jerome D. Schroeder (St Joseph).

From Wright County: Richard Lindenfesler (Albertville); William Weldele (Buffalo); Florence Roth (Delano); Lawren Horsch Family (Delano).

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring these twenty-two family owned farms and their owners who represent a great piece of Minnesota's rich history and heritage.

TO RECOGNIZE ALEXANDER HUMMEL AND THE KEYSTONE IRON WARRIORS

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alexander Hummel, an inspiring, impressive 9-year-old from Pennsylvania who founded the Keystone Iron Warriors organization to help our veterans. Alexander is passionately dedicated to serving the needs of veterans and active duty personnel. He also dreams of becoming a U.S. Marine.

The Keystone Iron Warriors works to provide support and resources to veterans and their families who deal with the physical and mental trauma of returning from combat. The Iron Warriors rely on community support, generous donations, and the unified goal of giving back to those who have selflessly served our country. Community contributions go to providing service canines, transportation, and assistance with medical bills to alleviate some of the challenges that face our veterans. Alexander's Iron Warriors also provide friendship and comradery for those who have returned home. None of it would have happened without Alexander's leadership and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Alexander Hummel and the Keystone Iron Warriors for their dedication to serving and honoring our Nation's heroes. I applaud this young man's strength and thank him for the invaluable work he continues to do for our veterans.

HONORING DAVID C.
LEYENDECKER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late David C. Leyendecker of Laredo, Texas—a well-known citizen and a champion of education, veterans, and his community.

Mr. Leyendecker truly embodied the virtue of service in his everyday life. His dedication to his community is evident from the multitude of organizations in which he both led and participated. Mr. Leyendecker served as the Rotary District governor, the president of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Border Olympics of Laredo. He also was the past president of the Blessed Sacrament School Board, and remained an active member until his passing. Mr. Leyendecker served as a commander of the Laredo Marine Corp League 895, and also was the first chapter president of the Korean War Veterans Association 1950 Chapter 209. His unrelenting dedication to education and the military is a testament to his memory and a shining example to us all.

Mr. Leyendecker is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Nancy Knight Leyendecker; children, Nancy Goodman and her husband Andre; Patricia Martinez and her husband David; grandchildren, David Ford Goodman, Andre "Trey" Goodman and his wife Victoria, David Martinez, Jr., Jennifer Martinez and Teresa Martinez; and great granddaughter Kennedy Elizabeth Goodman. He is further survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other loved relatives and friends. His family and friends will cherish the values and faith that Mr. Leyendecker instilled in them, and will greatly miss his presence.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late David C. Leyendecker. His hard work and spirit have truly impacted many lives and our community. I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS J. TAITANO
ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 32
YEARS OF DEDICATED FEDERAL
CIVILIAN SERVICE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis J. Taitano on his retirement from the U.S. Department of the Navy after 32 years of federal civilian service. Mr. Taitano retired as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Services.

Mr. Taitano was born and raised in Guam. He attended George Washington High School from 1975–1976 before pursuing higher education in the states. He holds a bachelor's degree in business management and economics from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public financial management from the American University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program, which he completed in 1999.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Taitano has worked tirelessly to improve financial practices and procedures at the organizations he has led. He held numerous financial management positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of the Navy (DON). He previously served as the Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency's Office of Budget and Finance, Chief Financial Officer of the FSA, and Chief Financial Officer of the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service. He has also served as the Comptroller of the DON Naval Sea Systems Command's Naval Ordinance Center and as a Special Advisor for Defense Reform within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 2009, Mr. Taitano was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Operations with the DON's Office of the Assistant Secretary (Financial Management & Comptroller). In this capacity he was responsible for overseeing the DON's \$170 billion operating budget and exercised financial oversight for the DON's 830,000 military and civilian personnel, including over 400 support contractors.

Mr. Taitano is the recipient of the 2009 Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service. He has also received two DON Meritorious Civilian Service Medals, multiple USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Honor Awards, and the USDA CFO Summit Award for the Budget and Performance Management System.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Mr. Dennis Taitano for his many years of dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE WILDER-
NESS ACT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act in 1964 to permanently protect some of America's most beautiful wild places. The Act has so far protected 757 wilderness areas, accounting for a total of 109 million acres.

The National Wilderness Preservation System—comprised of four federal agencies—was established to monitor and protect these untrammeled spaces. In Pennsylvania alone, the NWPS has designated more than 9,000 acres of wilderness, including the Allegheny Islands and the Hickory Creek wilderness areas. These protected lands are void of construction, roads and permanent structures. Wilderness lands are also void of any logging and mining activities.

The NWPS not only protects the resident wildlife and natural ecosystems, but it also supports outdoor recreation activities and jobs. Wilderness areas provide tremendous opportunities for hiking, camping and fishing. Yet we are just visitors to these lands.

Mr. Speaker, the Wilderness Act and the National Wilderness Preservation System have helped to protect our nation's last remaining unspoiled lands and waters for the past 50 years. I celebrate the Wilderness Act and look forward to the excellent work the NWPS will continue to do in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF OAKLAND
COUNTY COMMISSIONER MATTIE
MCKINNEY HATCHETT FOR HER
DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE
PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett, as she prepares to step down from the commission at the end of her term.

When her tenure ends in December, Commissioner Hatchett will have completed more than a decade of service to the people of Pontiac as their elected representative to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and will end the most recent chapter in her more than five decades of public service to the City of Pontiac. In 1963, Commissioner Hatchett began serving her community as an employee and volunteer in the Pontiac Public School District. As an education professional, Commissioner Hatchett has been involved in Pontiac Public Schools for more than fifty years and currently serves as a Trustee on the Pontiac Board of Education. During her time in

Pontiac Public Schools she has held a variety of positions from teacher to elementary school principal, and several high-ranking administrative roles.

Through Commissioner Hatchett's many public service endeavors in the Pontiac community, she has become a leader, mentor and passionate advocate for her constituents, friends, and neighbors. Her extensive work in the community includes service as the Chairperson of the Pontiac General Hospital Building Authority, an Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency Counselor for Youth Corp., Deputy Mayor of the City of Pontiac, and as a member of the Golden Opportunity Club. She has also been a member of many national organizations like the National Congress of Black Women and the National Baptist Congress.

In her most recent role as Oakland County Commissioner, Commissioner Hatchett has continued to be a staunch advocate for the Pontiac community. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of her constituents are heard and has been involved in finding solutions to the issues affecting them. She has been an active member of the National Association of Counties and, in 2011, was named the first African-American Woman to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Counties.

As an elected representative, I have been honored to serve the residents of Pontiac in my time as a Michigan State Senator and Member of Congress, and I have been so fortunate to have Commissioner Hatchett as a local leader with whom I have been able to work to address many issues affecting our constituents. Commissioner Hatchett's leadership has earned her countless awards and recognition from local community organizations—she has been honored as the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Woman of the Year, a 2014 Wonder Woman Award recipient and the 2013 IMAGE AWARD recipients from Northern Oakland County NAACP. In recognition of the profound impact Commissioner Hatchett has made on the Pontiac community, in 2008, First Lady Michelle Obama acknowledged her as the "Mother of Pontiac".

Mr. Speaker, the people of Pontiac have been so fortunate to have a passionate advocate and leader as their voice to Oakland County for the last twelve years. Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett's commitment to public service and decades of engagement with Pontiac residents to find solutions for the issues affecting their city and Oakland County are an example of the important work done by our locally elected officials. I know Commissioner Hatchett's voice on the Oakland County Commission will be greatly missed by her peers and by her constituents and wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her service to the people of Pontiac.

CPB'S "AMERICAN GRADUATE:
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks the 3rd annual "American Graduate Day," a live, public broadcasting event highlighting those working to keep America's students on the path to graduation.

Our local public broadcasting station's reporting is only the beginning of the work they do.

The American Graduate initiative, made possible with seed money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is the perfect example of this.

The initiative is a long-term effort by our public broadcasters to shed light on America's dropout crisis. But these efforts don't stop in the newsroom.

It's followed by local stations joining forces with over 1,000 partners and at-risk schools in their communities to find ways of meeting the initiative's goal: A 90 percent high school graduation rate in the U.S. by the year 2020.

This effort couldn't be more critical.

Each year, nearly one million students fail to graduate on time. The U.S., which once had some of the highest graduation rates of any developed country, now ranks 22nd out of 27 developed countries. That means today's generation will not be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

The initiative has made an impact. A study by Johns Hopkins found that American Graduate has successfully built local capacity to end the dropout crisis.

As the founder and co-chair of the Public Broadcasting Caucus, it's an honor to highlight the success of this program and the broader issue it is meaningfully addressing.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DENNIS O. FREYTES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Dennis Freytes. Dennis has worked and excelled in the business, government, and non-profit sectors, and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army.

During his time in the Army, he was the Commander of Infantry, Special Forces, Engineer, Medical, and other units deployed worldwide on security and humanitarian missions. He served on General Staff and dealt diplomatically with over 32 countries.

Upon retiring from the Army, Dennis worked at a number of institutions and companies including BlueChip Energy/Advanced Solar Photonics, the Small Business Administration, the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, the University of Puerto Rico, and Mathematic Policy Research.

Dennis has volunteered his time to help seniors, youth, veterans, small businesses,

and state, local and national government. He is the current Vice President for the Southeast Region of the National Association for Uniformed Services. In his role as Vice President, Dennis helps to promote a strong national defense and to protect veterans' benefits. Dennis also serves as Veterans Advisor to Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and as Chair of the Florida Civil Rights Association's Government Committee.

Dennis previously served as Trustee for Valencia Community College and sat on the Orange County Schools Search Committee. He also volunteered with the Citizens Commission for Children, Alliance for Children and Families, Seniors First, the United Way Board, YMCA Youth Achievers, and a number of other civic and social justice groups.

Dennis is the Founding Chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Grant Council. He has received numerous medals and awards for his outstanding military, professional, and volunteer service.

I am happy to recognize Dennis Freytes, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the United States and contributions to the Central Florida Community.

HONORING TRUDY HEALY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trudy Healy, a woman of remarkable talents who has an unwavering commitment to preserving water quality in our great State of New Mexico.

From an early age, Trudy proved to be curious and passionate about her surroundings. She was gifted with a virtuous heart, and immersed herself in every aspect of her community in Taos, New Mexico. Her mother, Mercedes Gonzales Valerio, was her trusted friend and confidant whom Trudy loved dearly. Trudy would tell others that her creativity stemmed from her mother, who surrounded herself with artists, instilling in her daughter a deep appreciation for art.

Her father was Juan I. Valerio, a two-term County Commissioner for Taos, and a well-respected man who was revered for his generosity and service to his community. He also proudly served as the "acequia mayordomo" or "ditch boss" and he taught his daughter how to farm, irrigate, appreciate water, and recognize the vitality it brings to a community. Trudy would carry these values with her throughout her entire life.

Trudy and her husband, Edmund Healy, would go on to found the Healy Foundation to focus on land and water issues and projects that promote healthy New Mexico communities. Through their foundation Trudy and Edmund have built partnerships with local, state and federal entities to generate funding for land and water projects in New Mexico and invested in courses at New Mexico State University for regulators and inspectors. They also contributed to the film "The Water Haulers," spurring swift approval of the Navajo-

Gallup water project in Congress. The project helped make clean water available to more than 240,000 residents.

In 2001, Governor Bill Richardson appointed Trudy to the Water Trust Board and was elected its Treasurer. Her involvement had an immediate effect. As the proud founder of the Acequia Project Fund for the Water Trust Fund, Trudy championed a holistic approach to water issues and fought to ensure the prosperity of underrepresented rural communities in New Mexico. Trudy understands the connection between water and people; what it means for survival, economic livelihood, and cultural heritage.

It is astonishing to think of all that Trudy has accomplished and fulfilled in her life: a horseback rider, successful art gallery owner and connoisseur, folk singer, guitar player, film writer, avid rancher, passionate water advocate, loving mother and proud wife to name a few. Her zest for life is endless and if you talked to anyone who knows her, they would tell you that water is her true passion. I look forward to continuing to work with Trudy on the important water issues facing our state and country and would like to take this moment to recognize all that she has done for New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PENSACOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. All across our Nation, local Chambers of Commerce play vital roles in supporting economic growth and development throughout their communities, and the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce exemplifies this proud tradition.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce's impressive history dates back 125 years to its first meeting on September 16, 1889, where a small group of business leaders got together at the Pensacola Opera House to form the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce. At their first meeting, they elected the Pensacola-area railroad magnate and future State Senator, William Dudley Chipley to serve as their first Chairman. The Chamber represented a wide variety of professions and local businesses, and it quickly proved its worth to the community, helping to grow the Port of Pensacola into the largest in Florida by 1900. Thanks to this prosperity and the tireless work of the Chamber, many new and important corporations were started in the Pensacola area.

By the turn of the century, the Chamber had also established a strong military affairs component, linking the Pensacola-area business community to Northwest Florida's growing military installations. In fact, the Chamber's leadership helped lobby for new defense activities during the 1898 Spanish-American War. Over the years, the Chamber has served as a key component driving Pensacola's transition from

a small Navy Yard to the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

Meanwhile, during the early 20th century, the Chamber also brought together the business community and local city and county officials to help upgrade Pensacola's local infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population and economy. Thanks to the work of the Chamber, local leaders, and the broader Pensacola community, the entire Pensacola area grew from a small town with no paved roads and few utilities to a world-class city that is home to tens of thousands of residents, countless successful businesses, and millions of visitors each year.

Over the years, the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce has grown with the surrounding Pensacola community. From its humble beginnings 125 years ago, as a small group of civic leaders with no full-time staff, the Chamber has grown immensely and today the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,200 members working on a daily basis to help bring world-class economic development projects to benefit North-west Florida's businesses and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I am proud to congratulate the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce on its incredibly successful 125-year history and look forward to another 125 years of success and prosperity.

HONORING MICHELLE SCULLY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Michelle Scully (Educator, agriculture and economic development advocate; Lake County): Michelle has a 20-year history of service to Lake County, particularly in the areas of education, agriculture, and economic development. When Michelle and her husband relocated to Lake County as he went to work in the family's pear packing and farming businesses, she quickly immersed herself in community activities. She was appointed to an advisory board tasked with researching the divisive issue of genetically modified crops. She also served on the steering committee that developed Lake County AgVenture, a program to educate community leaders on the importance of agriculture to Lake County. To address the issue of hunger, Michelle organized a very successful Bountiful Gift Box fundraiser for the county's Hunger Task Force. She brings creativity and solid business ideas to the table of the Regional Economic Development Committee with a style that keeps community members excited and engaged in realizing opportunities. She was a member of the Advisory Council appointed to be a driving force behind the opening of Marymount California University's Lakeside Campus and now serves as the campus's inaugural executive director.

Michelle has weathered storms, professional and personal, with infinite grace and a smile on her face. When she fell and broke her back riding her horse on their ranch, Michelle dragged herself, using only her arms, a quarter mile home where she laid on

the floor until her husband arrived and insisted on taking her to the emergency room. Once home from surgery she missed just three lectures of teaching her biology class at Mendocino College, where she is still an instructor. Michelle personifies grit—she is able to work hard, overcome adversity, and bring long-term passions and community goals to fruition.

JIM OBERSTAR

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as I get on my bike to ride home tonight I'll be smiling, thinking of Jim Oberstar.

There has never been anyone in public life who was more committed to cycling. The joys of the exercise, the power to help people enjoy the freedom, health and advantages of cycling—no one more committed to making it safe for our families.

And that's just the tiniest fraction of the Jim Oberstar story. We could spend the next two hours talking about his contributions to aviation, to a strong rail system, to making our roads and bridges safe, resources to expand infrastructure where we need, and the vision and money to maintain and improve where we need to.

Jim dedicated his life to rebuilding and renewing America. Over the last half century, his fingerprints are on all the major advances, whether he was in a staff capacity, a Committee member, in a powerful leadership position, in the Minority or in the Majority, Jim Oberstar was there, his influence felt, his advice and guidance welcomed, and he made a difference.

As rich and important were his many contributions to rebuilding and renewing America, he was far more than that. He was a kind and caring Member of this Chamber who listened to people regardless of their position in the legislative pecking order.

Jim truly was interested in what they needed, what they thought, and if there was a way that he could help them, consistent with his vision and values. Because he was a consummate legislator, often, he could do both.

Last, but by no means least, Jim Oberstar was a caring family man, driven by his principles, his faith, love for his family, and concern for everyone else's family.

To his beloved wife Jean, thank you so much for sharing this unique human being with us and being his partner helping him do so much, bring so much joy and so much . . . not just progress . . . but joy . . . a man who truly loved his work as he loved his family and he loved his country.

Yes, Jim Oberstar will be missed. But I for one will feel his presence, his commitment, his example, every day I serve in Congress and so it is for many others.

FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JIM OBERSTAR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in honoring our former colleague from Minnesota, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

He was a legendary figure in the House, elected in 1974 as part of the class of Democrats called the Watergate Babies that also included my colleagues from California, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

During his service in Congress, he became a well respected voice for transportation and infrastructure issues, earning him the nickname of "Mr. Transportation."

For decades he fought tirelessly to rebuild and renew our country's infrastructure and he eventually rose to chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Under his leadership he championed transportation, reinvigorating commerce, and good stewardship of our environment. An avid cyclist, he championed the creation of trails for hiking and cycling. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, he can be credited with including major funding for transportation and infrastructure projects that put Americans back to work rebuilding our bridges and roads—and rebuilding our economy in the process.

I have very fond memories of Jim Oberstar.

At the time Democrats were in the majority—I was Chair of the Ethics Committee—I enjoyed Jim's wise counsel and perspective on many legislative matters when we gathered with our fellow Chairs during the Leader's weekly Chair meetings.

Jim was a real expert in transportation and infrastructure but his passion was for working people. I appreciate Jim Oberstar as an amazing and multi-faceted person.

He was born into humble roots in Chisom, Minnesota and he rose to greatness through hard work and higher education:

He earned his Bachelor of Arts from College of St. Thomas (now the University of St. Thomas) in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1956.

He earned his Master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium in 1957,

And he studied further at Université Laval in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada and Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Jim even spent four years as a civilian language teacher in the United States Marine Corps, teaching English to Haitian military personnel and French to American Marine officers and noncommissioned officers.

Jim's talents did not go unnoticed and when he served as a Congressional staffer he quickly rose to Chief of Staff for Congressman John Blatnik (D-Minnesota-8).

Later, he was elected to represent his beloved Minnesota as the Congressman from the 8th District, ultimately being reelected for 18 terms—the longest tenure in Minnesota history for a Member of Congress.

Many of us will remember Jim Oberstar as a modern renaissance man of many talents and an amazing intellect but—he never forgot

his hardworking roots, or stopped fighting for the hard working people of his state and our country.

Like many of my colleagues, I join in praising Jim Oberstar and send my deepest sympathy to his wife Jean, his children and his grandchildren. We share your feelings of loss and send our sincerest gratitude to you for sharing this great man with our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the former Congressman from Minnesota's 8th Congressional District, Jim Oberstar, who passed away on May 3 at the age of 79.

I had the privilege of serving with Jim Oberstar for four years, and will always remember his mastery of multiple foreign languages. It was a remarkable talent.

Jim was a dedicated representative who will be remembered for devoting 36 years of his life in service to Minnesota and the country in the U.S. Congress. We joined our hearts, efforts, and voices in the protection of the unborn and I am especially grateful for his work as the co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus.

My prayers are with his family, particularly his wife Jean, and friends during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring the life and legacy of the late Congressman Jim Oberstar. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND CHRISTINA BROXSON OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary of John and Christina Broxson of Gulf Breeze, Florida. I am proud to honor the Broxsons and congratulate them on this remarkable milestone.

John and Christina met in 1953 at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) in Waxahachie, Texas where John earned his Bachelor of Science degree in May 1954. They were married the following month on June 4, 1954 and spent the early years of their married life in pastoral ministry as well as missionary evangelism.

In 1959, John was appointed by Florida Governor Leroy Collins to complete his father's term as Santa Rosa County Sheriff, and in 1962, John was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. John and Christina moved to Gulf Breeze, Florida, with their family in 1964 to begin their business, John

Broxson and Associates, Inc., an Independent Insurance agency and real-estate brokerage company. Committed to public service, John also served in other various roles to include, Florida State Senator and Santa Rosa County Commissioner.

Both John and Christina have lived a life of service to God and country, while raising five children: Sylvia, Bob, Cheryl, Bart, and Angela. John and Christina are loving and devoted parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my pleasure to join John and Christina Broxson; their children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and the entire Broxson family in celebration of their sixty years of marriage. My wife, Vicki, and I wish John and Christina many more years of happiness and all of God's blessings.

CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, they sent us to a civility conference because they didn't think that Democrats and Republicans were getting along well enough in the Congress, and I have never forgotten something our first speaker said.

David McCullough, the great historian, told a story about a Russian visitor who came up into the House gallery in 1948 and watched for a while, and then he went out and shook his head and he said, "The House is a strange place." He said, "A man stands up and says absolutely nothing, no one pays any attention, and then everyone disagrees."

They say there is a little bit of truth in the best humor, and I guess there is some truth in that humor. But David McCullough was kind enough to go on from there and say, but if he had a chance to live his life over again and he could choose what he wanted to do, he would choose to be a member of that wild and raucous bunch known as the United States House of Representatives.

I think today, because of some of the television talk shows, that many people around the country think that we all dislike each other or that we hate each other at times, or that Democrats and Republicans just don't get along at all. But that is not true at all, and I think for the great, great majority of Members, all of us get along really well with everyone, regardless of party, and all of us consider it a great privilege and honor to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

We are losing many, many good Members from both sides of the aisle this year because of retirements, running for other offices, or for all sorts of reasons, and there are many other Members, both Democrat and Republican, who are good friends of mine who are leaving to whom I should pay tribute. But I rise tonight to pay special tribute to a very special man, and that is Congressman Jim Oberstar from Minnesota.

In my entire 22 years in this Congress, I have served on the Transportation and Infra-

structure Committee. I had a couple of chances in my early years to move to other committees, and I think people were surprised that I didn't take either one of those offers. But I enjoyed serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, originally called the Public Works and Transportation Committee, in part because it was considered to be the most bipartisan, or nonpartisan, committee probably in the Congress. It was often said that there is no such thing as a Republican highway or a Democratic highway; and on many, many things people on both sides of the aisle on that committee worked together to help build America.

Certainly, Congressman Oberstar was one of the great leaders of that committee through his entire time in the Congress. Jim Oberstar served for 11 years on the committee staff, rising to the position of staff director. He then began his service in the House and continued to serve for the past 36 years.

It is an astounding figure to think that a man worked on this one committee for 47 years of his life, but he has done so with great honor and distinction. In fact, I think almost everybody knows that there is no one in the Congress and probably never has been anyone in the history of the Congress who has known transportation issues and understood them and worked on them longer and harder and with more effectiveness than Jim Oberstar has.

At one point, he was chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. In 1994, after the election, the Republicans took control and I had the honor of becoming the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, and I served for 6 years in that position, which was the maximum allowable on our side.

When I took over as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I had frequently heard Jim Oberstar referred to as "Mr. Aviation." So I went to him and asked for his help, and he helped me and guided me and gave me advice that to this day I appreciate very much, and he did that in a very kind and humble way.

Then, of course, in the last 4 years, he reached the pinnacle and became chairman of that committee, a committee that he loves. He has been a great chairman, and I think he has tried to help everyone on both sides of the aisle.

So I just wanted to rise and pay tribute to a man that I consider to be a great American and a great Member of Congress, Congressman James Oberstar.

JIM OBERSTAR

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is for me to convene this special order for our friend and colleague—Minnesota's longest serving Member of Congress and my predecessor in representing our state's Eighth Congressional District. . . . A giant of a man—the truly great former Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Jim Oberstar.

We can all take comfort—and some pleasure as well—in knowing that Jim was well aware of the respect and esteem we ALL had for him—Republicans, Democrats, liberals and conservatives.

That was evident when he quietly entered this chamber in January of last year—for the first time as a former Congressman.

First one member spotted him—then another and another—and within a few seconds everyone was standing, cheering, and applauding spontaneously.

It was a truly unforgettable moment—a gesture I haven't seen in this historic place since Hubert Humphrey addressed a joint session of Congress shortly before he passed away some 36 years ago.

When I think of Jim Oberstar, four big words come to mind. The first word is accomplishment.

He was the son of a miner who grew up in a little House in Chisholm, Minnesota—whose career in public service and as a leader on the Transportation Committee touched every great city, every town, and every small community in our great nation . . .

With a road—a bridge—a park—a harbor—an airport—a public building. Tens of millions of people have a better, safer quality of life thanks to Jim Oberstar.

And those accomplishments were genuinely bipartisan in nature.

As Chairman, Jim believed a good idea is a good idea regardless of who proposes it.

So Committee debates were wide open, with plenty of give and take. If you had an idea, Jim made sure it was heard and debated—and that it received an up or down vote after all was said and done.

The second big word that applies to Jim is work—hard work.

Regardless of how early you showed up—you couldn't arrive early enough to beat Jim to the office every morning. And his light was always the last one to go out after the rest of us had left for the night.

Of course, Jim didn't worry about DC traffic.

This man, who presided over hundreds of billions of dollars in transportation projects—and who understood more about the intricacies of transportation policies than most of the rest of us combined—just wove through the traffic jams riding his bike to work every morning.

And by the way, thanks to Jim's "Safe Routes to School" program, millions of kids are walking and biking to work every day across our nation.

The third word for Jim is intellect. To paraphrase President Kennedy—Thomas Jefferson was the smartest American to ever dine alone—except perhaps when Jim Oberstar was grabbing a bite to eat in the Rayburn cafeteria.

Jim was simply brilliant. He spoke six languages fluently—from French to Creole to that strange combination of Finnish and English we call "Range Speak" up north on Minnesota's Iron Range.

There was no detail to small—and no vision to grand—for Jim to comprehend—and then articulate in a manner everyone else could understand as well.

Last but not least—when I think of Jim, I think of home.

Home on the range. Minnesota's Iron Range and Minnesota's Eighth District.

Jim loved our great northland—our lakes—our timberlands—our great mining industry—the port of Duluth—Superior National Forest and the beautiful Boundary Waters.

His heart was always back there—as well as here in this Chamber and in this House he loved so well.

We loved him dearly. We will miss him terribly. And we will do our best to carry on in his great work in a spirit of bipartisan respect and decency.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE TROOPER JOSEPH J. SEPP, JR.

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary service of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Joseph J. Sepp, Jr. Trooper Sepp gave his life while defending his community on November 10, 2002.

Trooper Sepp was born on August 23, 1968 in Wilkesburg and raised in Windber. He graduated from Windber Area High School in 1986 and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1991. He joined the Pennsylvania State Police on February 24, 1992, fulfilling his lifelong dream of serving as a State trooper.

Trooper Sepp was shot while chasing a suspect at high speed in Ebensburg. He died thirty-eight hours later on November 10, 2002. More than 1,200 law enforcement officers from across the nation attended his funeral at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in Windber.

Trooper Sepp is survived by his wife Jenny and their children Joey, Andy, and Amanda Jo. He is also survived by his sister Tina and parents Joseph and Lana Gay Sepp.

Mr. Speaker, we name our buildings, bridges, and monuments after those who have served and sacrificed for our community in extraordinary ways. It is fitting that the bridge carrying 17th Street over State Route 56 will now be named the Joseph Sepp Memorial Bridge.

I join all Western Pennsylvanians in honoring Joseph J. Sepp, Jr., a State trooper who gave his life to protect and serve his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 10-20-30 ACT OF 2014

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the 10-20-30 Act of 2014.

It is no secret that there are major disagreements among the two political parties over the role that the federal government should play in fighting poverty and confronting many other national challenges. These disagreements, put

simply, come down to a question of federal resources: I believe that we should target more resources to impoverished communities than the proposed Republican budgets allocate, and I believe we can do so efficiently and effectively.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to work through some of these disagreements last year as a member of the Budget Conference Committee, and the deal that resulted, while not 100 percent of what either side wanted, was a reasonable compromise on federal spending through the end of the next fiscal year that I was proud to support.

Now that we have determined how much the federal government will spend, we must determine how to spend it most effectively. It is on this latter question—how to allocate finite federal resources to get the most “bang for the buck”—that I believe we may be able to find more common ground to make real strides in combating persistent poverty in America. The 10-20-30 Act is a bill that members of both parties should support.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 488 persistent poverty counties in America—so defined because 20 percent of the population has lived below the poverty line for the past 30 years or more. They are diverse, including Appalachian communities in states like Kentucky and West Virginia, Native American communities in states like Alaska and South Dakota, Latino communities in states like Arizona and Texas, African American communities in states like South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. They are urban communities in the Northeast, and rural in America's heartland. 139 of these counties are represented in this august body by Democrats, 331 by Republicans, and 18 are split between the two parties. Combating persistent poverty should matter to all of us, regardless of party, geography, or race.

In early 2009, when we were putting together the Recovery Act, I proposed language to require at least 10 percent of funds in the rural development account to be directed to projects in these persistent poverty counties. This requirement was enacted into law. In light of the definition of persistent poverty counties as having at least 20 percent poverty rates over 30 years, this provision became known as the 10-20-30 initiative.

This provision bore dividends, as economic development projects proliferated in persistent poverty counties across the country. The Recovery Act funded a total of 4,655 projects in persistent poverty counties, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. I saw firsthand the positive effects of these projects in South Carolina. Projects were undertaken and jobs created that would have otherwise gone lacking. Among these investments was a \$5.8 million grant and \$2 million loan to construct 51 miles of water lines in the Britton's Neck community in Marion County. In Lowndes County, Mississippi, \$17.5 million was spent to install a water line, elevated tank, and two wastewater pump stations, providing potable water to Mississippians and creating badly needed construction jobs. The Wellborn Special Utility District in Brazos County, Texas, received a \$538,000 loan to construct more than 9 miles of new water distribution lines and connect over 60 households to a new water source.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand 10-20-30 to other federal agencies. In 2011, I joined with our former Republican colleague, then-Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri, to introduce an amendment to the Continuing Resolution that would have continued 10-20-30 for rural development and expanded it to 11 additional accounts throughout the federal government affecting economic development, education, job training, health, justice, the environment, and more. This bill would apply 10-20-30 to these accounts for the next 10 years.

I want to make two things clear about the 10-20-30 Act. First: It would not—I repeat, would not—add one dime to the deficit. It would simply allocate resources from funds already authorized or appropriated. Second: it would be no remedy for an inadequate budget. If we cut spending on economic development programs as much as some advocate, allocating 10 percent of this reduced amount to persistent poverty counties would be wholly insufficient to addressing the great need in these areas.

Over the past 30 years, the national economy has risen and fallen multiple times. During each economic downturn, while we have been rightly focused on getting economy as a whole back on track, we have not given adequate attention to these communities that are suffering from chronic distress and Depression-era levels of joblessness. As a result, they have suffered even in good economic times. The 10-20-30 Act of 2014 would create a mechanism to address this deprivation in times of want and in times of plenty, in times of federal investment and in times of fiscal austerity.

I published an article on 10-20-30 in the most recent issue of the Harvard Journal on Legislation. I discuss the history of our nation's efforts to address chronic poverty and more fully lay out the case for broadly implementing 10-20-30 in a bipartisan fashion. I look forward to working together to pass the 10-20-30 Act to lessen the scourge of persistent poverty in these distressed communities.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
(TAIWAN)

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to commemorate the National Day of the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan. National Day is on October 10, when the people of Taiwan will celebrate the birth of their country. I am proud to memorialize this significant milestone here in Congress in tribute to the great spirit and pride of the people of Taiwan, our close friend and ally. The alliance between Taiwan and the United States is strong but I believe it is time to take even bolder steps to improve and enrich our cooperation on a range of important issues that confront both of our nations.

Already our 12th-largest trading partner, we should be acting aggressively to enhance our

economic relationship with Taiwan in ways that will benefit both our nations. A Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan is long overdue and I urge the Administration to conclude negotiations in an expeditious manner so that our two nations can sign an agreement as soon as possible. In addition to bolstering Taiwan's economic strength, there is much more the United States can do to support our democratic ally politically and militarily. We must support Taiwan's democracy and the human rights of the Taiwanese people by providing the tools and assistance necessary to resist Chinese coercion. The United States should help to modernize Taiwan's defense capabilities by building its capacity to partner with other friendly foreign militaries and through the sale of necessary defense articles. We can also support Taiwan by encouraging visits by high-level officials between our nations and supporting the meaningful participation of Taiwan in international organizations.

Along with my colleagues Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ALBIO SIREs, GERRY CONNOLLY, and JOHN CARTER, the co-Chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I have introduced legislation called the Taiwan Policy Act that would accomplish these objectives, strengthening the U.S.-Taiwan relationship politically, economically, and militarily. As Taiwan's National Day approaches, let us use this auspicious occasion to find ways to improve our relations even further. Taiwan is a beacon of freedom in the Pacific and we cannot afford to support Taiwan any less than to the best of our ability. Happy Double Ten Day, Taiwan.

HONORING MS. AI-JEN POO

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ai-jen Poo to congratulate her on the 2014 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. MacArthur "Genius" Fellows show extraordinary dedication and originality in their field, as well as exceptional promise for continuing their creative pursuits in the future. Ms. Poo demonstrated these qualities through her successful organization of domestic workers on a national and international level. She has created better working conditions for women who are often exploited, by establishing fair labor standards which were originally nonexistent.

Ms. Poo started organizing immigrant women workers in 1996. In 2000, she co-founded Domestic Workers United, the organization that has successfully advocated for passage of the state of New York's Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights in 2010. Currently, Ms. Poo is the Executive Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), which arose from the first national domestic workers convention in 2007 that she helped plan. NDWA is a leading organization in building fair labor standards for the 2.5 million domestic workers in the U.S. Recently, Poo was instrumental in the Department of Labor's decision to include caregivers for the elderly and disabled in federal minimum wage and overtime protections.

Ms. Poo is also Co-Director of Caring Across Generations, a campaign that brings together caregivers and the employers into an alliance that supports immigration reform, health care, and labor policies. This confluence of interest results in better labor conditions, and greater quality care for America's aging population.

Aside from being a 2014 MacArthur Foundation fellow, Ms. Poo was previously recognized with numerous other accolades including the World Economic Forum Young Global Leader award in 2013, and the Ms. Foundation Woman of Vision Award. In 2012, she was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Ms. Poo has exhibited outstanding devotion to a cause that continues to improve countless lives. I appreciate all that she has done to serve our nation, and I congratulate her for her achievement. She is more than deserving of this honor.

HONORING NICOLE MONTNA VAN
VLECK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Nicole Montna Van Vleck (Rice grower and industry leader; Sutter and Sacramento Counties): Nicole Montna Van Vleck is the managing partner of family owned and operated Montna Farms in Yuba City, a major grower of Japanese short grain specialty rice. Nicole is actively involved in all aspects of the operations from growing to drying and milling and her involvement with California agriculture is long-standing. She is a third generation Sutter County rice farmer who has been a leader in numerous associations as an advocate for the state's farmers.

For more than a decade she has served on the California Rice Commission where she currently sits on the Board of Directors and on numerous committees. She is a member of the California Rice Industry Association Board and in 2011 joined the Board of Directors for American Commodity Company. From February of 2011 to July 2013, Nicole served as co-chair for the USA Rice Federation Rice Quality Task Force and remains active. She also is active in the USA Rice Producers Group.

In the area of water, Nicole has leadership roles in the Northern California Water Association. She is Vice President of the Sutter Bypass Butte Slough Water Users Association, having been president for more than a decade. She is Treasurer of Garden Highway Mutual Water District. Outside of agriculture, Nicole is a member of the Board of Directors for River Valley Community Bank. Nicole is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and of the USA Rice Leadership Program. Early in her career she worked as a legislative analyst for the law firm of Morrison & Foerster before returning to the family farm in 1994. As Vice Chair of the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Board, Nicole advocates for agricultural education programs for youth. She raised money for State Fair Scholarships and school tours of the State Fair

Farm. Nicole is a respected leader and champion for women in agriculture statewide and for economic development in Sutter County.

VAWA; HISTORIC LAW CONTINUES TO HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week we mark the 20th anniversary of enactment of the Violence Against Women Act, which was signed on September 20, 1994. I supported and continue to strongly support this law. I voted to create the programs in 1994 and helped ensure enactment of the first reauthorization in 2000 by attaching it to my anti-trafficking law—the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106–386/TVPA). I also cosponsored the 2005 reauthorization, fought to ensure these programs are fully funded to assist the maximum number of victims and voted for seven of the first seven VAWA reauthorization bills offered through 2012.

All of these efforts have helped draw national attention to the epidemic of domestic violence and invested significant resources to prevent domestic violence, assist the women and children who fall victim to it, and improve our justice system's response.

Millions of victims have been helped by VAWA, but more remains to be done.

The release of a video last week of then-Baltimore Ravens runningback Ray Rice assaulting his now wife in an elevator in Atlantic City horrified us all. I, like most Americans, was shocked and disgusted by the unacceptable brutality and violence captured on the video. But regrettably, the violence exposed does not represent a rare, isolated incident but rather an exploitation that remains all too prevalent in our modern day society.

VAWA is one component of a solution, but we must work harder and have a more robust national conversation on the culture of violence in America and how we can better protect vulnerable women and children.

Of course, acts of violence against women and children are not a uniquely American problem. Around the world, women and children are abused and assaulted, and in many places, unable to receive any form of assistance or hold perpetrators to account. In conflict zones rape is used as a weapon of war and intimidation. Modern day slavery continues as traffickers sell women as commodities. Gendercide, where babies are aborted based exclusively on their sex, is commonplace in many cultures, particularly in China.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we can, and must, do better.

In 2000, when VAWA was up for renewal and there was a concern that it may not pass, I helped secure its enactment by attaching the reauthorization bill in its entirety to my landmark TVPA. The TVPA was a significant breakthrough—for the first time we put significant U.S. resources and the real force of law towards the prosecution of those who sexually exploit and traffic women and children and sig-

nificant resources towards shelters and treatment for women abused both here in the U.S. and around the world. Simultaneously we reauthorized the VAWA programs; enacted “Aimee’s Law” under which any state that prematurely releases violent criminals will be forced to reimburse another state if the criminal repeats the crime; and expanded the scope of Megan’s Law so that it covered college campuses.

The version of VAWA that was signed into law last year reauthorized some of these antihuman trafficking programs but unfortunately gutted the State Department’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office. As I stated at the time, these provisions: “represents a significant retreat in the struggle to end human trafficking.”

The TIP Office is an extraordinary advocacy mechanism and has had a huge impact worldwide. In addition to ‘best practices’ advocacy, the office monitors labor and sex trafficking in every country of the world pursuant to minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA and makes recommendations for whether or not countries should be ranked Tier I, Tier II Watch List or Tier III. Countries with bad records and who fail to make ‘serious and sustained’ efforts to improve are designated Tier 3—the worst ranking—which may result in sanctions.

For over a decade the TIP Office has been the flagship in our struggle to combat the violence of human trafficking, and demoting our anti-trafficking efforts, as PL 113–4 did, was wrong and must be addressed. On behalf of the women and children who fall victim to the soulless traffickers every year, we need to ensure these efforts remain a top priority.

Accordingly, I authored, and the House passed the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (H.R. 2283) to raise the profile and influence of the TIP Office by making it a bureau within the State Department. My bill is pending in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the House has also passed my first of its kind anti-sex tourism bill this year, my International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Sex Trafficking (H.R. 4573)—as part of a phenomenal package of legislation that builds on our efforts to end the exploitation of and violence against women and children.

H.R. 4573 will combat child sex tourism by alerting countries of destination concerning the travel plans of convicted U.S. pedophiles. And to protect American children, the bill encourages the President to use bilateral agreements and assistance to establish reciprocal notification so that we will know when convicted child-sex offenders are planning to come to the U.S.

The legislation is named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old from Hamilton, NJ, who was kidnapped, raped, and brutally murdered in 1994. Megan’s assailant was a convicted, repeat sex offender living across the street, unbeknownst to residents in the neighborhood. Due to public outcry in response to the tragedy and to the hard work by Megan’s loving parents, Richard and Maureen Kanka, the New Jersey State Legislature passed the original Megan’s Law to require public notification of convicted sex offenders living in the community. Today, all 50 States and all the territories have a

“Megan’s Law”, an important tool in preventing more children from becoming victims.

My International Megan’s Law takes the lessons we have learned on how to protect our children from known child sex predators within our borders and expands those protections globally.

The Senate, thus far, has yet to act on these important bills—as well as the many other anti-trafficking measures we’ve passed.

The Majority Leader has an opportunity right now to send a strong message. On the anniversary of VAWA and as we approach Domestic Violence Awareness month, I call on Majority Leader REID to bring these bills to the floor.

As the nation is focused on the NFL’s response to the horrific abuse perpetrated by a few of its players, HARRY REID can set an example of how organizations can act, deliberately and aggressively, to end the culture of violence that harms women and children.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN JAY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department in Jay, Florida, and recognize the dedication and selfless service of its members in protecting the citizens of the Northwest Florida community.

The Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has been protecting the citizens of Northwest Florida since it was officially chartered in October 1974. The fire department started as a small operation, acquiring their first fire truck for \$300, with Holley Phillips appointed as their first Fire Chief. Since its charter, the department has served as an unrivaled knowledge base of fire safety and a safeguard for the residents of Jay.

In the 40 years that the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the community, it has grown considerably. Today, 12 honorable and distinguished volunteers selflessly serve their community as volunteer firefighters. This courageous group put their lives on the line daily to ensure the safety of their fellow Northwest Floridians by responding to thousands of calls within the community, over the years.

With community support, the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has added to their fleet three new trucks. A tanker, a pumper, and a rescue truck have been integrated into their arsenal to combat fires in Jay and keep its citizens out of harm’s way. Current Fire Chief, Jim Cagle, has been leading the department for the past 24 years. What has remained true over the 40 years is the commitment to protect Northwest Florida and ensure its residents know they are safe under the watchful eye of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the

Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of the volunteers for their faithful service and wishing them and the department continued success.

HONORING BURNS & McDONNELL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Burns & McDonnell, an employee-owned consulting firm with locations in Downers Grove and Chicago. Burns & McDonnell, which serves my constituents in the Sixth District, has been recognized as being not only one of the best places to work in the state of Illinois, but also in the nation.

Since opening in 1994, the professionals at Burns & McDonnell have offered a full range of engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting services. Their clients include government, industry, utility and institutional organizations. Burns & McDonnell have been involved with many major projects around the Chicagoland area such as the Illinois Tollway, O'Hare International Airport, and countless others.

With over 160 employees in their local offices, Burns & McDonnell ranked 14th in Fortune 100's "Best Companies to Work For" in 2014 and was named to the 2014's "Best Places to Work in Illinois" list by the Daily Herald Business Ledger, one of only sixty Illinois companies to receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in honoring Burns & McDonnell for their legacy of excellence. Burns & McDonnell is a company that truly cares not only for their clients, but also for their employees.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE KENNETH WILLIAM "KEN" HECHLER FOR HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, September 20th, a former Member of the House from my State of West Virginia, Dr. Ken Hechler, will celebrate his 100th birthday.

First elected to the House in 1958 and re-elected to eight consecutive terms, Ken Hechler is now the longest living former Member of Congress, and remains a champion for black lung benefits for which he successfully fought during his tenure. Subsequent to his service in this body, he would continue his dedicated public service to the people of West Virginia by being elected Secretary of State for four terms.

Before serving in the House, Dr. Hechler served as a military historian, writing about major European battles, and he retired from the U.S. Army as a Major.

Dr. Hechler then worked as a speech writer in the Truman Administration. Entrusted with a

Ph.D. from Columbia University, he devoted a considerable amount of his career to teaching; that included teaching in the Political Science Department at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

Dr. Hechler has authored nine books, including *The Bridge at Remagen*, *West Virginia Memories of President Kennedy*, and *Working with Truman: A Personal Memoir of the White House Years*.

In an era when this Nation seems so divided on the issues of the day, Dr. Hechler's perspective on the job of a Member of Congress is pertinent for political observers, pundits, students of government, our fellow citizens, and, particularly, Members of Congress.

In speaking about taking unpopular positions, yet being elected time and again, Dr. Hechler has said, "Well, if you do your job on other things; to most people that's more important. If you answer your mail directly and they believe you're honest in your beliefs, why, this is usually accepted even if they disagree with you."

Ken Hechler and I have been occasionally at odds, but upon one thing we have consistently agreed: Tending to the needs and interests of those we have the high honor of representing in the Congress—one call, one letter at a time—is our highest obligation.

Thank you for your many contributions to our Nation, Ken, and Happy Birthday on this centennial milestone.

RECOGNIZING SHANA RUNCK

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shana Runck as she receives the White House Champion of Change award. Each week, the President of the United States honors local leaders, who perform extraordinary work on a daily basis in their community to build a better America.

Shana is the Assistant Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Capabilities with New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. Every day she shares her experience and knowledge, providing financial education and job training to at-risk Latino students in New Mexico. Shana is a true role model, instilling in others the same confidence that drives her success. She shares her work ethic in a selfless way and teaches others that with persistence and determination, anything is attainable.

Our very own city of Albuquerque is fortunate to have such a remarkable person in Shana. She has played a vital role in developing the City of Albuquerque's "Running Starts for Careers" program, and she has designed the Financial Services Career Exploration course to ensure they receive college credit for their internship experience. Shana's outstanding work within the local community has helped students continue their education and get job-training in trade fields that interest them.

Shana exemplifies the bedrock principles of our nation; civic engagement, love for our

neighbor, an understanding that one ripple of change can soon become a current, and the idea that one individual can have a profound impact on a community. I have no doubt that Shana will continue to accomplish great things in all her future endeavors.

HONORING PROJECT CHILDREN AND FOUNDER DENIS MULCAHY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Project Children.

Since its founding in 1974, Project Children has brought over 22,000 children from both Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland to America, uniting them with over 15,000 American host families for a summer of peace and a lifetime of friendship. Summer vacation in the United States has given these children a break from the conflict and politics of their country and a chance to experience what many might take for granted during their youth.

Denis Mulcahy and his brother Pat founded the program together after they immigrated to New York. A retired member of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, Denis is truly the heart and soul of Project Children. His extraordinary dedication to peace and understanding has made a tangible difference in the lives of many in the U.S. and in Northern Ireland, and to the peace process on the island.

A nonprofit all-volunteer organization, the program has fostered countless friendships among communities in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and America. Project Children along with host families, coordinators, fundraising volunteers, benefactors, and alumni here in the United States have played a pivotal role in the growth of this organization.

Project Children has had a tremendous impact on the peace process along with U.S. and Irish relations. This group is one of the organizations that laid the community-wide foundation for the Good Friday Agreement, while continuing to serve as an example of the power of peace and reconciliation efforts at the grassroots level—as well as the power of individual leadership exemplified by Denis Mulcahy.

During my time as a member of Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of many significant achievements in implementing peace in Northern Ireland. I have seen firsthand what organizations like Project Children have done to offer hope and a better life for future generations. Without this organization's commitment along with the leadership of Denis Mulcahy, many young men and women from Northern Ireland would not have the quality of life they have today. Congratulations to both Project Children and Denis Mulcahy on this momentous occasion.

CALIFORNIA 3RD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the success of our districts and the livelihood and future of our communities relies heavily on the devotion and service of those who go above the call of duty, willing to devote their time and energy to improving society and the lives of people around them. This fall, through my 2014 Women of the Year awards, I have made an effort to recognize, honor, and celebrate the vital contributions of outstanding women in my district.

Each of these women exemplifies sacrifice and devotion. These civic leaders have helped improve their communities in various ways, and are compelling advocates for critical issues including education, flood protection, environmental stewardship, and the arts. They promote healthy communities, organize events to promote world peace, and raise community awareness to end bullying. They are all women in California's Third Congressional District who have succeeded in bettering their communities and the lives of those around them—living proof that when women succeed, America succeeds.

Throughout our history, America's foremothers have made great strides in securing their equal rights and equal treatment under the law. And while we have come so far, there is still work to be done. We stand on the shoulders of giants, but that does not mean we should cease to reach further. Thanks to these women and others like them, I see our communities reaching further every day.

Pat Ash (City Councilwoman and preservationist; Williams—Colusa County): Pat Ash, the current mayor of Williams, has served as a Williams City Council Member for many years. She is the founding and most active member of Citizens for a Better Williams, known locally as CBW.

Through her membership on the city council and in CBW, Pat has played a crucial role in beautifying vacant areas, including a parcel that was annexed into the town square park. An outstanding example of Pat's leadership and generous spirit is her preservation of the aging Masonic Hall in town. Pat recently purchased it herself, thus maintaining its historic value to the city and county.

Under Pat's sustaining leadership CBW recently arranged for a mural to be painted on the Masonic Hall, adding local interest and a festive atmosphere to this popular park. On June 7th, the mayor hosted a mural dedication ceremony that featured Governor Jerry Brown and relatives of W.H. Williams, founder of the town. Through her creativity and tenacity, Pat has been instrumental in organizing Williams' Summer Concerts in the Park series featuring local musicians. The venue offers the community a place to mingle and for nonprofit groups to hold fundraisers. In further testimony to Pat's enduring appreciation for her city, she has written a book illustrating the influence of Western Europeans settling in Williams. Pat's fellow citizens appreciate her efforts to preserve and showcase the city's history.

Marci Coglianese (Municipal law attorney, former city official, land use advocate; Rio

Vista—Solano County): Marci Coglianese, past mayor and council member for the City of Rio Vista, has practiced municipal and environmental law for more than 25 years. Her achievements in furthering good land use planning, and environmental and risk management practices for the Delta are extraordinary. Marci represented the League of California Cities on the State Floodplain Management Task Force and on the public advisory committee to update the California Water Plan. She has been instrumental in protecting Solano County farmland and served as co-chair of the Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee of the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Rio Vista Army Base Steering Committee.

Marci has always been a vocal and staunch advocate for fairness and for racial and gender equality in local government. After assuming office she was notable for her openness in listening and responding to the needs of her constituents of every political stripe and economic status. A person of the highest integrity and forthrightness, Marci sets an exemplary standard for all in political office, from the smallest village to the national capitol. Despite serious illness and family trauma, she has maintained a manner of openness, grace, and humor toward even her most bitter opponents. Marci Coglianese is greatly loved and admired by all who know her.

Deborah Eernisse (Fitness instructor, mentor, and volunteer; Davis—Yolo County): Deborah's outstanding trait is her ability to build community with diverse groups of all ages, particularly around fitness and health. In Davis she has built a supportive community of older adults who remain active and engaged in their own health and happiness. Her "Fit for Life" program at the Davis Senior Center has reduced injuries, falls, and the need for hospitalization or skilled nursing care.

Deborah graduated from UC Davis with a minor in Adult Development and Aging. She had planned to be an at-home mom, but faced with serious medical problems in her immediate family she had the foresight and strength to persevere and graduate from the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Sacramento City College. Since then she has earned a number of other certifications.

Participants in Deborah's fitness classes have been able to improve their muscle tone, balance, coordination and strength in such a way that many age-related declines are slowed or prevented. Class members who have had strokes, joint replacement, fractures and similar problems are able to follow through with their long-term rehabilitation. Those with chronic conditions such as diabetes or neuropathy are able to optimize their independence and quality of life. Beyond strength, friendships are created and social support flourishes. Her classes fill up quickly and have a waiting list. Deborah also conducts a popular free yoga class for the Davis High School football team, and she has served on the board of the Davis Food Co-op. Recently she completed 30 hours of training to become part of the Davis Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Deborah is now part of a pool of volunteers ready to assist in large-scale emergencies.

Gloria Estrada (Veteran advocate and peace activist; Williams—Colusa County): Gloria Estrada works tirelessly for the interests of Colusa County families, donating much of her time to organizations that benefit the community's veterans and the families of fallen soldiers. On August 11, 2011, not

long after recovering from a head-on crash Gloria's son, Pfc. Rueben "Boy" Lopez, was killed in action by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Since then Gloria has dedicated herself to helping families in need and advocating for peace. She celebrates her son's service and sacrifice by paying it forward.

One way she has done this is by arranging for the placement of Peace Poles in each community in Colusa County. The Peace Pole serves as a symbol to remind community members that they are the peace builders. On August 11, 2014, Gloria and her family organized a ceremony on the grounds of the state capitol in Sacramento. Veterans of Colusa County traveled to the state capitol for the ceremony in which 193 full-size flags of the world were carried. A Peace Pole featuring the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 12 different languages was presented to the People of California.

Each year on the anniversary of her son's death, Gloria chooses an agency, school, or group where she hosts a celebration urging those present to celebrate life and to please pay good works forward. Gloria is a tireless community volunteer and an exceptionally loving and giving woman. Whenever someone is in need, Gloria is quick to search on their behalf. If someone needs company, Gloria is at their side with reassuring words. Those who know her well agree that each of us is a better person because we have Gloria in our life.

Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente (Flood protection advocate; Hamilton City—Glenn County): As president of Reclamation District 2140 Lee Ann played a leading role in working with Congressman Garamendi and other federal, state and local representatives to secure federal funding in an Energy & Water Development appropriation to begin construction of the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The current J Levee, now mostly in disrepair, was built in the early 1900s. The levee failed twice in the 1970s and required emergency reinforcement six times in the past 30 years. If the river floods, the homes of 2,000 Hamilton City residents are at risk, as are the farms and Highway 32.

The project is multipurpose. Plans include 6.8 miles of setback levee to protect the town and farmland. The existing J levee will be "degraded" and 1,400 acres of land will be restored to native habitat along the Sacramento River floodplain. Thanks to Lee Ann's perseverance and effective work with elected representatives, Glenn County Sheriff Larry Jones, who serves as head of Glenn County's Office of Emergency Services, was able to say: "I am very pleased. The project is vital to our public safety. . . . Now I can start to look forward to the time when the J Levee is no longer one of my biggest concerns."

Lee Ann serves on the Hamilton City Task Force developing a 5-10-20 year strategic plan for the city. She is president of the Hamilton City Women's Club that leads the way in adding new civic amenities in the downtown.

Mary Grimmer (School and community volunteer extraordinaire; Arbuckle—Colusa County): Mary Grimmer is an amazing woman, full of energy and passion, and extremely giving of her time and resources. For the past five years, Mary has volunteered at least 12 hours per week in the school library, helping students locate books, cataloging new books, and reminding students to return overdue ones. Each year she donates a generous number of titles to the library collection.

Meanwhile, the school office can count on Mary to help with school pictures in the fall and spring of each year. Through the Parent Club, she takes the lead on ordering all of the school tee-shirts and sweatshirts that students purchase. You also will see Mary Grimmer at all kinds of events, camera around her neck, taking thousands of pictures that she shares with the students. Mary is an active 4-H leader and a member of the Arbuckle Little League where she is responsible for many aspects of the organization, including scheduling of games. She is a part-time employee of the Arbuckle Parks & Recreation Department, giving more time than she could ever be compensated for. And, when someone in the community is ill or has just had a baby, Mary graciously delivers a home-cooked meal as a show of support for them.

Programs for children just don't happen. They take the dedicated people who care about kids to devote their time, energy and often their own financial resources. Mary provides initiative and the physical labor to fill the gaps. She is a beacon calling others to volunteer their time to change the lives of children.

Samina Masood (Working to end poverty, homelessness, and abuse of women; Fairfield—Solano County): Since 2012 Samina Masood has partnered with the City of Fairfield to seize the twin horns of homelessness and domestic abuse in order to demonstrate that renewal is possible for homeless, abused, and neglected women and their children. Were it not for her direct intervention and program services, hundreds of women and children would go without hope, a place to live, or resurrected lives. Each year her organization, Heather House, takes in hundreds of needy and vulnerable women, then shelters and supports them. Samina resides on campus with them to run the seven-day-a-week program. Empowered by their experience in a 90-day work program, they are able to leave the shelter with a job, housing, and the skills to achieve economic independence. Samina's passion and dedication are quite infectious, engaging many city leaders to join hands and work together on behalf of these at-risk local women and their children. She has served as a commissioner on the Mayor's Commission on Crime to help prevent and reduce crime in the city.

Masood herself is a role model. She came to the United States as an immigrant from the third world country of Pakistan. She is a writer and published columnist with her columns appearing in the Tracy Press nationally and in the U.S. State Department Gazette. Samina has two master degrees—an MA in Communications and an MS in Clinical Psychology. In the 80s and 90s she worked for the World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S.-AID as an advocate for women and children. An abuse survivor herself, Samina talks openly about her childhood growing up in a country where women and children are deprived of rights. She often speaks of how she saved her own soul by fighting for other women who had no voice. She is writing a memoir.

Dr. Frances Nelson (Librarian, educator, literacy advocate; Fairfield—Solano County): Frances Nelson has brought outstanding gifts to the educational community of Solano County. She is a preeminent librarian whose commitment to diversity and whose advocacy for the teaching of U.S. history and government have enriched the lives of many students and adults. Frances has a myriad of community and educational experiences over more than 15 years in Vacaville's secondary

classrooms and, after her retirement, as adjunct librarian with 20 years of service at Solano Community College. She is the only African-American librarian that Solano Community College has had in its seventy-year history.

Dr. Nelson has pioneered information access techniques with individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Through the California School Library Association Dr. Nelson participated on a committee that developed "Standards for Information Literacy: Grades K-12." This endeavor prompted her to develop a library skill workbook and a video tape presentation on school site curriculum for a Vallejo school library. Frances travels regularly to Oakland to select as many as 75 books that she then donates to the Solano Juvenile facility. She also donates hair care products to African-American girls there when these are requested. Dr. Nelson is a newly appointed Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commissioner for Solano County, is active in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Beta Psi Chapter, and has served in leadership roles at her church. Dr. Frances Gholston Nelson has elevated the whole community—not just with the time she has spent in community service but in the quality of her service that counts for so much more.

Gloria Partida (Advocate for restorative justice and anti-bullying activist; Davis—Yolo County): When her son was savagely attacked near downtown Davis the night of March 10, 2013 in what was deemed to be an anti-gay hate crime, Gloria Partida responded with composure and grace. She not only cared for her son Mikey's needs, physical and emotional, she led the community in a candlelight vigil coordinated by concerned community members. Mikey spent months in rehabilitation and many more in at-home care by family members relearning the tasks of daily life and receiving counseling for PTSD. Gloria faced the tragedy and its aftermath courageously and with compassion. In an October 6, 2013 editorial, "Innocence Lost: Now where are my virtues?" she set a powerful example, showing our community how to push back against hate crimes and bullying behaviors of all kinds: "Having survived this magnitude of violence, my son and family became magnets for people who had suffered similar experiences and wanted to share their stories. Sadly, there were many. This produced for me, ever the optimist, an internal civil war. How could people who started out sweet and promising turn into vessels of evil? . . . What became evident to me . . . was that I needed to be responsible for more than my own children. And not just the smart, easy-to-get along with ones . . . the marginalized ones."

Gloria attended a church meeting on the topic "Standing Up to Hate," and in that meeting the Davis Phoenix Coalition was born. Gloria worked ceaselessly on the group's projects, including a March 2014 anti-bullying workshop; a screening and discussion of "The Laramie Project" and other awareness-raising events; fund-raising and attending the "Not in Our Town" national gathering in Montana; designing a tee shirt and bumper sticker; writing an anti-bullying brochure . . . always turning a devastating personal event into an opportunity for community growth.

Linda Plummer (Healthcare advocate, arts supporter, community volunteer; Marysville—Yuba County): Linda Plummer is known as a distinguished advocate for health care and for the arts, twin passions that merged when she created Rideout

Healthy Kids. RHK is a musical theater program teaching healthy eating and exercise habits. Still in its first year, the program created seven jobs—four actors, a director and two sound technicians—and reached more than 4,000 school children in its first season.

As part of her job as marketing manager for Rideout Health, Linda helps to get the word out about the newly expanded Rideout Regional Medical Center, the largest construction project in recent memory in Marysville and its neighboring communities. Linda is a dedicated steward of the project. As 30 ironworkers, eight carpenters, six deck builders, two rebar workers and 15 other laborers and inspectors worked on the structure last year, Linda observed the sudden transformation following years of planning. "It's like Christmas," she said.

The Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce has recognized Linda for her deep community involvement. She founded the Way, Way, Way Off Broadway event to give performance opportunities to high school actors. She is a board member of the Sutter Performing Arts Association and Yuba-Sutter Arts. A past president of the Rotary Club of Yuba City, she has been involved with Friends of Yuba City Parks and Recreation; the Casa de Esperanza shelter for victims of domestic violence; Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts; and the Galena Street East performance group to encourage young artists. She was a judge for the Sacramento Regional Theater Alliance. When asked how she manages her busy schedule, she admitted: "What schedule?" For Linda, "Volunteering is addictive. Whatever form it may take, volunteerism has an incurable impact on people—you see it change lives."

Lonetta Riley (Educator and school district trustee; Yuba—Sutter County): Lonetta Riley has served on the Yuba City Unified School District board for 16 years as District 3's representative and for the past two years as board president. Says a friend, "you can count on Lonetta's support for the students and she stands up for teachers and the job that they try to do in these times of diminished funding." Lonetta Riley is the only African-American woman to ever have been elected to office in Sutter County. When asked what it was like to be the first, she always responds that "it doesn't really matter unless I work to make sure there is a second, third and fourth."

Lonetta began her advocacy for education in 1970 while a graduate student at the University of Nebraska where she led demonstrations to address the poor graduation rates of black athletes. As a member of the Douglas County (Nebraska) Citizens Committee, she was instrumental in bringing attention to local civil rights violations. More recently as a Juvenile Justice Commissioner for Sutter County, she has worked to raise awareness and organize efforts to address the difficult issues facing delinquent youth. She is passionate in believing that mentoring during probation is an opportunity to help individuals get their lives back on track.

A criminal justice professor in the Los Rios Community College District, Lonetta is the Training Coordinator for the Regional Public Safety Training Center of American River College and guides the training of law enforcement personnel. She is a member of the Bethel AME Church, the National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Bridges 2 Housing and other community organizations. Lonetta believes that "if you don't use your voice for change, your silence says the status quo is okay." She exemplifies the

adage to be the change you would like to see in the world.

TRIBUTE TO JACKSONVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Jacksonville Public Library's 100th anniversary as a Member of the Federal Depository Library Program. Since its designation in 1914, The Jacksonville Public Library system has faithfully provided information from the federal government to the citizens of Northeast Florida, providing a better informed and educated citizenry. Additionally, employees of the Library have offered guidance and acted as liaisons to the wealth of knowledge that the Depository contains.

The Federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to ensure that the American public has access to its Government's information. Materials—whether, print, media or e-resources—are added by cataloging to the library's catalog and can be searched just like anything else. In the past government documents were not automatically cataloged and thus were missing from the records. The Jacksonville Public Library has an array of legacy materials from the 1860's, statistics, reports, newly published titles, as well as a mix of non-print media.

I am proud of the work that the Jacksonville Library has done on behalf of the community. The Library has made accessing information easier and more convenient for those wanting to extend the breadth of their knowledge. This achievement makes me particularly proud to call myself a Jacksonville native.

STOP ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are now half way through September, and young people in Chicago and throughout the nation have started a new school year. As they advance in age and begin to realize their potential, many teens from junior high through the first years of college are confronted with peer pressure and normal curiosity to engage in illegal underage drinking. In spite of great progress in reducing underage drinking, the statistics remain unacceptably high.

For many years, the dedicated staff of the Federal Trade Commission has promoted a consumer education program known as We Don't Serve Teens. It is an effort to inform parents and other adults of the ways in which teens acquire alcohol and the risks they face. The FTC initiative is reinforced by members of the alcohol beverage industry who publicize the information in the media and at retail outlets throughout the nation.

According to survey data compiled for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration, many young teens have easy access to alcohol. A study funded by that agency showed that 93.4 percent of adolescents ages 12–14 who drank alcohol in the past month got it for free.

In most cases, adolescents have access to alcohol through family members, from their own homes or homes of friends. The same survey indicates that more than 500,000 youngsters in that 12–14 age group consumed alcohol within the last month. Alcohol consumption at that age can be the indication of other problems. If ignored, it can lead to patterns of abusive drinking and other risky behavior that adversely affect the teenager for a lifetime.

In addition to monitoring the activities and behavior of young teens, illegal alcohol consumption poses a serious risk to high school and younger college students. This past August, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism published guidance titled, Fall Semester: A Time for Parents to Revisit Discussions About College Drinking. As our young people enter their later teenage years, the challenge for parents and the broader community increase. High school and college students have older friends who can purchase alcohol for them. They also have smart phones, cars, and other means to communicate and travel.

We often hear the message, "If you see something, say something," from our homeland security agencies. Parents, friends, neighbors, pastors, and teachers all have different experiences and interactions with teens. We need to enlist all people of good will to say something if they see a teen that they know engaged in underage drinking.

Last year, alcohol was a factor in over 190,000 emergency room visits by persons under the age of 21. Some of those teens died and some suffered traumatic injuries that will permanently change their lives and diminish their potential. Those numbers are every bit as troubling as the national security issues we face. The We Don't Serve Teens web site and materials provide many common sense approaches to limit teen access to alcohol and to recognize the signs that a young person you know may be consuming alcohol illegally.

In addition to supporting the We Don't Serve Teens message, I urge my colleagues to support the H.R. 498, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, better known as the STOP Act. It was introduced by Rep. ROYBAL-ALLARD again in this Congress. Thanks to her efforts and those of our Republican colleague FRANK WOLF, portions of this legislation have been included in continuing resolutions and appropriations bills since 2006.

The STOP Act strengthened our response to the challenge of underage drinking. Seventeen federal agencies now worked through an interagency committee to better coordinate activities to further reduce underage drinking. A number of valuable studies and recommendations have been shared with government officials and civic-minded citizens throughout the nation. I commend our colleagues for their work.

To the men and women in agencies responsible for administering STOP Act research and grants, I ask you to persevere. Your work has

saved many lives, and with sustained effort at the federal, state, and community level, we can further reduce underage drinking and its terrible consequences for our families and communities.

To the Commissioners and staff of the Federal Trade Commission, I commend the We Don't Serve Teens initiative and encourage you to sustain it in the future. I would also like to express appreciation for a company in the district I represent, Constellation Brands Beer Division, which promotes the We Don't Serve Teens message in the media and at alcohol beverage retail outlets throughout the greater Chicago area.

Underage drinking is a problem we can all work together to solve. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to utilize the tools prepared by the FTC and other agencies and help further reduce underage drinking and its consequences for our younger citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CARIDAD CORTES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Caridad Cortes. Caridad was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. She relocated to Kissimmee, Florida with her children in 1994, while her husband continued to work in New York until he retired in 1997. She has worked in the healthcare industry for most of her career as a Case Manager.

In 2006, when her children were grown, Caridad was ready to continue her education. She returned to Walden University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Human Resources in 2009. Caridad is a freelance writer for online media and is an avid photographer in her spare time. She is always exploring her creative side.

Since she first moved to Kissimmee, Caridad has seen immense changes in her community. Caridad seeks to spark change by getting involved in local social causes. She is the Recording Secretary of the Democrats of Osceola and a member of the Osceola Chapter of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus.

Caridad is married to John Cortes, Democratic Candidate Elect for the Florida House of Representatives, District 43. John and Caridad have been married for 33 years and have two children and one grandchild. Caridad is always there for her family, and there is no task too large or small for her to take on.

I am happy to honor Caridad Cortes, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE YODER FAMILY
AS THE 2014 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY AND
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATOR OF
THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Yoder Family from Century, Florida, for being selected as the 2014 Escambia County, Florida, Farm Family and Agricultural Innovator of the Year.

The Yoder family farm, a 100-acre farm located in northern Escambia County, Florida, is a family affair. Run by Brent, and his wife Janice, the Yoders' four children—Blake, Brian, Allison, and Bryce—also play an integral role in the Yoder family's success. Having grown up on farms themselves, both Brent and Janice understand the importance of agriculture and the vital role that a strong family plays in operating a successful farm.

On their farm, the Yoder family runs a small grass-fed Grade A dairy farm with an on-site processing facility for pasteurization and a processing and bottling facility. The Yoder family started in 2009 with just one cow, Daisy, and the original intent was simply to produce the highest quality milk for their growing family; however, as soon as the Yoder family began to share their product with the local community, they saw that there was a great demand for their golden-yellow whole-some product.

Today, the Yoder family has 15 Jersey cows, chosen due to their high butterfat content, and, by grass feeding and grazing their cows, the Yoder family products offer consumers a healthy balance Omega fatty acids, conjugated linoleic acids, and low levels of saturated fats. Brent delivers the Yoder family milk on a dairy route one day a week, and the Yoder family milk is also delivered to eight local storefronts. The Yoders are also very welcoming and happy to open their farm to the local community to demonstrate the importance of agriculture, and many of their customers drive to the northern part of Escambia County to see the farm and dairy and purchase milk directly from the Yoders. The Yoders also work closely with Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension, and their farm served as a stop on the 2012 Escambia County Farm tour, where Brent led visitors on a tour of their farm, while Janice provided guests with home baked cookies and ice cold Yoder family milk.

In addition to their dairy farming activities, the Yoders also have a local partnership with Janice's father, a local row crop producer who also raises hogs, to grow non-GMO grains that is then delivered to local farms to be used for their mixes. The Yoder family personify the innovation and ingenuity of our Nation's agricultural industry, through their first-rate dairy operation, and their innovate mixes. The Yoders are always looking to improve their operations, and currently, Brent is utilizing a peanut base to create a soy-free poultry mix.

Outside of their farming operations, both Brent and Janice are also highly dedicated to

their local community and their church. Brent works closely with the Lower Alabama 4-H Club, where he helps teach young people from Northwest Florida and Southern Alabama about the importance of agriculture. In addition, both Brent and Janice serve their local church in leadership capacities and raise their four children in a faith-filled environment. In addition, Brent also helps spread inspiring and family-oriented reading material through his service as Chairman of the Gulf States division of Choice Books.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by farmers and their families. The Escambia County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of the Yoders' tireless work and their dedication to family, faith and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Yoder family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BRIDGE TO
A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to support the continued development of clean energy in the United States. The impacts of a changing climate are far-reaching, representing a threat not only to our ecosystems but to our national security as well. To help avoid the worst effects of carbon pollution, consumers must have a dependable supply of energy that is clean and renewable. That much of this energy—and many of the devices used to produce it—is American-made means that our country retains the innovation, export opportunities, and manufacturing jobs that are so important to a twenty-first century economy.

The Bridge to a Clean Energy Future Act of 2014 would extend critical clean energy incentives to provide market certainty and to strengthen investment in that sector. For example, this extends the Production Tax Credit for wind energy through 2016, offering parity with the Investment Tax Credit enjoyed by solar energy investments, while also granting the solar industry access to credits at the start of a project's construction, as in the wind industry. The bill also provides a range of other important incentives, such as the Advanced Energy Project credit, which aids U.S. manufacturers across the clean energy industry.

This bill supports thousands of jobs in clean energy industries, advances U.S. manufacturing, and supports our transition to clean, renewable energy. Most renewable energy investments are spent on materials and workmanship to build and maintain the facilities, rather than on costly energy imports. Renewable energy investments are usually spent within the United States, frequently in the same state, and often in the same town. Meanwhile, renewable energy technologies developed and built in the United States are being sold overseas, providing a boost to the U.S. trade deficit.

It is in the national interest to cut pollution while growing our economy. Tax credits for clean energy and energy efficiency must be updated and extended. It is important to note that the fossil energy alternatives these industries are competing with have permanent tax incentives. We cannot continue to direct scarce tax dollars to industries that are a major contributor to climate change.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DESIGNATION
OF THE "JUANITA
MILLENDER-McDONALD POST OFFICE"

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, here in Washington we have the unique opportunity to work for the citizens of this great nation and provide positive change in the lives of many. Together we work for the good of our communities, and in the process we cross paths with some remarkable leaders.

Today I am introducing a bill that will recognize the life of one of those very special leaders of our time, the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating a facility of the United States Postal Service in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office."

Rep. Millender-McDonald was a pillar in many of the communities I represent. She was a resilient public servant who was deeply loved by her community first as an educator, then as program coordinator for a nonprofit fighting gender issues, and finally as a beloved elected official. Undaunted by the work to be done, Rep. Millender-McDonald took charge of her opportunity to serve and became the first African American woman to be named Chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration. She was also an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus and served over a decade in the House of Representatives.

An exemplary piece of her legacy was her work to better the lives of not just those here at home but internationally as well. Her work to aid victims of genocide and human trafficking serves as a testament to her dedication to creating a better world. Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents, taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office," we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record that I hope will further serve as inspiration for the community which I serve—the same community which so revered her.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
L. CLIFFORD DAVIS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to celebrate an entire life of accomplishment, fighting for civil rights, and devotion to improving the lives of others for a greatly respected constituent of mine in Fort Worth, the Honorable L. Clifford Davis.

Following graduation from Philander Smith College with a degree in Business Administration in 1945, Mr. Davis then enrolled at Howard University Law School for the school year 1945–1946.

In the spring of 1946, he applied for admission to the University of Arkansas Law School but, because he is African-American, was not admitted. In the school year 1946–1947, he enrolled at Atlanta University majoring in Economics but continued to seek admission to the University of Arkansas Law School. In the fall of 1947, he returned to Howard Law School but continued correspondence with the University of Arkansas in an effort to gain admittance.

In January 1948, a press conference was called at the University of Arkansas to announce that if he applied he would be admitted if he enrolled. But, because of the “separate but unequal” arrangements at Arkansas, Mr. Davis elected to remain at Howard and graduate with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1949. His efforts ultimately led to the University of Arkansas’ decision to integrate its graduate programs, becoming the first southern state university to do so without litigation.

After graduating from law school, Mr. Davis returned to Arkansas and was admitted to practice law on July 4, 1949. He has practiced law in Arkansas and Texas for over 65 years and represented numerous plaintiffs in public school de-segregation cases. After serving as legal counsel for the NAACP in the 1960s, he became one of the first African American state district judges in Tarrant County, serving from 1983 to 1988 in Criminal District Court No. 2.

For his Civil Rights efforts, the NAACP has awarded him the highest award for Civil Rights litigation, and he has been recognized by the National Bar Association’s Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. On the local level, he has received numerous awards including the Blackstone Award, the highest award presented to a lawyer, and the Civil Gavel Award, the highest award presented to a judge, both awards presented by the Tarrant County Bar Association. Today, the L. Clifford Davis Elementary School in Fort Worth bears his name.

Judge Davis has been Counsel at the Johnson, Vaughn & Heiskell law firm since 1989, where he still practices law today. Despite the great time demands of these many accomplishments, he served his country in the military from 1954 to 1955 and was also an Assistant Professor in the Business Department at Paul Quinn College from 1952 to 1954.

Judge Davis is happily married to Ethel R. Davis and they have two daughters, Avis and Karen; and is a member of the St. Andrews United Methodist Church.

I am grateful for Judge L. Clifford Davis’ many decades of service to this nation in advancing Civil Rights, serving in our military, and paving the way for others by establishing scholarships so that students can follow in his path. Our nation is grateful as well for his service.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELEVATION OF REVEREND DOCTOR JAMES C. PERKINS TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Doctor James C. Perkins on his election as the new President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Beginning his service as an ordained minister in 1974, Dr. Perkins has served as pastor of Greater Christ Baptist Church for the last thirty years. Under his leadership the congregation of Greater Christ Baptist has grown deeper in its fellowship and in its outreach to the Greater Detroit community.

As a strong believer that faith requires a person to care about both their spiritual well-being and the well-being of their community, Dr. Perkins has led his congregation in the creation of ministries that have been making a difference in the Greater Detroit region. Among the many projects these ministries have supported are the Fellowship Nonprofit Housing Corporation, which serves the community as a force for economic development and the Benjamin E. Mays Male Academy which opened in 1993 and operated for 17 years with the mission of providing access to education for young males in the Greater Detroit community. As a result of these efforts, the Providence Place complex, which provides housing to fifty low and middle income families, hundreds of young men have seen their quality of life improve. In addition to these accomplishments, Greater Christ Baptist runs a food pantry that provides vital food products to families in need, a political awareness ministry that fosters community interest in civic participation and the Progressive Matrons ministry that supports homeless women.

Realizing that his role as a spiritual leader is one that intersects with other community interests, Dr. Perkins also serves on the boards of a number of community organizations. These organizations include: the Michigan Progressive Baptist Convention where he served as president, the Detroit Baptist Pastors Council, the Detroit Chapter of the NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., and the Steering Committee of the Detroit Jobs Alliance. For his work he has been recognized with many awards, including: the Gandhi King Ikeda Award from Morehouse College, the Pastor of the Year Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Charles Andrew Hill Award from the Michigan Progressive Baptist Convention.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Perkins’ elevation to the presidency of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) is a recognition of the profound impact his leadership has made on the Greater Detroit community, and the inspiration that leadership has instilled in his congregation and other members of the PNBC. I congratulate him on achieving this important milestone in his service to the congregation of Greater Christ Baptist Church, the PNBC and the Greater Detroit community. I know he will continue to be a strong leader and staunch advocate for his congregation and the Southeast Michigan community, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors to strengthen the Greater Detroit region.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MEXICO PBS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend New Mexico PBS for again receiving an American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen community service grant that will enable its stations to continue their efforts to improve graduation rates for students in New Mexico. This grant through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is part of an effort to close “graduation gaps” for students of different races, ethnicities, family incomes, disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency.

In today’s economy, a high school diploma is a necessity and a college degree is so important to opening the doors of opportunity. In New Mexico, sadly, we have seen troubling graduation rates, with too many of our young people failing to graduate from high school. New Mexico PBS will use this grant to highlight local leaders who are helping increase graduation rates and playing a vital role in encouraging our children to complete their education. It will also work to increase understanding of the challenges facing students, working with partners to develop long-term solutions that emphasize the importance of early education.

This effort is a continuation of New Mexico PBS’s mission to provide educational programs that strengthen our communities and build a brighter future for our state. I commend New Mexico PBS for its efforts and also the American Graduate program for their commitment to our young people.

RECOGNITION OF ACCESS TUCSON
IN HONOR OF 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of Access Tucson, an independent, nonprofit, membership-based organization that is celebrating 30 years of serving the people of Tucson, Arizona. I also

want to commend Executive Director Lisa Horner for her many years of service to this community.

Access Tucson provides the training and facilities for Tucsonans to communicate with their community through electronic media. Access Tucson producers provide the ideas, information and diversity to create the most visible part of Access Tucson's operations: the programming.

Public access television is the only forum in which individual citizens have the opportunity to express their opinions and perspectives to the community through cable television. Access Tucson provides an important venue for exercising one of our First Amendment rights: the right to free speech. Public access television makes the use of electronic media possible for many groups that are under-represented or not heard or seen in conventional broadcast television.

Access Tucson provides programming with an important social benefit—such as programs that assist refugees learn how various Tucson services operate and how they can become fully integrated into our community. Access Tucson also provides media training and media literacy to many individuals, including people living with a disability.

I congratulate Access Tucson on its 30th anniversary and look forward to enjoying its service to our community for at least another 30 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMERICA'S CREDIT UNIONS ON REACHING 100 MILLION MEMBER MILESTONE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize America's credit unions on reaching an historic milestone of achieving 100 million members nationwide. Credit unions are liked by their members for the quality service and financial education they offer. That is why one in three Americans have proudly united themselves with the common values and principles of credit union membership.

South Carolina is especially appreciative of credit unions as Ed Templeton, President and CEO of SRP Federal Credit Union of North Augusta, South Carolina, recently became the new chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Since America's first credit union opened its doors in Manchester, N.H. in 1908, millions have made the choice to become credit union members. Credit Unions help unite communities. It is likely you can join a credit union if you live, work, or worship in a particular area. Membership can be obtained through employers, families, school or alumni associations, industry or trade groups, and even homeowners' associations.

As a credit union member myself, I stand proudly in congratulating the more than seventy South Carolina credit unions and approximately 1.4 million citizen-members on this his-

toric achievement. When 100 million Americans have united as credit union members, each one knows he or she is in good company.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. CAROL LINDE, WINNER OF AUBURN'S POLITICAL SCIENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an outstanding young leader who attends Auburn University, which is a leading research and educational institution in my district in Alabama. Auburn's political science department each year recognizes a student leader who excels in both the classroom and the community. It is my honor to announce that Ms. Carol Linde is this year's winner of Auburn's Political Science Leadership Award. A faculty committee selected Carole after careful consideration of her outstanding credentials.

Carol grew up in Delaware. She is a senior pursuing a dual degree in Political Science and Psychology, with minors in English and Women's Studies. With a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average, Carol has been rightfully recognized for her academic abilities as the recipient of many awards, including the Sloan Y. Bashinsky, Sr. and Sam Long Hutchinson endowed scholarships. She is on the Dean's List, and is a member of Auburn's Honors Congress, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and several other honor societies.

Carol has demonstrated her leadership in multiple ways. At Auburn, she has worked as a peer instructor for first year students in the Honors College, tutored student athletes and provided writing assistance for students through Auburn's Miller Writing Center. Beyond campus, she has helped spearhead recycling efforts on football gamedays, assisted with the East Alabama Food Bank and assisted local preschools' Head Start programs.

Carol has also involved herself in the policy-making process as an intern. She interned in the state office of our colleague in the other chamber, Senator TOM CARPER, as well as in my district office in Opelika, Alabama. As with everything else in which she has participated, Carol did an outstanding job working on behalf of the citizens of my district, and I am sincerely grateful for her efforts. I am convinced her record of service and success will continue after she graduates in May 2015, and I look forward to hearing of her future accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Carol, and express my appreciation to her parents, Eric and Melinda Linde, and to Auburn University for producing such an outstanding student and citizen.

HONORING JUDGE JAMES D. TRIMBLE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Judge James D. Trimble, who has served his family and community throughout his lifetime while striving to put others before himself.

Judge Trimble chose to dedicate 30 years to the Menifee County School System. Of those, 22 were spent as a teacher and eight of those were spent as a principal. Some of those years were even spent driving a bus throughout Menifee County and coaching the girls' basketball team. After retiring from the school system in 1994, he became a part-time tobacco farmer and worked part-time at the Frenchburg Job Corps for five years teaching driver's education.

From 2003 until 2006, Trimble served as Menifee County Judge Executive under the motto "Leave Menifee County better than you found it." As Judge Executive, Trimble was able to accomplish a great deal for Menifee County, reducing the county's debt from \$900,000 to \$600,000 in just three years. He secured a grant for two new garbage trucks; purchased a new boom mower for the county; and worked in conjunction with 911 Director Christy Wayman and Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) to obtain a new 911 system for Menifee County, which also received a two year raise for all county employees and \$100 million in additional money for blacktopping from the Governor's office while Trimble was Judge Executive. Judge Trimble also worked with Gail Wright of the Gateway Area Development District office to receive funds from Community Development Block Grants and Appalachian Regional Commission for a new Senior Citizens Center for Menifee County.

Trimble has been happily married to Lucille Coldiron Trimble for 49 years. They have two children, Jami Miller and Jimmy Trimble; and three grandchildren—Travis Trimble, Kyle Miller and Bryce Miller.

Trimble is a proud member of the Frenchburg Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon and an adult Sunday school teacher as well as leading Wednesday night prayer meetings.

In his spare time, Trimble enjoys playing basketball in adult recreation leagues. He also enjoys the Bluegrass Games, and has taken home both gold and silver medals with his group. He is an active member of the Shift Masters Car Club, and coached Little League for five years while his son Jimmy played for "The Royals." He has enjoyed volunteering with Habitat for Humanity as well.

James D. Trimble has devoted his life to serving those around him, and his service to Menifee County, our Commonwealth and our community is greatly appreciated.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming anniversary of the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising. This event, which began on October 10, 1911, is commemorated every year as the National Day of the Republic of China. The Wuchang uprising led to the establishment of the Republic of China, commonly called Taiwan, in 1912.

Over the years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a mutually beneficial relationship based on interests and values that we share. This friendship has led to far reaching economic benefits and unique cultural ties.

Taiwan is a trusted ally and trading partner and has acted as an example of democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. It is in our mutual best interest to continue to strengthen our economic relationship and cultural ties. I hope our trade and investment continues to grow in the years ahead.

I hope that the longtime friendship between the United States and the Republic of China continues to blossom and develop for decades to come.

HONORING ALLISON HUGHES

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Allison Hughes of Barrington, Illinois. Allison is co-founder of a charity called Heels on the Ground, whose mission is to improve and enrich the quality of life for the caregivers of America's wounded soldiers.

Allison served our country for 8 years as an Army UH-60 pilot and was deployed in Iraq twice. Her husband, Special Forces Major Breg Hughes, was wounded on May 29, 2012 in Afghanistan when his Humvee drove over an IED, just days before Allison was due to give birth to the couple's second son. Breg sustained 3rd degree burns and severe injuries. While caring for her husband and raising two children, Allison has remarkably found the energy to co-found Heels on the Ground and work to support other caregivers.

Heels on the Ground is a charity that seeks to provide support for caregivers through the creation of local support chapters, individualized mental and physical wellness plans, educational webinars, quarterly workshops for chapter leaders, and through Wounded Warrior caregiver retreats for small groups with the goal of developing skills learned in other channels. The goal is to teach caregivers how to manage the stress, anxiety, and the countless other demands that are placed on them in caring for their wounded spouses, often while juggling responsibilities for children, work, their own personal mental and physical wellbeing.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Allison

Hughes for her impressive service to our country as both a woman in uniform and caregiver to one of our wounded servicemen. She has truly set an example for us all to live by.

HONORING DENISE RUSHING

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Denise Rushing (County Supervisor and economic strategist; Upper Lake—Lake County): Denise Rushing is best known for her work as a business growth strategist. With a background in energy technology and digital marketing, Denise helps change-makers innovate, create and enter new markets consistent with their values. She has generated grassroots momentum to find renewable and regenerative solutions to environmental problems. In 2006, after living in Lake County for just 18 months, Denise was elected to the Board of Supervisors in one of the most transformative elections in Lake County history as her platform of justice and environmental stewardship resonated with voters.

Lake County's economic evolution over 7½ years is a testament to Denise's leadership and evidenced by California's Green Summit Environmental Leadership Award two years in a row. One project is the largest public solar installation in the western United States; the other, "appropriate tech" park structures constructed with volunteer labor and all local and natural materials. Denise was instrumental in transforming a blighted trailer park into an eco-park, and a leading advocate in bringing the county's first four-year educational institution to Lucerne. She has been passionate about finding healthy solutions for improving water quality in Clear Lake and has worked collaboratively on local boards and committees, including one that brought traditional agriculture and the organic community together in a "Food Roundtable." Denise was elected in a resounding fashion and, true to her promises, has effected lasting, sustainable change in Lake County and the people who live here.

RECOGNIZING THE WARD FAMILY AS THE 2014 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Ward Family from Allentown, Florida, for being selected as the 2014 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

The Ward family farm was started in 1917 when James B. Ward settled in Allentown and set up a farm near Highway 89. Today, nearly 100 years later, the Ward family farming tradition continues with James E. "Jimmy" Ward, his wife Angela, and their three sons, Jamie, Justin and Dustin. Like many family farmers,

Jimmy Ward has been farming for as long as he can remember, and he discovered his love of farming and learned the core values of hard work, integrity, and generosity from working on the farm with his father, Lamar, and his three uncles. Since taking over the farm, 24 years ago, Jimmy has carried on the proud Ward family farming tradition, and today, the Ward family incorporates the lessons learned from generations of farming to grow peanuts, cotton, corn, and wheat on their 900-acre farm.

In addition to their work on the farm, the Ward family is also deeply involved in their local community and in various agricultural organizations. Jimmy currently serves as Chairman of the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation Farm Committee and is an active member of the Florida Farm Bureau, where he can help share his vast experience and knowledge with other Florida farmers.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by farmers and their families. The Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of the Ward's tireless work and their dedication to family, and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Ward family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE ALBUQUERQUE DUKES

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the everlasting heritage of the Albuquerque Dukes baseball team, the famous "Duke" logo strewn across their dirt-stained jerseys and its rich cultural representation of our great state of New Mexico. I would also like to extend my gratitude to trademark owners Fred Matteucci and Steve Palmisano for recognizing the rich historical significance of this iconic symbol and bringing it back to our community.

In 1915, the Albuquerque Dukes became the first recognized professional baseball team, and joined the Class D Rio Grande Association featuring the Spanish conquistador as their symbol and mascot; they called him the "Duke".

The symbol of the Duke had far reaching ties to the identity and narrative that defines the city of Albuquerque. It derived from Francisco Cuervo y Valdez who wrote to Francisco Fernández de la Cueva, a viceroy of New Spain, later known as The Duke of Alburquerque to inform him of their newly founded villa. The "r" would later be dropped, but that site still remains and now features our beautiful Albuquerque metropolis of over 500,000 people.

It is remarkable how much the Dukes baseball team impacted our community. From the Great Depression, to the Manhattan Project, to the Cold War, and to the countless other events in our nation's history the Albuquerque Dukes were always there.

For 88 years, the Dukes took the field. Most New Mexicans still remember the smell of the

grass, the pop of the ball when it met the wood of the bat, and preparing a fresh hot dog on the back of a pick-up truck parked above the lava rocks beyond the outfield fence. The Dukes became a cultural identity, a representation of what it is to be New Mexican and a sense of pride for everyone in Albuquerque. Families and friends celebrated victories and mourned the losses, but through it all they never lost faith in their team.

Although the Dukes no longer play, their legacy endures. Each spring, The Duke City and the Albuquerque Isotopes renew this commitment. Many fans still sport the Spanish-influenced red and gold jerseys and remember back to the excitement of the first pitch of every game. Thanks to individuals like Fred and Steve and the countless Albuquerqueans who continue to proudly display the iconic conquistador, we can continue to preserve our unique history and tradition for future generations.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICARDO RANGEL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida State Representative Ricardo Rangel. Born in Bronx, New York, Ricardo grew up in a military family, traveling the country with his father, who retired as a Master Sergeant. His passion for leadership developed at an early age, as he was very active as a teenager and took on a number of leadership roles.

After graduating high school, Ricardo followed in the footsteps of his father and enlisted in the U.S. Army. Ricardo was honorably discharged as a Sergeant after serving twelve years and earning five Certificates of Achievement for Outstanding Work Performance, two Army Achievement Medals for Outstanding Work Performance and three Good Conduct Medals for being a model soldier. Ricardo currently works as a senior marketing manager for AT&T.

Ricardo is no stranger to public service. After the Army, Ricardo has continued his focus on public service. He has been involved in community events such as United We Paint, Bowl for Kids' Sake and the Ricardo Rangel Annual Softball Game benefitting Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Florida. His continued activism and leadership in the community earned him the Emerging Leadership Award from the NAACP and the National Leadership Award from the Business Council.

Ricardo graduated with a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Management from Warner University, which has afforded him opportunities to work on different political campaigns. He has managed local races in Florida as well as federal races for candidates in Arizona, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Recognizing his management skills and strong work ethics, Ricardo was voted "Florida Young Democrat of the Year" in 2003.

With the economy still sluggish and the desire to help working families, Ricardo decided

to run for the Florida House of Representatives. In 2012, Ricardo was elected with 68 percent of the vote to represent Osceola County's District 43 in the Florida House of Representatives. Within a few months of being in office he quickly jumped in and led the charge to protect working-class families. He also earned the respect of the business community by showing that he supports business friendly policies and is eager to work across party lines for economic development that will help create jobs.

As a member of the Florida Legislature, Representative Rangel serves on the Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Government Operations Subcommittee, Veteran and Military Affairs Subcommittee, Local and Federal Affairs Committee, and State Affairs Committee. Ricardo also currently serves as a member of the State Executive Committee for the Florida Democratic Party.

I am happy to recognize Representative Ricardo Rangel, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

ANOTHER CONTINUING RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I reluctantly voted for another Continuing Resolution to ensure funding for government programs in Fiscal Year 2015. It's a low bar and a sad metric when preventing another government shutdown is hailed as an accomplishment. What Congress needs to be doing—and what the American public deserves—is a return to regular order instead of governing on autopilot. We should pass all 12 of our appropriations bills because Congress needs to make thoughtful changes to our spending so they reflect the challenges and priorities of the day.

There were some encouraging exceptions. Through this CR, Congress was able to provide a short-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which supports 1.2 million jobs in the U.S., and financing for over 3,400 of America's small-business exporters. While it's important that it not expire, a nine month extension restricts the ability to finance important large and long-term projects. Oregon's businesses looking to reach new markets abroad deserve real help. Also included in the CR is critical funding for the Centers for Disease Control and HHS's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to respond to the Ebola outbreak. Close to home, it provides increased funding so that we can make further progress on the VA claims backlog.

The final CR also includes an amendment that would provide the President with the limited and narrow authority he needs to address the atrocities perpetrated by ISIS in Iraq and Syria. My statement on the House floor and the Website explains why I felt it critical to support this amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP CHARLES ELLIS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Charles Ellis on his reelection as the Presiding Bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW) earlier this year.

This milestone in Bishop Ellis' service to the PAW and his congregation of Greater Grace Temple in Detroit is a recognition of the significant impact his spiritual leadership has made on the Greater Detroit community and on the broader community of PAW worshippers around the world.

As the son of a pastor, Bishop Ellis grew up with a deep appreciation and understanding of the power that spiritual leaders have to be agents of positive change within their communities. After graduating from Mumford High School and Wayne State University, he went on to serve the congregation of Greater Grace as its main financial administrator. Upon the death of his father, then Elder Charles Ellis was elevated to pastor of congregation at Greater Grace, where the congregation has continued to grow it is present membership of nearly 6000. It was just a few years later that he was appointed as a Bishop in the PAW, becoming the second youngest bishop in its history.

Under Bishop Ellis' leadership, Greater Grace Temple has developed more than 300 ministries that offer vital support to the Greater Detroit community—leading efforts to assist others that include issues of: education, the arts, families in need, victims of domestic violence and seniors. The impact of these ministries has been significant, and as a result, Bishop Ellis and the congregation of Greater Grace Temple have been honored with recognition from many organizations. These honors include being named: Distinguished Leader of the Year by DTE Energy, Michigan Pastor of the Year by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Black Alumni of Year by Wayne State University.

In addition to his leadership at Greater Grace, Bishop Ellis also serves on the boards of many local organizations, volunteering his energy to the success of community groups that improve the quality of life in the Greater Detroit region. Among the organizations he serves as a board member are: the Detroit Zoo, the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, Sinai-Grace Hospital and the Booker T. Washington Business Association.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his decades of service to the congregation of Greater Grace Temple, the members of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World and the Greater Detroit community, Bishop Charles Ellis has made an impact that has affected thousands of lives. I congratulate him on his re-election as the Presiding Bishop of the PAW and wish him and his congregation continued success in their mission of fellowship and service to the Southeast Michigan region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2014, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote. I request that the record show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 497, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5108, as amended.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
MANUFACTURING DAY**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, Friday, October 3, is National Manufacturing Day. In honor of this day, I rise to recognize the important role held by the employees and businesses of the manufacturing community. Back home in Tennessee, the manufacturing industry accounts for nearly 15 percent of the state's total output and employs approximately 12 percent of its workforce.

Over the last several years, I have had the opportunity to meet and visit with a variety of manufacturers across Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, and I always leave with an admiration for their commitment to providing high-quality products and services. Although the term "manufacturing" refers to a broad range of operations, one commonplace characteristic held by industry members is a sincere dedication not only to their occupations, but to the communities in which they work.

This unique trait is exemplified across the Fourth Congressional District, especially in Bradley County, where businesses such as McKee Foods, Whirlpool, Duracell and many others, not only provide a major boost to our State's economy, but also volunteer countless hours and resources to support an untold number of civic and charitable endeavors.

In light of all the contributions made, the manufacturing industry and its members are more than deserving of recognition on National Manufacturing Day.

I applaud the hard-working individuals and businesses who comprise the manufacturing industry and who continue to make the great state of Tennessee proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on September 18, 2014, due to being unavoidably detained at an earlier event. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Thursday, September 18, 2014:

Rollcall No. 512: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 4, "nay."

Rollcall No. 513: On Passage of H.R. 4, "yea."

HONORING DEAN WATERS

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, members of the Oak Ridge, Tennessee scientific community are mourning the recent passing of Dean Waters, a community leader and a pioneer in nuclear physics.

Dean Waters was an innovator in the field of uranium enrichment centrifuge technology—a technology that creates the fuel that provides nearly 20 percent of our electricity, powers our nuclear Navy and protects our national security.

After earning two undergraduate degrees at Yale and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from North Carolina State University, Dean Waters worked for 54 years on the development and deployment of gas centrifuge technology for uranium enrichment. In 1977, President Carter presented Dean with the E.O. Lawrence Award for his contributions to the uranium enrichment technology. The Award is given only to those "who helped elevate American physics to world leadership." Dean obtained more than 18 patents in the United States and England throughout his career.

In the early 1980s, Dean was the lead engineer at the Union Carbide/Martin Marietta project, which was responsible for developing the gas centrifuge process. He led a technology team of 500 people. Later, he was named chief scientist of the USEC "American Centrifuge" program. He was instrumental in preserving the core of the 1980s government program that served as the basis for a private sector investment. The program re-established American leadership in advanced centrifuge design. Dean served as a mentor to many who now carry on the banner of this critical technology.

Dean Waters was active in the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Management, and the Oak Ridge Rotary Club, where he served as president. Beyond his accomplished professional life, he was active in his church and community charities and was a competitive yachtsman, runner and cyclist.

Many of Dean's accomplishments will forever be cloaked under the mantle of national security. What is certain is that his decades of leadership in the realm of uranium centrifuge technology are manifest today in a state-of-the-art American centrifuge technology. This indigenous form of uranium enrichment will enable the United States to maintain its national security, remain a positive force in the arena of nuclear nonproliferation and provide the fuel for future nuclear power plants, which will provide millions of people with reliable electricity while combating the effects of climate change.

As a nation, we should be grateful for the contributions of Dean Waters—a scientist and patriot—whose achievements in nuclear physics will stand forever as a source of inspiration to scientists in Oak Ridge and around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH
JEFFERTS**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Keith Jefferts, a constituent and friend of mine. Keith Jefferts was characterized by three great passions: salmon, science, and piloting—both air and sea.

Keith was born May 10, 1931 and graduated from Edmonds High in 1949. He went on to earn a B.S. in Physics at the University of Washington. After the University of Washington Keith went on to the U.S. Naval flight school, and he eventually received several awards for his military service.

He went on to work at Bell Laboratories, where he worked with radio astronomers Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson and helped discover carbon monoxide in the Orion Nebula, work that was eventually recognized with a Nobel Prize.

More recently, Keith founded Northwest Marine Technologies, which was an innovator in tracking and tagging young salmon.

This technology has proven critical in monitoring and restoring endangered salmon populations. More than a billion tags have been implanted in salmon and other marine species worldwide.

The world's fisheries will be beneficiaries of Keith's work for decades to come. I salute Keith Jefferts' life as a Navy fighter pilot, world renowned physicist, inventor, and environmental leader.

I extend my sympathies to Keith's wife Sue, his children Katherine, Ingrid, Steven, Erik, Amy and all of his family.

Let Keith Jefferts' spirit inspire us all to protect the world's fish populations, but I am certain Keith wouldn't mind if we prioritized the protection of the salmon in the Northwest.

THE EVILS OF GAMBLING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I have long been opposed to any expansion of legalized gambling and have continually sought to raise awareness of the dangerous economic and social costs of gambling. That is why I want to submit for the RECORD a statement I received from one of the foremost experts on the dangers of gambling, Tom Grey, and the director of Stop Predatory Gambling, Les Bernal.

STATEMENT BY LES BERNAL, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, STOP PREDATORY GAMBLING AND TOM GREY, SENIOR ADVISOR TO STOP PREDATORY GAMBLING

Today, we would seek to speak for the "losers." The "losers" are those citizens sacrificed by our government in its failed experiment of sponsoring and promoting gambling to extract as much money as possible from the public. "Losers" isn't a term we coined. That's the word used by a slot machine designer at America's biggest maker of electronic slot machines, International Gaming Technology (IGT), to describe the citizens who use the machines he makes, many of whom are your constituents. "When I asked one I.G.T. artist if he ever plays, he acted as if I had insulted him," wrote New York Times reporter Gary Rivlin in his cover story on slot machines for The Times Sunday Magazine. "Slots are for losers," he spat, and then, coming to his senses, begged me to consider that an off-the-record comment."

Scott Stevens of Steubenville, Ohio was one of these "losers" who we speak for today. Yet Scott Stevens was a success by nearly every measure we use in America. Through hard work and sacrifice, Scott became a very successful business executive, earning an upper-middle class income. He was happily married with three daughters and actively served his community in a variety of different volunteer leadership roles.

But the lives of Scott Stevens and his family changed forever when they intersected with a government program unlike any other. It is a government program that exists to extract as much money as possible from citizens to fund government itself. This program has been called "government-sponsored gambling" but a growing number of Americans in the public square today call it more accurately as "predatory gambling."

Predatory gambling is when government uses gambling in the form of casinos and lotteries to cheat and exploit citizens. For-profit gambling is illegal unless the government gives its full support, and in nearly every instance operates in partnership with gambling interests whether in the form of state lotteries, commercial casinos or tribal casinos. Scott Stevens knew firsthand about predatory gambling.

Today, the electronic gambling machine has become government's preferred method of extracting money from citizens. Slots make up to 80% of gambling profits. These gambling machines are literally designed so citizens cannot stop using them, exploiting aspects of human psychology and inducing irrational and irresponsible behavior. Every feature of a slot machine—its mathematical structure, visual graphics, sound dynamics, seating and screen ergonomics—is designed to increase a player's "time on device"—which means how long a person plays.

Gambling operators found that their profits were not about the size of the gamblers' stakes but rather the volume of their play. "If you provide them with the right time-on-device, they will stay and play," one slot designer said to MIT Professor Dr. Natasha Schull in her recent book on slot machine technology titled *Addiction By Design*. "If you take it too quickly and they lose, they're going to leave." In the actual language of the casino business, the goal is to get every user "to play to extinction"—until all their money is gone, Dr. Schull quotes a slot marketing expert. "I want to keep you there as long as humanly possible," another slot operator told her. "That's the whole trick, that's what makes you lose."

The slot machine is designed to be so effective at extracting money from people, wrote

Dr. Schull, that it is "a product that, for all intents and purposes, approaches every player as a potential addict—in other words, someone who won't stop playing until his or her means are depleted."

Scott Stevens was one of the "losers" who used a slot machine. He became someone who used the slot machine the way its maker and promoter intended: he could not stop using it.

Aggressively marketed to the public as "fun" and actively promoted by public officials, why would Scott ever possess any concerns about using a modern slot machine?

Citizens like Scott Stevens who use slot machines as intended are the most lucrative "losers" of all for government and the gambling operators it partners with. Over the last decade there are 11 different independent studies—studies not funded by gambling interests—that show 40 percent–60 percent of slot machine profits are taken from citizens like Scott Stevens. Citizens who have been turned into gambling addicts.

In America today, at least 10 million citizens are gambling addicts; citizens who have become addicted to what is, literally, a government program. We call these millions of citizens who have ruined their lives and painfully wounded their families so our government can extract more money, "The Expendable Americans."

Scott Stevens was an Expendable American. He lost his job because he took company money and poured it into slot machines sponsored by the government. He maxed out his credit cards to tens of thousands of dollars. He emptied his daughters' college savings accounts and his 401k retirement funds. He owed huge debts to the IRS for not paying taxes on what government labeled his "winnings," despite losing far greater money than he won.

On August 13, 2012, even though he had already given almost everything he had to this public policy, Scott Stevens made one last sacrifice. He drove to a children's soccer park in his town that he raised money to build. He sat down on a park bench. He called 911 on his cell phone and told them what he was planning to do. When the police and ambulance arrived at the park he said, "You're not here to stop me, you're here to take me home" and then shot himself in front of them. In the days afterward, a letter arrived in the mail addressed to his wife Stacy. Scott mailed it before taking his own life. It said, in part:

"I know you don't believe it but I love you so much! I have hurt you so much. Our family only has a chance if I'm not around to bring us down any further. You're such an unbelievable wife and mother. I know you will hold the family together . . ."

While millions of men and women like Scott Stevens and their families have sacrificed and hurt so much to provide needed revenues to American government, no one has ever thanked them for their "service." There are no parades with fluttering American flags in the breeze. No yellow ribbons. Our country simply renders them failures.

Failure is the right description but it is directed toward the wrong participant. Government's experiment with gambling is the definition of failure, representing one of the biggest public policy busts of the modern era. Over the past four decades, government's partnership with gambling has failed in a multitude of ways.

It has transformed gambling from a private and local activity into the public voice of American government, such that ever-increasing appeals to gamble, and ever-expand-

ing opportunities to gamble, now constitute the main ways that our government communicates with us on a daily basis.

It has broken its promise to remain a small component of our government and a small part of our society. In the brave new world envisioned by this power structure—where every cell phone is a "casino in your pocket" and every bar, gas station, convenience store, computer, and home in the nation is a place to place a bet—the essential driving message from the American government to the American people is "All gambling, all good, all the time."

It has fueled irresponsibility and non-accountability in government by imposing a giant excise tax on the citizenry that politicians never have to call a "tax."

It has failed to deliver on its over-hyped promises to fund education, lower taxes, or pay for needed public services.

It has taken political power away from the people and handed it over to gambling lobbyists.

It has perpetrated a phony model of economic development—a model with a jobs multiplier effect of approximately zero, since, in this model, nothing of value is produced.

It has promulgated the very economic attitudes and practices—short-term is more important than sustainable, wealth can come from ever-growing debt, something can come from nothing, slickness trumps honesty—that led us into the debt bubble and the Great Recession of 2008 and beyond.

It has caused neighboring states to compete against each other in a race to the bottom.

It has taken dollars from the poor to fund programs for the better-off.

It has spread addiction into our population, using the new science of machine design to produce out-of-control behavior that, according to scientists, closely resembles addictive behavior from cocaine.

It has spread debt and bankruptcy into our population.

It has led to serious gambling-related problems among young people.

It has contributed to broken families and child neglect and other social messes everywhere it goes, and has taken little or no responsibility to clean them up.

It has turned many law-abiding citizens into criminals who cheat, steal, and embezzle in order to continue to gamble.

It has arrogantly exempted itself from truth-in-advertising laws so that it can use taxpayer money to create and spread deceptive advertising.

It has corrupted our sense of community and undermined our faith that we're all in this together.

It has deliberately changed the word "gambling" to "gaming" in order to make this often destructive activity sound as innocent as child's play.

It has fueled cynicism about the motives of our government.

It has repudiated the value of thrift by creating mass incentives to turn potential savers into habitual bettors.

It has repudiated the virtue of "love your neighbor" and replaced it with a government endorsement of predatory practices, or preying on human weakness for gain.

It has withered our capacity as a people to confront forthrightly our reluctance to pay taxes for the public services we desire.

It has trampled on the ideal of "justice for all."

It has broken faith with the wisdom and leaders of earlier generations who, seeing the

failure of gambling in the past, amended state constitutions to ban gambling activities.

It has lied to us about how the government actually uses the money it gets from gambling.

It has lied to us by repeating again and again that luck—rather than work—is the key to the American dream.

This is a critical moment. How our generation responds to the reach and arrogance of the government-gambling power complex will largely determine the legacy we pass on to the next generation. Politically, economically, ethically, and spiritually, the stakes are extraordinarily high.

Politically: Government's partnership with gambling fundamentally changes the compact between government and the governed. It pits government's interests against the best interests of its people. For government to win, its citizens must lose.

Economically: No great nation has ever built prosperity on the foundations of personal debt, addiction, and the steady expansion of "businesses" that produce no new wealth. Relying on gambling as an economic development strategy is a sign of surrender and defeat on the part of leaders who have failed to lead.

Ethically: A decent government does not finance its activities by playing its most vulnerable citizens for suckers, thus rendering the lives of millions expendable, exploitable, and unworthy of protection.

Spiritually: We mock the higher values that any good society depends on—honesty, mutual trust, self-discipline, sacrifice, concern for others, and a belief in a work ethic that connects effort and reward—when government tells its citizens every day that it is committed to providing "fun" instead of opportunity; that a rigged bet is the way to achieve the American dream; and that spending one's hard-earned dollars on scratch tickets is a form of good citizenship.

This is America. Surely we can do better than this. Surely we must. The choice is not—it has never been—between tying our future to gambling and accepting economic decline. Government-sponsored gambling is itself a form of economic decline. The alternative is to muster the courage to chart a path to true prosperity. An America freed from the yoke of government-sponsored gambling would be an America once again on the move—an America with broader and more sustainable economic growth, more honesty in government, more social trust, and the rekindling of the optimism that has long been our defining national strength.

While many leaders on both sides of the political aisle loudly proclaim they are committed to fighting unfairness and inequality of opportunity in America, their support of sponsoring and promoting gambling is actually intensifying the very unfairness and inequality that they decry. Many forces currently contributing to the rise of inequality, such as globalization and technological change, cannot be directly controlled by public policy. But government-sponsored gambling is a public policy—and it exists only because policy makers want it to exist.

A mounting pile of independent evidence further confirms this reality. Government-sponsored gambling is harming health, draining wealth from people in the lower ranks of the income distribution, and contributing to economic inequality. These are among the findings of *Why Casinos Matter: Thirty-One Evidence-Based Propositions* from the Health and Social Sciences, a report released from the Council on Casinos in

September 2013, an independent group of scholars and public policy leaders convened by the Institute for American Values, a non-partisan New York City-based think tank.

After four decades of unfulfilled promises, corrupt deals and broken dreams, it is time for our government to end its partnership with organized gambling interests and to embrace a fundamentally different and higher vision of the path to American prosperity.

In short, after four decades of consistent failure, it is time for our government to get out of gambling and for gambling to get out of our government. Stop Predatory Gambling is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit, transpartisan network of individuals and organizations from diverse backgrounds, political convictions and religious faiths dedicated to this fundamental national reform. We are committed to end the unfairness and inequality of opportunity created by government-sponsored casinos and lotteries.

We are part of the most diverse movement in the nation, an affirmation that most Americans share basic principles and values regardless of their position along the political spectrum. Today, we also provide a voice to all of these citizens from coast-to-coast who have bravely and selflessly fought in recent decades on behalf of our core belief that no taxpayer dollar should be used by government to lure citizens into gambling away their money and becoming slaves to debt; no agency or entity of government should depend on gambling to fund its activities; and no legislature, whether in the name of economic development or raising revenue, should pass laws to promote or sponsor gambling.

Some of you may ask what if government stopped sponsoring and promoting gambling? A better question that leads to a more revealing answer would be how did our nation educate children prior to introducing the lottery? Did not our parents as stakeholders fund government to provide the educational pathways to citizenship and potential prosperity? After World War II, how did America pivot from waging battle to creating jobs for a prosperous peacetime and enabling its citizens to become economic winners? Did not our government invest in not only roads and our infrastructure but more important, in breadwinners and families?

Already underway is a reclaiming of America from the devastation and heartbreak of government-sponsored casinos and lotteries.

It began in earnest with the establishment of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission by Congress in 1996 and its subsequent report in 1999 provided citizens with clear cut recommendations. The bipartisan commitment and courage by Congressman Frank Wolf, Congressman John LaFalce, Senator Richard Lugar and the late Senator Paul Simon to determine the truth about government-sponsored gambling, sustained and nourished the bottom-up growth of a national citizen movement opposing this dishonest and harmful public policy. What began as a diverse national coalition of groups and individuals, ultimately led to the organization of Stop Predatory Gambling, where today empowered citizens are challenging the gambling promoters with ever increasing intensity at the local, state and now, with the push for internet gambling, the federal level.

Perhaps the most visible challenge in 2014 is happening at the ballot box, that sacred public place where citizens can vote out of their best hopes or their worst fears for a common future. Citizens in Massachusetts have inspiringly waged a relentless fight

against government-sponsored casinos for almost four years running. These citizens succeeded against overwhelming odds to achieve the first ever ballot question in a major state attempting to repeal state gambling laws in modern American history. Regardless of the outcome, the repeal drive signifies the unavoidable rising tide bringing a surge of major national reform on this issue.

Over the long-term, the most profound and lasting change may happen in our justice system. The family of Scott Stevens is ensuring he is no longer voiceless by bringing the facts of their story to federal court. Such litigation is bolstered by the rapidly-growing awareness of gambling addiction as a major public health issue, evidenced by the national story published last week by The Columbia University School of Public Health about the massive public health impacts of government-sponsored casinos and lotteries. It spotlights how predatory gambling is harming millions of Americans and the communities they live in.

It's inevitable that government-sponsored gambling will be phased out in most places across the United States. It is not a question of if but when. It's inevitable because we are a people who believe government should promote fairness and equality of opportunity for all. The speed of reform is up to all of us because it is we who will decide how many more "losers" like Scott Stevens we are willing to sacrifice from our own families and communities. Please join us in this good fight. Thank you.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, on October 10th Taiwan celebrates its National Day, commonly referred to as "Double Ten Day" because of its occurrence on the tenth day of the tenth month. On Double Ten Day, Taiwanese citizens pause and honor its first glimpse of becoming an independent and self-governing country.

Exactly six months ago, on April 10th, the United States and Taiwan celebrated a special anniversary—the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. This bill passed Congress and was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. The Taiwan Relations Act was crucial in establishing a legal relationship between our country and that of Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act has been mutually beneficial to both the United States and Taiwan—boosting our economies and establishing a confidence of protection to the newly-established democracy of Taiwan.

The people of Taiwan have contributed to our thriving economy in many ways—and for that, we are grateful. In fact, just last year, Taiwan imported nearly \$26 billion worth of American goods. In Ohio alone we have reached over \$450 million from exports to Taiwan—making the country Ohio's 5th largest Asian export market.

We are grateful for Taiwan's friendship and look forward to many more years of this successful partnership.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BOB DICKERSON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Dickerson of RESULTS, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating the political will to end poverty in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Dickerson has contributed immeasurably to the local and international community over the last twenty-five years as a volunteer leader.

After working as an attorney in Seattle for a number of years, Mr. Dickerson left his law practice and began working nearly full-time as a RESULTS volunteer. His passionate and ever present voice for the powerless—especially children—is truly remarkable. In 2005, his work was recognized with the Thomas C. Wales Foundation Award for Civic Engagement and Passionate Citizenship.

As the RESULTS Seattle Group Leader, Mr. Dickerson has developed deep partnerships with powerful coalitions, elected leaders and the media. His work inspired Members of Congress and volunteers across the country on both sides of the aisle to serve as vocal spokespersons in support of the Global Poverty Act, the Education for All Act, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Bob Dickerson for twenty-five years of excellence. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, our ally and friend in Southeast Asia, Taiwan, will celebrate their 103rd National Day on October 10th. Known as Double Ten Day, it celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising which ultimately led to the formation of Taiwan as we know it today.

Double Ten Day has the same significance to Taiwan as Independence Day does to us here in the United States. It is a day that people are able to celebrate and remember the sacrifices that led to creation of Taiwan. Both the U.S. and Taiwan are relatively new; in July we celebrated our 238th anniversary and Taiwan is celebrating their 103rd.

On this occasion, I would like to note how important Taiwan is to my home state of Oregon. Last year, Oregon exports to Taiwan reached \$825.6 million. Taiwan became our 5th largest trading partner in Asia and the 7th largest in the world. From agriculture to machinery, Oregon products serve a large part of Taiwan's industries. There are more opportunities to capitalize on and I look forward to working to grow investments and exports to help both our peoples.

Again I wish a happy National Day to Taiwan. We look forward to continuing our friendship and partnership on the many issues that we both face.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the San Mateo County Law Library, a unique California resource that provides public access to justice. The law library in Redwood City, founded in 1916, houses a wealth of information not available at other public libraries and is used by some 9,000 individuals a year. In addition to attorneys, legal professionals and students, ordinary citizens use the library to get assistance with landlord/tenant complaints, marital and child custody disputes probate questions, entrepreneurial pursuits, safety issues and a broad range of other legal issues. In fact, last year the general public constituted 26 percent of all library users.

Individuals without legal training are not left to their own devices to find and interpret legal literature. Librarians help everyone find answers to their legal questions, regardless of their educational background or financial circumstances. The appreciation for this service is best expressed by the public users themselves. One patron said, "The best legal librarians in the Bay Area. Superior kindness, knowledge and patience." Another said, "The staff here have made my life better, and for that I feel compelled to dole out some kudos to them."

The idea for law libraries was born in the Bay Area. In 1870, the San Francisco Law Library Act required the City and County of San Francisco to provide facilities and services at no charge and mandated access to county citizens. In 1891, the California Legislature adopted this practice at the state level requiring each county to have a law library. The libraries were not connected as a system, instead each county library rendered services according to the needs of its communities and was funded by the filing fees generated by the court system.

Because the state law does not provide any financial support to maintain the law collections or services, the San Mateo County Library is now at risk. Filing fees have dropped dramatically.

Before the San Mateo County Law Library opened at its current location at 710 Hamilton Street in Redwood City, it used to consist of two branches to serve the entire peninsula, one in San Mateo's Superior Court and the other in South San Francisco's courthouse. Due to funding cuts, support for the law collection at San Mateo's Superior Court had to be discontinued many years ago and then the courthouse was closed. Similarly, support for the law collection at the South San Francisco courthouse was discontinued in 2011 due to cutbacks and then the courthouse was closed. This created a Catch 22: as the courts closed and filing fees increased, fewer law suits were

filed, more members of the general public used the law libraries to solve their legal issues, and the funding for the library dropped. The popularity of the San Mateo Law Library has ironically contributed to its threat of extinction.

California's County Law Library Statute was a direct result of the progressive movement in the late 20th century when disparity in wealth resulted in armed clashes between the working and moneyed classes. Lawyers were considered tools of the rich and the law libraries were tools for the common man to be his own lawyer. Justice Conrad Rushing wrote: "The establishment of law libraries was not by any means the most important feature of what grew out of the progressive movement, but it nevertheless spoke strongly to the idea of equality under the law."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to honor the important role the San Mateo County Law Library continues to play today by providing access to legal support services and justice. May it be saved for all San Mateo County residents as a symbol and manifestation of "equality under the law."

THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSFIGURATION ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN, NY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Transfiguration Roman Catholic Parish of Williamsburg, Brooklyn as it celebrates its 140th anniversary. The church is commemorating this special year by hosting a series of events celebrating the parish and community's rich history.

A church of humble beginnings, Transfiguration originated to serve Irish Catholic immigrants. Its first Mass was celebrated in 1874 by Friar John Fagan in a carpenter's shop on Hooper Street. In 1875, Transfiguration R.C. Church was dedicated. As the congregation and diversity grew, so did the needs of the parishioners. In 1912, the Sisters of St. Joseph established a parochial school that educated thousands of students until 2006 when it closed its doors.

In the late 1900's there were 500 Puerto Ricans living in New York City, and by the 1930's the population increased to more than 45,000. Many of these families moved to Williamsburg and settled in the Southside/Los Sures community near the Transfiguration parish where they lived among Irish Catholics, Italians and Jews. Transfiguration embraced the Latino community and adopted changes to its ministry and services to meet the spiritual, social and educational needs of its new parishioners. In 1956, after his ordination, Monsignor Bryan J. Karvelis, a then young priest came to the parish and saw first-hand the conditions and social needs of the families it served.

Transfiguration, under the leadership of Monsignor Karvelis, worked to improve the lives and social and economic status of the

poor and refugee community it served. It founded and helped create organizations like the Southside Mission, the Transfiguration Parish Federal Credit Union, Southside Immigration Services, Nuestros Ninos Daycare Center, a men's shelter and food pantry and Casa Betsaida, a hospice residence opened during the AIDS crisis for individuals infected with the virus. Monsignor Karvelis served Transfiguration R.C. Church for close to half a century until he passed away in 2005. The street outside the church was named in his memory.

Today, under the leadership of Monsignor Anthony M. Hernandez, Transfiguration continues thriving. My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 140th Anniversary of Transfiguration Roman Catholic Parish, a parish that continues its rich history of faith and social progress.

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

There is an old saying to the effect that the best time to plant a tree, protect a forest, and make a promise to the future is either 50 years ago—or today. Fifty years ago, visionary leaders committed themselves and our nation to protect and preserve public lands for generations to come. The Wilderness Act of 1964 is as important today as it was then.

I represent the Eighth District of Minnesota, where we are blessed to have one of the most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas in America in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAV). I was so proud to be an original sponsor of the law that created the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness during my first service in Congress in the 1970's. Working with great environmental leaders like former Congressman Don Fraiser, and my late colleagues Congressman Jim Oberstar and Bruce Vento, we carved out and preserved the Boundary Waters for generation upon generation to come. I consider this one of my proudest achievements.

In addition to BWCAW, the Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, the North Shore of Lake Superior, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway are other national treasures we enjoy, and are committed to protecting.

We live up North, despite the long winters, because we love the land and understand the need to assure that future generations will have the same opportunities we have to enjoy the great out of doors.

I call upon my colleagues to continue fighting to set aside more of our nation's special places as wilderness areas—protecting our wild lands and the air, water and creatures that bless them.

IN HONOR OF FAMILIES IN TRANSITIONS "I AM ONE: NEW HAMPSHIRE DAY TO END CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS"

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was so pleased to join Families in Transition for the "I AM ONE: New Hampshire Day to End Childhood Homelessness" on September 4. I am a social worker by trade and by heart. I can remember just twenty years ago when people saw the issue of child homelessness as the government's problem, not the community's. And yes, the federal government needs to play a role, and so do the states, and so do the cities. But we also need people involved. We need these wonderful non-profits, like Families in Transition, who can do so much on the ground in our communities. Thanks to all attendees for caring, because we know that, in New Hampshire, 25 percent of the people who are homeless are children.

What does it mean to a child, at the end of the day, to have no place to go home to? What does it mean to a child if there isn't a medicine chest there if they feel sick, there's not a refrigerator if they're hungry, there's not a bed to sleep in? And what does it mean to a child when they find out that the people and groups at I AM ONE are coming together to help them? It means everything. Absolutely everything.

Thank you so much for the work that you do. This is a great community and a great state because we work together on these issues. And we're going to solve the problem of child homelessness together.

HONORING THE CELEBRATE NASHVILLE FESTIVAL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute Celebrate Nashville, a festival honoring the many great cultures in our city.

Nashville is not just any city; it's the friendliest city in the south. We welcome visitors with gracious southern hospitality and country twang. But there is so much more to Nashville than meets the eye. What makes Nashville truly unique is the people who come from all over the world.

One in six of our residents is foreign-born, and we could not be more proud of our multicultural heritage. In 1995, a group at Vanderbilt's Scarritt-Bennett designed the first Celebrate Nashville event so cultures could share their gifts with everyone. Thanks to great community partners, it has grown to be one of the city's biggest annual events, bringing together more than 40,000 citizens.

From music and dance to food and crafts, Celebrate Nashville showcases everything that makes our city unique. It highlights the best of our past through displays of heritage with the promise of our future.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to salute the Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festival for its commitment to our citizens and our community and for promoting all cultures in our city.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on this September the 19th, 2014 at VFW Narrows Bridge Post #10018 and nationwide;

Whereas, there remain over 83,000 men and women unaccounted for, who have served our country in conflicts since World War II;

Whereas, the families and comrades of those missing hold out hope as the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office works to bring each person home;

Whereas, a grateful nation mourns and remembers those heroes who have given their lives to the service of our country; and

Whereas, the surviving brothers and sisters in arms of the fallen resolve steadfast to forge a new commitment year after year in pursuit of resolution and remembrance of those no longer with us; now, therefore, I, DEREK KILMER, Representative of Washington State's Sixth Congressional District, hereby proclaim the continued gratitude for those men and women who have served before us, and for those who continue the search for our servicemembers who are not forgotten on this POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In witness thereof, I call upon those here today, and those who will in future years join us, on this solemn remembrance, to keep the promise to bring home all those who are captured or killed while serving our great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Kern County Farm Bureau's 100th anniversary, and to commend this organization which has done so much for Kern's hardworking farming families.

The foundation of Kern County's rich history rests with our agricultural heritage. When the first Californians settled in Kern, they brought their seeds with them, planting carrots, cotton, potatoes, citrus groves and vineyards, which they passed down through the generations. The most recent fruits of their labor—the 2013 harvest—tallied more than six billion dollars. Whenever our farmers sow, our whole valley and nation prospers.

A hundred years ago, the creation of Kern County Farm Bureau forged a coalition of 200

farms and 200 families, uniting to lend a neighborly hand through drought, earthquake and fire. These were the farmers who founded Kern's first reservoir system with water brought down from the mountains, who built 800 square miles of canals to make the valley bloom. By their labor, Bakersfield, Kern County and our region flourished; our population boomed. By a succession of horticultural breakthroughs—irrigation drip lines, and precision sprinklers to name a few—Kern County's farmers have learned to do more with less water, leading our state and nation with some of the most innovative and effective conservation practices. In the last fifty years, Kern's farmers have doubled our valley's crop yield without adding a single drop of water to their allotment. Our farmers have humbly overseen nothing short of a production revolution and yet Americans have become so accustomed to the stability of our food supply—itself a testament to the quality of our agriculture—that scarcely anyone notices the triumphs managed on their behalf.

Today, the Kern County Farm Bureau serves 1,400 farmers, large and small, educating and inspiring the community, closely monitoring the agricultural legislation and regulation proliferating from Sacramento and Washington, and effectively advocating on behalf of its members across all levels of government. Kern County farms run the gamut, from the very small to the very large, and Kern County Farm Bureau works with all of them to educate policymakers on agricultural practices and traditions, and, most importantly, make Kern agriculture's voice heard.

Challenges and opportunities for Kern County agriculture still lay ahead. We cannot ask the sky for rain or the winter not to frost, but we can choose the friends we depend upon when crisis comes. The Kern County Farm Bureau has been a friend and a partner in our community over the past 100 years, and

on behalf of our communities and neighbors, I congratulate the Farm Bureau's century of richness and relationships, and wish them another 100 years of success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TOLEDO
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE BEING NAMED "CHAM-
BER OF THE YEAR" BY THE AS-
SOCIATION OF CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce on being named the Chamber of the Year for 2014 by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Chamber of the Year is the most distinguished award that a Chamber of Commerce can receive, and this award recognizes the organization's strength and impact on key community priorities, including education, transportation, business development and quality of life.

I applaud the Toledo Regional Chamber on receiving this award and thank them for the important work they do to support the businesses and communities in our area.

RECOGNIZING THE SEATTLE
SOUNDERS FOOTBALL CLUB

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Seattle Sounders Football

Club (FC) on the 40th anniversary of its founding. Since its formation in 1974 as a member of the North American Soccer League (NASL), the Sounders have consistently brought world-class soccer to our region.

After decades of play in other leagues, Sounders FC was added as a Major League Soccer (MLS) expansion team in 2007. As a nod to the team's history, the notoriously loyal Sounders fans voted to keep the traditional team name alive even after changing leagues.

Since joining the league, the Sounders and their fans have set MLS records year in and year out. In every season of their tenure in the MLS the Sounders have led the league in both average attendance and number of season tickets sold. This loud and passionate fan base at every game has spurred the Sounders on to stellar play, and they have reached the playoffs in each of their four seasons as a result.

The soccer pitch is not the only place that members of Sounders FC have achieved excellence. Many members of the organization have undertaken efforts to better the community they call home. Through partnerships with organizations focused on youth and sports, and through a 2013 trip by team members to Tanzania with the Washington Global Health Alliance, the Seattle Sounders have done much more than just play outstanding soccer—they have made a difference in our region and across the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the Seattle Sounders Football Club on forty years of excellence, both on and off the soccer pitch.

SENATE—Wednesday, October 15, 2014

The Senate met at 10 and 2 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 31 seconds a.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the Congressional Record on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, November 12, 2014

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

A full week later, we are thankful that we live in a nation where a peaceful change or readjustment of government is not only expected, but achieved. May it ever be so.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they return to the work facing them, work that needs to be done. Give them the wisdom they need and the charity they must possess to work together. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner.

We ask Your blessing as well on those newly elected, or reelected, to this assembly. May they fully understand the trust that has been given them to represent not only those whose votes they received, but those who did not vote for them as well. All are citizens to be represented by the new Members of this people's House.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014, OR NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of November 13, 2014, or November 14, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore WOLF on Friday, September 19, 2014:

H.R. 594, to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2600, to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the act applies to condominiums;

H.R. 3043, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes;

H.R. 3716, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5062, to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5404, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Thursday, September 25, 2014:

H.R. 4980, to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery;

H.R. 4994, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes;

S.J. Res. 40, providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

VETERANS DAY

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Veterans Day, and I just want to say thank you to my fellow Americans who took the time to celebrate it. You see, Veterans Day is where we have an opportunity to thank the few who have answered their Nation's call to defend us from enemies at home and abroad.

These are the men and women who will walk through the gates of hell to stand up against evil and danger so we do not have to.

Veterans don't ask for much, so it is not a hard holiday to celebrate. A simple "thank you" will do just fine.

But I want to ask the American people to never forget the sacrifices that these fine men and women and their families make for us. And as a Nation, we must keep our promises we made to these defenders of freedom.

Veterans love our American flag. It represents the greatest Nation in the history of mankind. Fly it proudly. Simply put, be proud to be an American. For a veteran, that is thanks enough.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROL J. LANCASTER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Carol J. Lancaster, the visionary educator, public servant, and trailblazing dean of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service, who passed away last month.

Born to working-class parents during the Second World War, Lancaster became the first in her family to attend college. At Georgetown University, she became one of the first women to earn a bachelor of science degree from the School of Foreign Service. Following graduation, Dean Lancaster was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study at

the Universidad de San Andres in La Paz, Bolivia, adding Spanish to the five additional languages she would learn in adulthood. Lancaster later earned a doctorate in international relations from the London School of Economics in 1972.

After teaching in England and following a series of prestigious fellowships, she was called to serve in the U.S. Department of State as a member of the policy planning staff, and in the early eighties she became Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs at the State Department. During the Clinton administration, she served as Deputy Administrator of USAID. In every position, she focused her time and talent on creating a better world for all our children.

At the end of her government service, Lancaster's commitment to building the next generation of global leaders compelled her to teach at the Walsh School of Foreign Service, where she inspired students, encouraged scholars, strengthened diplomacy, and authored numerous books and articles for more than 30 years. At Georgetown, Lancaster motivated a new generation of young leaders, thinkers, and problem solvers to soar to greater heights and tackle today's challenges with vigor, compassion, and courage.

Mr. Speaker, her legacy of excellence continues to echo through Georgetown's community. Georgetown University President Jack DeGioia noted that Lancaster "provided extraordinary leadership as dean of SFS and was a leader and a professor contributing in countless ways to our community through her vision and scholarship. Moreover, the joy and dedication that Carol brought to her work inspired us all to be the very best versions of ourselves," he said.

Chairman of the Foreign Service School's Board of Visitors, my husband, Paul Pelosi, noted that as the first woman and first alumnus to become dean of the School of Foreign Service, she "was renowned for her commitment to her students; she demonstrated both intellectual curiosity and courage and had a profound effect on the way we think about global development. Carol will be remembered as a pioneering woman in international affairs and a stalwart champion of human dignity."

In conclusion, when speaking around the world, Lancaster also had to stand on what she called the "Madeline Albright box" to be seen over podiums. Today, thousands of young students and women from across the world stand on her shoulders, inspired by her example and empowered by her leadership to speak boldly, act bravely, and make their mark in the world.

May it be a comfort to her husband, Curt, their son, Douglas, who is with us today with his wife, and the entire Farrar family that so many people

around the world mourn their loss, share their grief, and are praying for them at this sad time.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia said it best: "May she rest in peace for her long years of labor to make the world a better place."

UMITA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, you can't turn on the TV this week without hearing about MIT economist Jonathan Gruber's comments that ObamaCare was passed by exploiting the lack of information given to the American people. In his comments, Gruber, a key architect of the legislation, called the lack of transparency involved in passing ObamaCare "a huge political advantage."

President Obama has claimed that his administration is the most transparent administration in history, but statements like Gruber's indicate otherwise.

It is long past time for Congress to require transparency from the executive branch. Earlier this year, a bipartisan majority in the House passed my bill, H.R. 899, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, which we call UMITA. This bipartisan legislation would improve transparency and public disclosure of the true costs in dollars and in jobs that Federal dictates pose to the economy.

Asking the Federal Government to disclose the cost of a mandate in addition to its benefits should not be controversial. It is just plain common sense, Mr. Speaker. I call on the Senate to pass UMITA and put transparency back in government.

JONATHAN GRUBER'S STATEMENTS ARE SHOCKING BUT NOT SURPRISING

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, President-elect Obama wrote a memo that his Presidency will usher in an unprecedented level of openness. But this week, it was revealed that the lead architect for the Affordable Care Act, Jonathan Gruber, capitalized on—his words now—the stupidity of the American people in passing the health care law. He further went on to say the lack of transparency is a huge political advantage and was critical to passing the law.

This insult to the American people is shocking, but it is hardly surprising. In 2011, the Energy and Commerce Committee uncovered evidence of secret meetings at the White House where they were setting the stage for the

takeover of America's healthcare. At the time, their work was discounted. Old news, they said. But was it really?

The American people sent a message last week, and the message was they are not stupid. This administration, which finds value in opacity while talking transparency, needs to conduct its business in the light of day, exactly as they promised in 2009.

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIANTS DEADLINE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 2 weeks away from the Iran nuclear negotiations deadline.

A deal that allows Iran to enrich any uranium and to keep in place its nuclear infrastructure is a bad deal. As long as Iran maintains the capability to enrich uranium, it can create a nuclear weapon.

The administration has always misinterpreted the goal of our sanctions. They are to compel Iran to completely abandon its nuclear pursuit.

As the deadline looms and as Republicans are set to control Congress, I urge my colleagues to not allow President Obama to trade away the only leverage we have over the mullahs in Tehran in exchange for minor and easy reversible modifications by Iran on its nuclear weapons program. Simply pushing back Iran's breakout time is not in the interests of the U.S. national security. Ensuring that there will never be an Iranian bomb is in our Nation's interest.

RUSSIAN BEAR IS ROARING AGAIN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while the eyes of the world are on ISIS, the Russian bear has quietly come out of hibernation. Putin is back after a brief hiatus, seeking to devour his neighbors and reclaim his kingdom while once again sending covert henchmen into eastern Ukraine. The Napoleon of Siberia is systematically trying to reestablish imperial Russia with him as the czar.

According to U.S. General Phillip Breedlove, recently, "new Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops have entered eastern Ukraine." News reports indicate five of the trucks were towing 120-millimeter howitzer artillery pieces, and another five were towing partly covered multilaunch rocket systems.

This sounds like an aggression to me. Of course, the Kremlin lies and denies it all. And why is this aggression

continuing? Because, on the world stage, America looks weak and leaderless. Reset buttons and red lines don't mean anything to Putin. Our hollow objections to Russia are meaningless. The Russian bear needs to stop its cold war II-type aggression and return back to the cave.

Mr. Speaker, what is America's plan? And that is just the way it is.

ELECTORATE VOTES TO STOP OBAMA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, the President promised, "I'm not on the ballot this fall, but my policies are on the ballot."

Clearly, America, which is not stupid, voted last Tuesday to stop his policies, which destroy jobs at home and weaken national defense abroad.

On Sunday, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution lead editorial explained, "The electorate took a peach tree switch to the donkey's hindquarters," resulting in Georgia and South Carolina achieving returning Republican victories for all statewide and Federal offices for the first time in 136 years.

Failed policies should stop and together we should work for positive change, such as opening Yucca Mountain to reduce the environmental risk of nuclear waste. The Boston Globe editorialized, "Resume funding the Yucca Mountain project," and "Democrats should recognize that."

Additionally, the Keystone pipeline should be completed to promote energy independence with hundreds of permanent jobs in my home communities with Michelin of Lexington and MTU of Graniteville.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take action to never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1415

PROTECTING OUR RIVERWAYS

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, Missouri's Eighth District has more than 200 miles of the Mississippi River and is dependent on barge traffic to move our crops. This year, with one of the largest harvests on record, the Army Corps of Engineers closed a stretch of the Mississippi River that gets the harvest to market and did not adequately notify shippers.

This is absolutely unacceptable. My colleagues and I sent a letter this week urging the Corps to notify industries in advance of construction, and also to

take market factors into consideration when planning construction in the future. The work the Corps does protecting our river system is vital, and we need to work to secure the Corps more resources to complete its mission, but construction must be scheduled appropriately and not at the expense of America's farmers and shippers.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 23, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 23, 2014, at 2:23 p.m.:

Appointments:

National Council on Disability

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2014, at 10:13 a.m.:

Appointments:

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, October 21, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 21, 2014, at 10:50 a.m.:

Appointments:

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 25, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in connection with a matter now pending before the grand jury.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2014.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Department of the Army, Office of Staff Judge Advocate, for documents in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE LEE TERRY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable LEE TERRY, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Omaha, NE, October 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a deposition subpoena for documents issued by the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, in connection with a civil matter now pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.
Sincerely,

LEE TERRY.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVE STOCKMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVE STOCKMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

I am consulting with counsel to determine whether, and to what extent, compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN E. STOCKMAN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICY ADVISER, THE HONORABLE STEVE STOCKMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Donny Ferguson, Senior Communications and Policy Adviser, the Honorable STEVE STOCKMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for testimony and documents in a criminal investigation.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DONNY FERGUSON,
Senior Communications & Policy Adviser.

COMMUNICATION FROM EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND SCHEDULER, THE HONORABLE STEVE STOCKMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kristine O. Brakstad, Executive Assistant and Scheduler, the Honorable STEVE STOCKMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for testimony and documents in a criminal investigation.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

KRISTINE O. BRAKSTAD,
Executive Assistant & Scheduler.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, THE HONORABLE STEVE STOCKMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Printus LeBlanc, Legislative Assistant, the Honorable STEVE STOCKMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for testimony and documents in a criminal investigation.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

PRINTUS LEBLANC,
Legislative Assistant.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-172)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides

for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2014.

Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is still under way, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 12, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ELIMINATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sec. 101. Reports eliminated.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sec. 201. Reports eliminated.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sec. 301. Reports eliminated.

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Sec. 401. Reports eliminated.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Sec. 501. Report on Impact Aid construction justifying discretionary grant awards eliminated.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sec. 601. Reports eliminated.

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sec. 701. Great Lakes management comprehensive report eliminated.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sec. 801. Report relating to waiver of certain sanctions against North Korea eliminated.

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Sec. 901. Reports eliminated.

Sec. 902. Reports modified.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Sec. 1001. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Sec. 1101. Royalties in-kind report eliminated.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Sec. 1201. Report eliminated.

TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Sec. 1301. Report eliminated.

TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sec. 1401. Report eliminated.

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 1501. Reports eliminated.

Sec. 1502. Report modified.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Sec. 1601. Reports eliminated.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec. 1701. Report eliminated.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**SEC. 101. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) PEANUT BASE ACRES DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.—Section 1302(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8752(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3);

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “Paragraphs (1) through (3)” and inserting “Paragraphs (1) and (2)”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(b) REPORT ON EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES TO EMERGING MARKETS.—Section 1542(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 7 U.S.C. 5622 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “(1) EFFECT OF CREDITS.—”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(c) EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM FINANCING OF LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (iv); and

(2) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(d) QUARTERLY EXPORT ASSISTANCE REPORTS.—Section 603 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5713) is repealed.

(e) RURAL COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) SECRETARIAL REPORT ON REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARDS.—Section 385C(b)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–2(b)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) REPORT BY REGIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD TO NATIONAL RURAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE SECRETARY.—Section 385D(a)(7) of Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009dd–3(a)(7)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(f) STATUS REPORT FOR FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT.—Section 702 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5722) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**SEC. 201. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) EFFORTS AND PROGRESS IN BECOMING DESIGNATED AS SEA GRANT COLLEGE OR INSTITUTE.—Section 207 of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 3 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g–5) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(c) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO SEA GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by striking the fourth sentence.

(d) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsections (h) through (l) as subsections (g) through (k), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (k)(5), as redesignated, by striking “under subsection (k)” and inserting “under subsection (j)”.

(e) TIP ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is further amended in subsection (j), as redesignated by subsection (d), by striking paragraph (5).

(f) NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ACTIVITIES.—Section 212 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5611) is repealed.

TITLE III—CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**SEC. 301. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) SERVICE-LEARNING IMPACT STUDY.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 is

amended by repealing part IV of subtitle B of title I (42 U.S.C. 12565).

(b) REPORTS BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO THE CORPORATION.—Section 182 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12642) is amended—

(1) by striking the following:

“(a) DESIGN OF PROGRAMS.—”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**SEC. 401. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) DISPLAY OF ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR SOVEREIGNTY ALERT MISSION.—Section 354 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) is hereby repealed.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Section 1008 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “(b) or”.

TITLE V—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**SEC. 501. REPORT ON IMPACT AID CONSTRUCTION JUSTIFYING DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDS ELIMINATED.**

Section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**SEC. 601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 983 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16323) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) STRATEGIC UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 369(i) of Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927(i)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(6)(C) of Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(6)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (v); and

(2) by redesignating clause (vi) (as added by section 310(a)(4) of Public Law 112–110; 126 Stat. 1524) as clause (v).

TITLE VII—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**SEC. 701. GREAT LAKES MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ELIMINATED.**

Section 118(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (10); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (13) as paragraphs (10) through (12), respectively.

TITLE VIII—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**SEC. 801. REPORT RELATING TO WAIVER OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA ELIMINATED.**

Section 1405 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

TITLE IX—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**SEC. 901. REPORTS ELIMINATED.**

(a) EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Section 1904 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6574) is repealed.

(b) USE OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BY STATES AND LOCALITIES REPORT.—Section 901 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 191) is repealed.

(c) **HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS AUDIT.**—(1) **ELIMINATION OF AUDIT.**—Section 902(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15542(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5).

(2) **PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY TO RECOUP FUNDS RESULTING FROM PRIOR AUDITS.**—Section 902(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15542(c)) is amended by inserting after “subsection (b)” the following: “prior to the date of the enactment of the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014”.

(d) **STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE AUDIT AND REPORT.**—Section 3011 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5710) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(e) **SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND PROGRAM AUDIT AND REPORT.**—Section 4107 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 4741 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(f) **HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT.**—Section 6303(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1490e note) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 902. REPORTS MODIFIED.

(a) **NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL.**—Subsection (i) of section 4001 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–10) is amended by striking “The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States shall jointly conduct periodic reviews” and inserting “The Secretary shall conduct periodic reviews”.

(b) **POSTCARD MANDATE.**—Section 719(g)(2) of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “The Comptroller General shall make each list available through the public website of the Government Accountability Office.”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting “of Congress” after “committee or member”.

(c) **ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION.**—

(1) **USE OF PRIVATE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.**—Section 107 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 807) is amended to read as follows:

“AUDITS

“SEC. 107. (a) **CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.**—The Board shall enter into a contract with an independent public accountant to conduct an annual audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, of the financial records of the Board and of any corporation established under section 106(i), and shall ensure that the independent public accountant has access for the purpose of the audit to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation (or any agent of the Board or such corporation) which the independent public accountant reasonably determines to be pertinent to the Congressional Award Program.

“(b) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON AUDIT RESULTS.**—Not later than May 15 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to appropriate officers, committees, and subcommittees of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the results of the most recent audit conducted pursuant to this section, and shall include in the report information on any such additional areas as the independent

public accountant who conducted the audit determines deserve or require evaluation.

“(c) **REVIEW BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT.**—

“(1) The Comptroller General of the United States shall review each annual audit conducted under subsection (a).

“(2) For purposes of a review under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General, or any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Board or such corporation, or any agent of the Board or such corporation, including the independent external auditor designated under subsection (a), which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, may be pertinent.

“(3) Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives a report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1) with respect to the preceding year.”.

(2) **AMENDMENTS RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—Section 104(c) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by—

(i) inserting “policies and” before “procedures”; and

(ii) striking “fund”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “The Comptroller General of the United States” and inserting “The independent public accountant conducting the annual audit of the financial records of the Board pursuant to section 107(a)”;

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “the Comptroller General” and inserting “the independent public accountant”.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(d) **ANNUAL GAO REVIEW OF PROPOSED HHS RECOVERY THRESHOLD.**—The third sentence of section 1862(b)(9)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “for a year” and inserting “for 2014”.

TITLE X—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SEC. 1001. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS MADE WITH DOG OR CAT FUR.**—Section 308 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1308) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) **PORT OF ENTRY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT STUDY AND NATIONAL LAND BORDER SECURITY PLAN.**—The Border Infrastructure and Technology Modernization Act of 2007 (title VI of division E of Public Law 110–161; 6 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 603 and 604.

(c) **FEES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMS SERVICES.**—

(1) **REPEAL.**—Section 13031 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–272; 19 U.S.C. 58c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(9), by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D);

(ii) by striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”.

(d) **MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.**—

(1) **REPEAL.**—Section 346 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 14 U.S.C. 88 note) is repealed.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 346.

TITLE XI—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 1101. ROYALTIES IN-KIND REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (e) through (i), respectively.

TITLE XII—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SEC. 1201. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3205) is repealed.

TITLE XIII—OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SEC. 1301. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105–5) (commonly referred to as the “CFE Flank Document”), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

TITLE XIV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEC. 1401. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2376) is amended by striking subsection (c).

TITLE XV—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 1501. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) **REPORTS OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES COMMITTEE.**—Section 106(p)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(b) **ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (k).

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) Section 47107 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended—

(i) by redesignating subsections (l) through (t) as subsections (k) through (s), respectively;

(ii) in paragraph (5) of subsection (k), as redesignated by clause (i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (m)(7)” and inserting “subsection (m)(7)”;

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (n)” and inserting “subsection (m)”;

(iii) in subsection (m), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “subsections (b) and (l)” each place it appears and inserting “subsections (b) and (k)”;

(II) by striking “subsection (o)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (n)”;

(iv) in subsection (n), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (n)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (m)”;

(v) in subsection (o), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (o)” and inserting “subsection (n)”;

(vi) in subsection (p), as so redesignated, by striking “subsections (a) through (p)” and inserting “subsections (a) through (o)”;

(vii) in subsection (q), as so redesignated, by striking “subsections (q)(1) through (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (p)”.

(B) Section 46301(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking “section 47107(l)” and inserting “section 47107(k)”.

(C) Section 47111(e) of such title is amended by striking “section 47107(l)” and inserting “section 47107(k)”.

(D) Section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “section 47107(m)” each place it appears and inserting “section 47107(m)”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and
(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE FINANCING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT.—Section 182 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2515; 49 U.S.C. 44502 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and
(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(e) REPORTS ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONES.—Section 602 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (117 Stat. 2563), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents contained in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON STANDARDS FOR AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT ENGINES TO REDUCE NOISE LEVELS.—Section 726 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (114 Stat. 167; 49 U.S.C. 47508 note) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 1502. REPORT MODIFIED.

Section 1138(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “at least annually, but may be conducted”.

TITLE XVI—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 1601. REPORTS ELIMINATED.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 2 of Public Law 108–215 (22 U.S.C. 290m–6) is repealed.

(b) REPORT ON VOTING ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LOAN PROPOSALS.—Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262d) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) through subsection (g) (as added by section 501(g) of Public Law 96–259) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively.

(c) REPORT ON NEW IMF ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING RATES AND MATURITIES.—Section 605 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–222), as enacted into law by section 101(d) of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), is amended by striking subsection (d).

(d) REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS.—The Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103–202; 31 U.S.C. 3121 note) is amended—

(1) by striking section 203; and
(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 203.

TITLE XVII—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEC. 1701. REPORT ELIMINATED.

Section 8125 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and
(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act of 2014. H.R. 4194 passed the House by voice vote on April 28, 2014, and an amended version passed the Senate under unanimous consent on September 16. I would like to personally take a moment to thank Senators CARPER and COBURN, as well as the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee staff, for diligently working on getting this bill passed through the Senate. I would also like to personally thank Senators WARNER and AYOTTE, who introduced a companion bill in the Senate, for working with the OGR and the House Armed Services Committee, and others, to get a bill that is so broadly accepted and does so much to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative agency reports.

The Government Reports Elimination Act is part of the committee's effort to reduce waste and duplication in the Federal Government. We have spent more than a year working with each House committee vetting each section to ensure that useful agency reports are maintained. The Senate amendment reduces to 48 the number of unnecessary agency reports to Congress and eliminates or streamlines an additional five.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good start. We started with a much larger report list. We believe that the progress under this bill sets the tone for an annual elimination of reports that have become outdated or unnecessary. It is very clear that each time the Congress passes a new piece of legislation—or even a new appropriation—there are questions that need to be answered and which the executive branch is staffed and funded to answer. However, most reports requested have no termination date. A single report is harmless and generally is accurate to the time of the passing, while one that goes on in perpetuity inevitably becomes outdated and, in fact, unnecessary.

In the future, we not only want to continue doing this for those reports

that have an in-perpetuity annual or periodic report, we also want to make sure, as a committee, that new report requirements written into any piece of legislation have a reauthorization or elimination date. We believe that is the only way we can cease the continuation of excess reports.

Lastly, I would like to thank the GAO, the Congress' government accountability organization. In 2013, they identified mandates that appeared to be both burdensome and unnecessary, and they came to the Oversight Committee and to our counterpart in the Senate with them. If not for them, we would not have this bill here today.

Again, very often, the American people see Senators on one side and House Members on another taking credit for a vote they are about to make or have just made. Not often enough do we realize that it is not only our personal and committee staffs but also the staffs that work for Congress on a non-partisan basis who are the ones, in fact, who generate most of the good things that ultimately come to this floor.

Lastly, I would like to thank this administration. This is one area in which they concurred with us and helped all along the way to try to include as many reports as they could in this piece of legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation. I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 4194, the Government Reports Elimination Act, as amended. I also want to thank my good friend, Chairman DARRELL ISSA, for his bipartisan approach to this bill. This bill will bring greater efficiency to the overall government of the United States.

Congress often requires reports from executive branch agencies, and these reports can be a valuable tool to scrutinize performance and assess agency goals. However, with the passage of time, reporting requirements can become outdated, unnecessary, or duplicative.

Congress and the executive branch have recognized that improved coordination across the Federal Government benefits both the taxpayer and the government. In 2010, Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. That act requires the Office of Management and Budget to publish a list of plans or reports that are produced by the executive branch pursuant to congressional mandate. The act also requires the administration to identify potentially outdated or duplicative plans and reports, and to provide views on whether they should be eliminated.

In January 2013 the Office of Management and Budget produced a list of

more than 300 plans and reports that are potentially outdated or duplicative. Majority and minority staffs of our committee worked together to review this list. During this process, the views of all other committees of jurisdiction were also considered. A similar process occurred in the Senate.

H.R. 4194, as amended, would eliminate the statutory requirements to prepare reports that are produced by 17 different Federal agencies. Implementing H.R. 4194 would reduce the administrative costs of these agencies by reducing the number of reports that must be prepared and printed. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that implementing the bill would save about \$1 million over the next 5 years. H.R. 4194 provides for greater efficiency and a more effective Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It is worth the time we have put into discussing it. I thank Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for his support on this bill, and I think this is a special opportunity to thank Congressmen WOODALL and CONNOLLY for their support as original cosponsors on this bill.

It is amazing to me that you can have dozens and dozens of reports senselessly coming back from the administration that are not being read, not needed, are obsolete, and when you point it out, there is no objection whatsoever to eliminating them. I think that is exactly the situation we have here.

I look forward to working with the majority and minority leaders' offices to make sure that this is an annual event until we reach a point where there are zero pieces of reports coming to the Congress that are unread, unused, or unnecessary.

With that, I urge passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I just wanted to join the chairman in his remarks about this bill. This bill is the quintessential efficiency bill. We have been doing the same thing over and over again until the chairman got the bright idea that maybe we should start doing this. I think we are in for more efficiency as more Federal agencies go through the same process.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Issa) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4194.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRESIDENTIAL AND FEDERAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1233) to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bills.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) On page 5, line 7, strike [of] and insert on.
(2) On page 10 from line 8 through page 11 line 1, strike all and insert:

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The President, the Vice President, or a covered employee may not create or send a Presidential or Vice Presidential record using a non-official electronic message account unless the President, Vice President, or covered employee—

(1) copies an official electronic messaging account of the President, Vice President, or covered employee in the original creation or transmission of the Presidential record or Vice Presidential record; or

(2) forwards a complete copy of the Presidential or Vice Presidential record to an official electronic messaging account of the President, Vice President, or covered employee not later than 20 days after the original creation or transmission of the Presidential or Vice Presidential record.

(b) *ADVERSE ACTIONS.*—The intentional violation of subsection (a) by a covered employee (including any rules, regulations, or other implementing guidelines), as determined by the appropriate supervisor, shall be a basis for disciplinary action in accordance with subchapter I, II, or V of chapter 75 of title 5, as the case may be.

(c) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *COVERED EMPLOYEE.*—The term “covered employee” means—

(A) the immediate staff of the President;

(B) the immediate staff of the Vice President;

(C) a unit or individual of the Executive Office of the President whose function is to advise and assist the President; and

(D) a unit or individual of the Office of the Vice President whose function is to advise and assist the Vice President.

(3) On page 11, line 2, strike [1] and insert 2.

(4) On page 11, line 6, strike [2] and insert 3.

(5) On page 11, line 9 through line 11, strike everything up to the first period.

(6) On page 31, line 8, strike [within five days] and insert not later than 20 days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gen-

tleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1233, the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014. This bill was introduced by the ranking member, who I see is here today, and was first passed by the House on January 14 of this year. It was passed by a vote of 420-0. Let not a unanimous vote belie the fact that the ranking member worked hard to find consensus within the House and to make sure that this was a well-reasoned and, in fact, tailored piece of legislation.

The Senate, as it often does, did make some changes, but ultimately this bill, H.R. 1233, which would codify existing executive order and allows former Presidents to appeal to incumbent Presidents to keep certain Presidential documents privileged under the Presidential Records Act, is the good work of Mr. CUMMINGS.

This bill would lock into statute a process established by President Reagan in 1989. In 2009, President Obama restored this by executive order. However, like anything that the Congress has observed for a long time that is being done by executive order, the question is: Should it be on the whim of the next President, or should it, in fact, be something which statutorily is part of the Presidential Records Act, which was a statute created by Congress?

I think particularly important is the fact that Mr. CUMMINGS recognizes that past Presidents, including President Clinton and, of course, President George W. Bush, do, in fact, have a number of things that occurred on their watch which remain sensitive today.

□ 1615

Allowing the standing of these individuals and the oversight of the current President is a good middle ground, and it is one that balances the needs of the public, something that Mr. CUMMINGS and I feel strongly about, that transparency and freedom of information and access is important.

At the same time, we recognize that there are times when a secret must remain a secret, an action must remain an action. It doesn't change the fact

that Congress may have an interest or the American people might prevail.

This bill does, rightfully so and on a unanimous basis now in the House and the Senate, codify historic Federal recordkeeping. We believe it is good.

I want to take a moment to thank Mr. CUMMINGS personally for his hard work. He not only championed the bill, but he worked well in the Senate to make sure it came back to us today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the bill we are considering today, the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments, to give the American people access to records Presidents create while they are in office.

I appreciate, first of all, the kind words of the chairman, and I appreciate the support this bill has received from him, Chairman ISSA, as well as the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman TOM CARPER.

The House passed this legislation in January by a vote of 420-0. This bill also passed the Senate with no opposition. There are not many bills that make it through both House and Senate without even a hint of opposition, but this is one of them.

When the Senate passed the House bill, it made technical changes that require us to pass the bill again. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill again, so that we can send it to the President for his signature.

The bill will amend the Presidential Records Act by adding procedures to ensure that the records of Presidents and their senior advisers are released to the public in a timely manner.

Under current law, Presidents can restrict access to their records for up to 12 years after they leave office. After that time, Presidents may continue to restrict access to their records by asserting that they are protected by executive privilege.

Under this bill, the records of current and former Presidents will continue to be protected for 12 years after they leave office. After that period, however, the bill would create a presumption of disclosure, and Presidents would have up to 90 days to object or those records would be automatically released.

In other words, when records are requested more than 12 years after a President leaves office, this bill would place the burden on the President to review those records and either assert executive privilege or allow them to be publicly disclosed.

This legislation would not impact the ability of Presidents to review their records before they are released. The legislation also would not impact the ability of Presidents to protect records because of national security concerns.

The bill has also been amended to address an issue raised by the White House. In the original version of this bill, Presidents would have had 40 days to review records. Based on bipartisan, bicameral negotiations, the current version of the bill now extends that review period to 90 days.

The Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments would also require that any assertion of a privilege by a former President be affirmed by the incumbent President or through a court order for the record to be withheld from the public. This will provide an important check to ensure that Presidents cannot keep their records secret without accountability.

The bill also includes language based on an amendment that Chairman DARELL ISSA proposed during the committee markup of the bill to address the use of personal email by Federal employees, and that amendment makes the bill even better.

This bill would continue to allow employees to use their personal email account for official business when necessary, but it would require employees to copy their official email account or forward their email to their official account.

The Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments updates the Federal Records Act to modernize the definition of what constitutes a record and to allow agencies to use digital reproductions when they are required to indefinitely maintain copies of documents.

Finally, this bill is an important step forward in protecting our historical record. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1233 and send it on to the President's desk.

Again, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for your cooperation working with me over a good bit of time to bring this to the floor. I really appreciate it.

I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of this bill. I think it is a good bill. It has been made better because we had the input of both sides of the aisle and not only both sides of the aisle, but also the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I just want to hit two points that I think are noteworthy.

Historically, agencies kept their records for 30 years, the presumption they would keep them for 30 years before turning them over to the National Archives.

With the ranking member's assistance, this piece of legislation also eliminates that presumption. We, as a committee, felt very strongly that the sooner an agency turns over its records to the Archivist, the sooner they are broadly available and the better off it is.

In an electronic era, where it is a push of one button to transfer data, this piece of legislation not only eliminates that presumption, but highly encourages data be transferred, rather than mountains of paper or what is called a PDF, a print to file, if you will.

This is a significant improvement and something that minority and majority were able to work on together, along with the Archivist who was personally involved in this.

Lastly, I owe a debt of gratitude to the ranking member. In this bill, the amendment he mentioned is included, but the ranking member also signed on to a letter asking that H.R. 5170 be taken up by the Senate, a more explicit attempt to change the recordkeeping outside of official use within the government.

This has been an area in which multiple different Cabinet positions under multiple Presidents have found themselves with some very embarrassing failure to store and maintain the data.

At the end of the day, I am confident that our committee, under the ranking member and under the chairman that will likely replace me, will continue this effort, make sure that the American people know that if a covered individual is required to keep a record of his or her transactions and emails, that it will, in fact, be in the record and available, not just for Congress, but eventually for the American people to see. We believe that this is an important part of government transparency.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member who personally signed on and will continue, on behalf of the committee, to make sure that the American people get the full benefit of all records that are, in fact, created under any administration.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1233.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5266) to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5266

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.

Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the amount made available under subsection (i)(2)(B), the Administrator shall make competitive awards under this paragraph.

“(B) *APPLICATION FOR AWARDS.*—The Administrator shall solicit applications for awards under this paragraph from State, interstate, and regional water pollution control agencies and entities, State coastal zone management agencies, interstate agencies, other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals.

“(C) *SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.*—In selecting award recipients under this paragraph, the Administrator shall select recipients that are best able to address urgent and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal areas. Such issues shall include—

“(i) extensive seagrass habitat losses resulting in significant impacts on fisheries and water quality;

“(ii) recurring harmful algae blooms, unusual marine mammal mortalities;

“(iii) invasive exotic species which can threaten wastewater systems and cause other damage;

“(iv) jellyfish proliferation limiting community access to water during peak tourism seasons;

“(v) flooding which may be related to sea level rise or wetland degradation or loss; or

“(vi) low dissolved oxygen conditions in estuarine waters and related nutrient management.”

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$27,000,000, for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for—

“(A) expenses relating to the administration of grants or awards by the Administrator under this section, including the award and oversight of grants and awards, except that such expenses shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this subsection; and

“(B) making grants and awards under subsection (g).

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—

“(A) *CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—The Administrator shall provide not less than 80 percent of the amounts made available for this section for each fiscal year referred to in paragraph (1) for the development, implementation, and monitoring of each conservation and management plan eligible for grant assistance under subsection (g)(2).

“(B) *COMPETITIVE AWARDS.*—The Administrator shall provide not less than 15 percent of the amounts made available for this section in each fiscal year to make competitive awards described in subsection (g)(4).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5266.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. LARSEN for helping me bring H.R. 5266, the National Estuary Programs Reauthorization, to the floor.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. POSEY and Mr. MURPHY of Florida, in helping me get this legislation drafted and ushered through the committee in a bipartisan way.

This version of the National Estuary Programs Reauthorization is fiscally responsible by reducing the authorization levels by \$8 million, while ultimately increasing the amount of money each estuary program will receive. This reauthorization will detail just how the EPA is to spend the authorized and appropriated money.

Unlike many programs under the Clean Water Act, the National Estuary Program is a nonregulatory program; instead, it is designed to support the collaborative voluntary efforts of Federal, State, and local stakeholders to restore degraded estuaries.

Unfortunately, National Estuary Programs have been losing money due to the EPA administrative costs. By setting limits of 5 percent for administrative costs for the EPA, we can guarantee 80 percent of the funding goes to the end user and the NEP and not bureaucratic salaries and red tape.

In this year's reauthorization, we have also set aside 15 percent of the funding for a competitive award program. This program will seek applications meant to deal with urgent and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal areas.

By structuring how the money is spent and lowering authorization levels, this legislation strikes the right balance of fiscal and environmental responsibilities. I urge all Members to support H.R. 5266.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5266 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Estuary Program.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my committee colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), for introducing this legislation.

Our Nation's coasts and oceans provide a wealth of resources for the entire country, and among these areas,

nowhere is more valuable than estuaries. Estuaries are bodies of water that receive both water from rivers and saltwater from the sea. This mix makes a unique environment that is extremely productive in terms of its ecosystem values.

Government studies have found that estuaries provide habitat for 75 percent of the U.S. commercial and 80 to 90 percent of the recreational fishing catches.

Perhaps the central problem in the protection and restoration of estuaries is that they ultimately lie downstream. Everything that enters the smallest stream, tributary, or headwater in a watershed eventually runs into a single outlet, impacting in some way all the biological elements of that ecosystem and all of the commerce that revolves around the estuary.

The First Congressional District of New York, which I have had the honor to represent, abuts two priority estuaries with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, the Peconic Bay and the Long Island Sound.

These unique waters are precious to the residents of Long Island, and their continued health and vitality provide multiple benefits to the residents of Long Island and to the economic and environmental health of the region.

I am pleased that this legislation demonstrates the willingness of this Congress to move legislation that protects our water-related environment. The Federal seed money that comes from the EPA's National Estuary Program, when combined with other State and local resources, helps to implement locally-driven solutions to local water quality challenges.

In my view, if there are limits in the success of these programs, they are closely related to the availability of adequate restoration funds.

In the 111th Congress, I was the lead sponsor of another bill, H.R. 4715, the Clean Estuaries Act of 2010, that would have also authorized the National Estuary Program, however, at higher levels than contained in the current bill.

That legislation passed the House on a bipartisan basis and by an overwhelming margin; however, the Senate failed to ever act on that bill.

While H.R. 5266 does represent a significant reduction in the authorization of appropriations for this important program, I commend the bipartisan sponsors of this legislation for ensuring that the new authorization shows some room to increase the funding of these locally-driven restoration efforts, rather than simply cutting those efforts.

Too often these days, we seem driven to cut Federal spending for programs that provide real benefit to our Nation without an awareness of the consequences of these actions.

□ 1630

I can only hope that in the years to come this Chamber will recognize that

there are places where the Federal Government can help and should be making increased investments, such as to repair our crumbling infrastructure or to protect our fragile natural environment.

These are only some of the ongoing challenges that face this Nation, and we need a Congress that is serious about taking on the hard questions and about making the right investments, not only for our lives and livelihoods, but for those generations of Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, again, I support the passage of H.R. 5266, and I urge my colleagues to also support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I, again, want to thank Congressman LOBIONDO for his work on this National Estuary Program and this legislation to reauthorize this important program for another 5 years.

Thank you also for working with me on provisions for my bill, which I introduced with Representative MURPHY of Florida—H.R. 5117, the Estuary Urgent Needs Priority Program. Our provision establishes a competitive awards program for estuaries to help prioritize funding to estuaries facing urgent needs. It does so without spending any additional money. We simply reprioritize and require all money appropriated from Congress for estuaries to actually be spent on estuaries.

Mr. Speaker, the National Estuary Program encourages communities to work toward having healthy estuaries by providing annual base grants for projects to improve and to monitor the quality of their water and the species that live in them. Healthy estuaries provide a diverse home for flora and fauna. Estuaries also provide for countless hours of recreational enjoyment and billions of dollars in economic impact.

My congressional district is home to one of the most diverse estuaries in the country, if not in the world—the Indian River Lagoon. Our lagoon's natural beauty has always been central to our community as a key to improving our quality of life, as a recreational area for fishing and boating with friends and family, and as a significant contributor to our local economy. I raised my family along this 156-mile lagoon, and I know firsthand how important this legislation is to making our local estuary program a success.

We have all seen the adverse consequences of sea grass loss and harmful algae blooms. The opportunity to compete for additional funding, which this bill provides, would be a valuable tool in combating the types of issues we have seen in our estuary. The bill before us redirects money away from the

EPA's Washington bureaucracy and toward actual projects and initiatives across the Nation's estuaries.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can continue the great work that the NEP provides as it facilitates estuary protection and restoration initiatives.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), my friend.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5266, the reauthorizing of the National Estuary Program.

I want to thank Mr. GIBBS and Mr. BISHOP on the subcommittee and, of course, my colleague whom I share the Aviation Subcommittee with, Mr. LOBIONDO, for their leadership on getting this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, estuaries are a critical habitat for salmon, birds, and many other species in the Pacific Northwest, where we know that protecting our natural resources is good for our environment and good for our economy.

My district borders on Puget Sound, which is our country's second largest estuary and is a key driver of our economy in Washington State. Trade, fishing, tourism, and outdoor recreation in our region create and sustain thousands of jobs, and all of these activities are dependent on a healthy Puget Sound. I have long supported estuary restoration in the Puget Sound region, including projects like the Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project, which will be the largest tidal marsh restoration project ever completed in Washington State.

Estuary restoration can also be a key component for absorbing carbon emissions and increasing resiliency to the effects of climate change. A recent study of the Snohomish Estuary, in my district, found that currently planned and in-construction restoration projects will result in at least 2.55 million tons of CO₂ sequestered from the atmosphere over the next 100 years. That is the equivalent of a year's worth of emissions from a half a million automobiles. This bill is important. It is important for all of us.

I want to thank my colleague again, Mr. LOBIONDO, for his hard work on this legislation. I look forward to continuing our productive bipartisan relationship on this and on many other issues. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5266.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time, but I do not have any more speakers.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thought I had one more speaker, but he is not here, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LARSEN, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. GIBBS. I

urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5266, the reauthorization of the National Estuary Program (NEP).

The 33rd Congressional District, which I represent, includes the Santa Monica Bay, an estuary that includes some of the most iconic coastline in the nation. In 1988, the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act. Estuaries, protected and restored by funding from the National Estuary Program, are some of the most productive habitats on earth. Unfortunately, due to population growth across the coastline, these estuaries are increasingly under threat from pollution and environmental degradation.

Luckily, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is working to protect its vital resources. Through an action plan called the Bay Restoration Plan, the Commission and its partners are working to improve the environmental health of the Santa Monica Bay and its surroundings by improving water quality, restoring damaged habitats and conserving natural and marine resources.

The reauthorization of the National Estuaries Program under H.R. 5266 is essential to helping safeguard the ecological and economic viability of our nation's estuaries. This legislation will direct more money to our nation's estuaries while reducing overall authorization levels by reducing administrative costs at EPA and designating money to National Estuary Programs.

Since 1987, the establishment of the National Estuaries Program has allowed us to identify and help preserve 28 different watersheds. These watersheds are essential to the future of our nation's coastlines. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5266 to protect our coastal ecology for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5266, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN FEDERAL COURTHOUSE CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1934) to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1934

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) **COUNTY.**—The term “County” means Teton County, Wyoming.

(3) **COURTHOUSE.**—The term “Courthouse” means—

(A) the parcel of land located at 145 East Simpson Street, Jackson, Wyoming; and

(B) the building located on the land described in subparagraph (A), which is known as the “Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse”.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL COURTHOUSE TO TETON COUNTY, WYOMING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall offer to convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Courthouse.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—In exchange for the conveyance of the Courthouse to the County under this Act, the Administrator shall require the County to pay to the Administrator—

(1) nominal consideration for the parcel of land described in section 2(3)(A); and

(2) subject to subsection (c), consideration in an amount equal to the fair market value of the building described in section 2(3)(B), as determined based on an appraisal of the building that is acceptable to the Administrator.

(c) **CREDITS.**—In lieu of all or a portion of the amount of consideration for the building described in section 2(3)(B), the Administrator may accept as consideration for the conveyance of the building under subsection (b)(2) any credits or waivers against lease payments, amounts expended by the County under facility maintenance agreements, or other charges for the continued occupancy or use by the Federal Government of the building.

(d) **RESTRICTIONS ON USE.**—The deed for the conveyance of the Courthouse to the County under this Act shall include a covenant that provides that the Courthouse will be used for public use purposes.

(e) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—The County shall be responsible for paying—

(1) the costs of an appraisal conducted under subsection (b)(2); and

(2) any other costs relating to the conveyance of the Courthouse under this Act.

(f) **PROCEEDS.**—

(1) **DEPOSIT.**—Any net proceeds received by the Administrator as a result of the conveyance under this Act, as applicable, shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) **EXPENDITURE.**—Amounts paid into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with existing authorities granted to the Administrator.

(g) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Administrator may establish such additional terms and conditions with respect to the conveyance under this Act as the Administrator considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the

gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1934.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1934 would direct the GSA to convey property in Wyoming to Teton County, Wyoming, for fair market value.

The land was originally donated to the Federal Government by the county for the purposes of a courthouse. However, since built, the courthouse has rarely been used by the Federal judiciary, and no other Federal use has been identified for this building.

The bill would sell the building to the county for fair market value for the purposes of a county courthouse and county courthouse functions. Selling this property for fair market value will ensure that the taxpayers receive the best return on the property, and it will provide for the continued public use of the facility.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1934, introduced by Senator JOHN BARRASSO.

It directs the Administrator of the General Services Administration to transfer the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse and the land underneath to Teton County, Wyoming.

The GSA has indicated to the committee that the agency has no need for the facility. This directed sale supports the GSA's efforts to downsize and dispose of underutilized properties. However, this bill breaks with precedent. Although the local municipality is required to pay for the fair market value of the building, the bill directs the land underneath the building to be sold for a nominal value. Typically, the building and the land underneath would all be valued at a fair market value when being sold.

The committee has consistently upheld the bipartisan principle that taxpayers are entitled to the full value of their assets in any sale. Nevertheless, the committee is supporting this unusual transaction because the underlying land was originally donated to the GSA by the local municipality, which is why I am supporting selling the land back to them for a nominal value.

The bill provides taxpayers with further protections, Mr. Speaker. The legislation requires that the future use of

this property be restricted to public purposes. I urge the GSA to interpret this language consistent with restrictions typically used by the GSA when considering land transfers for public purposes under title 40.

I continue to support efforts to shrink the Federal footprint where appropriate while protecting taxpayer interests, and I urge Members to approve this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support of this legislation.

I concur with him that, in terms of setting a precedent, that is not something that we want to do. This has a unique set of circumstances in which the county actually had conveyed the property to the Federal Government at no cost. Certainly, I would agree with my colleague opposite that we need to make sure that taxpayers get the best return and that this does not set a precedent.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of the American taxpayers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1934.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 898) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 898

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Albuquerque, New Mexico, Federal Land Conveyance Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the real property located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that, as determined by the Administrator, subject to survey, generally consists of lots 12 through 19, and for the westerly boundary, the portion of either lot 19 or 20 which is the outside west wall of

the basement level of the Old Post Office building, and which has a municipal address of 123 Fourth Street, SW, in Block 18, New Mexico Town Company's Original Townsite, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

(3) **FOUNDATION.**—The term "Foundation" means the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, TO THE AMY BIEHL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

(a) **CONVEYANCE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall offer to convey to the Foundation, by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a), the Administrator shall require the Foundation to pay to the Administrator consideration in an amount equal to the fair market value of the Federal land, as determined based on an appraisal that is acceptable to the Administrator.

(c) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—The Foundation shall be responsible for paying—

(1) the costs of an appraisal conducted under subsection (b); and

(2) any other costs relating to the conveyance of the Federal land under this Act.

(d) **PROCEEDS.**—

(1) **DEPOSIT.**—Net proceeds received under subsection (b) shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) **EXPENDITURE.**—Amounts paid into the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with existing authorities granted to the Administrator, except that the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate 30 days advance written notice of any expenditure of the proceeds.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Administrator may require that any conveyance under subsection (a) be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) **DEADLINE.**—The conveyance of the Federal land under this Act shall occur not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 898.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 898 would direct the GSA to convey property in New Mexico to the

Amy Biehl High School Foundation for fair market value.

The Amy Biehl High School is a public charter school that has been using the building since 2006. While the school currently leases the facility from the General Services Administration, the GSA only receives a nominal rent, making it more costly to the taxpayers to maintain the property. In fact, the Amy Biehl Foundation has invested funds to renovate and restore the building for use as a school. The GSA has determined that there is no Federal need for the property, and it has concluded that the cost of managing the building exceeds any revenue. Selling this property for fair market value will ensure that taxpayers receive the best return on the property.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 898.

S. 898 directs the Administrator of the GSA to transfer the old Federal post office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation in exchange for its fair market value.

The Amy Biehl High School is a public charter school that is sponsored by the foundation that was founded in 1999 and has been residing in the Old Post Office building since 2006. Currently, the public charter school has a long-term lease agreement with the GSA for a nominal rent. The GSA has indicated to the committee that the agency has no need for the facility and that this directed sale supports the GSA's efforts to downsize and dispose of underutilized properties.

□ 1645

My own subcommittee has approved a nearly identical bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the memory of Amy Biehl. Ms. Biehl was a 26-year-old Fulbright Scholar working in South Africa when she was tragically attacked and killed in 1993. In the aftermath, Amy's parents, Linda and Peter Biehl, started a foundation to build on their daughter's work toward peace, reconciliation, and multiculturalism in South Africa. The new school, which is located in New Mexico, builds on this great work.

Now, approving this bill to transfer the building at its fair market value will promote Amy's legacy and benefit the taxpayers. I will continue to support efforts by both the committee and the administration to reduce our Federal footprint.

I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to approve it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for his

support in a bipartisan manner and for reminding us all of the importance of this legacy, not only the vision of why this school was created but the importance of that mission. It is certainly a pleasure to work in a bipartisan way with the gentleman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from New Mexico, Madam LUJAN GRISHAM.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, both Representative CARSON from Indiana and my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), for their support on S. 898. As you have just heard, this is a companion bill to a nearly identical bill, my bill H.R. 3998, which passed this body on June 17.

Now, we have also heard that this bill is to sell a Federal building at fair market value which costs more in its current lease arrangement than it does in this transaction and arrangement. You have also heard that this is an incredible school, memorializing an incredible legacy.

But what you haven't heard today is that the foundation has raised more than \$3 million to continue to invest not only in the purchase of the building but to expand their educational footprint in New Mexico.

In my district in Albuquerque, we have difficulties reaching out to a high-poverty, high at-risk high school group. This school has incredible outcomes. They are seeing a 100 percent graduation rate, 80 percent graduation rates out of college; and of that 80 percent, nearly all of those students continue a very aggressive community relationship. Part of this school's requirement is that not only do you meet your basic high school curriculum but you have to invest considerably in community work in a variety of non-profit and charitable work.

I want to also give a special thanks and extend my gratitude to Senator TOM UDALL for working with me on this bill and to Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for their help in bringing the legislation to the floor.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill that helps the Amy Biehl High School to continue to provide Albuquerque students with a first-rate education while also preserving a historic piece of downtown Albuquerque.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my good friend from Florida, Representative MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill before us and appreciate the hard work of my colleagues to bring it to the floor.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

Benishek	Campbell
Braley (IA)	Cassidy

Costa	Kind	Richmond
Duckworth	Labrador	Rohrabacher
Enyart	Lee (CA)	Rush
Garcia	Lummis	Sanchez, Loretta
Gerlach	Maloney,	Shuster
Gowdy	Carolyn	Sires
Graves (MO)	Marchant	Smith (NJ)
Green, Al	McAllister	Smith (WA)
Grijalva	McNerney	Speier
Hall	Miller, Gary	Swalwell (CA)
Hinojosa	Moran	Thompson (CA)
Honda	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Huffman	Pastor (AZ)	Tipton
Jackson Lee	Pingree (ME)	Wolfe
Johnson, Sam	Ribble	

□ 1854

Mr. TERRY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following vote: Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from the Honorable Kimberly M. Guadagno, New Jersey Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 4, 2014, the Honorable Donald W. Norcross was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District, State of New Jersey.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Trenton, NJ, November 6, 2014.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, for Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of New Jersey, show that Donald W. Norcross received 85,923 of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Donald W. Norcross was elected as Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of New Jersey.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified, to this office by the Burlington, Camden and

Gloucester County Clerks involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY M. GUADAGNO,
Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Ms. Kim Strach, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 4, 2014, the Honorable Alma Adams was elected Representative to Congress for the Twelfth Congressional District, State of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
Raleigh, NC, November 5, 2014.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, for Representative in Congress from the Twelfth Congressional District of North Carolina show, that Alma Adams received 126,766 votes or 75.41% of the total number of votes cast for that office. Provisional ballots have not been counted.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Alma Adams was elected as Representative in Congress from the Twelfth Congressional District of North Carolina.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KIM STRACH,
Executive Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. Edgardo Cortés, Commissioner, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Elections, indicating that, according

to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 4, 2014, the Honorable Dave A. Brat was elected Representative to Congress for the Seventh Congressional District, Commonwealth of Virginia.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS,
Richmond, VA, November 5, 2014.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, for Representative in Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia, show that Dave A. Brat received 148,710 or 61.8% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Dave A. Brat was elected as Representative in Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all ten of the Virginia jurisdictions involved in the Seventh Congressional District Special Election, an official Certification of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Best Regards,

EDGARDO CORTÉS,
Commissioner.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE DONALD W. NORCROSS, OF NEW JERSEY, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable DONALD W. NORCROSS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE ALMA S. ADAMS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from North Carolina, the Honorable ALMA S. ADAMS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

□ 1900

**SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
DAVE BRAT, OF VIRGINIA, AS A
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE**

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable DAVE BRAT, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect please present themselves in the well.

Mr. NORCROSS of New Jersey, Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina, and Mr. BRAT of Virginia appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now Members of the 113th Congress.

**WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
DONALD W. NORCROSS TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and welcome our new colleague to the New Jersey delegation, Congressman DONALD NORCROSS. Now, let me tell you that you will all learn to love DONALD NORCROSS the way I have.

He comes from a union background, and he is a fighter. He always fights for the little guy. He also is bipartisan. He wants to work with the Republican side to get legislation passed, as he did in the State senate, and he has the reputation in the State senate, where we chaired one of the committees, of actually passing legislation.

I just want you to get to know him well. As I said, you will learn to love him. He will be a great Congressman, and you will learn over the next few years how effective he can be.

Congratulations again, DONALD.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO).

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I join in with congratulations to DONALD

NORCROSS. I have known DONALD for a number of years as a State legislator, and before that, we worked together at a local level.

DONALD will always put his constituents first. He will always put his district first. He will be a great asset to this Congress, and I look forward to working with you, DONALD. Congratulations.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, Leader PELOSI, Congressman PALLONE, and certainly Congressman LOBIONDO and my colleagues from New Jersey. The young man who is standing next to me is my grandson, Donald III, who did an excellent job; and a special person in my life who allows me and keeps my life in order, my lovely wife, Andrea.

She is up there with my daughter, Corey; my son, Gregory; my son, Donald, Jr.; his wife, Jeanette; and my granddaughter, Natalie. It is great to have you here. And the one person who is truly the leader of my house is my mother, Carol. Hey, Ma.

And many friends, family, and supporters from New Jersey, including my three brothers, George, John, and Phil; and my extended brother, Robert—it is good to have you here.

To my extended family in labor who I have worked closely with over the past 25 years and certainly the supporters and volunteers who have worked with us over the past 10 months, many thanks.

Life always brings us so many twists and turns. You never know where you are going to be. I grew up in the profession as an electrician, and look where we are now, a Member of the House.

This is truly the American Dream, and I am proud to be a part of it, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on behalf of this great Nation and the people who live in it. Thank you very much.

**WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
ALMA S. ADAMS TO THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, Representative ADAMS has served our area in the North Carolina General Assembly in excess of two decades. In Raleigh, she is known as the "legislative lady with the hat."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to you and to my colleagues the legislative lady with the hat, ALMA ADAMS from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of our delegation, HOWARD COBLE, for yielding, and I want to add to his words of introduction for our new colleague, ALMA ADAMS.

She was elected this past election to fill the unexpired term of our colleague Mel Watt, who has taken the leadership of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. She represents the 12th Congressional District of North Carolina.

ALMA ADAMS was born in High Point, North Carolina. She attended college at North Carolina A&T University. She got her Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and she became a teacher. She had a 40-year career as a professor at Bennett College in North Carolina.

ALMA ADAMS' career in politics began on the Greensboro school board. She served on the city council. She was appointed to the general assembly in 1994 by Governor Jim Hunt and then was elected in her own right for successive terms. She has had a distinguished term of service in our general assembly.

She is known for her unceasing desire to improve the lives of women and children and families. Her issues include domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, affordable health care, and public education. She chaired the Legislative Black Caucus. She also chaired the bipartisan Women's Legislative Caucus.

So ALMA ADAMS, my colleagues, comes to us very, very well-equipped to be a productive and constructive and cooperative Member of this body, and it is my honor and pleasure to introduce you to her tonight, ALMA ADAMS.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman COBLE, Congressman PRICE. As we all know, the journey to Congress is not made alone, and I could not have made it here without my faith, my family, and my friends.

So I want to take a moment to give special thanks to my mother who could not be here today; to my children, Billy, Jeanele; and my son-in-law, Ty; to my four grandchildren, one who is on the floor with me tonight; to my siblings; and to everyone who made the trip to share in this momentous occasion with me.

I stand here on the shoulders of the fearless women who shattered the glass ceiling by coming to Congress and representing our country with pride, tenacity, and integrity. It is with great honor that I stand before you tonight as the 100th woman in the 113th Congress. The women who have served before me have proven that when women succeed, we all succeed.

As I traveled across the 12th Congressional District, I heard the calls for us to work together, to create jobs, invest in education, and to be a voice for the working men and women struggling to make ends meet.

I am answering their calls by pledging to work with the Members of the North Carolina delegation and each and every Member of this Chamber. To the people of the 12th Congressional District, 10 months of no representation stops now. I am here, and I am rolling up my sleeves, and I am getting to work.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE DAVE BRAT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the newest Member of the House of Representatives from Virginia, Dr. DAVE BRAT of Glen Allen, Virginia, to this Chamber.

DAVE is joining this body as a new Member representing the Seventh District of Virginia. Over the past year, he has talked with his friends and neighbors about the challenges facing our Nation and what Congress can do to help grow our economy and help the private sector create jobs.

DAVE is uniquely positioned to work on issues related to American jobs and the economy. With an undergraduate degree in business administration and a Ph.D. in economics, his background in economic policy will help this body deal with the most pressing issues of the day.

For the past 18 years, DAVE has been a faculty member at Randolph-Macon College where he served as the chair of the department of economics. DAVE is also a strong family man and, with his wife, Laura, has two children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome DAVE to the United States House of Representatives. Joining us today are our fellow Members of the Virginia delegation who welcome you and look forward to working with you.

I now yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his welcoming remarks.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Congressman DAVE BRAT to the people's House and to the Virginia delegation. Our congressional delegation has a long history of working together. Our former longtime dean, Senator John Warner, set the standard for working together in a constructive manner.

While we may not always agree on every issue, we will always try to work together for what is best for Virginia and our Nation. It is the Virginia way.

DAVE will be replacing Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, and at the end of this Congress, our delegation will also lose two of its more senior Members, FRANK WOLF and JIM MORAN.

With their departure, our delegation's clout may wane a bit, but I know it will be reinvigorated by new Members like Congressman BRAT, committed to working together for our Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, Dave comes to Congress after a career as an economics professor at Randolph-Macon College. He has been appointed to State boards and commissions by several Virginia Governors, including the Joint Advisory Board of Economists. I know he will put these experiences to good use.

I welcome DAVE and his family to Congress, and I look forward to working with him on issues critical to the Richmond region and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

□ 1915

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, thank you to my new colleagues and thank you to the people of Virginia's Seventh District who have entrusted me with the honor of serving as their Representative, and many of them are with us tonight in the gallery. Thank you for coming.

We are proud that the Seventh District is the home of the father of the Constitution, James Madison, and the voice of the Revolution, Patrick Henry.

It has been a long road, and very few gave me a chance when the journey began. I want to thank my wife, Laura, and my children, Jonathan and Sophia, for believing in me. And I want to thank God, as this would not have been possible without His assistance along the way.

Throughout my campaign, as President Reagan said, I tried to appeal to people's best hopes and not their worst fears. I strived to elevate the dialogue and focus us on solutions, especially on the economic issues facing our country.

That is how I will approach the weighty responsibility with which I have been entrusted.

Thank you all, God bless you all, and may God continue to bless this great Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, the gentleman from New Jersey, and the gentleman from Virginia, the whole number of the House is now 435.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5682, APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-617) on the resolution (H. Res. 748) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NDAA/MEPS ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today Congress returns to session with little time to complete business on a range of important mat-

ters, which is why I am calling on the Senate to take swift action on the National Defense Authorization Act.

The NDAA, which passed the House in May, authorizes policy for the Pentagon, and this year included reforms to ensure our troops are more adequately trained and equipped, both mentally and physically.

A recent Army study found that nearly half the soldiers who reported suicide attempts indicated their first attempt was prior to enlistment. And I am proud to say the House version of the NDAA includes provisions identical to the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, or MEPS Act, that I introduced earlier in the year. That will help address this challenge.

The MEPS Act enables the Pentagon to establish a baseline to properly track changes in the servicemembers' behavioral health by instituting a requirement that all incoming troops undergo a mental health assessment upon enlistment.

It is time for the Senate to act on this bipartisan legislation that has the support of over 40 veterans' and military advocacy groups.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO FOUNDERS DAY

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, which today proudly celebrates 92 years of service.

Established in 1922 at Butler University, Sigma Gamma Rho engrained in me and countless women the value of public service. Sisters include former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, the first woman to represent Louisiana; my colleague, the Honorable Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida; Hattie McDaniel, the first African American woman to receive an Academy Award; and our Grand Basileus, Bonitta Her-ring.

Sigma Gamma Rho played an integral role in the civil rights movement, as members fought to overturn Jim Crow laws and advance women's equality.

Today Sigma Gamma Rho continues their service in promoting education and awareness in communities on issues like health equality and financial literacy.

For 92 years, Sigma Gamma Rho has been on the front lines of making our Nation better through scholarship, sisterhood, and service. I am honored to be a part of this legacy and wish many more years of success to my sisters in Sigma Gamma Rho.

STUNNING CONTEMPT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, everyone remembers the promise the President made while promoting his health care law: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it." He broke his promise.

We just learned that one of the law's chief architects, Professor Jon Gruber, has come clean and admitted the deceit used to get the law passed. But Professor Gruber also revealed a stunning contempt for the American people. He called us stupid.

This reminds me of when Lucy was trying to get Charlie Brown to kick the football. Charlie says to Lucy, "I don't mind your dishonesty half as much as I mind your opinion of me."

In this case, Mr. Speaker, the American people mind both the administration's dishonesty and its opinion of them.

The professor now regrets his comments. But does he regret that my constituents, Don and Karen of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and millions of other Americans have lost their health care plan because of ObamaCare? Does he regret that steelworkers in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and countless others are seeing their health insurance premiums skyrocket?

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, does the President regret it?

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and selfless sacrifice of our Nation's veterans.

Each year, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to pay tribute to our veterans, the men and women who served this country with honor and distinction.

To the almost 22 million veterans in the United States and the 43,000 veterans who live in my congressional district, I am here to say thank you for your service and sacrifice. You answered the call of service and never wavered.

Whether at home or abroad, whether at war or at times of peace, you kept our Nation safe and protected our freedoms. In gratitude and humility, it is now our turn to serve you, providing the benefits and the resources you deserve and earned.

RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, NATO's Commander Breedlove said in Bulgaria, "We have seen columns of Russian equipment, primarily Russian

tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defense systems, and Russian combat troops entering into Ukraine." In response, Ukraine has redeployed troops to the east to counter the insurgency. But these soldiers are severely undersupplied.

Ukraine had an election just a couple of weeks ago, the most transparent, the most free, and the most pro-Western election in history. But pro-Russian parliamentarians received less than 10 percent of the vote.

Today, once again, Ukraine faces war, as the ceasefire there collapsed as Russia attempts to reassert its influence by sinister and illegal means.

Ukraine's young soldiers don't have proper boots or weapons or defensive equipment. How many times must Ukraine be invaded before we call it an invasion?

I call upon the House to pass H.R. 5190, the bill I introduced with my fellow Ukrainian Caucus cochair, JIM GERLACH of Pennsylvania, to provide meaningful humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine. The Senate has passed S. 2828 that does much the same.

Let us stop the advance of this tyranny in the new century. Liberty is calling. Let us measure up in this lameduck session.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to pay tribute to the dean of the North Carolina delegation and our beloved colleague of many years, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD COBLE has been a dedicated public servant to the people of North Carolina and a champion for honest, effective government. For three decades, he has taken great care to represent the values and concerns of Sixth District residents.

□ 1930

It is a profound honor to call HOWARD a dear friend, and it saddens me to think about coming here in the next Congress without his wisdom or signature wit.

Wearing his trademark plaid jackets, HOWARD has been a champion for his

constituents, whether in Washington or back in North Carolina. He never backed down from a challenge to do what was right for North Carolina and always pushed Washington to work better for those he represented.

Always ready with a cheerful greeting and a welcoming smile for whoever crossed his path, it is clear HOWARD cares about the little details that mean so much to average North Carolinians. Those who met him know of his characteristic penchant for inquiring about their alma mater and then rattling off the corresponding mascot.

Perhaps the most fitting summary of HOWARD's personality is that he is the essence of what it means to be a southern gentleman: someone who simply exudes kindness, charm, and compassion. And let's not forget that he was named the sexiest bachelor in Congress by BuzzFeed earlier this year.

HOWARD is also known for his deadpan humor, and loves a good joke, even if it is at his own expense. However, that wit can sometimes be a two-edged sword. In 2008, his sense of humor almost killed someone. At the North Carolina GOP Convention he cracked a joke to ROBERT PITTENGER, who now represents North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District. ROBERT nearly expired after choking on his meal in mid-chuckle. Reliable sources have hinted that the joke might have been a variation of HOWARD's "feisty mountain woman" one-liner that he routinely uses to describe me. Fortunately, former Presidential candidate Governor Mike Huckabee was there to rescue ROBERT from HOWARD's humor with a well-placed Heimlich maneuver.

All kidding aside, HOWARD is a man of integrity and principle, a Representative who has stood for what is right and who has fought on behalf of what makes America a great Nation.

Today, I salute HOWARD COBLE, my friend, for his many years of service. We will miss him greatly.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our colleague, Mr. PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and for scheduling this Special Order here on our first night back in town for the very important purpose of paying tribute to our dear friend and colleague, HOWARD COBLE. I am very happy to join in this, as many other colleagues will be tonight as well.

I have served with HOWARD since I first arrived here in 1987. He had beaten me by 2 years. He was first elected in 1984 to represent North Carolina's Sixth District.

I think when you hear the tributes tonight from both sides of the aisle you are going to, quite accurately, conclude that HOWARD COBLE is one of the best-liked Members of this body, and that affection extends across the entire political spectrum.

HOWARD is always ready with a kind word for everyone, from fellow Representatives to Capitol Police and constituents. It is difficult to walk anywhere with HOWARD in Washington, D.C., or in North Carolina without being stopped several times because he has so many friends who just want to catch up with him.

I have always especially enjoyed introducing my staff to HOWARD. His first question usually is: "What high school did you go to?" And then the second question is something like: "What's it like working for this scallywag?"

We've sometimes disagreed, of course, on politics and policy, but we have had many, many occasions for fruitful collaboration and cooperation on issues important to North Carolina. We have worked for years, for example, on promoting textile research. We have certainly worked on disaster relief after several major hurricanes. Over the years, I have come to appreciate HOWARD as a smart and able legislator, and, more than that, I have come to value him as a person and to value his friendship.

My district staff would want me to add how much we all admire HOWARD's constituent service. When it comes to working with our constituents in dealing with Federal agencies, party lines don't matter. Often, the district lines are a little indistinct and we have to figure out whose district someone is in or get a case referred back and forth. HOWARD's staff is invariably cooperative and competent. It is not an accident that he has a superb reputation in North Carolina for the best constituent service around.

HOWARD has been a dedicated Member in this body in Washington as well. He has been an effective legislator, especially distinguishing himself in his leadership positions on the Judiciary Committee. He has done all this with a certain grace and style. He reminds us of a time when our politics were less hard-edged.

So as he retires at the close of the current Congress, we wish him all the best. He leaves this body with immense affection and respect. Our State and the House of Representatives have greatly benefited from the service of HOWARD COBLE.

Godspeed, my friend.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our colleague, Mr. JONES.

Mr. JONES. I thank Ms. FOXX for putting this together. Tonight is a sad night, but a very special night, I think, for those of us who have had the privilege to know HOWARD COBLE as long as I have. We go back to 1983, when I was a freshman Democrat in the North Carolina House of Representatives and he was a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives as a Republican. Why we met, I don't know, but eventually we became pretty good friends at that point. He then left the

North Carolina House and came to Washington, D.C., and my father, Congressman Walter Jones, Sr., was chairman of the Merchant Marine Committee. Mr. COBLE, who came from North Carolina, was on that committee because he is a former member of the Coast Guard. He was a natural because of the work they did on that committee. My father became a friend of HOWARD COBLE's. Then I came to Washington, Mr. Speaker, as a Republican, and we have been friends for many years.

This man, to me, is very special as a human being. I heard Mr. PRICE say the "dean," but I call him the "leadah", l-e-a-d-a-h. Mr. COBLE likes to tell people that is because those of us from eastern North Carolina don't know the word "leader" ends in e-r instead of a-h. I did that because at the time we became the majority in 1995, it was a change in the House, for sure, and there was a Democrat for a number of years, and Mr. COBLE, being the kind of man he was, said, "No, I don't want to be called the dean. As long as he's here in Congress, I want him to remain the dean." I think that says a heck of a lot about who this person is. So, Mr. Speaker, I decided that he should be known as the "leadah," and therefore many people in the House of Representatives from both parties call him the "leadah"—some with a northern accent, some with a west coast accent, but it still sounds the same.

For me, personally, this night is sad because I have spent many nights in the last few years where Mr. COBLE and I have had dinner together at the Capitol Hill Club reminiscing about yesterday but also thinking about today. For me, this is a personal relationship that is like family, quite frankly. For me to know that I have been reelected for another term and to know that Mr. COBLE will go back home and enjoy the love and affection of the people of Greensboro, it still is sad for me personally. I do think that he has given so much not only to the State of North Carolina, but to our Nation. He has been a very effective leader of the House. He has been a great legislator. He has been able to get things done in the Judiciary Committee and other committees. He will always be remembered in my heart as a member of my family.

To you, HOWARD COBLE, I love you as a brother in Christ. You are a special man who has given so much to not only North Carolina, but to America. You will always remain a member of my family. God bless you, sir.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our esteemed colleague from eastern North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

Mr. MCINTYRE. Thank you, HOWARD, for your spirit, service, and standard of statesmanship.

HOWARD and I have had a spirit of friendship that has been something we have always enjoyed together here on

the floor. He has often asked me about what the latest score was or when the next game is that our beloved Tar Heels were playing in any sport—not just football and basketball but baseball and many other sports the team engages in.

But our spirit has gone even beyond that great school spirit and congressional spirit that we share to the spirit we have shared in our Lord and how God has touched our lives, and the fellowship together that we have had right across the hall in the Congressional Prayer Caucus and even on the steps of the Capitol here one evening several years ago. I am sure you remember that we shared that together, HOWARD.

Second is his service. In addition to his spirit of friendship and friendliness to so many people and the spirit that we have shared in our Lord is his longevity of service that he has given. But it hasn't just been mundane or in-and-out service. It has been a service done with life, laughter, and with latitude. He has life in what he does. He always shares a smile and makes you laugh and not take things so seriously that you can't enjoy what you are doing. We all should be able to enjoy this great opportunity of service.

He also takes the latitude to spend time with you and the latitude to literally work across the aisle, as symbolized by the comments you have already heard tonight and the friendships that he has across the aisle.

Third, with that spirit and service is also his standard of statesmanship.

HOWARD, I think about when we flew together with the Commandant of the Coast Guard. You being a Coastie yourself, we often talked about the importance of the Coast Guard and how we know it serves us well in North Carolina and nationwide. We flew down with the Commandant on his plane, and HOWARD came down to my district to honor Wilmington as the Nation's first Coast Guard city on the east coast. We shared that time together.

He was that kind of person that would travel and spend time with you. And whether it was on the coast in Wilmington or whether it was on the pitching mound together, as he and I and Representatives FOXX and PRICE shared at our alma mater, UNC Chapel Hill, just this past spring, he knew always how to show that friendship and to show that standard of statesmanship in every situation.

Thank you, HOWARD, for always bringing people together. With your disarming smile and your friendship you have shown what exemplary statesmanship is all about. You have shown that spirit of fellowship and friendship. You have given that longevity of service. Most of all, you have shown that standard of statesmanship to which we all should ascribe.

God bless you, my friend, my Christian brother, and my fellow Tar Heel. Thank you so much.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Congresswoman from North Carolina, Congresswoman ELLMERS.

Mrs. ELLMERS. I am honored to stand before you to speak on behalf of my dear friend, the dean of our delegation, HOWARD COBLE. He has been a source of wisdom, an esteemed colleague, and a loyal friend to all since taking office in 1985.

One of the fondest memories that I have of HOWARD was when I had the privilege of watching him accept the Bertholf Award. This prestigious honor was awarded to HOWARD for his unwavering support of the brave men and women serving in the United States Coast Guard. When I arrived at the ceremony, I wasn't surprised to find the committee room packed from wall to wall. Seating was scarce, and there was hardly any standing room left for supporters. Everyone was there to show support and appreciation for our good friend HOWARD, just as he has been there to show support and appreciation over the years to all of us.

While speaking at the ceremony, Admiral Papp shared some words of advice that HOWARD once gave him:

Always take care of your shipmates.

□ 1945

HOWARD, you have truly embodied this piece of advice through your service in Congress, especially when taking care of your constituents.

You have always taken care of each of us, your shipmates, through both your dedicated service and loyal friendship.

On a personal note, I have had the incredible honor of following HOWARD in representing Moore and Randolph Counties in District Two, and I must say, you are truly loved and respected, and I have very big shoes to continue to fill.

Your retirement marks the end of an era here in Congress, but launches the beginning of another incredible journey for you. I wish you a long and relaxing retirement, and I will be forever grateful for your friendship and guidance through the years.

Thank you.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our colleague from North Carolina, RICHARD HUDSON.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, you may notice my sharp jacket tonight. It is a madras jacket worn in honor of my dear friend and colleague, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD was not always known for just his colorful jackets. Back when he first came to town, HOWARD COBLE was known for his many colorful suspenders. In fact, I don't know how many he had, but it was well-known that he would always have those bright, colorful suspenders on.

Next he became known for wearing distinctive hats. In fact, in the nineties, Tim Russert used to refer to HOWARD COBLE as "the man with the hat."

Then it was Tim Russert's son, Luke, who first noticed the madras jackets a few years ago, and he actually put on his Twitter account that the jacket HOWARD COBLE is wearing tonight looked like "an exploding turtle."

So the Russert family has long acknowledged HOWARD's unique sense of style, as have many of his constituents and his friends here in Congress.

HOWARD COBLE has been known for his sense of humor. He once remarked that if he put on a brandnew suit, it would immediately look rumpled like an unmade bed.

HOWARD has always had a self-deprecating humor and a personality that draws people to him. Everyone loves him. I learned that as a candidate for Congress, Mr. Speaker, because I inherited three counties from HOWARD COBLE's former district, so when I would go ask people for votes, I had to immediately tell them I wasn't running against HOWARD COBLE because, otherwise, they didn't want to talk to me.

HOWARD COBLE is legendary in his constituent services. He has always taken care of his constituents. They know they have a friend in their Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

He set a standard, Mr. Speaker, to which we can all aspire to in terms of the integrity with which he has conducted himself, the love for people that everyone knows and can sense and is drawn to, and the constituent service.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to get to know HOWARD COBLE. It has been an honor to serve with him, and I call him friend. I will miss seeing him in Congress every day, but I know that he will not be a stranger.

I just say, God bless you, HOWARD COBLE, and Godspeed.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our distinguished colleague from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER).

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, much has been said and written about the ratings of the United States Congress and the approval of what the American people think of us. It is somewhere right around 10 percent.

Let me tell you those ratings don't take into consideration HOWARD COBLE. My esteemed friend in this Congress is regarded by his own constituents as a family member.

HOWARD COBLE chose not to be married, but what became his family were his constituents. What became his friends were his colleagues in Congress. Both sides of the aisle love HOWARD.

I am one, Congressman COBLE, who loved seeing you out there on that back row every time I walked in, with a big smile and a good story, and everybody would come by and say hello to HOWARD during the course of the ses-

sion, just to see you, because you are special to all of us.

Yes, my good friend, Congresswoman FOXX, did tell a story about how my life was spared as I was chewing some chicken, and I realized I couldn't chew and laugh at the same time as I tried to swallow that chicken, and then here came Mr. Huckabee to give me the Heimlich and save my life.

Well, you know, I was in a primary a year after that. It was 11 people in the primary, and the one good thing about that is I got a sympathy vote from Mike Huckabee, and he endorsed me, so that was a good thing.

HOWARD, thank you. Thank you for being committed in your job. On the Judiciary Committee, on the Transportation Committee, you were faithful in every respect, to do the right thing for North Carolina, for your district and, frankly, for the American people.

We are all in debt to you for your service to this great country. Our country is better off today because of the life of HOWARD COBLE.

Thank you. God bless you.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is just a real honor to be here tonight to tell my friend, HOWARD COBLE, how much he means to me and how much I am going to miss him here in the House of Representatives.

He has not only been an outstanding leader on the House Judiciary Committee—and by the way, I hope the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) will compile all those wonderful photographs and put them in some kind of a binder so that—a book maybe, so that all of us can see and enjoy all those historic caricatures that have been created in HOWARD's honor over these many years—but not only has he been a great member of the House Judiciary Committee, he has been a close personal friend of mine for more than 20 years.

In addition to serving with him on the committee, he is somebody who is always turning to others, taking an interest in them. He has an uncanny ability to remember the mascots for virtually any high school or college that someone attended and his ability to always ask others how they are feeling.

With respect to this last point, he has defused more than a few difficult conversations by asking people, "How is your back feeling?" Inevitably, especially if someone is older, they begin to talk about back problems and forget what they were so exercised about.

He is also a great tennis player. For nearly 20 years, I have had the honor of playing tennis with him very early on Wednesday mornings. HOWARD isn't known for moving around the court really fast, but the thing about him is

he always was there where you hit the ball, and he always put it back just exactly where he wanted it to go, an amazing accomplishment. So HOWARD, thank you very much for that.

I want to tell one story in conjunction with a field hearing that took place in Nashville—HOWARD is a great fan of bluegrass music and country music in general—a field hearing that took place in Nashville when the Fairness in Music Licensing bill was under consideration in the late 1990s, a meeting was arranged with Garth Brooks.

HOWARD, who was serving as the then-subcommittee chairman, was a lifelong fan of bluegrass and traditional country music. He didn't really know who Brooks was and was far more interested in arranging a meeting with Grandpa Jones from the Grand Ole Opry, but he knows who he is now. In fact, Garth is making a comeback; and, HOWARD, you will enjoy many, many more opportunities to enjoy the music that you love.

He would always ask me how things were in the Star City, which is my hometown of Roanoke, Virginia, and took an interest in me and what I was doing.

On the committee, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, where he serves now and has served on a number of occasions in the past, he stood very strong for the rights, the private property rights of people who are creators of music and motion pictures and great products that they seek patents on and so on.

His work will serve for a long time in the future to protect that great American incentive to create and create jobs. His work has created many jobs for many Americans.

He is a true son of the Sixth District of North Carolina. I am from the Sixth District of Virginia, but in his case, he is a lifelong son of the Sixth District, having been born in Greensboro, educated in the Sixth District, and been a county attorney and an assistant U.S. attorney. He has been a revenue officer with the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

What I didn't know was that his first 6 years in his professional life, he was a claims adjuster for the State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. So here, in the closing days of his service, I am still learning new things about my friend, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD, thank you very much for not only being my friend and a great colleague to all of us here in the House, but for being a great American. Thank you, and God bless you.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our colleague from North Carolina, PATRICK MCHENRY, the chief deputy whip.

Mr. MCHENRY. I thank the secretary of the Republican Conference, my colleague and classmate from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX.

Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in tribute with the fine threads of a man named HOWARD COBLE. Congressman, State representative, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Revenue, captain of the United States Coast Guard, school bus driver—that is where it all began, in high school. That was his first public service.

JOHN HOWARD COBLE has held a variety of titles during his time and during his years, but to me, he has always been known as the dean, the dean of the North Carolina delegation, which he has been, for the last 15 years, the longest-serving Republican Member of this body in the history of the State of North Carolina, and my friend.

I am here to pay tribute and to thank him for his time in public service. He is what a Member of Congress should be, and that is concerned for his constituents and being their voice here in Washington and having an impact.

You certainly, my dean, have had a huge impact on my life, those that are paying tribute to say thank you tonight, but also your constituents and the American people, and we thank you.

Now, there are a number of stories about the dean, a number of them I would like to tell over the years, and most of them are, in fact, true.

This one story I want to tell tonight—actually, two, if I may. It goes back to the first time HOWARD ran for Congress in 1984. The campaign committee for the Republicans brought up folks in tough, challenging races to have some video and film shot with President Ronald Reagan. He helped with his popularity to help get some folks across the finish line in 1984.

HOWARD was so nervous that he forgot to shake the Gipper's hand, so one of the campaign committee staff, they were coming to COBLE's district, and HOWARD said, "Where were you?" And he said, "Well, I was just in Alabama with President Reagan."

"Oh, really?"

He says, "Yeah. I told him I was going to Greensboro, and President Reagan looked at me and said, 'Well, tell that son of a gun that didn't shake my hand I said hello.'"

So HOWARD got a little flustered and was a little embarrassed and everything else until everybody started laughing, but HOWARD has had a great sense of humor, and that shows the real testament to HOWARD's integrity.

The other thing about HOWARD is fiscal conservatism. It goes back to what he said in his first campaign, he is going to bring a sharp pencil to the Washington budget, and he, in fact, has.

In fact, it wasn't very well-appreciated during his early service in Congress. There was a Member of Congress who was furious, who said, "That sharp pencil might actually get your ticket written out of Congress." And HOWARD

told him that he thought, "Well, I believe there is life after Congress," and let the guy go on his way.

Well, that guy was not reelected, and HOWARD has been reelected 14 times during his time here, so true proof that fiscal conservatism can still win.

There are a number of other stories that we will talk about over perhaps a drink afterwards, but the one thing is everybody from his district knows and those of us from North Carolina know that he knows every high school mascot in the State of North Carolina.

Every child that I see that comes through Congress is simply amazed that their dean knows where they are from and knows their high school and their high school mascot.

□ 2000

It is because he cares. So we are grateful tonight, and we want to say "thank you" to our friend, our dean, our leader—JOHN HOWARD COBLE.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank the secretary of the Republican caucus for granting me the time tonight and to say that I rise as a Member from the loyal opposition, who has great affection, friendship, and admiration for my neighbor in the Rayburn Building.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that Congressman HOWARD COBLE represents the values of gentlemanly behavior, affability, cordiality, some might say—those of us from the North would call it—a bit of a courtly manner, which I always associated with the South. He is not just a man of character, but he is a character, and his personality and demeanor represent the type of collegiality that is so important to bring this institution together. I have no doubt he has well represented the constituents of his North Carolina district these many years—the Sixth District—and they probably share my great affection for this wonderful man.

Now, I say that knowing that we disagree, issue-wise, on almost everything; but I think HOWARD COBLE is the kind of person who represents what Congress should be—individuals who may disagree on issues but who become friends through their years of service. That is really remarkable because many people who go to work every day in this country go to work with people who think just like they do. They are in the same business or they teach a course in something or they are surrounded by those who agree, but what makes HOWARD COBLE special is he can be friends with people who disagree. Now, those who disagree with him even might come from his own party. One comes to mind in particular, someone he has kindly called the "lady of the harbor." I don't know if former Congresswoman Helen Bentley is listening tonight or not, but she has a few remembrances of HOWARD as well.

Though we might have disagreed, we became great friends, and it makes the service bearable. It makes it bearable. HOWARD is also my neighbor over in the Rayburn Building, and there isn't a time that we pass in the hall that he always doesn't say, "Hey, good morning." "Hey, good afternoon. How are you doing?" His compassionate nature and his Mr. Cordiality, really, are extraordinary qualities in an institution where people come with very, very strongly held views. So I want to pay tribute to HOWARD COBLE's service. I didn't know he was the longest-serving Republican in North Carolina history. He has served honorably, and he has helped this institution to hold together.

Thank you, HOWARD COBLE, for teaching all of us how to behave and how to be effective in our service. May God bless you in the days and years ahead. You know you always have family here. We appreciate your service, and we thank the people of North Carolina for sending you here these many years. Godspeed.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our distinguished colleague from Texas, Mr. LAMAR SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am absolutely privileged and honored to be here tonight to be able to talk about such a good friend, HOWARD COBLE.

If I were to describe HOWARD in two words—and this is an ultimate compliment in my book—it would be that he is a gentleman and a scholar, and there aren't too many people who actually succeed in achieving both those kinds of distinctions.

So, HOWARD, it is nice to be with you tonight. You are here in the front row of the House Chamber, and we celebrate your contributions to public service, and we honor you for being the great person that you are.

I have often said—and I have mentioned this to HOWARD COBLE in person—that if there were such a thing as a congressional class president, it would be HOWARD COBLE. Now, we don't have such a thing as a class president, but if we did, I think HOWARD would be nominated and voted upon and approved by acclamation. He is that popular here. He is that dearly loved and respected by all of us.

I have had the privilege of sitting next to him on the Judiciary Committee for many, many years, and during that time, I have watched HOWARD work; I have watched him speak; and I have watched him think. He has been the chairman of three subcommittees on the Judiciary Committee—first, Crime; second, Administrative Law; and, third, Intellectual Property—that being the most recent subcommittee that he has chaired. He also chaired another subcommittee, early on, on the Transportation Committee, which

means that he is probably one of those rare Members of Congress—perhaps even the only one—who has chaired four subcommittees in the House of Representatives.

Throughout all of that time and in all of my years of being with HOWARD, he has exhibited some wonderful attributes, and those qualities are graciousness, smarts, and politeness—again, a rare combination in any individual, but those are the qualities—those are the attributes—that we see in HOWARD on a daily basis.

HOWARD COBLE and I share something else in common, and that is that we often are half of a congressional doubles team that has been playing tennis for years and years and years.

HOWARD, I would like to say that we are the better half, and maybe that is true half the time—I am not sure—or something close to that. There have been a number of Members who have participated in these doubles matches, and two primary Members who are oftentimes on the other side of the net from HOWARD and me are BOB GOODLATTE and FRED UPTON. They have been joined on occasion by SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO and also by KEVIN YODER.

I have to say, HOWARD, I do believe that whoever plays with SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO probably wins more often than not, or maybe I should say that when Shelley was playing with, say, Bob or Fred that we had our hands full. That is not to say we were always on the losing side. We held our own. It has just been a real pleasure to enjoy those times together with you, and I will say, unequivocally, that I don't know of anybody else who is a better volleyer than you. If anyone got a tennis ball past you in the last 10 years, I did not see it, so we appreciate your tennis prowess as well.

Lastly, again, we are here tonight just to honor a great man—a gentleman and a scholar—both for his public service, for being an example to all of us in the House, and also, to so many of us, for being just an exceptionally good friend.

HOWARD, thank you for being with us for these wonderful years that you have been in Congress. You have done so much for your constituents and have done so much for us as well—your colleagues and friends in the House. It is a privilege to be here tonight.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the manager of this Special Order, and it gives me great privilege to be able to stand here today.

Mr. Speaker, as I look at Congressman COBLE, I think of the men and women who love this institution. I love it, and I have had the privilege of serving on the House Judiciary Committee, which I believe is the holder of the

Founding Fathers' dream of democracy for this country. As I have worked with Congressman COBLE, I have seen nothing but his love for the law, for the broad depth of the House Judiciary Committee and, might I say, the power.

Congressman, you have used that power with gentlemanly gentleness and forcefulness in representing your constituents and your philosophy.

We have had some tough battles on the House Judiciary Committee, but I have always seen and known HOWARD COBLE to be a gentleman.

I am reminded of how many days and moments and minutes and months that we have been here in this place, and, HOWARD, I believe that, every time we have seen each other, we have said "hello" with a smile. I thank you for that, and it represents your love of this country and your love of the system of justice and democracy and the respect for difference of opinion.

Let me also say that I have a great Texan as my daughter. She loves Texas, and she is now an elected official, but she went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke. She couldn't leave North Carolina. She knew the bipartisan manner of your work, and as they studied on those two campuses, they knew Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

So let me say to you, on behalf of those of us who have worked with you over the years—Democrats and Republicans—and in the time that I have had the privilege of serving in this House, what a mighty "thank you" we want to give you and to recognize the service you have given to the Nation, to your constituents and, certainly, the teaching that you have given to all of us. Well done, my good friend. We will miss you, and we wish for you a long life and an enjoyable time in continuing to serve in your own way the United States of America. Thank you so very much. We love you, HOWARD.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to our distinguished colleague from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING).

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak for a few minutes about some of the many remarkable qualities that my friend—the leader of the North Carolina delegation, Congressman HOWARD COBLE—has exemplified throughout his nearly 30 years of service to the Sixth District of North Carolina and its people.

To earn the continuous confidence of your constituents for three decades, Mr. Speaker, is a tremendous honor, and it is one that HOWARD COBLE has unfailingly performed with remarkable humility, never taking it for granted that he would be reelected.

To also earn the respect and devotion of your staff, Members of this House on both sides of the aisle—certainly as we have seen tonight—and of the many stakeholders whom he has worked with

on a daily basis throughout his career as a legislator is a testament to HOWARD's commitment to public service, and more importantly, Mr. Speaker, it is a testament to his personal character and charm.

Many of the laws HOWARD COBLE has authored have been in politically and technically complex areas—copyright, patent and trademark. These agreements can be very difficult to negotiate when it is vitally important to the public and the American economy that we get it right. HOWARD COBLE has gotten it right. He has protected the rights of individual authors and inventors just as the drafters of the Constitution intended them to be. HOWARD's skills and his unblemished reputation for fair dealing among all parties have been critical to the congressional efforts over the many years to forge consensus in these difficult areas.

HOWARD's commitment to public service, as we have heard tonight from the other speakers, began long before 1984 when he was elected to Congress. It is a commitment to public service that spans over 50 years. Throughout his life, he has performed these duties with a sense of grace, compassion, and respect—respect for people, respect for his colleagues, respect for the process, respect for the institutions of government—as have all been echoed here tonight.

I have talked to a number of Congressman COBLE's staff to hear reflections that they have had, and a number of them have recalled some poignant moments:

One recalled the valuable lessons that HOWARD has taught him. One of the longest-serving staff members told me how impressed he was to learn why HOWARD went back to his district regularly to meet with constituents—constituents who were unlikely to support him. He didn't only meet with his supporters but with the folks who didn't support him. HOWARD explained that the congressional seat he was in didn't belong to him but that it was their seat and that all of his constituents needed to know that they have a Congressman who cares about them, who thinks about them, and who represents them in Washington—even if they decide never to vote for him that he will represent them;

Another staff member echoed the sentiment, recalling how refreshing it was to work for a Member who was always able to stay true to his ideas, describing HOWARD as someone who appreciates real people;

Another staff member remarked that she was so impressed at how other Members responded to him. She recalled that at the beginning of a Judiciary Committee markup right before HOWARD's father passed away that Chairman Hyde started off with a moment of silence and that, after that moment of silence, the first two Mem-

bers to come up to HOWARD and express sorrow for his loss were Representative Watt and Representative Delahunt—two colleagues who crossed the aisle to console and share a moment with their friend who was mourning a loss.

□ 2015

Witnessing that moment made this young staffer proud to work for HOWARD. It taught her a lot about the importance of treating people in a humane fashion. And, indeed, HOWARD treats everyone humanely, whether it is in a meeting with constituents, a meeting with high-level officials, a meeting with celebrities, or meeting with staff members after a long day, having them come over to his office where they share a laugh for a few moments, calling staff members after a long markup and telling them that he really appreciated the work they did today.

In an interview, Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, HOWARD stated: "I've been richly blessed with good friends up here and also back home. And I will continue to embrace those friends, even though I'm leaving."

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is us who have been richly blessed by HOWARD. And we will continue to embrace our good friend HOWARD because he is a friend and a mentor to us all forever.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to give our colleague from North Carolina a moment to respond if he wishes to make any comments about the comments that we have made about him. I am not sure that I want to just yield him such time as he may consume, but my hope is that if he wishes to respond, he will take the opportunity to do so.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, my middle name is Brevity. If it can be said in 5 minutes, don't take 25 minutes to say it.

You all surely do know how to make an old man feel good, and I thank you for this. You have embellished many areas of my life which I have embraced as well.

But I must correct what PATRICK MCHENRY said. I do not know every mascot in North Carolina. I think Virginia has given me credit for that too.

Thanks to all of you who have taken part in this Special Order. You have made me feel very special, and for that, I thank you.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have come down tonight. I did not thank them on an individual basis because I wanted to save as much time as possible for people to make the comments that they have made.

I think the fact that we have had such a bipartisan presentation here tonight supports the comments that have been made tonight. The comments that have been made, notwithstanding what our colleague said, have been extremely eloquent, and I want to thank everybody for coming down.

I want you to know that we did our best to have this event earlier this year, but we could not get on Mr. COBLE's schedule because there were so many parties going on on his behalf that we had an awful time finding a night to do it.

I don't know anybody who has more people paying him tribute than our friend HOWARD Coble. We are going to miss him tremendously and his North Carolina values of hard work, common sense, and sacrifice on behalf of those he has served.

It has been a personal joy for me to work alongside HOWARD Coble in the Congress for the last 10 years, and it really is hard to imagine how we will go on without him.

His friendship and leadership on our State delegation will be dearly missed in the coming years. But his legacy of service and devotion to our home State and all North Carolinians will continue to be a standard for current and future leaders to follow. He will always be our dean. He will always be our "leadah."

And, Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to also express my love and appreciation for HOWARD COBLE. There is not a more honorable, noble, humble, able man in all of Congress, and it has been a great opportunity and a great blessing to me in my life to be a friend of HOWARD COBLE and to pray with him, to worship with him, to study with him, to discuss with him. And I will always be grateful to the most eligible bachelor in all of Congress. I don't know who will fill that role when HOWARD COBLE is gone.

But thank you. You will be missed.

Mr. COBLE. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I am going to depart. Thank you, LOUIE.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is amazing, a man who has given so much of his life, as HOWARD COBLE has, to this institution, to working to make the country better, safer, efforts to make it more free, to help free up the economy so that it can achieve the high plateaus that it could reach if the government would release the boot from off the neck of the economy.

Whether you agreed with HOWARD COBLE or not, his honesty stands in stark contrast to what we have learned about recently with respect to the man Jonathan Gruber, who was not elected but was selected by the United States President. President Obama had gotten him basically to be what they call the architect of the ObamaCare bill.

The name on the bill was the Affordable Care Act. Actually, the real name of the bill involved being a one-time tax deduction for first-time home buyers who were veterans and for other purposes. But the Senate took that bill, they stripped out every single word of the bill that would have helped veterans, and, instead, after deleting every word of the bill to help veterans, substituted therein about 2,500 pages of something that people now call ObamaCare.

And we find out, most of us having seen the video of the ObamaCare architect, Jonathan Gruber, saying:

This bill was written in a tortured way to make sure CBO did not score the mandate as taxes. If CBO scored the mandate as taxes, the bill dies. Okay, so it's written to do that. In terms of risk-rated subsidies, if you had a law which said that healthy people are going to pay in, you made explicit healthy people pay in and sick people get money, it would not have passed. Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. And basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically, that was really, really critical for the thing to pass. Look, I wish Mark was right, that we could make it all transparent, but I'd rather have this law than not.

Staggering. The man who designed ObamaCare admitting that if the American public, or even the Democrats in Congress, had known what was in ObamaCare, the Democrats alone would never have passed it.

It was not transparent, as the President had promised. It was a travesty forced upon the American people without a single Republican vote, not one single Republican vote.

And I still hear people say, Well, you know, nobody read it. I read it. And I knew how bad it was going to be. It should never have passed. And if the Obama administration and our Democrat friends have been honest, then it would not have passed.

I will now yield to a very dear friend from Texas, LAMAR SMITH. I think the world of his opinion.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. If the gentleman will yield briefly, I will just say that I purposely stayed on the House floor just because I respect and admire the gentleman and what he has to say. And I happen to have agreed with everything he mentioned tonight about ObamaCare.

And let me say also that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) oftentimes speaks on the House floor. And he is speaking to an audience that is listening to us on C-SPAN. And we do appreciate his speaking the truth. We appreciate his bringing out the facts, and we hope that those who are in a position to make changes or to even repeal ObamaCare will do so. And if that occurs, it will be in large part a tribute to LOUIE GOHMERT's persistence in pointing out the flaws in ObamaCare.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from San Antonio.

You know, it is ironic. There are so many people here. And a lot of new people have gotten elected. Three were sworn in here tonight. And the ones I have come to know, they appreciate honesty.

And I know I was in the national media not long ago with Dennis Kucinich, and people were surprised. Well, even though you and Dennis Kucinich disagreed, you seemed very friendly, like you were friends. Dennis Kucinich and I are friends. And the big reason is—even though I think he is wrong on a lot of issues—the man has never lied to me. He has always been honest.

Honesty in this body is such an important commodity. And certainly HOWARD COBLE is one of the most honorable, honest men that have ever served. And that stands just in such stark contrast with the statements that have been discovered by the ObamaCare architect, Jonathan Gruber.

There is another story from foxnews.com. And they found this. Of course he had been commenting, Oh, well, that was just off the cuff and, you know, just kind of kidding around.

And then another videotape was found of him talking:

Referring to the so-called "Cadillac tax" on high-end health plans, he said: "They proposed it, and that passed because the American people are too stupid to understand the difference."

The article says:

He suggested that taxing individuals would have been politically unpalatable, but taxing the companies worked because Americans didn't understand the difference.

Gruber said the "lack of transparency" in the way the law was crafted was critical. "Basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical for the thing to pass."

Then Gruber went on MSNBC to express regret:

On Tuesday, he said, "I was speaking off the cuff, and I basically spoke inappropriately, and I regret having made those comments."

Well, it is interesting. He never says that he regrets having those opinions.

After that video, a second video came to light, where the designer, the architect of ObamaCare, called the American people stupid, too stupid to realize how bad ObamaCare was. His apology is not that he is sorry that he thought the American people were stupid or that he didn't really think they were stupid or that he is sorry there wasn't more transparency or that he is sorry that the Democrats in Congress were the only ones that voted for the bill in the House or Senate or that the American people were snookered. He makes no apologies for deceiving the American people, deceiving the Democrats in the House and the Senate into voting for a bill through their dishonest

shenanigans. No regrets for that. He only regrets that he said these things so they were caught on video.

□ 2030

If the man were cut out of the same cloth as a HOWARD COBLE, a man of honest candor, then he would come before the American people, and he would say, yes, I was the architect of this bill, ObamaCare. It wasn't right to trick the American people and to trick the Democrats into voting for a bill they hadn't read when some of us knew how bad it was going to be. That was wrong, and I apologize for tricking the American people, for lying to the American people, and for not having transparency.

I think real nobility would require someone who helped with ObamaCare—even the President—to say, do you know what? Back in 2008, when I was Senator Obama, I was running for President, and I promised the American people, if you give me the Presidency, we will have a debate on C-SPAN. We will do it all transparently. We will have it out there for everyone to see and everyone to hear who is taking what sides, because that is the way the health care debate should be, completely transparent.

After he became President, he puts Jonathan Gruber in charge, and we get a bill that Gruber has admitted tricked the American people and was nontransparent.

I just want to mention back again what he brought up, the Cadillac tax, when he said that the American people are too stupid to understand the difference. Actually, that Cadillac tax, it is not really going to be a Cadillac tax, but in the original bill, they were clever enough to put that 40 percent tax into place after the 2016 election, so that Democrats can run for President in 2016 and say, no, no, it is all right, it is going to be okay, when they know good and well that under the massive 40 percent tax—as if the middle class and the poor haven't been slammed enough with this terrible economy, with the lower wages, and with the part-time work, if they are fortunate enough to find an employer who gets them any kind of decent health care plan, any amount the health care plan costs over \$10,200—even if they pay for it—it is going to be 40 percent tax on all above \$10,200 for an individual health insurance policy.

So if say, for example, the policy costs \$15,200, \$5,000 over the amount for an individual policy, then that poor, middle class, hardworking union member—because the union members will have policies that are worth more than \$10,200—so that poor union member that is just already soaked to the gills with taxes, charges, and fees will pay another 40 percent tax on the \$5,000 extra that is spent by his employer for that policy.

In other words, a guy that is just getting a barely decent health insurance policy is going to add another \$2,000 that that middle class individual is going to have to pay to have insurance that may give him a massive, several thousand, 5,000 deductible.

I have heard from so many people. Only a few that we have heard from are paying less. Most everybody my office has heard from is paying massive amounts more for their health insurance, and some report our deductible went from \$500 that we could barely afford to cover, that \$500 deductible went up to 5,000, and our premiums went up.

What is affordable about ObamaCare? We can't afford it. We can't afford to pay \$5,000 in health care before the insurance even kicks in, and then we still have a copay and all kinds of other requirements.

I heard one female couple that was in their sixties saying, gee, the last thing they ought to have to pay for is maternity care. Well, they are right, but under ObamaCare, it doesn't matter if you are 80 years old, you are still going to pay for maternity care if you buy insurance.

So the best we could do is return individual Americans control of their own health care back into their hands, and there are many of us, Republicans, that have had proposals for health care bills. I had a bill, and I could never get CBO to score it, and to just remind, Mr. Speaker, our Members that may be listening, it was CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, that does official scoring.

And they actually scored ObamaCare as costing over \$1 trillion—\$1.1 trillion, I believe—and the President was upset because he promised the American people it would actually be lower than \$1 trillion. So the head of the Congressional Budget Office, Mr. Doug Elmendorf, got called over to the Oval Office, and magically, after a meeting with the President, they came back and redid their numbers and said it was actually only \$800 billion. The President said, whoopee, see, I told you it was going to be less than 1 trillion.

Then after it passed, CBO came back and said, do you know what? Actually, it is going to be over 1 trillion, and then later came back and said, oh, it may be more like 1.7 or 1.8 trillion. And then we have other entities saying, no, it looks like it could be even \$4 trillion it is going to cost.

As I said before and will continue to say, if the scoring entity's margin of error is plus or minus 400 percent, it is time for a new scoring entity, and I think we could do that.

I talked with Arthur Laffer about it a number of times, Reagan's chief architect of his economic proposals, and unlike Mr. Gruber, Arthur Laffer is a very honorable, honest—great sense of humor—but a brilliant man.

Despite his Ivy League education and his background, he is a brilliant guy.

There are proposals that we have that would not even cost \$1 trillion that would return the control back to the patient.

But Mr. Gruber has finally been caught, he said it over a year ago, but he has finally been caught admitting that the only way they got ObamaCare passed was the American people were too stupid.

What he was talking about on the Cadillac tax is he was saying that if we let the American people know that they were ultimately going to pay that 40 percent tax on everything over \$10,200 for an individual policy, they would never have gone along with it.

But instead of saying that the individual is going to pay for it, we said, oh, the corporation is going to pay for it, and therefore, it won't cost the individual anything.

Well, that is about as dishonest and insane as people in the administration telling our senior citizens, oh, don't worry about the fact that ObamaCare cut Medicare by \$716 billion. Don't worry about that because that only goes to the doctors, the hospitals, and the people that provide the knees and the things like that, but it won't affect you at all.

Well, I think we saw, in this election, the seniors are a lot smarter than Mr. Gruber gave them credit for. Yes, many of them were fooled when they were lied to by the administration, but now, they figured out, wait a minute, you said that \$716 billion in cuts to Medicare that ObamaCare did wouldn't affect me, and now, I can't get my knee surgery, I can't get my back surgery, I can't get my pacemaker, I can't get the things I need.

Apparently, that was a lie as well. It did affect seniors. It is affecting seniors, and it will affect seniors until the day it is finally repealed.

I know there are people out there, Mr. Speaker, that have said, well, there were a couple things that were good. We ought to just leave the good things in it.

Generally, they point to two things, number one, a young person who is living at home and is under 26 years of age can share their family insurance with their parents, and that neglects to recognize the fact that when the Democrats controlled the House, they controlled the Senate, and they controlled the White House with President Obama, we offered repeatedly, look, guys, let us have a little say in this bill. In fact, why don't we just pass a freestanding bill?

And I know the Democrats said they wanted to cut off at 26 years of age, but there were a lot of us that said, look, if the economy is bad and a young person is living at home, they are 26, 27, I don't really care, if you are living at home with your parents and they have got health insurance, and you are willing to pay the little extra the insur-

ance company charges to add another family member, then let them be on their family's insurance.

We were okay with passing that. Republicans were. We welcomed that. We were never, ever given the chance. We were told, we have the votes to pass it, we don't need your help, we don't need your input.

As a former chief justice, judge, and civil trial attorney in prior lives, I have seen a lot of insurance litigation, and I have seen cases where insurance companies acted very unfairly in canceling people's policies when it was wrong and it was unfair because they said, oh, well, you had a preexisting condition they already knew about.

Republicans offered to work with our Democratic friends that were in the majority to fashion a bill that would deal with the issue of unfairness and, at times, even fraud by an insurance company, dealing with insureds unfairly and using the gimmick of a preexisting condition claim to deny coverage. We were willing to work with them on a bill like that.

Fortunately, most insurance companies don't act like that; and, fortunately, in most situations, even those that do occasionally don't all the time and, in fact, don't most of the time.

But we were okay with the bill that would address those issues, but it should have only applied to policies that went across State lines because, otherwise, it is a State issue.

And I know in Texas we have a State insurance commissioner, commission, there are people that are watching over these issues, and it is a whole lot easier to file a complaint in your State capital, even if you are a State as big as Texas or Alaska, than it is to have to file a complaint and deal with the morass right here in Washington, D.C.

Well, on the heels of all the admissions of lies that were told to pass ObamaCare that have now come out, an article Monday by Elise Viebeck, and the title is "HHS"—that is Health and Human Services—"lowers ObamaCare enrollment expectations."

It says:

Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services on Monday projected that up to 9.9 million people would be enrolled in ObamaCare in 2015, millions fewer than Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Federal health officials are projecting that ObamaCare enrollment will include at least 3.1 million fewer people next year than Congressional Budget analysts thought.

Well, there goes the Congressional Budget analysts once again being off in the nature of 30 percent. That is a plus-or-minus margin of error of 30 percent. It is not really so good.

We need another vehicle for competition for scoring that would be less expensive and would be more accurate, and then the only way you could really get it accurate is if you have competition, and then you begin to score the scorers, because what CBO did in

ObamaCare and what they have done on these enrollment expectations, I mean they are just outrageous.

Anyway, there are plenty of articles about the American people being too stupid according to the man who designed the ObamaCare bill. It is unfortunate that people in this administration thought that the American people were too stupid and too gullible.

Unfortunately, since there are honest people in government, the people like Mr. Gruber that were so dishonest to pass a massive bill that took away patients' health care rights and the things that would prolong their lives, the things that would make their lives more comfortable, it is just a tragedy, but there are honest people in government. Now, people will have to be even more cynical than they already were of government.

This interesting survey was done by Kellyanne Conway, this article from November 7 of this year, the survey in the article points out that a majority of respondents, 76 percent, consider laws that require voters to present a photo ID before casting a ballot to be "mostly fair," and a total of 69 percent of Americans consider it "not a burden at all."

□ 2045

Amazing.

Another point mentions, when asked, "Do you agree or disagree that President Obama should, through executive action, allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States?" 63 percent disagree. That is 53 percent strongly, 10 percent somewhat. Only 30 percent agree.

Another point of the survey, corruption in the Federal Government continues to be a serious concern among voters, with 92 percent now saying they consider it a serious problem. That is 92 percent of Americans consider corruption a serious problem.

Well, perhaps the fact that Mr. Gruber was getting paid and had a motivation, a pecuniary, a financial motivation for being out there selling ObamaCare as being such a great thing, and as he says now lying about it so much and obscuring the truth as much as he did, that kind of helps contribute to the 92 percent of Americans, or rather of voters, saying that they had serious concerns about corruption in Federal Government.

The survey also indicated a full 80 percent said that the Federal Government has become "less transparent" or "stayed about the same" over the past 6 years.

When asked about ballot integrity and voter fraud, 74 percent consider it a problem.

So much for those who say it isn't a problem. It is a problem.

I think because of photo IDs being used, for example in Texas this time, we had better election integrity. I

know the Indiana law was upheld that required photo IDs, and Texas largely modeled their law after Indiana. It is a matter of protecting ballot integrity.

I have been over to the Department of Justice, and I find it interesting that the Attorney General who is outgoing right now requires you cannot get in to see the Attorney General unless you can produce a photo ID. Apparently, the incoming or the nominated candidate for Attorney General thinks photo IDs for elections are a problem, and it will be interesting to see if she changes the policy if she gets confirmed. The Senate needs to make a thorough investigation. They need to take their time and do it right. But we will see if this stands as a policy that photo IDs should be required to see the AGs but not to vote.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of being detained on official business with the Vice President.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a delayed flight.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of being detained on official business with the Vice President.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRA-
TION,

Washington, DC, October 30, 2014.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman,
Committee on House Administration.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS—H. RES. 676

July 1–September 30, 2014	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. WOLF, on Friday, September 19, 2014:

H.R. 594. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2600. An act to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

H.R. 3043. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 3716. An act to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5062. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5404. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Harris, on Thursday, September 25, 2014:

H.R. 4980. An act to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

H.R. 4994. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS, on Thursday, September 25, 2014, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S.J. Res. 40. Providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 19, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval the following bills:

H.J. Res. 124. Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4751. To make technical corrections to Public Law 110-09229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4809. To reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on September 23, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 594. To amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2600. To amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

H.R. 3043. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 5404. To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5062. To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain non-depository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3716. To ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on September 26, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 4980. To prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.

H.R. 4994. To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on September 29, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4323. To reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will

well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 113th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

DONALD W. NORCROSS, First District of New Jersey, ALMA S. ADAMS, Twelfth District of North Carolina, DAVE BRAT, Seventh District of Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7424. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exclusion of Utility Operations-Related Swaps with Utility Special Entities from De Minimis Threshold for Swaps with Special Entities (RIN: 3038-AE19) received October 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7425. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Program: Amendment of Procedures and Notification of Request for Referendum [Docket No.: AMS-LPS-13-0066] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7426. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements; Addition of Terminology to Define Veterinary Biologics Test Results [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0034] (RIN: 0579-AD86) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7427. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Mangoes From Jamaica Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0018] (RIN: 0579-AD80) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7428. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expansion of Areas in the Philippines Considered Free of Mango Seed Weevil and Mango Pulp Weevil and Establishment of a Lower Irradiation Dose as Treatment for Mango Pulp Weevil [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0057] (RIN: 0579-AD84) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7429. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Sheep Industry Improvement Center [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-14-0028] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7430. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Avocados

Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Change in Maturity Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0051; FV14-915-1 IR] received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7431. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant Program Funds (RIN: 0570-AA30) received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7432. A letter from the FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs (RIN: 0560-AI24) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7433. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fresh Bananas From the Philippines Into Hawaii and U.S. Territories [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0045] (RIN: 0579-AD82) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7434. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change in Accredited Laboratory Fees [Docket No.: FSIS-2014-0026] (RIN: 0583-AD) received October 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7435. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Institution Stockholder Voting Procedures (RIN: 3052-AC85) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7436. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2014 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency's current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, in accordance with section 1206 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989; to the Committee on Agriculture.

7437. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 13-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7438. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter regarding the designation of Overseas and Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism funding; (H. Doc. No. 113-158); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7439. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the budget program revisions for the Commodity Credit Corporation for FY 2015; (H. Doc. No. 113-160); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7440. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Rear Admiral (lower half) Brett C. Heimbigner, United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7441. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Distribution of

Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2013 through 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7442. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Payment in Local Currency (Afghanistan) (DFARS Case 2013-D029) (RIN: 0750-AI14) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7443. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Period for Task and Delivery Order Contracts-Deletion of Congressional Reporting Requirement (DFARS Case 2014-D018) (RIN: 0750-AI35) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7444. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding Colonel Patrick W. Burden, United States Army, assignments as a brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7445. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Flowdown of Specialty Metals Restrictions (DFARS Case 2014-D011) (RIN: 0750-AI30) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7446. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; St. Louis County, Missouri, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7447. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Bradford County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8351] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7448. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Queen Anne's County, MD, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8353] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7449. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Model Manufactured Home Installation Standards: Ground Anchor Installations [Docket No.: FR-5631-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ15) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7450. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Section 232 Healthcare Facility Insurance Program Aligning Operator Finan-

cial Reports with HUD's Uniform Financial Reporting Standards [Docket No.: FR-5794-I-01] (RIN: 2502-AJ25) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7451. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0008] (RIN: 1557-AD81) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7452. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to ICBC Financial Leasing Co., Ltd. of Beijing, China pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank of 1945 Act, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7453. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio (RIN: 3064-AE12) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7454. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Rehabilitation Training: Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center [CFDA Number: 84.264A.] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7455. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Excepted Benefits (RIN: 1210-AB60) received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7456. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Construction, OSHA, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Certification [Docket ID: OSHA-2007-0066] (RIN: 1218-AC86) received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7457. A letter from the Acting Director, Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting Requirements — NAICS Update and Reporting Revisions [Docket No.: OSHA-2010-0019] (RIN: 1218-AC50) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7458. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision to the Final Principles of Integrated Resource Planning for Use in Resource Acquisition and Transmission Planning received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7459. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, transmitting the Departments' report on Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents or Toxins for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, as required by the

Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-188; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7460. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Industrial Solvent Cleaning Operations for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0476; FRL-9917-16-Region 3] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7461. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Prevention of Significant Deterioration Requirements for the 2008 Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0211; EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0510; FRL-9917-17-Region 3] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7462. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0141; FRL-9917-10-Region 10] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7463. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — C9 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons, C10-11 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons, and C11-12 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0517; FRL-9916-23] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7464. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Pinal County and Gila County; Pb; Correction [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0266; FRL-9916-55-Region 9] received September 24, 2014 P4, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7465. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0593; FRL-9914-35] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7466. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards; and Manufacture of Amino-Phenolic Resins [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0133; FRL-9916-90-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR49) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7467. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs); Manufacturing (Import) Exemption for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2013-0396; FRL-9917-21-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AG79) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7468. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision of Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Placer County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0538; FRL-9915-51-Region 9] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7469. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0297; FRL-9912-69-Region 9] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7470. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0268; FRL-9915-78] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7471. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Amendments to Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements for Illinois [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0123; FRL-9917-42-Region 5] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7472. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, and 2010 SO₂ NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0969; EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0991; EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0435; FRL-9917-60-Region 5] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7473. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0888; FRL-9917-61-Region 5] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7474. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0969; FRL-9917-62-Region 5] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7475. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; State Boards' Requirements [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0629; FRL-9917-69-Region 3] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7476. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0299; FRL-9917-84-Region 3] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7477. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0711; FRL-9917-81-Region 9] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7478. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Nevada; Clark County; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0495; FRL-9917-82-Region 9] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7479. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; California Air Resources Board — Consumer Products [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0529; FRL-9915-53-Region 9] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7480. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amendment to Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0474; FRL-9917-28-OSWER] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7481. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Approval of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plan of the Washington, DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0148; FRL-9917-39-Region 3] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7482. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Las Vegas Valley, Nevada; Redesignation to Attainment for PM₁₀ [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0735; FRL-9917-23-Region 9] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7483. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

cy's final rule — Arkansas: Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-RCRA-2012-0793; FRL-9916-02-Region 6] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7484. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0576; FRL-9916-28] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7485. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1977 Fine Particle (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0694; FRL-9917-34-Region 5] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7486. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the Idaho State Implementation Plan; Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idaho, Northern Ada County PM₁₀ Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan and Pinehurst PM₁₀ Contingency Measures [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0247; FRL-9917-38-Region 10] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7487. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0460; FRL-9915-37-Region 9] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7488. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tetraacetylenediamine and Its Metabolite, Diacetylenediamine; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0277; FRL-9916-44] received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7489. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Addition of Nonylphenol Category; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting [EPA-HQ-TRI-2012-0110; FRL-9915-59-OEI] (RIN: 2025-AA34) received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7490. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Waivers of iTRS Mandatory Minimum Standards [CG Docket No.: 03-123] received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7491. A letter from the Program Analyst, Financial Operations, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013; Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees [MD Docket No.: 14-92] [MD Docket No.: 13-140] [MD Docket No.: 12-201] received September 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7492. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment [PS Docket No.: 11-153] [PS Docket No.: 10-255] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7493. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [WC Docket No.: 14-58] received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7494. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions and Technical Corrections to Conform the Commission's Regulations to the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 [Docket No.: RM14-22-000] received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7495. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safeguards Information — Modified Handling Categorization Change for Materials Facilities [NRC-2012-0140] (RIN: 3150-AJ18) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7496. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel [NRC-2012-0246] (RIN: 3150-AJ20) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7497. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-48, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7498. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-49, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7499. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-37, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7500. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-47, Notice of Proposed

Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7501. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-54, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7502. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-27, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7503. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-50, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7504. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition and Modification of Certain Persons on the Entity List; and Removal of Certain Persons from the Entity List [Docket No.: 140609480-4770-01] (RIN: 0694-AG21) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7505. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Russian Sanctions: Addition of Persons to the Entity List and Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and Military End Users [Docket No.: 1408114668-4758-01] (RIN: 0694-AG28) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7506. A letter from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Reinstatement of Exemptions Related to Temporary Exports, Carnets, and Shipments Under a Temporary Import Bond [Docket Number: 140821699-4699-01] (RIN: 0607-AA53) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7507. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the annual report on the use or development of data mining; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7508. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 03-14 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of South Africa; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7509. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 12-14 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7510. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 12-14 informing

of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of National Defense of Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7511. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a Drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide non-lethal assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7512. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a Drawdown under section 522(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7513. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification under section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide law enforcement and related assistance to Ukraine, Tunisia, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Nigeria, Albania, and Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7514. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-076, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7515. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a Drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7516. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Notification of the intention to exercise the authority under Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to authorize the drawdown to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7517. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination of the Secretary with the intent to exercise his authority under section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7518. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3677); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7519. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7520. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3525); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7521. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section

204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7522. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7523. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7524. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7525. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7526. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of an Executive Order that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2013; (H. Doc. No. 113-159); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7527. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended, is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond November 14, 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113-166); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7528. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113-167); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7529. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect for

one year beyond October 21, 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113-168); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7530. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notice authorizing the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security to order the Selected Reserve and certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve to active duty to augment the active forces in support of Operation United Assistance; (H. Doc. No. 113-169); to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

7531. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter regarding the U.S. Armed Forces conducting operations in a variety of locations against al-Qa'ida and associated forces; (H. Doc. No. 113-170); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7532. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter directing the deployment of up to 475 additional U.S. Armed Forces personnel to Iraq; (H. Doc. No. 113-171); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7533. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-437, "Voter Registration Access and Modernization Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7534. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-440, "Special Election Reform Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7535. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-439, "Critical Infrastructure Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7536. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-441, "Business Improvement Districts Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7537. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-442, "Extension of Time to Dispose of the Strand Theater Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7538. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-443, "Medical Marijuana Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7539. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-425, "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Waiver Certification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7540. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-438, "Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7541. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-423, "Sustainable Solid Waste Management Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7542. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-424, "Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Support Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7543. A letter from the Chairperson, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, transmitting the Council's annual report entitled, "A Progress Report to the President, Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7544. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7545. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7546. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7547. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7548. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7549. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7550. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting thirty-two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7551. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7552. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7553. A letter from the Director of Global Operations, International Broadcasting Bureau, transmitting Fiscal Year 2014 Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act submission; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7554. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NARA Records Subject of FOIA [FDMS No.: NARA-14-0003; Agency No. NARA-2014-057] (RIN: 3095-AB73) received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7555. A letter from the Acting Chief, Government Affairs Division, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7556. A letter from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management

and Budget, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7557. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Flag Recognition Benefit for Fallen Federal Civilian Employees (RIN: 3206-AM58) received October 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7558. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7559. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Nursing Facility Quality of Care Fund is Improving the Lives of District Residents but Additional Oversight Necessary"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7560. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Status Report on Implementation of District of Columbia Auditor Recommendations"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7561. A letter from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7562. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, transmitting a management advisory report — Child Care Waitlist Advisory; to the Committee on House Administration.

7563. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 113-156); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

7564. A letter from the Division Chief, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees [L13100000 PP0000 11WO310000] (RIN: 1004-AE36) received September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7565. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Concession Contracts [NPS-WASO-16649; PX.XVPAD0517.00.1] (RIN: 1024-AE22) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7566. A letter from the Regulatory Liaison, Writer/Editor, ONRR, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Appeal Procedures [Docket No.: ONRR-2011-0017; DS63610000 DR2PS0000.CH7000 145D0102R2] (RIN: 1012-AA08) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7567. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

Regulations [Docket No.: 130201095-4400-02] (RIN: 0648-BC90) received August 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7568. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Fishery; Framework Adjustment 2 [Docket No.: 140220160-4692-02] (RIN: 0648-BD99) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7569. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD473) received September 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7570. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States [Docket No.: 140128077-4691-02] (RIN: 0648-BD93) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7571. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Kamchatka Flounder in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD463) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7572. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Listing Determinations on Proposal to List 66 Reef-Building Coral Species and to Reclassify Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals [Docket No.: 091231415-4826-04] (RIN: 0648-XT12) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7573. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 105 [Docket No.: 130424402-4775-02] (RIN: 0648-BD23) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7574. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD509) received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7575. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Whale Shark Conservation Measures [Docket No.: 130722645-4769-02] (RIN: 0648-BD53) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7576. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; American Fisheries Act; Amendment 106 [Docket No.: 130530519-4742-02] (RIN: 0648-BD35) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7577. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 113-161); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7578. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 113-162); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7579. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 113-163); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7580. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 113-164); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7581. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendment to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; (H. Doc. No. 113-165); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7582. A letter from the Chairman, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's final rule — Adoption of Recommendations received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7583. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers employed at General Atomics, in La Jolla, California, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7584. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the implementation, enforcement, and prosecution of registration requirements under Section 635 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-248)(AWA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7585. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief Counsel, Regulations and Security Standards, Department of Homeland Security,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Cessation of the Aviation Security Infrastructure Fee (ASIF) [Docket No.: TSA-2002-11334; Amendment No. 1511-3] (RIN: 1652-AA01) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7586. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Taylor Bayou Outfall Canal (Joint Outfall Canal), TX [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0386] received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7587. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Personal Flotation Devices Labeling and Standards [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0263] (RIN: 1625-AC02) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7588. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Riverside Music Festival, Missouri River, mile 372.0; Riverside, MO [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0700] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7589. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; International Jet Sports Boating Association World Finals; Lake Havasu City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0610] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7590. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Diego Sharkfest Swim; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0695] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7591. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; 2014 Life Time Tri; Oceanside Harbor, Oceanside, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0772] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7592. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Seattle Seafair Unlimited Hydroplane Race, Lake Washington, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-1018] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7593. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; IncreDoubleman Triathlon, Lake Ontario, Sackets Harbor, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0745] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7594. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Shipping and Transportation; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0688] (RIN: 1625-ZA33) re-

ceived September 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7595. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0794; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-17936; AD 2014-16-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7596. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0137; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-135-AD; Amendment 39-17960; AD 2014-17-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7597. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Pine Knot, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0441; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-11] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7598. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Blackstone, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0220; Airspace Docket No. 14-AEA-5] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7599. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cynthia, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1074; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-26] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7600. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0271; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWP-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7601. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2901A, B, G, H, J, K, L, and N; Avon Park, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0703; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7602. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northeast, ME [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0273; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANE-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7603. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation By Ref-

erence [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0450; Amendment No. 71-46] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7604. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0088; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-233-AD; Amendment 39-17703; AD 2013-25-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7605. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; APEX Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0647; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-027-AD; Amendment 39-17967; AD 2014-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7606. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of VOR Federal Airway V-298 in the Vicinity of Pasco, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0369; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANM-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7607. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Sandusky, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0274; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7608. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0588; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-150-AD; Amendment 39-17963; AD 2014-17-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7609. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1026; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-173-AD; Amendment 39-17942; AD 2014-16-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7610. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0145; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-17945; AD 2014-16-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7611. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0172; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-222-AD; Amendment 39-17929; AD 2014-16-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7612. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Technify Motors GmbH Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0179; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-17956; AD 2014-17-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7613. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0190; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-188-AD; Amendment 39-17959; AD 2014-17-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7614. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0003; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-103-AD; Amendment 39-17922; AD 2014-15-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7615. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0766; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-26-AD; Amendment 39-17961; AD 2014-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7616. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0978; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-120-AD; Amendment 39-17958; AD 2014-17-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7617. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Flagstaff, AZ [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0957; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWP-18] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7618. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Hulett, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1016; Airspace Docket No. 13-ANM-25] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7619. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central United States [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0960; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7620. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30976; Amdt. No. 515] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7621. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30973; Amdt. No. 3604] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7622. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30972; Amdt. No. 3603] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7623. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Albuquerque, NM [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0994; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASW-29] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7624. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DASSAULT AVIATION Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0423; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-176-AD; Amendment 39-17714; AD 2013-26-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7625. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0216; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-045-AD; Amendment 39-17964; AD 2014-07-04R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7626. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0929; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-031-AD; Amendment 39-17968; AD 2013-22-14 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7627. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0390; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-013-AD; Amendment 39-17969; AD 2014-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7628. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation

Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0464; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-010-AD; Amendment 39-17974; AD 2014-16-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7629. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0061; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-029-AD; Amendment 39-17949; AD 2014-16-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7630. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rockwell Collins, Inc. Transponders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0326; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-051-AD; Amendment 39-17965; AD 2014-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7631. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0623; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-17966; AD 2014-18-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7632. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various de Havilland Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0617; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-019-AD; Amendment 39-17962; AD 2014-17-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7633. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0298; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-175-AD; Amendment 39-17522; AD 2013-15-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7634. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Emergency Relief Program [Docket No.: FTA-2013-0004] (RIN: 2132-AB13) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7635. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airports/Locations: Special Operating Restrictions [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0458; Amendment No. 91-333] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7636. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; Wichita, McConnell AFB, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0294; Airspace Docket No. 14-ACE-2] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7637. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final

rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30975; Amdt. No. 3606] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7638. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30974; Amdt. No. 3605] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7639. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations; Clarification [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0982] (RIN: 2120-AJ53) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7640. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0144; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-232-AD; Amendment 39-17970; AD 2014-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7641. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class B Airspace; Washington Tri-Area, DC [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0713; Airspace Docket No. 14-AWA-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7642. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification, Revocation and Establishment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central and Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0295; Airspace Docket No. 14-AGL-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7643. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0343; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-077-AD; Amendment 39-17971; AD 2014-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7644. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0291; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-137-AD; Amendment 39-17972; AD 2014-19-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7645. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0424; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-003-

AD; Amendment 39-17976; AD 2014-20-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7646. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0672; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-058-AD; Amendment 39-17975; AD 2014-20-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7647. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0792; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-17979; AD 2014-20-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7648. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0164; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-02-AD; Amendment 39-17973; AD 2014-19-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7649. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Regulation and Enforcement, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disadvantaged Business Enterprise: Program Implementation Modifications [Docket No.: OST-2012-0147] (RIN: 2105-AE08) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7650. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC49) received October 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7651. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters; Withdrawal [EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0596; FRL-9916-62-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF50) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7652. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a final environmental impact report on the Sutter Basin Project in Sutter and Butte Counties, California; (H. Doc. No. 113-157); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

7653. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Protective Services Enforcement [Docket Number: 2014-0009] (RIN: 2700-AE10) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

7654. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members (RIN: 2900-AO79) received

September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7655. A letter from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Claims and Appeals Forms (RIN: 2900-AO81) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7656. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans (RIN: 2900-AO78) received September 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7657. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report on wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7658. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report on the operation and status of certain federal fund accounts for the debt issuance suspension period that ended on February 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 83481(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7659. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; CY 2015 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts [CMS-8056-N] (RIN: 0938-AR94) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7660. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; CY 2015 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement [CMS-8057-N] (RIN: 0938-AR96) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7661. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendment to List of User Fee Airports: Addition of John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, California and Renaming of Williams Gateway Airport in Mesa, Arizona to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport [CBP Dec. 14-10] received September 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7662. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Small Brewers Bond Reduction and Requirement to File Tax Returns, Remit Tax Payments and Submit Reports Quarterly [Docket No.: TTB-2012-0006; T.D. TTB-123; Re: Notice No. 131 and T.D. TTB-109] (RIN: 1513-AB94) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7663. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Submission of Forms, the Finished Products Records for Distilled Spirits Plants, and Closures on Certain Distilled Spirits Products; Correction [Docket No.: TTB-2014-0004; T.D. TTB-119A; Re: T.D. TTB-119] (RIN: 1513-AB97) received October 9, 2014,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7664. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Rules Regarding Inversions and Related Transactions [Notice 2014-52] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7665. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014-2015 Special Per Diem Rates [Notice 2014-57] received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7666. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Revenue Ruling 2014-25) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7667. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Employee Retirement Benefit Plan Returns Required on Magnetic Media [TD 9695] (RIN: 1545-BL54) received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7668. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amendments to Excepted Benefits [TD 9697] (RIN: 1545-BL90) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7669. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought [Notice 2014-60] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7670. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Local Lodging Expenses [TD 9696] (RIN: 1545-BH60) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7671. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the sixteenth annual report on the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) entitled "Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution, 2013", pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 3204; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7672. A letter from the Acting Director, Acquisition Policy and Legislation, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation; Lead System Integrators [HSAR Case 2009-003] [Docket No.: DHS-2009-0006] (RIN: 1601-AA49) received September 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

7673. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled, "Recovery Auditing in the Medicare and Medicaid Program for Fiscal Year 2013"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7674. A letter from the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2016, in accordance with Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2026. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt certain silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-607). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3678. A bill to redesignate the lock and dam located in Modoc, Illinois, commonly known as the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, as the "Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam", and for other purposes (Rept. 113-608). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4854. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-609). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4962. A bill to designate the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway" and the "James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway" in the State of Minnesota, with amendments (Rept. 113-610). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5146. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse" (Rept. 113-611). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5266. A bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-612). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5448. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Rept. 113-613). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 647. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-614, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3326. A bill to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest; with an amendment (Rept. 113-615). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4846. A bill to ad-

just the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-616). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House of the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: House Committee on Rules. House Resolution 748. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline (Rept. 113-617). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5167. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; with an amendment (Rept. 113-618). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4012. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible (Rept. 113-619). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 647 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 5681. A bill to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5682. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5683. A bill to ensure appropriate judicial review of Federal Government actions by amending the prohibition on the exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Court of Federal Claims of certain claims pending in other courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5684. A bill to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to convey certain property from the United States to the County of Marin, California; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 5685. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require congressional notification not less than 15 days after a reward is authorized under the Rewards for Justice Program of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 5686. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans program to seek to employ physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs on a without compensation basis in practice areas and specialties with staffing shortages and long appointment waiting times; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUL, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 5687. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 5688. A bill to impose special limitations on the issuance of visas to, and the admission into the United States of, aliens having certain associations with countries with widespread and intense transmissions of Ebola Virus Disease; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5689. A bill to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5690. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit tax-exempt status to professional sports leagues that promote the use of the term redskins; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 5691. A bill to release wilderness study areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico that are not suitable for wilderness designation from continued management as de facto wilderness areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5692. A bill to restrict passports for travel to or use in certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5693. A bill to prohibit the issuance of visas to, and the admission into the United States of, an alien during the 30-day period following the presence of the alien in Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 5694. A bill to prohibit certain flights from landing in the United States and to prohibit the issuance of certain visas to protect the United States from the Ebola virus disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself and Mr. PETERS of California):

H.R. 5695. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include foreign terrorist organizations as enemies of the United States for purposes of treason, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. GABBARD):

H. Res. 749. A resolution congratulating and honoring Kailash Satyarthi, recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H. Res. 750. A resolution congratulating and honoring Malala Yousafzai, recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SABLON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Res. 751. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the Chinese railroad workers from 1865 to 1869, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H. Res. 752. A resolution congratulating Marcel Closset, a French citizen and former member of the French Resistance who was instrumental in saving a United States Army Air Corps pilot during World War II, for receiving the French Legion of Honor; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 5683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 1; and article III, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 5686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section

8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 5691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution;

(2) To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution;

(3) To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution;

(4) To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 10 of the U.S. Constitution; and

(5) Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted, as enumerated in Article III, Section III of the U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 36: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 183: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 223: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 401: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 411: Mr. ENYART, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 460: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 477: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 482: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 543: Mr. SABLON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 630: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 649: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 708: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. SHEA-POR-TER.

H.R. 713: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 721: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 728: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 741: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 792: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 997: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1015: Mr. NEAL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1030: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1070: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COOK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HANNA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1094: Mr. DENT and Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 1146: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1240: Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 1274: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1284: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1318: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1365: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1428: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1461: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1505: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 1507: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1518: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 1527: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1563: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. NEAL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. COLE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1601: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1653: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1699: Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1725: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1750: Mr. MESSER and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1751: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1761: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1783: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1812: Ms. BASS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1821: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1837: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1861: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1882: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 1921: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1936: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1941: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1953: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1981: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DELAUNO, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1998: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2012: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 2101: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2130: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2139: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 2224: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2282: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2302: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2350: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2366: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2384: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2415: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2450: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2499: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2523: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 2591: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2676: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2686: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 2694: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2697: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2743: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2758: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2852: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2856: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VELA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 2989: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3050: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3090: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3116: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3118: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3142: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3150: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3229: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 3297: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3305: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3400: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3434: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 3453: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3461: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 3465: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3471: Mr. VISKOSKY.

H.R. 3489: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 3490: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3513: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3531: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3556: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3680: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3698: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3708: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3717: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3722: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3740: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3742: Mr. RUSH, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 3833: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3877: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3899: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3902: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 3992: Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4008: Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 4012: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 4060: Mr. MESSER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4128: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4136: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4144: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 4169: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 4190: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CHU, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4202: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4208: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 4217: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 4223: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4249: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4305: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4351: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HANNA, Mr. DENT, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 4437: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 4445: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4446: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4475: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 4510: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4517: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4521: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 4543: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4577: Ms. CHU, Mr. FARR, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 4578: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 4580: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 4582: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 4592: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4616: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4664: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4679: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4717: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 4746: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4748: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4755: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4765: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4815: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4826: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 4842: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 4847: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4858: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4878: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 4887: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4920: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4930: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4969: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4998: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 5009: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 5010: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5012: Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5024: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 5052: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5059: Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr.

JONES, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5065: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 5069: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 5083: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 5087: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 5095: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5098: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 5119: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 5128: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5130: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. ESTY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 5136: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5145: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 5159: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 5186: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 5190: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 5196: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5207: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5212: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 5213: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. UPTON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 5226: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 5233: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 5241: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 5252: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 5267: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ISRAEL and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 5320: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5327: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 5338: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5353: Mr. O'ROURKE and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5362: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5364: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 5367: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 5382: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5391: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 5403: Mr. LATTA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. ELLMERS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FINCHER, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 5417: Mr. JONES, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 5430: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5441: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Ms. DeGETTE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5445: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5447: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 5469: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 5474: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 5475: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 5476: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 5480: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 5481: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. JONES, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 5484: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 5485: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5486: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5500: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 5503: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5505: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 5515: Mr. DeFAZIO.

H.R. 5517: Mr. NADLER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 5524: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 5525: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 5533: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 5539: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 5548: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 5555: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 5556: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 5575: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 5599: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 5623: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5644: Mr. DeFAZIO, Mr. DENT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 5650: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 5655: Mr. NEAL, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 5656: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 5661: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5673: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.J. Res. 16: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.J. Res. 24: Mr. POLIS.

H.J. Res. 44: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.J. Res. 47: Mr. LATTA.

H.J. Res. 68: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.J. Res. 119: Mr. WALZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. MENG.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. MASSIE.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MATHESON.

H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. FARR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 109: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 284: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H. Res. 428: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 456: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 477: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 536: Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 620: Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FATTAH, Mr.

MASSIE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 688: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. OWENS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ROONEY, and Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 728: Mr. BARBER, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MOORE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. Tipton, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H. Res. 730: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WALZ, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 735: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 743: Mr. BARBER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions of H.R. 5682, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

H.R. 5682 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 5682 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

SENATE—Wednesday, November 12, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hope for the years to come, as we prepare to turn to a new chapter in U.S. Senate history, we pause to acknowledge that You are our light and salvation. Lord, You are the strength of our lives, enabling us to move confidently toward the future.

Empower our lawmakers who are coming and going, sustaining them in all of their tomorrows. Bless also the many other laborers who will be leaving us, who faithfully served without fanfare. Lord, reward their fidelity with Heaven's commendation. As our Senators seek to respond to the voices of the American people, may they make it their top priority to listen to Your whisper. May pleasing You be their greatest desire. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MARKETPLACE AND INTERNET TAX FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 467, S. 2609, the Marketplace Fairness Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 467, S. 2609, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 this evening. During that time, Senators

will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss and Leigh Martin May; one is from the District of Columbia and the other is from the State of Georgia.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. President, I have always believed it wise to follow Will Rogers' admonition: "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today."

We have a lot of work to do and no time to dwell on the past. With just a few weeks left in this Congress—the 113th—there are a number of important legislative matters before this body that must be finished.

I congratulate the Republican leader who will soon become the new majority leader. The senior Senator from Kentucky and I have known one another for a very long period of time. We have been whips together. He was minority leader. I was minority leader and majority leader. We have been back and forth, so we understand these jobs. I appreciate his devotion to the State of Kentucky, to our country, and to the Senate. He knows I hold him in the highest regard. I am ready to work with him in good faith to make this institution function again for the American people.

I saw firsthand how a strategy of obstruction was debilitating to our system. I have no desire to engage in that manner. I have been, as I mentioned before, and I mention again, the minority leader. I have been able to strike compromises with my Republican colleagues, and I am ready to do it again.

Regardless of how one may interpret last week's election results, it is clear the American people want us to join together to get things done for the middle class and all Americans, and we should be able to do that. After all, helping working families is not a partisan issue. Just last week we saw four very red States—Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota—vote to increase their minimum wages. Clearly, Republicans outside this building don't object to giving American workers a livable wage.

The minimum wage is just one example. There are other issues such as student debt relief for borrowers, pay equity for women, and a number of other issues that need to be addressed as well. There is absolutely no reason we can't work together on these issues and all issues so Democrats and Republicans can lend Americans the helping hand they so desperately need.

Although the desks in this great Chamber may move around and change, our duty to help working American families never will. Senate Democrats are ready to work in good faith with their Republican counterparts—whether it is today, tomorrow, January, no matter when it is—to help the middle class, and when we do that, we help all of our citizenry.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the American people sent a strong message to Washington. They voted for a new direction. They called for a change in the way we do things in the Senate, and they sent a new team to Washington to carry their wishes forward, and we plan to do just that.

But several items remain for the outgoing Congress to consider and that is our immediate focus.

In the weeks that remain in this Congress, we should work to accomplish the essential task of funding the Congress and preventing retroactive tax increases. We must address the expiring authority passed earlier this session for the Department of Defense to train and equip a moderate, vetted Syrian opposition, and we must continue to support the efforts to address the Ebola crisis.

All of this will require cooperation from both sides of the aisle, from both sides of the rotunda, and from both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. The actions of the next few weeks can help set a positive tone for the work of the next Congress. It is a tone that will depend largely on the administration's willingness to respect the message sent last Tuesday.

That is one of the things we discussed at the White House on Friday. It was a productive meeting. There is a lot both parties can accomplish together over the next couple of years. I hope that happens. In fact, I am optimistic. But working together requires trust.

I think President Obama has the duty to help build the trust we all need to move forward together—not to double down in the old ways of doing business. That is why I think moving forward with the unilateral action on immigration he has planned would be a big mistake, as was last night's announcement to essentially give China a free pass on emissions while hurting middle-class families and struggling miners here in our country.

Last Friday, the President said the American people would like to see

more cooperation in Washington. He said he thinks all of us have a responsibility—himself in particular—to try and make that happen. That is the kind of tone the American people are looking for. Now it is on folks in Washington to calibrate their actions accordingly. So let's not do things to hurt the possibility of a cooperative partnership. Let's step back and focus on what can be accomplished together. Let's listen to the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The assistant minority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, what happened on November 4 was the beginning of an opportunity—an opportunity we have to work together to restore faith in our Democratic institutions, to restore strong growth to our economy, and to restore a sense of purpose and principle to U.S. foreign policy.

Starting with the incoming majority leader, my good friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, Republicans have been entrusted by our fellow citizens to lead this Chamber next year. We understand the American people sent a strong message on November 4 that they were enormously frustrated by what they saw as dysfunction and the state of affairs in Washington, DC. We understand why they are eager for new leadership and a new direction. My party, the Republican Party, approaches this opportunity with humility and, above all, a clear-eyed commitment to address the top priorities of the American people. Of course, those priorities start with jobs and the economy.

I know the unemployment rate has continued to tick down little by little, but it is fairly misleading when we consider the fact that we are stuck with a 36-year low in the labor participation rate—the percentage of people who are actually looking for work. Indeed, there are still more than 7 million people looking for full-time work and working currently in part-time jobs. We know many people have become so discouraged that they have simply given up and they have quit looking, and that is a tragedy.

Then there is this problem: America's median household income is no higher in 2013 than it was nearly a quarter of a century ago, in 1989. That has been a silent tragedy—one that has been sustained by the middle class in America, who have seen no growth in their median household income for about a quarter of a century.

The median income was lower last year than it was the year President Reagan left the White House. That is simply astonishing. It has crushed the middle class. Addressing that should be one of our highest priorities in the new Congress starting in January.

Since 2011, our colleagues in the House of Representatives have been passing legislation they feel would boost job creation and increase wages.

In the 113th Congress alone, they passed dozens of jobs bills. Unfortunately, as we know, those have not been taken up by the majority leader in the Senate, and they have been effectively declared dead on arrival.

Then we also know this strategy of blocking amendments on pending legislation to prevent vulnerable incumbents from being forced to cast tough votes has backfired, because many of our colleagues in the majority have not been able to point to a legislative record of effectiveness for their own constituents because of this flawed strategy of blocking the Senate from considering amendments and voting on them. It is one thing to be in the minority and have the amendments or suggestions I am offering added, but it is harder to explain to your own constituents if you are in the majority and you are being blocked out too. So I hope we are done with that.

I know the incoming majority leader, Senator McCONNELL, believes strongly in returning the Senate to its traditions as the world's greatest deliberative body, where anyone, regardless of who they are or which political party they are affiliated with, can come to the Senate floor and offer constructive suggestions and get a vote. That is what we do—at least that is what we used to do, and that is what we can do again, and that doesn't mean just the majority party gets votes on their amendments; that means the minority party will get votes on their amendments. Hopefully, slowly but surely, we can begin to rebuild not only trust and confidence within ourselves and this institution, but regain the lost trust of the American people by showing that we can effectively solve problems on a bipartisan basis to the challenges they face as members of the hard-working middle class.

Then there is the basic job of governing. We will pass a budget next year—something our friends across the aisle have failed to do since 2009. Now, here is something I do not think anybody will excuse or defend: How in the world can it be that when every small and large business in America has to have a budget, when families have to have a budget so they can determine their priorities and how they can most effectively utilize their income, that they have to pass a budget but the U.S. Congress does not? That is, frankly, malpractice, in my view, and it has to end, and it will end next year.

I know Republicans and Democrats will continue to have policy disagreements. Nobody is suggesting that is not going to happen. But this is the place where those get debated, where they get voted on, and where majorities will actually pass legislation and send it to President Obama. And those will be largely, if not almost entirely bipartisan majorities, of course, by definition.

We know Democrats by and large continue to support the Affordable Care Act and Republicans continue to believe it was a mistake and should be replaced with patient-centered alternatives. But we do not have to choose between complete paralysis and actually functioning. Dysfunction is not the only choice we have, and now that that has been rejected by the voters resoundingly, we know a change is in order. The American people have demanded it, they deserve it, and they will get it.

So last week's election will not change some of the fundamental policy differences we have between political parties on ObamaCare, on what we need to do to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare and the like, and it will not change people's points of view on other hot-button issues, but it will give us a chance to make some steady incremental progress on issues where we do agree.

When I came to the Senate, Teddy Kennedy, the liberal lion from Massachusetts, had been here about 40 years, and he was working on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee with MIKE ENZI, a conservative Republican from Wyoming.

One day I went up to MIKE ENZI and I said: Well, how is it that you and Senator Kennedy, with such diametrically opposing views on what the Congress ought to do and how to solve these problems, can actually work productively together?

Senator ENZI said: That is easy. It is the 80-20 rule. The 80 percent we can agree on, we do. The 20 percent we cannot, we don't; we put off for another day.

That strikes me as eminently practical and a way for us to begin to get back to work again.

When I talk about the easy stuff we can do, I am referring to the bipartisan majority that supports things such as the Keystone XL Pipeline authorization, increasing our natural gas exports not only for the job creation and economic boost it gives us here in America but also because it changes the geopolitics of the world, where people such as Vladimir Putin cannot put a bootheel on the gas supply to Europe or Ukraine and use that for their own purposes.

I am confident we can find common-sense safeguards from an overreaching Federal bureaucracy. We can agree on things such as improving workforce training programs and do things that make it much easier to launch new infrastructure and construction projects. We can do things we should have done last year or this year, such as reforming our broken patent system to discourage abusive and costly litigation. We actually had a bipartisan bill in the Judiciary Committee, but it did not come to the floor because the majority leader would not bring it up because

one of his constituencies simply objected to it. Well, no one should have a trump card when it comes to good, bipartisan legislation, and they will not next year. We will vote on patent reform.

Then there are things such as mitigating some of the burdens of ObamaCare, restoring the 40-hour workweek, and repealing the medical device tax, and there is strong bipartisan support for repealing that tax which has driven medical device manufacturers and their jobs overseas. I have constituents, for example, in Dallas in that business, and they say they are building their business in Costa Rica because of the impact of this medical device tax and its negative impact on medical innovation and job creation here.

I do know there is bipartisan support for abolishing the Independent Payment Advisory Board under Medicare. This is 15 bureaucrats who basically get to decide who gets medical care and who does not, with no real appeal or recourse. In the Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, we have had very impressive bipartisan support for things such as prison reform and even sentencing reform.

Those are important issues of substance the Senate ought to be discussing, debating, voting on, and trying to find ways we can work together to achieve solutions. Each of the things I have mentioned has bipartisan support. If we can pass these measures with strong support on both sides of the aisle and send them to the President for his signature, it will be much easier to establish the trust and cooperation necessary to do the harder stuff. So starting with the easy stuff we have already identified that has bipartisan support—demonstrating we can actually do that—then I think we will have confidence in ourselves, and the American people will have confidence in us and their government to begin to tackle some of the more challenging issues.

Senator McCONNELL, the Republican leader, mentioned this, but it bears repeating: that the President is still threatening to go around Congress and use an Executive order to implement a new, radical change in our Federal Government's immigration policy, and I think it is a terrible mistake.

At this same luncheon that the Senator from Kentucky mentioned, a number of us went down the line and said: Mr. President, please don't do this because if you do, it will make it even harder for us to take a step-by-step approach to immigration reform that enjoys bipartisan support. It will poison the well—not to mention the fact that what the President is proposing to do is unlawful and it will also make it harder for us to do the other things I have mentioned already that have bipartisan support. It will poison the well.

Why in the world would the President want to do that at the start of a new Congress in the last 2 years of his term in office? Don't you think he would want to have some legacy that he could point to in those last 2 years, saying: Well, I might have been dealt a tough political hand with Republican majorities in the House and the Senate, but we were actually able to be productive.

I think that is why most Senators have come here—to be productive.

So I would urge the President, as others have done, in the very strongest of terms to abandon his plan for this Executive amnesty and to heed the message—the very clear message—voters sent last Tuesday. After a 6-year experiment in unfettered liberalism and big-government policies, the American people are asking for a new direction. I am not under any illusion that all of a sudden they have fallen in love with my side of the aisle. That is not true. But what they are willing to do is put us on probation and give us all a chance to demonstrate that we can change our course, we can listen to the American people, and we can do things together that they want to see us do.

My constituents—6.5 million Texans—are sick and tired of watching the Federal Government waste their money, selectively enforce the law, and try to micromanage their lives as if the Federal Government knows better than they do what is good for them and their families. It is not true, and they know it, but that has not stopped the efforts over the last 6 years.

What my constituents want, I believe—and I believe it because they have told me this—they want leaders who will respond to their practical day-to-day concerns, leaders who appreciate and will address the biggest threats to the American dream, leaders who will uphold the timeless principles of our Constitution.

I believe there is a nascent, bipartisan, emerging consensus here that we can actually do this. This is not too hard for us to do. Yes, I have read what some of the pundits have said. They said it is going to be even worse with Republicans in charge. Well, it better not be worse or there will be a heavy price to pay, and most of that will be paid by the American people, who will not be well-served if we simply refuse to change and if we refuse to listen. And that goes for the President, that goes for Republicans, and that goes for Democrats.

So for my part and I believe for our part on this side of the aisle, we are eager to work together to solve our country's problems, to help unleash this great American job-creating engine known as our economy, and to restore the rule of law and constitutional government. As for President Obama, we can only hope he decides to work with us rather than against us and

against the best intentions and desires of the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I was hoping to catch the Senator before he left the floor because I wanted to ask him—and I am not sure he is going to slip back in here, but I was going to ask him if he thought maybe—because I agree with him that that new approach to bipartisanship could start today. I do not think we have to necessarily wait until January. There are some of us who have been ready, who have worked in a bipartisan way, literally for years, getting very important things done for our Nation. I am sorry the Senator slipped away. I am sure he has some other pressing business. I wanted to ask him—and I absolutely agree with him on the priorities he just laid out. I think he just said the American people want us to act and to act together in their interests.

I think I heard him say that on the top of his list, what he is particularly anxious to work on is the Keystone XL Pipeline, the expedited export of natural gas. I think he said it was important for jobs in America, helping to strengthen the middle class, sending a very positive signal to them that we heard them in this election; that he was troubled about the falling median household income and wants to do something to raise it. And I think I heard him say he was concerned or that he was—how shall I say it?—he was thinking that some of these things would really push Putin back on his heels. I have been one of the ones sanctioned by President Putin, and there are a few others who are on that list, so I have been of that mind for a while.

I think he also referred to Ted Kennedy, one of our dear friends who mentored many of us—not just Democrats but Republicans as well—with his straightforwardness, his honesty, his passion, his capacity for extraordinary

work, and his willingness to work across party lines. As the Senator from Texas pointed out, there was a great partnership between Senator Kennedy and Senator ENZI, and he talked about the 80-20 rule; let's agree on 80 percent. "We might not agree on everything, but let's move forward" I think were his words on the 80 percent on which we do agree.

So I want to come to the floor today to ask Senator CORNYN from Texas particularly and Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID and others if they will join me in moving forward on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

This has been a project that has lingered far too long. It is clearly supported by 60 or more Members of this body. It is a piece of legislation that has been endorsed by the new to-be majority leader, as a cosponsor and a leading cosponsor of the legislation.

There are a significant number of Democrats on that legislation. I believe with a significant push in the next few hours we could actually get the votes we need to pass the Keystone Pipeline. In an hour or so, at the request of the minority, I am going to wait for about an hour and then I am going to propose a unanimous consent to do exactly that—to set up 2 hours of debate tonight after the vote and then have a vote on the Keystone Pipeline tomorrow. I believe it is the time to act.

I believe we should take the new majority leader at his word and stop blocking legislation that is broadly supported by the American public and has been for quite some time. I want to say yes to the new majority leader MITCH MCCONNELL. The time to start is now. The public has clearly spoken. I believe we can move forward on several important pieces of legislation.

Senator REID mentioned the Marketplace Fairness Act. That is another very important piece of legislation that I believe needs to be moved through. With a little push right now, it could get done. It would be a significant boost to businesses and retail that are being hurt every day by our inaction. My comments are going to be about the Keystone Pipeline because I am chair of the energy committee for the Senate. I am going to do everything in my power, here and at home on the campaign trail where I am still in a runoff, as you know, to get this project moving forward.

One of the extraordinary facts about the Keystone Pipeline is not what it is. I am going to talk about that in a minute and what it does. One of the most extraordinary pieces of argument for why we should pass it is the unprecedented coalition that supports it. There are other bills that have a longer list of supporters. There are bills that have pages and pages of lists. This particular bill has a relatively short list of organizations, but they are extremely

powerful and diverse, which makes it compelling and I think it makes us—or should make us—want to understand and respond to this coalition.

I am going to read their names. I have some time to do this before I call for unanimous consent to pass the original Hoeven-Landrieu Keystone bill, which is a stand-alone Keystone bill as originally introduced with 45 Republican cosponsors. Every Member of the Republican caucus is already a cosponsor of this bill, and we have on that bill about 12 Democratic cosponsors. I am confident we have the additional votes necessary to pass it.

The American Chemistry Council, the American Concrete Pipe Association, the American Exploration and Production Council, the American Highway Users Alliance, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Road & Transportation Builders, American Truckers Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Oil Pipelines, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Distribution Contractors Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Industrial Minerals Association of North America, Institute for 21st Century Energy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers International Union of North America.

Let me stop there and make a point. Many bills passed here or attempted to pass here either have a list of all business organizations or all labor organizations or all environmental organizations or all highway contractors.

This bill has such an extraordinary, diverse group of some of the strongest business leaders in the country. I want to underscore to my Democratic colleagues who are supporting this piece of legislation, tremendous support from labor unions because labor unions, like business leaders, want jobs. They want profits. They want success. They want more investment in business, creating good middle-class jobs. The difference between the oil and gas industry, which I have been pleased to be a strong advocate for in many different facets, is that industry does produce the kinds of jobs Americans truly want, not minimum wage jobs, not just slightly above minimum wage but jobs that in my State—the Senator knows this because he is well aware of this—start at \$60,000, \$70,000, \$85,000 for a young man or a young woman coming out of high school or trade school, let alone college.

These are very important jobs. That is why labor unions are represented here. Along with Portland Cement Association, the plastics industry, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, the Business Roundtable, American Supply Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Roofing Contractors.

Why would roofing contractors be supporting the Keystone Pipeline? There are no roofs on a pipelines, but there are thousands of roofs over workers needed to build a pipeline. All along the route of this pipeline will be increases in populations of housing, industrial sites, retail, residential, supporting over 40,000 workers to build this pipeline. The North American Die Casting Association, the National Utility Contractors—again, associated businesses—the U.S. Oil & Gas Association and, finally, Steel Manufacturers Association and Western Alliance.

This is an extraordinary coalition that has come together to support the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. The bill I am going to call up in a few minutes for unanimous consent to pass because I believe what the new majority leader has said. I believe what Senator CORNYN has just said. I believe what the current majority leader said, soon to be minority leader in the next Congress, that we need to work together and that we can work together, and we need to begin to do that today—not tomorrow, not in January, not in February, not in March, not around the corner, not next week but today. That would send the most positive signal. I am not asking to have unanimous consent on 10 bills that are controversial. I am not asking us to do the impossible. I am not asking us to do something that just came up last week. I am asking us to move forward on a bill that has labor support, business support, general contractor support, and most importantly the American people. The latest polls on the Keystone Pipeline, not just in my state—I see my colleague from West Virginia—and not just in West Virginia but polls in this country from California to New York, to Michigan, to Pennsylvania, to Ohio, to Florida, and to Texas. Overwhelmingly Democrats, Republicans—not everyone—but there is overwhelming support to build the Keystone Pipeline because Americans want jobs. American families deserve good-paying jobs. In addition, Americans are tired of bowing to Mideast powers or to Russian dictators about what our future is going to be. Americans are proud. We want to stand proud. We believe the Keystone Pipeline is an important first step. It is a signal. It is a symbol that represents American energy power. It is a symbol moving past gridlock. It is a deliverable on promises we have all made. Yes, we will work together. Yes, but that will start later. Yes, we will work together, but it will be next year. Yes, we will work together, but it will be in the spring. Yes, we will work together, but we can't pass Keystone unless we pass these 10 other things.

There is always going to be tomorrow. There is always going to be 10 other things. Let's act today, tomorrow. We can do this. We can pass the Keystone Pipeline and answer the frustrations of the American people so

they can rest next week and say: Oh, my gosh. The Senators of the United States of America have ears. They have brains. They have hearts. They heard what we said and we can do this. We have a bill that is on the calendar.

I have also passed a similar bill through my committee, but I am not even asking you to pass the bill I passed through my committee, which I think is slightly better than the one on the calendar, but we can all compromise here. I am also the cosponsor of the bill, lead sponsor of the bill, that is on the Senate calendar. It doesn't have to go through a committee. It basically technically already has. It is ready for a vote. We have the 60 votes to pass it.

I am going to recognize in just a minute the Senator from West Virginia. I will ask the Senator a question because only the Chair can recognize, but I would like to ask the Senator from West Virginia, does any of this make sense to him. I don't know if he was down here. Although I am sure he was in his office listening to the comments of the majority leader, the soon-to-be majority leader, and the good Senator from Texas saying now is the time to work together. I don't know if the Senator heard that. Does the Senator think that maybe this bill would be the bill to start moving us from gridlock to doing the job for the American people?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator of West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I thank the Chair.

My good friend, the Senator from Louisiana, has been working on this for many years—I think even before I came up. I have been here 4 years now. When I first came, I talked to Senator LANDRIEU, my friend from Louisiana, and asked her about this and basically I think she explained to me at the time that first of all the sovereign nation of Canada, the country, was going to produce it so we had no say in the production of this product. It is going to be produced. Next of all, it is going to go somewhere because there is demand for the product in the marketplace. There is a demand for it.

With all that being said, it didn't take me too long to reply to the Senator, she will recall, 4 years ago, that in West Virginia we have common sense and we have good people like Louisiana and we felt if this product is going to be sold and we are buying this type of a product around the world, then why wouldn't we buy from our friends versus the enemies we have supplied resources to, to be used against us? That is the one that resonates with West Virginians. I know it resonates with Louisianians. The other thing is I understand there are 1,000 American companies in West Virginia—not to say what you have been able to do and help the people in Louisiana, all the jobs they have gotten from this, it would be

a tremendous windfall for all of us if it is something we can count on.

I can't for the life of me understand why we haven't to date been able to move this piece of legislation forward. I did hear both the minority leader and the majority leader and the minority whip and majority whip talk about it is time for us to start working together.

There is not a better piece of legislation to show that we heard the results of Tuesday's election. We heard. If we heard nothing more from that roar of Americans, whether they voted or didn't vote, they basically told us do something. Start doing what we are supposed to do. Start governing. Do something. We may not agree with you, but we would like to see this open dialogue, this transparency, this beautiful body, the Senate, that the whole world watches. But when they see us doing nothing—it is not something we are very good at or look very good doing. That day is gone.

I would ask my Senate colleagues that if they would be so kind as to give us a chance to show me we are starting anew.

We are going to have a piece of legislation that is going to help us be more secure as a nation, and that is why I am here. I wish to hear the Senator's comments.

The security of our Nation—the Senator has been here. She has been seeing what has been going on, the demand we had for foreign oil, what it has done to us, the areas of the world it has taken us to, and the amount of resources we have spent in blood and treasure fighting for resources—whether people believe it or not. This is a chance for us to secure that. So if the Senator could talk to us about that.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator from West Virginia is so right in focusing this debate at this moment on the subject of national security because Veterans Day was just celebrated by all of us yesterday. We all participated in Veterans Day events.

So it pains me to say this, but I am going to give us all of the facts—and the Senator knows this—that this country imports 340 million barrels today. Iraq exports 340,000 barrels of oil per day. That is Iraq—blood and treasure. We have left men and women—not left them on the battlefield—but they have died there, and we have many soldiers here at home.

Canada—which is a friendly country, an ally of ours—with the Keystone Pipeline, would bring in 870,000 barrels into the United States. So the American people sit here and think: OK, what is wrong with this picture? We could be taking oil from our friend, Canada, creating jobs in North America—good-paying jobs—not only building the pipeline but maintaining the pipeline.

This pipeline doesn't come to Louisiana. I fought for it like a tiger, and

the pipeline doesn't even come to my State. It goes to Texas. Now, I have refineries in Louisiana, and Louisiana most certainly and the companies in Louisiana will benefit. This pipeline doesn't connect Canada and Louisiana; it connects Canada and Texas.

I am sorry that the majority leader and the Senator from Texas had to scamper off the floor. I am sure he had a meeting to go to. But this is really about refineries in Texas that are waiting for this oil and about moving this oil, as the Senator knows, through the most safe means possible to these refineries—off of the highways, off of the railroads, and supporting a relationship with Canada as opposed to countries in other parts of the world that don't always share our values and that we have to spend a lot of our defense money protecting.

So this makes no sense, and that is why I think this pipeline has such overwhelming bipartisan support across the country.

Mr. MANCHIN. I think that basically the Senator touched on something very important and we want to go back to that—transportation of the oil today. The oil is coming down into the refineries anyway. We have had some explosions by our rail carriers. It is coming by truck, and it is coming in so many different forms. We have been told this is the safest way to transport.

When people talk about safe transport, we know this was not the first pipeline we have in America. I think if you ever look at a map—the Senator has had the map on the floor—there is a crisscross. We have pipelines all across America, and I think that is the perfect map to see.

So the bottom line is it is something we have done. If we take it in the harshest environment in Alaska, the Alaskan pipeline—that means so much to us in America—it has been done in the harshest of environments and has been done safely. So I am concerned about that.

I am also concerned with—the Senator talked about it directly going to Texas, but you all benefit; everyone benefits.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Everyone benefits.

Mr. MANCHIN. The other thing I wanted to say is this. I know the Senator was in parades yesterday, and I can only imagine her schedule. It has to be unbelievable. But with all that said, people still want jobs. All they want is jobs and an opportunity to work with certainty. This gives Americans a lot of certainty about jobs and future economic growth in our country.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Absolutely.

This morning, to prepare for offering this unanimous consent request—which I will do in a very short period of time and ask for a couple of hours of debate tonight and then tomorrow—I spoke to the leader of the building trades council for the United States of America.

He was very strong in his words to me about how disappointed he has been with some Members who have not stood up for building trades.

These are men and women who work in every State. All they want to do is go to work and have jobs. He was extremely disappointed in the gridlock over this piece of legislation, and that is exactly what he said to me. He said: Senator, we are about fed up with elections and politics because what my members want are jobs. That is what their families want, and they are tired of fooling around with some common-sense projects that would bring so much wealth to middle-class families.

I know that the majority leader on our side is concerned about the flat line of middle-class income in this country, and I know his heart is working toward increasing income for all families. This is the first step. Not only is the project itself going to generate huge amounts of jobs and economic activity—and I am going to put that amount in the record. It is estimated to be \$20 billion. It is slightly less than the size of the entire State of Vermont's GDP. This one project is like the output of one of our States—albeit a small State—but Vermont is an important State. I have never in my life seen a project with so much economic benefit.

I have never seen an infrastructure project supported from a broader base—from the left to the center to the right. I have never seen labor and business come together in my life as they have on this issue. I have never seen so many Senators cosponsor a bill and yet—because of something I can't quite put my finger on—we haven't yet passed. We can do that now, today or tomorrow, and that would send a very positive signal that we have heard the voters, that we do understand this cry for breaking the gridlock, moving forward together, and getting the job done.

I could not think of a better bill that symbolizes what we are trying to do in terms of jobs, economic security, energy security, and looking to the future in our country than this bill. It would build this pipeline, get this oil—which is going to be produced anyway—off of the rails, off of our highways, and into refineries.

May I say, as the Senator from West Virginia knows, and the Senator from North Dakota, who is my right hand with the Senator from West Virginia, we have additional pipelines to build because we have to build these east-west. The real need for the supply is the west coast and the east coast.

As the Senator knows, you could produce all the oil and gas you want or all the energy, and produce and generate the power, but if you can't move it to the places where it needs to be, it is as if you haven't produced it.

I know something about this subject as chair of the energy committee. So

after we do Keystone, which we are going to do tomorrow, we have to build some other pipelines that go east and west.

This is only to take 10 percent of North Dakota's supply. North Dakota has become the leading supplier of oil and gas in the country. I wish to talk about North Dakota for 1 minute. I can't do it justice, such as Senator HEITKAMP can do it, but I heard her give this speech enough to be able to repeat it, and it is worth repeating.

The Senator from Texas just came to the floor and lamented: Oh, my gosh, what can we do to lift the middle class? How can we lift their economic outlook?

The Senators, all three of them, came and asked that question. I gave them an answer: Build the Keystone Pipeline. Do they know what is happening in North Dakota? It might be a sparsely populated State, but it has now surpassed every State in the production of oil.

The other thing they do is they took their energy production, No. 36 on a scale of 1 to 50—they were the poorest State. The Senator from West Virginia would know where they are today. Do we know where they are in 4 years? They have moved from 36 to 6. Think about that. I want to let that sink in for just 1 minute. North Dakota moved their number from 36 out of 50 to 6 out of 50 in 4 years.

Now, I challenge any Senator from any part of this country or any political leaning to come down to this floor in the next 24 hours and show me one piece of legislation, one tax cut, one jobs bill that could move a State in 4 years or a group of States from 36 to 6. That is the power of this industry, and we are standing in its way.

It is shameful, it is wrong, and it must stop today. If people want to hide, they are going to have a hard time.

I want everybody to hear clearly this is not a time to hide, not a time to sit down, and not a time to play games. It is a time to stand. We already have enough votes to pass this bill. We have 45—we have every single Republican, none of whom are on the floor now. Every single Republican of this Chamber is a cosponsor of this bill on which I am going to ask unanimous consent. So I would think very carefully before anyone objects because they are all cosponsors on the bill. Think hard before you do.

Mr. MANCHIN. Senator, if I could just touch on one thing because we have here our good friend Senator TESTER of Montana, who also knows a thing or two about an energy-producing State.

I think on the environment, you touched on that. Most people believe that people who come from energy States throw caution to the wind on environmental issues. There is no one

in this body—I don't believe on either side of the aisle—who doesn't want the best for themselves, their children, families, and future generations.

With that being said, I think this pipeline has passed every hurdle the environmental community—rightfully so—has put out so that we should make sure we were protecting the environment and trying to find a balance between the environment and the economics, if you will. The economy is so vitally important. I don't know if there is any environmental impact study standing in the way that would prevent this.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I agree with the Senator. I think he is absolutely correct. The Senator from Montana knows this as well. The Senator from Montana also has an issue that I will ask him to explain in just a moment—he knows it better than I do—about private property rights, because he negotiated the language in the bill.

But responding to the question of the Senator from West Virginia about the environment, that is what is so exciting about this project, so compelling for us to move forward. Not only did the international study that was done say it is in our international interests, of course, to trade with our best and most friendly trading partner closest to us that enjoys the same high quality standard of life that we do and even higher environmental standards, but the environmental study that came in, conducted by the President's own administration—this wasn't done previously—came back and concluded this is the safest way to move it and it is the most environmentally friendly way to move it, and that is the record.

So the Senator is right. Not only does it have a compelling economic argument, but it has a compelling environmental argument from that perspective.

I would ask the Senator from Montana if he could explain the very important language that is in the Landrieu-Hoeven bill that is cosponsored by every single Republican and this chairman and that is about the language he negotiated on private property rights, because this is a very important principle for many Republicans but also for many Democrats, particularly in Louisiana, where we have a lot of private property. In West Virginia you have a lot of private property. In Montana you have a lot of private but also some public lands.

Would the Senator answer that question if he would.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I thank the Senator from Louisiana and the Senator from West Virginia. I have a few things to say, and I will do so very quickly. But since this is the first time we have been on the floor since the election, I

think the American people are frustrated with the ways things work in Washington—enough political games.

They told us that Americans want lawmakers to compromise, to work together, and to get things done.

Americans told us they want a stronger economy with good-paying jobs. It shouldn't have taken an election to get this message through, but it did. Nationwide, including my State of Montana, it is fair to say the unemployment rate is down, but it is also fair to say wages are not where they need to be. Too many Americans and too many Montanans are struggling to make ends meet.

The Keystone XL Pipeline can help address some of those issues. But now we have another attempt to block consideration of this bipartisan bill written here by Senators LANDRIEU and HOEVEN. The votes are there. We know that. If there is one way we can create good-paying jobs right away, it is by approving and building this Keystone XL Pipeline. Building the pipeline would tell the American public that Washington is ready to turn the page. It will tell them we heard them, that their voices matter, and that Washington is reacting appropriately.

Building the pipeline will strengthen our economy and our infrastructure. First, according to the State Department, building the pipeline will create 16,000 jobs and support another 26,000 more. Those are jobs that will help working-class Americans provide for their families.

Secondly, the pipeline will include an on ramp for oil from the Bakken region of Montana and North Dakota, and let more energy go from our country to the marketplace, which is where it needs to go. With production in the Bakken continuing to boom, we need more options to get that American oil where it needs to be, and the XL Pipeline is where that needs to be.

Third, shipping oil by pipeline is the safest way to ship it. That is a fact. And the safety of American families and communities must come first.

Fourth, building the pipeline means more business with Canada, our friend to the north, and less business with the Middle East—folks who don't like us. Our country continues to be involved in conflicts in the Middle East. By continuing to do more business with our neighbors to the north, as opposed to countries that don't share our world view, we can help cut off the funds to those who work against us. I think the Keystone Pipeline is a big step toward creating that energy security.

The pipeline must be built right. I will get to the point Senator LANDRIEU talked about. It must be constructed with respect to private property rights. We cannot have foreign corporations using eminent domain to run roughshod over the fields of a farmer in Montana or a business owner in Nebraska

or over sacred tribal lands. The respect for private property rights is in the Landrieu-Hoeven bill. It is not in the House bill. It is a critical component. It has to be, otherwise we are making a huge mistake.

This pipeline also must be built to the highest safety standards. There can be no corners cut. Leaks and spills don't make anybody any money. They are unacceptable. The most modern safety systems must be employed, including double piping, if necessary. That is a fundamental difference between the Landrieu-Hoeven bill—what they have drafted in the House and the good work we have done in the Senate. The House bill contains no protections for landowners. None. Zip.

The House bill says: Good luck, landowners. You are subject to eminent domain by a foreign corporation. You have no spill prevention protections. The Landrieu-Hoeven bill, on the other hand, protects rural America, protects private property rights.

Senator LANDRIEU has been working on this effort for years. This bill will give the pipeline the Senate's seal of approval and it will send a signal to all Americans that Congress is working together creating good jobs, supporting our economy, and that we are able to make responsible decisions.

But as this debate moves forward, I will continue to push to make sure the oil shipped through this pipeline stays in America. I have heard the arguments on all sides, but North America's oil should stay in North America. It will make our country more energy secure. It will lead to cheaper energy that will be more affordable for our homes, for our businesses, and for our working families. That will lead to more good manufacturing jobs in this country. Because of our energy costs, we will be able to recruit that manufacturing base back to our country that we gave up some 20 or 30 years ago.

There are a lot of reasons to approve and build the Keystone XL Pipeline. It will support our middle class—and we need to support our middle class—it will make us more energy secure; and it will strengthen our transportation and infrastructure system.

But America needs a sign. It needs a reason to trust that Congress and Washington as a whole are listening. Approving the pipeline with the needed protections and with respect to private property rights is that sign. I, like the American people, am tired of the gridlock and tired of kicking the can down the road. I didn't come here to delay and push our problems to the future. I came here to work for commonsense solutions we can enact today and move this country forward today. The Keystone XL Pipeline is one of those solutions.

Passing this bill and building this pipeline is one of those very important

things we need to do for our infrastructure, for our energy security, and for the country as a whole. I encourage my colleagues to support and help us rebuild our trust with the American people.

With that, I turn it back to the good Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Let me say the Senator from Montana, and all of us—there are quite a few of us—are on this bill for a reason. It is about the opportunities for jobs that we have. And it doesn't have an environmental detriment to our country. That has already been proven. So with all of this, what is the hangup? Why can't we get this vote we are hoping to get by tomorrow at the latest?

I can only talk about the jobs with the thousand American companies that are providing the goods it takes to build this pipeline. I have a chance in West Virginia—we are doing an awful lot of the work right now because we come from an energy State that does an awful lot of the support work for any type of energy throughout the country and around the world. But the bottom line is, again, if you are going to have a secure nation, you have to have control of your own destiny. This gives us the control we don't have, it gives us the ability to say, listen, we may not have to go around the world and engage in the different conflicts we see going on right now. That is what we are talking about.

So the security of the Nation, I think, is the most important thing Keystone does, is it helps us be more secure with the greatest trading partner we have. Canada is the best and the largest trading partner for 35 States out of the 50. People take jaunts all over the world trying to develop a market here and there. But when it comes down to it, the No. 1 trading partner for 35 States is Canada. And Canada is working with us.

I know Canada has pressure from around the world to go somewhere else. So if we have the best partner—the best outlook we have ever had or can imagine—working with us to help develop this product the whole world seems to need and want and we need in America, why not have control?

The Senator from Louisiana talked about this. Why shouldn't we bring that oil into America and do all the heavy lifting and then ship it somewhere else? It is supply and demand. When you have control of supply, when you have the supply in your own back yard—and there might be demand, but you have a need also within our country—that gives a pretty good hand to play. That is what we are saying. Why would we let any of these advantages be turned to a disadvantage?

The only thing I can do is hope we can get this vote. And I would say to

my good friends on the other side of the aisle, my Republican colleagues, this would be the best gesture to move the ball forward. This would be the best gesture they could make, coming off of the changes, the shift we saw from Tuesday's election. People are speaking. They want us to work. It is the same for the Senator from Montana, the same for the Presiding Officer. They want us to do something. They want us to work.

We are not going to agree all the time with people. The best we can do is try. We had a football game we played the other day at WVU. We played TCU. We were ahead. We should have won the game. Going into the last half of the fourth quarter, for some reason the play calling wasn't as aggressive as it had been the first three quarters. We sat on the ball and we got beat 31 to 30. People don't want us to sit on the ball in the Senate.

It is time for us to do something. It is time for us to move forward. After Tuesday's election, we can work together. We have heard you loud and clear. We are willing to take a vote. We know the environment will be protected. We know we can find a balance between the environment and the economy. We know we can reap thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs and put millions and millions of dollars into the economy. That is what we do know.

There will still be some people who don't support this piece of legislation, and they have all their reasons to speak about that. But give us a reason to vote for something that will help America and help our States individually. That is what we are asking for. That is what the good Senator has been fighting for since the day I have been here.

Senator LANDRIEU being the chairman of the energy committee has made a difference from my standpoint, looking at our energy policy as a whole. But how do we keep the United States of America secure and out of troubled spots in the world? I appreciate her efforts on this, and I look forward to working with her on this. I endorsed the bill, I am a cosponsor, and I will definitely proudly vote for this piece of legislation as soon as we can get it on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I see the Senator from North Dakota has arrived, and of course she wants to speak and can do so beautifully because this pipeline comes through her State, as I said. But I do want to respond to a few things and thank the Senator from West Virginia.

I have heard colleagues, particularly my colleague from California, say this often, and she says it in committee and on the floor. And even though she and I are on opposite sides of this debate,

we have worked together on some important legislation for our country, and I have such respect for her leadership on the RESTORE Act, which was an amazing piece of environmental legislation for our gulf coast States. Without her leadership it would not have happened. But I have heard her say over and over and over again that elections have consequences, and this one does, just as they all do. And one of the consequences of this election is that a clear path for Keystone has been opened up.

The reporters following this legislation, which they have followed very carefully, know exactly what I am talking about when I say a path for passage has been cleared. In my view, that path will never, ever be clearer than it is today. Now in order for the path to stay clear, and it is crystal clear today, politics must be set aside. Gamesmanship has to be set aside. We must come together to do what is right for the country, for the American people, and to vote.

There are strong feelings, I know, against this bill. There have been for many years. But the overwhelming majority of this body—60-plus Members—has indicated support for this legislation. And the Senate bill, from the perspective we just heard—from private property rights, for clarity, for simplicity—is far superior to the House bill that has been passed.

The House is very agile—very agile. They can do lots of things quickly that the Senate can't do. So the House may decide to take the language of this bill, pass it, and call it something else. I understand that. I don't know if that is what they will do, but there is a clear path for victory on Keystone. Whoever's name is on the bill does not matter to me as long as it gets done. I want to say that again. The name on the bill does not matter to me as long as this gets done. And it needs to get done right now—not in January, not in February, not in March.

It doesn't need to be combined with anything else. It needs to get done on its own, because it is standing alone. It will go to the President's desk as a stand-alone. I believe the President will have to make an important decision. I am hoping he will sign it. But if he doesn't, that is the process. I hope he will, and I will be urging him to do so because his administration—his State Department, his EPA, and his Transportation Department—has urged him to support this piece of legislation for the strength of our economy, a signal to our allies, and to strengthen America here and abroad. I would strongly urge him to sign it.

We have a job to do in the Senate, the President has a job to do, and the House has a job to do. But if everybody would stop playing games with this bill and think about what the American people said on election day and stop

trying to push one philosophy or one person ahead of the other, we can get this done.

My name is not even first on this bill. Senator HOEVEN's name is first. It is a Hoeven bill. I am the lead Democratic sponsor because I am the chair of the energy committee, and I will be until January 2. If my voters send me back, I will be here for 6 more years. That is why my name is on the bill, because I chair the committee. But if they want to take my name off, put somebody's else name on it and pass it, so be it. I didn't come here to see my name in lights. I came here to create jobs for my State and for this country, and I believe I have done an excellent job in the 18 years I have been here, through very difficult circumstances, and will continue should the voters want me to.

Today we need to talk about the Keystone Pipeline, and nobody can speak better of this than the Senator from North Dakota. I wish to line this up before she speaks, because she was traveling and she just landed. She might not have heard what all three leaders said when they came to the floor. Senator REID, Senator CORNYN, and Senator McCONNELL said their No. 1 goal was to break gridlock, and they wanted to start now. Their second goal was to expand middle-class job opportunities and create wealth in America.

So I am hoping the Senator from the State that has created the most wealth in the shortest period of time of any State of the Union might express to the rest of us actually how that happened and why she thinks this Keystone Pipeline and other pipelines—because she and I agree, this is just the first of several we are going to have to lay down to make America a super-energy power. We don't become a superenergy power by just wishing it; we become a superenergy power by putting in the infrastructure that makes it possible. Even kids in second grade understand this. We have to put up windmills, we have to put up solar panels, we have to put in pipelines, we have to put in highways.

The Senator from North Dakota, who has a very sparsely populated State, understands the issue of this infrastructure I think better than any Senator in this body. So I am going to ask her if she would respond to that and maybe elaborate on the question: How did her State get so wealthy in the last few years?

My State is doing well. I am not here complaining. My State is doing beautifully. Our unemployment in south Louisiana is 3 percent, so we are blessed because we are an energy State. We are proud of it. We are creating jobs hand over fist. But there are places such as Detroit, there are places in Ohio, there are places in Pennsylvania and New York and New Mexico and other places where people are unemployed, begging for work, willing to

work. Three leaders came to the floor and said: It is time to break gridlock. Here is a project that can do it. So I hope to see them sometime before close of business tonight.

Would the Senator expound on that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I stand with my great colleague and a great champion of this energy renaissance—probably the greatest champion of the energy renaissance here in the Senate, the Senator from Louisiana.

I wish to speak first about the election. I think all of us have had some time now to reflect, and I think the clearest message this entire body, as well as the entire U.S. Congress, received is: Stop fighting. Get your work done. I don't think it could have been any clearer.

We have an opportunity today to demonstrate we got that message, not in a partisan way, but in a bipartisan way—in a nonpartisan way—to say: We heard you loud and clear. It is time to do the job we were sent here to do, and that is to move legislation which moves this country forward.

Senator LANDRIEU has expounded on the great opportunity of this energy renaissance, not just for this country but for the entire world. So let's start with what is happening in North Dakota.

We have had an explosion of oil and gas production. In fact, we have rapidly moved to second place in this country in oil production. We produce oil from oil shale.

What does that mean? It means nothing if we can't move the oil. It means nothing if we can't get this product to the refineries and this product to market. We can produce all the oil we want, but part of what we need to address as we look at an energy infrastructure is how we move energy products.

Today in America, and actually in Canada, how we are moving this product is by rail, which has created tremendous stress on our agricultural infrastructure. It has created tremendous stress on manufacturers who need to use those rails to haul their finished products. It has created tremendous stress for the railroads. Are they glad for the business? You bet. And has that created and opened up new markets for the oil production in my State? You bet. But the bottom line is, the best way we know how to move oil and move this product is in a pipe, and that is essential to building all this energy infrastructure.

Why is it important? Let's start first with the fact that we now are moving toward North American energy self-sufficiency. A lot of people talk about America, and that is a great goal. But if we include our friends to the north—the people I grew up with, the people I

know—I have been to the oil sands, I have been all over Alberta, I have been all over Saskatchewan. This is a very friendly country which has the longest contiguous border with which there has never been a conflict. We celebrate this in North Dakota with Peace Garden, which is a lovely park on both sides of the border where one can easily cross. We celebrate that. These are our friends. And if we are going to continue to build out this energy renaissance in North America, we had better be prepared to move this product.

We all know some of the opposition to this has very little to do with the pipeline. It has to do with a concern about the increased availability of fossil fuels. This is still an economy that runs on fossil fuels. We have done tremendous work with fuel efficiency. We have done tremendous work with energy efficiency. But we are going to continue to use gasoline in our cars, we are going to continue to use diesel in our heavy equipment, and we are going to continue to use this product.

Who do we want to buy this product from? If we ask any American person: Would you rather buy this product from Venezuela or would you rather buy this product from our friends to the north, Canada, I am pretty sure what their answer will be.

So let's talk a little bit about why the United States, at a time when we are seeing a global slowdown in economic progress for many of the other countries throughout the world—why is the United States seeming to go farther? Why are we producing and generating more wealth in our country than other places? I would tell you, it is because of this energy renaissance. We are doing something no one else is doing—we are producing our own oil and gas, we are developing the techniques to get this oil and gas out of the ground, and we are taking that as a raw material which is providing a renaissance, not just in the oil area but also in natural gas as a feedstock for many of our manufacturing processes. So we have a real opportunity here. But all of that goes away if we don't move the product, if we don't figure out a way to make sure our product gets to market.

I will talk a little bit also about what this development in our country means to the world, when we are confronting great challenges in dealing with Russia, in looking at what is happening in the Middle East. We are confronting all of these challenges throughout the world. We know we can not only deploy our humanitarian efforts, our efforts by supporting through air strikes some of the work that is being done on the ground, but perhaps the single most important thing we can do is help provide oil and gas to Europe and to those countries dependent on people or on countries that are not our friends.

We look at what our opportunities are today, and we know those opportunities are in the energy renaissance.

So how do we move this product? How do we send a signal that we are ready to take advantage, both globally and domestically, of this product, of this renaissance in North America? We approve the Keystone Pipeline.

A lot of people talk about what the Keystone Pipeline means to my State. It doesn't exactly go into my State, but the Governor of Montana made sure when he was providing the permits that there wasn't what I call an on ramp. There is a place where we can in fact access the Keystone Pipeline. We anticipate about 100,000 barrels a day of North Dakota crude will be able to be placed into the Keystone Pipeline and sent down to refineries in Louisiana. That may sound like a lot, but it is less than 10 percent of our current production.

For me, the Keystone is so much more than this particular pipeline. It is a national discussion about our failing energy transportation infrastructure. That is what this is. And if we do not move this project forward, if we say no, what is the next thing? What is the next project that is essential? A 22-mile pipeline in Massachusetts that would provide huge stability for the northeast in terms of their heat production. Twenty-two miles could be a huge benefit to our friends in Maine in terms of stabilizing their home heating costs this winter, but yet we fight the pipeline.

Keystone is a huge advantage we have in this country because we are an oil and gas producer, and could potentially be an oil exporter, providing that source of soft power across the world. What do we do? We turn our back on the infrastructure that moves this product. So we have got to do everything we can to get this approved.

I wish to turn briefly to the politics. A lot of people come here and talk politics. I believe this is the place to talk policy, and that is what I try to do. But for a moment, I wish to talk about the respect we should have for voters. I wish to talk about elections, and elections have consequences. One of the things we can do to begin to restore the public faith in our democracy and in the institution of the U.S. Congress is to do something bold to begin with: Actually move legislation that people have been waiting for for a long time, and actually respond to concerns.

Maybe we get the votes, maybe we don't. But let's take a vote. Take a vote and get it done. Show the American public we are willing to come to this body, debate the great issues of the time, and bring things to a vote so they actually see us doing something; they actually get results. They pay our salary. We came here to vote. We came here to work. We came here to do something for the American public.

We don't all agree; there is no doubt about that. But the thing we should all agree on is it is essential in terms of providing certainty to the American public, confidence that the American public has in this body—that they see us on this floor, not 2 years or 2 months from now, not 3 months from now, not 4 months from now, but today—the first day we are back in session after an election, a hard-fought election with pretty dire consequences for our side of the aisle, but a hard election. It is essential we send a message that we got the message and we take a vote.

I am so proud of my colleague from Louisiana for coming back when, arguably, she should be back in her State doing a little campaigning. But she is back here fighting for what she believes in and what she has always believed in, which is an energy infrastructure which makes a difference for North America, makes a difference for not just States such as mine but consumers of energy.

I thank the Senator from Louisiana for her tremendous leadership on this and her willingness to basically come here and say: I don't care who gets the credit. I don't care if my name is on it or not. Let's get the Keystone Pipeline approved.

Now I want to make one final point and then I will close. If you have driven the route of the Keystone Pipeline, what you will see stockpiled every so many miles is thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars of pipe waiting—6 years waiting—infrastructure that needs to go today. So when people say we can wait to take this vote, you are wrong. The sooner the better. The sooner we take this vote and get it approved, the sooner we are going to see those resources deployed and we will not yet miss another construction season in the North Country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and express great gratitude for the opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I know the Senator from Tennessee is on the floor and I would like to take 2 or 3 minutes. I know we can go back and forth but I want to conclude a little bit of this debate we have had.

First, I want to submit for the RECORD—because I am going to remain on the floor and speak after the Senator from Tennessee—but I want to put into the RECORD the list of Republican cosponsors of S. 2280, the date they became cosponsors, and the name of every single Member, including the Senator from Tennessee, who is a cosponsor of the Hoeven-Landrieu bill that is pending on the Senate Calendar, S. 2280. I ask unanimous consent that the list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST OF REPUBLICAN CO-SPONSORS OF S. 2280
AND THE DATE THEY BECAME CO-SPONSORS

Sen Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]—5/1/2014
Sen Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]—5/1/2014
Sen Barrasso, John [R-WY]—5/1/2014
Sen Blunt, Roy [R-MO]—5/1/2014
Sen Boozman, John [R-AR]—5/1/2014
Sen Burr, Richard [R-NC]—5/1/2014
Sen Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]—5/1/2014
Sen Coats, Daniel [R-IN]—5/1/2014
Sen Coburn, Tom [R-OK]—5/1/2014
Sen Cochran, Thad [R-MS]—5/1/2014
Sen Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]—5/1/2014
Sen Corker, Bob [R-TN]—5/1/2014
Sen Cornyn, John [R-TX]—5/1/2014
Sen Crapo, Mike [R-ID]—5/1/2014
Sen Cruz, Ted [R-TX]—5/1/2014
Sen Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]—5/1/2014
Sen Fischer, Deb [R-NE]—5/1/2014
Sen Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]—5/1/2014
Sen Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]—5/1/2014
Sen Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]—5/1/2014
Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]—5/1/2014
Sen Heller, Dean [R-NV]—5/1/2014
Sen Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]—5/1/2014
Sen Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]—5/1/2014
Sen Johanns, Mike [R-NE]—5/1/2014
Sen Johnson, Ron [R-WI]—5/1/2014
Sen Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]—5/1/2014
Sen Lee, Mike [R-UT]—5/1/2014
Sen McCain, John [R-AZ]—5/1/2014
Sen McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]—5/1/2014
Sen Moran, Jerry [R-KS]—5/1/2014
Sen Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]—5/1/2014
Sen Paul, Rand [R-KY]—5/1/2014
Sen Portman, Rob [R-OH]—5/1/2014
Sen Risch, James E. [R-ID]—5/1/2014
Sen Roberts, Pat [R-KS]—5/1/2014
Sen Rubio, Marco [R-FL]—5/1/2014
Sen Scott, Tim [R-SC]—5/1/2014
Sen Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]—5/1/2014
Sen Shelby, Richard C. [R-AL]—5/1/2014
Sen Thune, John [R-SD]—5/1/2014
Sen Toomey, Pat [R-PA]—5/1/2014
Sen Vitter, David [R-LA]—5/1/2014
Sen Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]—5/1/2014

Ms. LANDRIEU. I also want to put into the RECORD the 35-plus very powerful organizations that range from business to labor to manufacturers that have been a strong and powerful and vocal coalition for over 5 years in their efforts to bring us together. They have come together. The question is whether the Members of Congress will come together. These groups have come together. It is not often that you see the laborers, pipefitters, boiler-makers, and builders and trades all together sitting down with the Chamber of Commerce and the American Petroleum Institute, but they managed to find common ground at a common table, and America will be best served when the Members of this body and the House do the same.

I also want to put into the RECORD two short statements, and this is directed to those who are on the other side of this issue and who are wavering or are not sure. I want to put into the RECORD that the environmental review process has been conducted over 5½ years. The review process has been thorough. Five studies have been conducted, as required by law, and are complete.

I want to repeat that. The five environmental studies that are required by law have been conducted. They are

completed. I ask unanimous consent that that material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUPPORT FOR KEYSTONE XL

American Chemistry Council, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Exploration & Production Council, American Highway Users Alliance, American Petroleum Institute, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Trucking Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute.

Distribution Contractors Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Industrial Minerals Association-North America, Institute for 21st Century Energy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers' International Union of North America, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association.

North America's Building Trades Unions, Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, Portland Cement Association, SPI: The Plastic Industry Trade Association, The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Council of Engineering Companies.

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Rental Association, American Supply Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Business Roundtable, Consumer Energy Alliance, Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance, Industrial Fasteners Institute.

Industrial Union of Operating Engineers, Institute of Makers of Explosives, International Union of Operating Engineers, Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation, National Association of Manufacturers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, National Utility Contractors Association, North American Die Casting Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, Steel Manufacturers Association, US Oil & Gas Association, Western Energy Alliance.

BACKGROUND INFO

Review Process: Five and a half years since it was first proposed in 2008, we are still reviewing it. The review process has been thorough. The five studies that have been conducted, as required by law, are complete.

1. April 16, 2010—Department of State issues its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It opens a 45-day comment period, which it extends for additional days.

2. April 15, 2011—Department of State issues a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and opens another 45-day comment period. More than 280,000 comments are received.

3. August 26, 2011—Department of State issues its Final Environmental Impact Statement and opens up a 90-day review period. The agency continues accepting public comments.

4. March 1, 2013—The U.S. State Department issued its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone

XL Presidential Permit application, which includes the proposed new route through Nebraska. The SEIS findings are similar to the Department's FEIS issued last August, which found the pipeline will have limited adverse environmental impacts.

5. January 31, 2014—The U.S. State Department issued its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the permit application, confirming the project is safe and will have limited environmental impacts. The report reflects that TransCanada has agreed to incorporate 59 special safety conditions.

Ms. LANDRIEU. In addition, the only other requirement is from the State Department, and I want to put this into the RECORD. But the bottom line is the last statement of the State Department finds "there will be no significant impact on the environment from the [Keystone XL] project." I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LATEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY FROM
STATE DEPARTMENT

The EIS finds that there will be no significant impact on the environment from the project.

State Department finds that crude oil from the pipeline is unlikely to be exported, because the transport cost of getting it to the U.S. combined with transport overseas would be uneconomical.

The study also finds that the failure to construct the pipeline will not negatively affect the rate at which oil is extracted from the oil sands—that is, State Department predicts that rail transport expansion will be able to support additional production.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The path today is crystal clear. Today it is crystal clear. There is no guarantee that next week or next month or when the Republicans take the majority that the path could be as clear as it is today. Let us not miss this opportunity. Let us get our work done on the Keystone XL Pipeline, an important project in this country, and send a message that we have heard the voters and show that trust with us begins today on their behalf.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Presiding Officer and the Senator from Louisiana.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Tomorrow at 2:15 we will have a vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 2014.

I want to take a few minutes and explain why it is important to end the debate on the Child Care and Development Block Grant and vote on whether we want to turn it into a law.

When I talk about why it is important, I think of a young woman from Memphis who attended LeMoyne College. This woman had a young child

and was able to qualify for a child care voucher from the State of Tennessee. There are about 900,000 families across the country that take advantage of this Federal voucher program. She was able to get \$500 or \$600 a month in order to provide daycare for her child while she pursued a business degree from LeMoyne-Owen College. With the help of this program she graduated with her degree and earned a position as an assistant manager at Walmart. With her new position, she is now able to pay for the child care for her second child without help from the Federal Government. This is exactly the kind of legislating we should be doing at the Federal level.

What is the appropriate role of the Federal Government on an issue such as childcare? The answer this bill gives is that we should enable this young mother and 21,000 other families in Tennessee to take a Federal voucher, choose their own childcare center, and help them to financial independence through work or continued education or training programs. It has been an enormously successful program. The program has worked for over 20 years and was inaugurated in the administration of George H.W. Bush and was a bipartisan product of Congress. It follows the example of other successful Federal programs by enabling American families to help themselves.

We follow the same model when we deal with Federal Pell grants and loans that help students pay for college. Last year the Presiding Officer will remember we had an agreement in this body on huge changes to the student loan program. President Obama became involved and Secretary Arne Duncan led a bipartisan working group to develop a solution. The Republican House of Representatives came along, and we created new rules for the \$100 billion of loans the Federal Government makes to students every year. The result was a market-based system that is revenue-neutral for the taxpayers, and lowered the interest rates on student loans to undergraduates by about one-half that year. We first used the idea of Federal vouchers for education with the passage of the GI bill in 1944. Recipients can take a voucher and then choose among educational institutions of their choice, such as the University of Notre Dame, University of New Mexico, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, Yeshiva College, or whichever accredited college they so choose. This idea has worked very well and the GI bill may be the most successful piece of social legislation ever passed.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant is a good example of the government working as an enabler rather than simply prescribing mandates. The program provides \$5.3 billion for childcare services for children under the age of 13, with plenty of flexibility. While it has broad bipar-

tisan support, Republican particularly appreciate the flexibility the act provides to States through block grants. States are then able to provide parents with vouchers so that they can select a provider that best meets their needs. It is a model that has proven successful since 1944 and one I hope we continue.

Now we have the chance to move this bill forward by voting to end debate. The cloture vote that we will have tomorrow will reflect that we debated the bill fully and that at least 60 of us believe it is time to move forward and vote yes or no.

Have we all had our say? I believe so. Senator HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator BURR, have worked on this for several years as well as several others of us. It was approved 1 year ago by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on a bipartisan basis. Then in March of this year, 2014, the bill was debated and discussed in this very chamber over a 2-day period.

We have had a lot of discussion in the Senate about whether we get to offer amendments. That concern has come from the Senator who is presiding today, that concern has come from me, it has come from the Senator from Oklahoma, who is here. It is not easy to be elected to the Senate and it is not easy to stay in office. And once elected, senators want their voices to be heard, whether it is on the Keystone Pipeline or the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The Child Care and Development Block Grant went through a model process that began with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, then to the Senate floor on March 12 through unanimous consent. There was no motion for cloture, no filling of the tree, and anyone who offered a relevant amendment was able to share and debate that amendment.

Senators offered 50 different amendments. Then we considered and agreed to 18 of those amendments. This body approved 4 by recorded vote and 14 by voice vote. Senators ENZI, LANDRIEU, FRANKEN, COBURN, BOXER, LEE, PORTMAN, TESTER, SCOTT, THUNE, BENNET, WARREN, VITTER, and SANDERS all had amendments to this bill. They were allowed to offer them, speak on them, and they were either voted on or accepted, and then the bill was passed by the Senate.

The bill then went to the House of Representatives, was amended and approved and then sent back to us. Again, here we have an example of a good process.

I think part of the reason for the quality of the process is the bipartisan appreciation for early childhood education. I think it is time to stop talking and vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

I ask our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for it.

I think all of us can support the idea of early childhood education. I am the product of one of the first early learning programs in the State of Tennessee. When I was a child, my mother started one of the two early preschool education programs in our county. She held class in a converted garage in our back yard with 24 3-year-olds in the morning and 25 5-year-olds in the afternoon. It is hard to imagine a single mother dealing with that many children all at one time, but she did. As her son, I was able to experience kindergarten for 5 years. I may be the only U.S. Senator who can say that.

I had an appreciation for early childhood education instilled in me by both my mother and father. Many of us in this chamber have a very similar appreciation. We may have different ways of trying to get to that goal, but this legislation, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, provides \$5.3 billion to families across the country, namely mothers, who are going to school so they can get a job, or who are working so like the young woman in Memphis I mentioned earlier, can stand on their own two feet. This program helps them get started.

It is an important bill. I congratulate Senators HARKIN and BURR and MIKULSKI for their hard work on this. I urge my colleagues tomorrow afternoon to vote yes on ending debate on cloture for the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have been on the floor now for a couple of hours urging some of our colleagues to take heed of one of the clear messages from this election. People all over the country voted and spoke, and spoke clearly and loudly to say let's get to work, let's work together, let's stop the gridlock and let's find common ground to move our country forward.

Two hours ago I came to the floor to see about one of the most important pieces of legislation, the Keystone Pipeline, as Chair of the Energy Committee in the Senate. I have had the great privilege of working in a bipartisan manner with the Members of the Republican Caucus on this bill led by Senator HOEVEN. I am the lead sponsor on the Democratic side and there is a large group of my colleagues trying to convince this body to have a vote, and a strong 60-vote margin, which is required for passage on the Keystone Pipeline. The Senator from West Virginia has come down and the Senator from North Dakota came down to speak and the Senator from Montana joined me, and I want to announce we have just gotten great word from the

House of Representatives. Evidently they heard us speaking, and they have introduced our bill in the House.

They have introduced our bill in the House, and the information we have gotten is that they plan to pass it tomorrow. Let me just say hallelujah. I will say it again—hallelujah—because their bill would never have passed this body and their bill would not have any chance of getting the President's signature because it is Keystone Pipeline plus—or it was—but now the House has introduced the exact same bill as the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. We now have an even clearer path to victory. I started 2 hours ago saying that I could see the path. I am not sure everybody else could, but it is clear to me now that everybody is starting to see it, and I could not be happier.

I don't have the actual number of the House bill. I was just told they introduced an identical bill, including the private property language, which is absolutely essential to secure the 60 votes required. That is why I drafted it in the bill, that is why Senator HOEVEN insisted it be in the bill, and that is why we have it in the bill. I thank the House for keeping that language, which is important for its ultimate passage. To me, it looks as though just in the last 2 hours lots of people are paying attention, and this is wonderful because this is an important step.

I believe I am also a cosponsor of Senator ALEXANDER's bill. No Senator has worked harder in either party, and that is saying a lot because Senator MURRAY and Senator MIKULSKI have worked hard on this issue. Senator ALEXANDER—a former Secretary of Education—has been ceaseless and tireless in his effort on behalf of early childhood education. He and I worked together when President Bush was President. I believe and I hope I am a cosponsor of his bill, and I look forward to helping him move that piece of legislation forward for a vote. There might be a few things in there other Members disagree with, but that is our process. This is a critical issue for education and job creation as well. We have the Keystone Pipeline on one end, which is as concrete as steel, and then we have the soft issues, which are also important issues, such as economic development, which begins with early childhood education. I am so proud to be an advocate of both bills, and I thank the Senator for his leadership.

I urge my Members, who I believe have been very supportive on this issue—as have the Republican Members—to give cloture on his bill.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Mr. INHOFE. I read with a lot of interest about the trip President Obama

made to China and his meeting with President Xi over what they characterized as an agreement on greenhouse gas emissions. I didn't hear any kind of agreement or anything that was said by the President of China, and they have been talking about this as a historic breakthrough. That is exactly what they said in 2009, back when Copenhagen was center stage for the big annual party.

Just so people are aware of what goes on, the United Nations throws a big party to get countries to agree to reduce greenhouse gases by a certain amount. It is kind of interesting since at one of the first ones I went to, I saw a good friend of mine from Benin in West Africa, and I said: You guys are not sucked into this thing—I know that for a fact—in terms of any kind of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. What would happen to the economy of West Africa if you did that?

He said: This is the biggest party of the year, so we are all going to be here.

The same thing was true in Copenhagen.

Before I go into that, let's take a look at what they called a major historic breakthrough between the United States and China where the President pledged to reduce the emissions in the United States between 26 and 28 percent by 2025. What did China agree to? First of all, even if they did agree to reduce emissions, we would not believe them because they don't end up doing what they say they are going to do in these agreements. But China says that what they are going to do is stop increasing their CO₂ emissions by 2030. In other words, between now and 2030 they are going to continue to increase their levels of CO₂ emissions, which I agree they are going to do that.

Next year—that is, a year from December—there is going to be another big party that will be in Paris, and it will be the one where President Obama says he and President Xi from China have an agreement. But, of course, that is going to be kind of like it was in Copenhagen back in 2009.

I remember 2009 so well. At that time I was—and I still am—on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We had a wonderful lady who was President Obama's appointee to be the Director of the EPA, and at that time in Copenhagen they already had Congresswoman PELOSI, Senator BOXER, President Obama, and then-Senator John Kerry. All of them were over there promising the 191 countries that were in Copenhagen that we were going to pass some kind of cap and trade.

After that was over, I went on a quick roundtrip to Copenhagen. I always remember that trip because I was on the ground, after all that travel, all of 3 hours, but I think it was the most enjoyable 3 hours I ever had because I was able to be over there as a one-man truth squad and to say to the people attending that great meeting there that

the United States was not going to pass any kind of cap and trade. In fact, the most votes they could have gotten in the Senate at that time—and the Senate is changing, as we all know—was 30 votes. Obviously it took a lot more than that to do that.

I went over as the one-man truth squad to tell them that they were not telling the truth and that there is no way in the world we are going to pass it, and the same is true this time.

I will tell you what that meeting reminds me of. It reminds me of the meeting that took place in China a couple of days ago with our President. It reminded me of the meeting that took place in Rio de Janeiro. This would have been in 1998, which was during the Clinton White House. They went over there and agreed and signed the Kyoto Treaty. They signed the treaty knowing for a fact that it would not be ratified on this end. We know it takes a supermajority to ratify a treaty in the Senate.

We had a resolution that was passed at that time called the Byrd-Hagel resolution. It said that we would not ratify any agreement, such as Kyoto or anything like that, that didn't do two things—that were either harmful to the economy or didn't treat all countries the same. In other words, we have to treat the reductions in China the same as they would be in the United States. Of course the Kyoto Treaty didn't do that. They knew at the time it was not going to be ratified. In fact, they were not even going to submit it for ratification to this body, and that is exactly what did happen.

Let's look at what is happening in China right now. China is doing pretty well. Between 2005 and 2011, China added roughly two 600-megawatt coal-fired powerplants per week. That is two powerplants a week. In 7 years, China added more coal capacity to its fleet than existed in the entire United States. This is not going to be slowing down in the years to come. By their own admission, they will be increasing between now and 2030. China is expected to bring a new coal-fired powerplant online every 10 days to give its economy the electricity it demands. So China is now the largest consumer and importer of coal in the world.

It is kind of interesting. We are going through the shale revolution in this country. Wonderful things are happening here. If we did not have the resistance from the White House, we could be totally independent from any other nation for the production of energy. China, on the other hand, doesn't have the shale or the oil or the gas. They don't have the coal, but they can import the coal, and that is exact what they are doing, and they will continue to do that. Stop and think. If you don't like the arguments, just use logic. Why would China ever agree unilaterally to reduce its emissions when that is the only way it can produce electricity?

I have talked to them before. I talk to people who smile and laugh at us and say: Wait a minute. You say you believe us when we say we are going to reduce our emissions? We applaud the United States. We want the United States to reduce its emissions. If they do that, the manufacturing base has to leave the United States and come to China.

So it is to their advantage to increase their emissions, and that is exactly what will happen.

We will talking about this a lot. I will chair the Environment and Public Works Committee. I chaired that several years ago when the Republicans were in the majority, and the Republicans are a majority again. We will look at these things logically, and we will conduct ourselves in a way that will not give the United States of America the largest single tax increase in history.

Way back in the beginning, in 2001 and that timeframe, a lot of us thought there was actually some truth to the global warming issue, and a lot of people are trying to resurrect that now. However, at that time people didn't know what the cost was going to be. Shortly after that, it was the MIT, Charles River Associates, and the Wharton School that came out with an approximation of what it would cost in the way of a tax increase for the American people if we were to adopt the global warming provisions they wanted to adopt, which was between \$300 and \$400 billion a year.

If you follow that statement with a statement not from me and not from anyone else on the floor of the Senate but from Lisa Jackson, who was the Director of the EPA and was appointed by President Obama—I asked her this question on the record: Let's say that we go ahead and pass one of these resolutions.

The resolutions have been offered since 2002. The first one was offered by MCCAIN and Lieberman and the last one by my friend Senator MARKEY, who was then in the House.

I said: If we pass any of these—the largest increase in history—would this have the effect of reducing greenhouse gases?

Her answer—Lisa Jackson, Director of the EPA, said: No, it would not. She said the problem is in China, India, and Mexico, and that would not affect the overall world emissions of CO₂.

So for those who really believe there is going to be something that comes before us in the form of a treaty—as our President has said will happen in Paris 13 months from now—keep in mind that it is something that will not happen, the same as it was not going to happen in Copenhagen. The American people are not ready. They have studied this issue. They know the science is not there, and what they want to do is to avoid any kind of a negative effect

on our economy, and that is exactly what I think will happen.

I see my good friend is here, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I thank the senior Senator from Oklahoma.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, in the days after the election this year, I heard a number of my colleagues—many from my State—in the House of Representatives and in the Senate talk with great exuberance about repealing the Affordable Care Act. They call it ObamaCare; others call it the Affordable Care Act. I am not sure where they were over the last month or so, but I remember hearing Pope Francis I exhort his parish priests to go out and smell like the flock. Abraham Lincoln used to talk about it. He would say he needs to go outside of the White House and get his public opinion baths.

I cite Pope Francis and President Lincoln because I think if my colleagues had been out talking to real people and not going to fundraisers, not meeting with rich people at country clubs, and not going to the political rallies, but out talking to real people, they would have seen what the Affordable Care Act has done.

In a moment, I wish to talk about a couple of numbers, but more importantly, I want to share some stories. More than 500,000 people in Ohio—and I think New Mexico, the Presiding Officer's State, is proportionately no different—have health insurance today who did not have it 14 months—did not have it 1 year ago. An additional 97,000 young Ohioans—people who are just a bit older than the pages sitting here; 18, 20, 25—are on their parents' health plans. Thousands of Ohioans have been protected as patients, as people who are insured. When they would get sick and their coverage was expensive, they would be dropped by insurance companies because they were too costly. Now they have the consumer protections and they can't be dropped from coverage. One million Ohio seniors now have gotten—with no copay and no deductible—free preventive care for osteoporosis and physician screenings. One million Ohio seniors were able to get their screenings at no cost.

I have to tell a quick story. Every Thursday anybody from Ohio can come to a coffee we have in our office at 8:30 a.m. when the Senate is in session. A family came by on one of those Thursdays. They were pretty conservative. I assume they were not really voters for me, but it didn't matter. We were talking about a bunch of different issues.

The mother said: Thank you for the Affordable Care Act. See my son over there? He is 15 years old.

I said: Yes.

He was across the room. She said that when he was 7, he was diagnosed with diabetes.

She said: I have counted, since he was diagnosed, 34 times that he was turned down for insurance.

My family was turned down for insurance. Last week she told me I got insurance because of the Affordable Care Act, because we don't allow under Federal law now that that be done.

Let me share for a moment, if I could, a handful of letters I have received from people who have written me because of the Affordable Care Act.

Rachel from Hamilton County writes that since 2008 she and her husband insured themselves through individual insurance. It had been difficult, and at times, we had to go without insurance because of the incredibly high cost. I had also been denied insurance due to a preexisting condition. All of that changed since we were able to sign up via the healthcare.gov site. But imagine my surprise when I heard the D.C. Circuit Court struck down subsidies people like myself receive. I receive a subsidy because health insurance has become so expensive that it is unaffordable for so many of us. I fear we will not be able to afford insurance if we lose our subsidy.

Linda from Madison County, west of Columbus, writes: My husband and I have personally benefited from the portion of the bill that did away with lifetime maximum payments. I suspect it may have saved our retirement and kept us off welfare rolls. My colleague benefited from the portion of the bill that allowed her son, who suffers from a potentially fatal illness, to stay on her insurance through age 26, at which time he graduated with a master's degree and got a job.

So this is exactly what this was written for—a 23-24-year-old graduating from college, going on to get more school, getting a master's degree, preparing himself or herself for something better in life. That young man could stay on his parents' health insurance plan until he got a job at 27, with insurance.

Chandra in Summit County writes that she recently commented to some friends about the surprising benefits she was receiving under the Affordable Care Act, and one of her friends suggested she share her story with her elected officials. She says: Because of the ACA, we were able to switch to my husband's insurance without worrying that I would not be covered due to my pregnancy being a preexisting medical condition. The ACA had a very real financial impact on my family.

The question is, Why do some Members of this Congress, all of whom, I believe—almost all of whom—are receiving government-sponsored health insurance benefits from a good government insurance plan—why do they want to deny it to people such as

Chandra and people such as Rachel and others.

Chandra says: I am not the type of individual who one would first think of when thinking of beneficiaries of the ACA. I have a master's degree, my husband and I both work full-time, and our employers also offer a full range of medical, prenatal, and optical benefits.

A few years ago, my husband and I decided to begin growing our family. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, there were no copays for my prenatal care, suggested immunizations or potential well visits. When our son was born, I immediately saw the true impact of the Affordable Care Act. Babies have many well visits and the cost of copays and immunizations have been a burden to some of my friends. Thanks to the ACA, we didn't have that financial burden. Thanks to a combination of good insurance and the Affordable Care Act, I was the recipient of a very nice, double electric breast pump. I also became the first employee at my job to utilize the provisions of the ACA for nursing mothers. A few years later, 2 months before our second child was due, I had the opportunity to take a better job.

She goes on.

The question again is, Why do they want—why do a bunch of politicians who have good insurance, paid for by taxpayers—why do they want to take these benefits away from the 25-year-old man who now has insurance on his parents' plan before he finishes school and goes out in the workplace? Why do they want to take away the preventive care families now have so when their daughter has an earache they can actually go to a family doctor because of the insurance rather than go to the emergency room? All of those things just beg the question, Why the politics of repealing ObamaCare and repealing the Affordable Care Act and taking these benefits away from so many Americans?

Five hundred thousand Ohioans have insurance, 100,000 more young people, a million Ohio seniors getting benefits with no copays and no deductibles, preventive care that helps them live longer, healthier lives. That is really the question.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

U.S.-CHINA CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I rise to commend the historic agreement reached yesterday between the United States and China, the world's largest emitters of carbon pollution. This agreement is the latest and perhaps most consequential in a string of actions President Obama has taken to fight climate change.

Today, we have hope. We have hope because this agreement puts the world

on a path towards solving climate change—hope because the world's two largest emitters have found common cause in protecting public health and economic opportunity for their citizens and for the world and hope because we are once again reminded what American leadership and political will can accomplish.

President Obama and President Xi of China recognize that climate change threatens our families, our jobs, our health, and our way of life. They deserve our thanks, as does Secretary Kerry, for their tireless work and dedication to this cause.

We can solve this. We know what we need to do, and we know how to do it. Today we see what political will can accomplish. I am now more hopeful than ever that we can keep warming below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. This is the level scientists say is necessary to stay below in order to avoid catastrophic global consequences.

Together our two countries account for about 40 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. We have a responsibility to act early and to act together, and this agreement puts us on that path.

The agreement recognizes that the United States and China must take short- and long-term measures to reduce emissions and encourage the development of clean energy. This represents a major shift for China, which had struggled to balance economic growth with growing pollution and has now agreed to cap carbon pollution for the first time ever. It is difficult to overstate what an important achievement this is, especially a full year before the next round of international negotiations in Paris.

As Secretary Kerry said today, this is a major signal to other countries that they should also put forth ambitious emissions reduction goals well before international negotiations start in 2015.

In addition, China has agreed to get a full 20 percent of its energy from zero emission sources by 2030. This means China will have to deploy close to 1,000 gigawatts of new zero emission powerplants. This is the amount of electricity the entire United States currently generates and shows just how serious China is about addressing this problem.

American leadership was crucial in forging these goals. It wouldn't have been possible without the President's Clean Power Plan, which will reduce emissions from the power sector by 30 percent relative to 2005 levels by the year 2030.

This agreement goes beyond even those ambitious targets, and in the coming months and years, it will be important for this President and the next to maintain and strengthen the next to maintain and strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency's

ability to protect Americans from harmful pollution.

Despite near universal consensus among climate scientists that the Clean Power Plan is part of the solution to fighting climate change, today that plan is under attack in Congress. Right after the President announced this historic agreement, climate deniers in Congress started rolling out every tired argument in the book. In fact, one of our colleagues here has already dubbed this plan “unrealistic” and called it an “ideological war.”

These claims are the last bastion of a hopeless cause that ignores what we see all around us—from farmers to fishermen to small-town mayors. Theirs is an untenable position, because poll after poll shows that Americans do care about this issue. They care about it deeply. Americans care because they know fighting climate change is really about protecting their children's health, protecting economic opportunity, and leaving our children a world better than our own.

We are seeing the deniers' arguments collapse around them. One of their favorite tropes was to claim that U.S. actions are meaningless without action from China. Well, it looks as though that argument took a fairly big hit yesterday.

In fact, the U.S. did act first by developing the Clean Power Plan. The rules haven't even been finalized, but they are already giving us the leverage to reach major international agreements.

As excuse after excuse fails, we will see climate deniers retreat to tired claims that anything we do to reduce pollution will hurt the economy. But remember that we have heard these claims before. They were wrong then, and they are wrong now.

The list is long, so I will mention just a few. Taking the lead out of gasoline, putting catalytic converters in cars, reducing acid rain, all were met with panicky claims of economic devastation. But what we have learned is that keeping our air and our water clean actually helps our economy.

This agreement between the United States and China is historic. It is a real breakthrough, and it gives us hope that we will be able to confront and resolve one of the greatest challenges of our time. But it is still just an agreement. We need to follow through with action. We must listen to the American people and amplify their voices as they call for action to preserve our health, our economy, and our way of life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Louisiana.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I was on the floor earlier today. I have been on the floor since we convened back

into session—our first session since the election—and I am very heartened by what I have heard from colleagues such as the Senator from Hawaii, who just spoke, our colleague from Montana, who just spoke, our colleague from Tennessee, who spoke; as well as the leadership particularly, including Leader REID, majority leader-to-be MITCH MCCONNELL, and the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, all of whom came to the floor and said they heard the message of the American people. The message is that now is the time to stop the bickering, stop the fighting, stop the gridlock, and take action on issues the American people know are the right answers for our country, focusing on building jobs and economic hope for the middle class, in large measure because of this extraordinary opportunity for an energy renaissance that is underway as we speak—energy jobs, petrochemical jobs, manufacturing jobs.

Our unemployment rate in south Louisiana is 3.5 percent. Our general unemployment rate is much lower than the national average and has been for many years. But even in my State, with these very positive numbers, middle-class families are seeing their incomes stagnate, their way of life not progressing, and their economic progress not moving forward as it should.

So while people are happy and doing well in some parts of the country—every leader came to the floor and said, we heard the American people. We want jobs. We want economic opportunity. We want the middle class put first. We want gridlock put last, and we want you all to roll up your sleeves and get the job done. That was the message.

So I came to the floor at 2 o'clock, the first minute we opened, to claim the floor to say let's begin with trusting each other, moving forward, and passing the Keystone Pipeline which is a bill that has enjoyed bipartisan support and has the 60 votes on this floor for passage.

There is strong objection from the 40 Members who have been opposed. Of course they have a right to be opposed. We debated this for 5 years, but the process is let's vote and let the process move forward. I am very encouraged that in the 2 hours 15 minutes I have been on the floor that the House of Representatives has actually heard this call and has decided to introduce—the Rules Committee will be meeting tonight. I understand they want to introduce the identical bill to the Hoeven-Landrieu bill which will give a clear path. It is a stand-alone Keystone only with private property rights language that is very important to the Republican base but it is also very important to Democratic Members, for me, personally, and my State, but for many rural States on the Democratic side.

We cannot allow international companies to expropriate our properties here without due process. It cannot happen. I am the strongest advocate of building pipelines everywhere, but there are private property rights that have to be followed.

The language carefully drafted by Senator HOEVEN and myself respects the private property rights of American citizens. I understand the House is going to take that language and the straight-up, no attachments, no riders, no anything—except for the Keystone language as it is written in this file that is pending and pass that out of the House.

We have already made some progress in getting the Keystone project built or moving forward. I want to put into the record a couple of headlines of magazines and articles that I think help to underline or underscore what I am trying to say.

The “Science” magazine editor-in-chief says, “Time to move forward on Keystone Pipeline.”

LABI: “Twenty Louisiana Chambers of Commerce support Keystone Pipeline.” This is the Louisiana Association of Business Industry. It is a recent headline.

The Washington Post: “On the Keystone XL pipeline, put policy ahead of politics.” That is what we are doing today.

Illinois Review—this is one of the most important. “AFL-CIO says Keystone XL is not just a pipeline but a life line.”

The largest labor unions in our country have rolled up their sleeves. They are in this fight. They are telling us, Democrats and Republicans, but mostly to the Democratic Caucus, because they are part of our base, vote for the pipeline. This is jobs for average middle-class working people that we need. We deserve them, they say, in States such as yours, Mr. President, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and in States such as Colorado, New Mexico, New York. I could go on and on. In West Virginia.

Remember, my State—not that we don't need good jobs but our unemployment rate is very low. We have jobs and opportunities pouring into Louisiana and Texas, the energy coast of America. We are proud of it.

We are proud not only to produce these jobs and this energy but we are helping to fuel a renaissance of manufacturing in the Midwest. We are exceedingly proud of this. We are not just creating jobs for ourselves, we are creating jobs for the Midwest, for the manufacturing renaissance of America.

We are allowing for the expansion of the economy on the east coast and providing help for the west coast. It is what we do. It is what America's energy coast does. No coast does it better than we do.

We are connecting to a partner, Canada, which is better for us in many

ways than Venezuela or even some of our friends in the Mideast, and we don't—not every friend is our friend in the Mideast. We are getting oil from our best friend, our best trading partner, our best ally, that has equal economic standards as we do and even some higher environmental standards than we do to create economic opportunity for our country.

I wanted to submit this for the record. There are no other Senators to speak. I am going to yield the floor in a minute.

We are still in a time of morning business until votes at 5:30.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to show a device in the course of my presentation about exploding airbags.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AIRBAGS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there has been quite a bit in the press about defective exploding airbags. This is a part of a steering wheel with the airbag deployed. In the steering wheel, the driver would be like this with their hands on the steering wheel. When the impact occurs and the airbag is deployed, instantly, if you have seen that kind of impact on the airbag, because of the chemicals inside of the steering wheel, it causes an explosion that comes out of already existing holes in the metal that contains the airbag and it deploys the airbag like this so that the—in this case, the driver—in the case of the passenger, the same, but it is not a steering wheel like this. That protects and has saved countless, thousands and thousands of lives. The fact is that we now know there are four people in this country who are dead. There are a hundred who are injured. That is not including the international office, because of the defective airbag that has been manufactured by a Japanese manufacturer. What its defect is is that instead of the chemicals exploding to inflate the airbag, it explodes with such force for all of this that is contained within the steering wheel before it explodes. There is metal.

When the chemical explosion occurs, it is supposed to go through the airholes and fill the bag. Instead, what has happened in the explosion, it is with such force that some of the metal becomes shrapnel and comes through the bag and in effect becomes lethal projectiles that harm either the driver or the passenger.

For example, on this exploded airbag, I want you to see the size of the hole that was ripped in this bag here. Here is another one. A hole that was ripped. There are holes in other parts of the bag. Obviously this isn't supposed to occur.

As a matter of fact, I visited with a constituent from central Florida. This is a firefighter with a young wife and a young child. A piece of shrapnel, in this particular constituent's case, came into his eye.

Therefore, in his occupation as a firefighter, he will not be able to fulfill the financial support for his family as a firefighter. Four people in this country are confirmed dead, and 100 are injured.

We have a Federal agency that is supposed to be protecting us. It is called the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Recently, because of the attention brought to this matter, they have come out and said they want these recalls, but the recalls first started out at about 4.7 million. It has been doubled to 7.8 million. It is increasing all the time, and it is expected that it will be in the range of 11 million in this country and 16 million recalls worldwide.

Normally, if you could get the recalls done, once it occurs—once the defect is known—then the public is protected.

But it seems like, similarly to some dragging of the feet of automobile manufacturers and their parts manufacturers in the past, that is what is occurring here. What we are also seeing is a Federal agency that in this Senator's opinion has not been right up front, forward leaning, and aggressive to protect the public.

Thus, I have requested of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to get in this and to do several things: First, to make sure that all these recalls are happening, and, secondly, if you are a person who knows of the recall because the automobile manufacturer has sent you a letter, are you going to be wanting to drive around if they tell you they can't fix it immediately? Are you going to be wanting to drive around in an automobile that could suddenly explode and cover you with metal shrapnel, severely injuring or killing you? Of course not.

So where is the automobile manufacturer with regard to giving a loaner until that air bag can be replaced with a safe one or where are they with regard to providing a rental car?

For the automobile company to say we will disable the airbag until we can get the proper replacement, that is not a solution because often the seatbelt and the airbag are designed to work in conjunction with each other to protect the safety of the driver and the passenger. So driving around in a disabled airbag is not a solution. The solution is prompt replacement of the defective, lethal airbags or, until they can be replaced, to give the customer another automobile that is safe.

Along the way, someone came up with the brilliant idea in the Federal agency that they were going to issue just regional recalls under the assumption that highway humidity, in fact, is one of the causes. They don't know that, but that is one of the suspicious causes. But what does a regional recall do for the protection of the public? Aren't we a mobile society? If you say we have high humidity in my State of Florida, in Texas and in other Southern States, aren't we a mobile society in which people in other parts of the country who own automobiles come to our States? Of course we are.

Oh, by the way, how about some States in the north that have high humidity in the summer—if, in fact, that is the cause. So to say that a solution to the problem is a regional recall is totally ridiculous and the Federal regulatory agency should not be issuing these kinds of edicts if we are serious about protecting the public.

I have recommended, in a letter that has been signed by several of our colleagues to the Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Foxx, that he start imposing the maximum fine allowed by law per day against the automobile manufacturers for any days that are missed in replacing the defective airbags so that people will not have to drive around in cars with this defect.

While we were home over this recess during the election, I had an airbag explode and demonstrate its force. It is severe, and it is quick, as it has to be in order to protect the passenger in an automobile accident.

But if that airbag is defectively constructed so that the explosive force becomes like a hand grenade exploding and sending pieces of a metal into the human body which the very device is supposed to protect, then it is time for action. I hope the folks who are manufacturing and installing these defective airbags indeed are hearing these words of warning.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAXPAYERS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Mr. COBURN. I wish to spend a few minutes talking about a bill that passed the House that has 37 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate that came out of my committee. It is an important transparency item for the American taxpayers called the Taxpayers Right to Know Act.

What most Americans don't realize is there is only one agency that knows

how many programs it has—only one. None of the rest of the Federal agencies know how many Federal programs they are running. They can't put them down, can't list them on a piece of paper.

The GAO has recommended for a long period of time—starting about 3 or 4 years ago—that we should be putting this down when we have the truth in transparency and the truth in accountability act and the transparency act with President Obama. We started this process where the GAO would look for duplication and report it to Congress.

We have a bill that has passed unanimously in the House. It is a bipartisan bill that came with a voice vote out of our committee. All it says is that every agency ought to have to list their programs every year so we can know what they are doing. GAO says that will help immensely in terms of eliminating this \$200 billion to \$300 billion a year in duplication.

We are going to have some unanimous requests later today, and we will have a bill that is on the floor for which the majority leader has once again filled the tree, which allows no amendments whatsoever on the bill.

This bill should be on the floor, should be standing on its own, and should be passed because nobody can honestly object to the agencies not knowing what programs they run, not having a complete list.

I mean, it is counterintuitive that anybody would vote against it. It makes no sense that we don't know that, and we know we need to have it. It is an easy vote for everybody, and the majority leader isn't going to allow an amendment.

So we are not at a new day yet with this present majority leader. This is something that helps every American—Democrat or Republican. It helps us run our government more efficiently, more effectively. It is a good-government amendment, and yet it is not going to be allowed.

I am disheartened that at the end of the year we could actually do some things together that would actually allow us to accomplish real things for the American people that will make a real difference in the long run, but we won't because we don't want to have what was guaranteed to the minority when the Senate was set up—the right to offer amendments.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEIGH MAY, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, one of the great honors of being a Member of the Senate is the participation and the confirmation process the Constitution dictates to us on Federal judges and other critical appointees, such as Cabinet members of the President.

I have today a distinct honor and privilege to recommend to all of my colleagues in the Senate a Georgia lawyer who has been nominated by the President of the United States, with the approval of Senator CHAMBLISS and myself, to the Northern District Court of Georgia. Her name is Leigh May. She is an unbelievably exciting, unbelievably knowledgeable, unbelievably accomplished individual.

She graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the top three engineering schools in the United States of America, with honors, in 1993. Then, in 1998, she graduated from the University of Georgia Law School with a juris doctorate degree, magna cum laude in her class.

From 1998 to 2000, she served as a law clerk to Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She is a partner in the Atlanta office of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, one of the leading law firms in our State. Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts, and she is currently vice chair of the litigation section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Her ABA rating is unanimously very "qualified."

She is a very talented, very deserving person. I thank the President for his nomination. I thank Kathy Ruemmler, who was his leading advisor at the time, for her cooperation in this nomination.

I close my recommendation to my colleagues by telling them this: Please vote for the cloture motion today so we can vote for confirmation tomorrow.

This May, I was asked to address the University of Georgia's graduation ceremony in Athens, GA. After the speech I made, I went back to the dressing room in the green room, and the dean of the law school came up to me and said: I just want you to know, Mr. ISAKSON, you nominated one of the smartest people to ever graduate from the law school of the University of Georgia when you nominated Leigh May.

I can't think of a higher or a better recommendation, and I commend Leigh May to my colleagues of the Senate with my highest recommendation in the hopes that folks will vote today to go to cloture and vote for the confirmation tomorrow to confirm Leigh May to the Northern District of Georgia.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 857.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk—in fact, it is already at the desk—and ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending Cloture motion which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 858.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I withdraw my motion to proceed to S. 2609.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

USA FREEDOM ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S.2685.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I ask to have the cloture motion at the desk be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Thomas R. Carper, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders, Carl Levin, Tom Udall, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Moss nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we return from recess for the remaining days of the 113th Congress, I begin by congratulating my friend Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY who will become chairman of the Judiciary Committee beginning in the 114th Congress. We have a very good working relationship, and I hope this will continue when he assumes the chairmanship in January.

We still have several weeks left in this Congress with much work left to be done. As history shows, when both sides work together, the lameduck session can be a productive one for filling vacancies on our courts. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees—all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm the 14 judicial nominations pending on the floor, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. With the 2014 midterm elections behind us, I hope we will, as the incoming majority leader suggests, "clear the decks" on pending business so that we can start fresh next year.

Currently, there are 16 district court nominations that have been pending

before the full Senate for months and another eight district court nominations and one Court of International Trade nomination that will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee before the end of the month. There are also six nominees pending before the Senate to fill vacancies on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, two nominees to fill vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and three nominees to fill vacancies on the U.S. Tax Court.

Today, we will vote to overcome the needless filibuster of just two of the district court nominations that have been pending before the full Senate since June, one of which will fill a judicial emergency vacancy in Georgia.

Randolph Moss is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Moss "well qualified" to serve on that court—its highest rating. Since 2001, he has been a partner at the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr LLP. He has also served in various capacities for the U.S. Department of Justice. Upon graduating from Yale Law School, Mr. Moss clerked for Judge Pierre N. Leval on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Leigh May is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, in Atlanta, GA, where she has practiced since 2000. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Georgia Law School, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

We still have much work to do to fill the 64 current judicial vacancies and 27 known upcoming vacancies on our Federal district and circuit courts. Before the end of this Congress we could cut the number of vacancies on our district and circuit courts by one-third. To get this done, however, we must stop delaying for delay's sake votes for consensus nominees. Unless there is cooperation from Republican Senators, we will not have time to clear the Executive Calendar before adjournment. At the very least, I would hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm their nominees.

I hope all Senators will vote to put an end to the filibuster of these nominations.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the leader's remarks on Tuesday, November 18, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; that there be up to 6 hours of debate equally divided between opponents and proponents; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of S. 2280; that no amendments, motions, or points of order be in order to the bill prior to the vote on passage; that the vote on passage be subject to a 60 affirmative-vote threshold. And I will include something. I ask that unanimous consent as in legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. President, we have been trying to get the Keystone Pipeline approved and on the President's desk since 2012. The leader on our side has been the Senator from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN. We have all supported this effort because we believe the State Department estimate that roughly 42,000 jobs would be created once the pipeline is approved. If the oil doesn't come to the United States and is not turned into fuel here, it will be shipped to China.

Unfortunately, the majority has blocked this pipeline several times. It has been stalled for way too long, so I am glad to see some progress is being made, albeit at this late date, after a dramatic election on November 4.

I ask the Senator to modify her request so that if the Senate passes S. 2280 and receives a bill from the House that is identical to S. 2280, then the House bill will be read three times and passed with no intervening action or debate, and thus we can send this bill directly to the President without further action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to modify the request?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object.

I thank the Senator from Texas engaging on this matter today. I appreciate it. Most importantly, I appreciate the comments he made earlier on the floor about rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. He was one of the first speakers this morning when our Senate convened, and I was here when he spoke. I wish to thank him for his very insightful and courageous words that said we should roll up our sleeves and get to work.

He knows very well that I, and about 12 to 15 Members on our side, have been working very hard with him and his leadership and all the Members of the Republican side to move the Keystone Pipeline bill forward.

I think the Senator also knows the bill that Senator HOEVEN and I drafted respects this process, wanted to see the process complete, and acknowledges that the process is now complete and it is time to move.

So because the House heard these words today and has decided to introduce the identical language in the Hoeven-Landrieu bill—and I think the Senator will agree with me it is good news—it looks to me as if they are prepared to pass it. I can see no reason to object to what the Senator from Texas is asking for, and I consider it extraordinary progress.

I am very happy that I came to the floor at 2:00 p.m. to get the ball rolling and that I was here in time to hear the Senator's remarks: Let's get to work.

So let's get it done. We can get it done in the lameduck session, and I will accept the Senator's counter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request has been modified.

Is there an objection to the modified request?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, a point of clarification. It is my understanding the Senator from Louisiana is not objecting to my amended request and has not posed another modification. I believe the question is, is there an objection to my modified request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I will clarify. I want the record to reflect my remarks. The Senator from Louisiana has absolutely no objection to the House of Representatives taking the exact language from my bill with Senator HOEVEN and passing it. Why would I object? I have been working on this for 4 years. Why would I object to that? The record should reflect that. The Senator from Louisiana has no objection whatsoever—and I am encouraged that the House is taking the exact language of the bill that I carefully drafted with Senator HOEVEN. He is the lead on this bill. I am not. It is his bill. He is the lead. I am just the Chair of the energy committee.

I wish to thank Senator TESTER and others who helped to craft a bill that the House would accept, and so I have no objection to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modified request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—45

Alexander	Fischer	McCain
Ayotte	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeben	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Landrieu	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Stabenow	Udall (CO)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH D. MOSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the May nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. LEAHY. I withhold that request. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator CHAMBLISS, we ask the Members of the Senate to move favorably on this vote of cloture. We appreciate the consideration of Members and ask for their "yes" vote. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baldwin	Graham	Murphy
Begich	Hagan	Murray
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Pryor
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Burr	Hirono	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Chambliss	King	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Tester
Cochran	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Collins	Leahy	Walsh
Coons	Levin	Warner
Cornyn	Manchin	Warren
Donnelly	Markey	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden
Flake	Merkley	
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—30

Alexander	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Blunt	Hoeben	Risch
Boozman	Johanns	Roberts
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Corker	Kirk	Scott
Crapo	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	Toomey
Fischer	Moran	Vitter

NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Stabenow	Udall (CO)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF LEIGH MARTIN MAY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, would the Senator from West Virginia yield for a question? I would like to figure out what the floor process is because, as I follow all of this, it appears to be a colloquy between Senators MANCHIN, TOOMEY, ALEXANDER, and HARKIN. I am trying to get a sense for how long this colloquy might take so I know when I should be back on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I can't speak for others. I will be about 3 to 5 minutes.

Senator HARKIN?

Mr. HARKIN. About the same—about 3 minutes.

Mr. MANCHIN. Senator TOOMEY?

Mr. TOOMEY. A good 20 minutes.

Mr. MANCHIN. I would say a good half hour.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. And Senator ALEXANDER?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I will have about 20 minutes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. All right. Now I know.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

CHILD PREDATOR LEGISLATION

Mr. MANCHIN. First, I wish to thank my good friend Senator PAT TOOMEY for working with me on this critical legislation to make sure our kids remain safe in every single school across this great country of ours. I am a father of three and grandfather of eight, and there is nothing more important to me than protecting our children and grandchildren. Our bill is just common sense and has already passed by a voice vote with not one in opposition in the House.

This legislation makes sure all employees who work with our students pass a background check to make sure they have no criminal records or an abusive history. That includes everyone from principals, teachers, and secretaries to cafeteria workers and janitors.

Since January 1, 410 teachers across America have been arrested for sexual misconduct—just since January 1 of this year. That is more than one teacher per day who has sexually assaulted a student. And that only includes those who have been caught and detained. Do we dare wonder how many predators we could have prevented from harming our students if this bill had been passed years ago, including the outcome of the rape of a young West Virginia student named Jeremy Bell?

Twelve-year-old Jeremy was a fifth grade student from Fayette County, WV, who had been on an overnight fishing trip with his elementary principal when he mysteriously died from a head injury in 1997. Nearly 8 years later, investigators discovered that Jeremy was raped and murdered by none other than Edward Friedrichs, Jr. That was Jeremy's principal and supervisor on the trip. Thankfully, Mr. Friedrichs is now serving a life sentence in connection with Jeremy's death.

Although Jeremy's death is in and of itself disturbing, Mr. Friedrichs' past proves to be even more troublesome. Prior to working as Fayette County's principal, Mr. Friedrichs had previously been dismissed by a school in Delaware County, PA, on suspicion of sexual misconduct. That school then helped him land a new teaching position in Fayette County, WV. He taught for 26 years in West Virginia—26 years—before he was finally dismissed in 2001 when he was indicted for sexually abusing four boys—not one but four we know of.

This story is heartbreaking and simply unacceptable today. As a parent

and grandparent and as a representative of the great State of West Virginia, inaction is not an option.

There are more than 4 million teachers and school staff employed by our public school districts across the United States. There are millions of additional workers who have direct access to students, including busdrivers, cafeteria workers, and janitors. Yet there is no national background check policy in place for the people who work directly with our kids everyday. Even worse, not all of our States require checks of child abuse and neglect registries or sex-offender registries. Not all of them. Some do. A lot don't. A recent report by the Government Accountability Office found that five States don't require background checks at all—nothing at all—for applicants seeking employment in our schools. In addition, not all States use both Federal and State sources of criminal data, such as a State law enforcement criminal database or the FBI's Interstate Identification Index.

Our bill would simply require mandatory background checks of State criminal registries, State child abuse and neglect registries, an FBI fingerprint check, and a check of the National Sex Offender Registry for existing and prospective employees.

Every child deserves to have at least one place where they feel safe and comfortable. For many of our kids these days, that place is at school.

This is truly a commonsense bill that aims to help protect our kids from sexual assault predators or any individual who inappropriately behaves in our schools.

It only makes sense that we do everything we can to allow our children to have one safe place in their life, and unfortunately that is our schools. If we can make even the smallest difference in changing the outcomes of the lives of students like Jeremy Bell, then we have done our jobs.

I hope all my colleagues will consider this when they are thinking of saying: Well, we already do it in our State. Well, guess what, there are many States that do not for whatever reason. We are just asking to make it uniform across our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2083

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia for his work on this, for being the lead Democratic sponsor on this very important piece of legislation. I also thank Senators MCCONNELL and INHOFE for co-sponsoring the legislation. I would like to thank every single Member of the House of Representatives because every one of them voted in favor of this legislation.

I have a number of reasons I want to cite and develop in a series of argu-

ments, Mr. President, but I understand the senior Senator from Iowa has some time constraints, so I will be cooperative in that respect and I will make a unanimous consent request at this time. I think Senator HARKIN will likely respond to that, and then I will make my arguments in favor of this legislation.

So at this time, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vitiate cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, the child care and development block grant bill; that following the disposition of the Moss and May nominations, the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment; and that following the disposition of S. 1086, the HELP Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 2083 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of H.R. 2083.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator ALEXANDER and myself, I do object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I will take about 3 minutes, and I would like to thank my friend from Pennsylvania for being a gentleman and letting me have a few minutes to express myself before he gives his own expression of support for this bill.

First of all, I appreciate Senators TOOMEY and MANCHIN's interest in this issue. We have worked on this over the months to try to accommodate this legislation and to move it, but the issues are complex. The bill would affect millions of people. Members of the education and civil rights communities and others have raised legitimate concerns that we need to work through.

Members on both sides of the HELP Committee—which I am privileged to chair—have expressed hesitation about moving this absent constructive engagement by our committee.

Unfortunately, the Senator is asking us to take this bill without any debate or committee consideration. That, again, is a formula for bad legislation because recent steps have been taken by States to do their own background check requirements.

For example—I don't know this particularly—Pennsylvania recently enacted legislation to protect kids in school. We need to make sure that whatever we do here does not interfere with what the States themselves are doing. I think probably my colleague Senator ALEXANDER would address himself to that.

Again, this is the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act which passed 96 to 2 here in the Senate. In

fact, the Senator from Pennsylvania supported the bill. It went to the House. They changed it a little bit, and then they passed it on a voice vote and sent it back to us. Now we are concurring in that vote in the House. Again, the bill is ready to go.

I would state for the record that back in September Senator ALEXANDER and I had offered the Senator from Pennsylvania a hearing on the bill and then an immediate markup. We would go to markup. What I could not guarantee the Senator from Pennsylvania was that his bill would come through as he wrote it. The committee sometimes makes decisions to change this or do that. I couldn't guarantee him that. What I could guarantee was a hearing and an immediate markup on the bill. But that did not seem to be acceptable to the Senator from Pennsylvania, and I understand.

Again, I just want the record to reflect that I am not unsympathetic to the goals of Senator TOOMEY and Senator MANCHIN on this issue, but I do believe it should go through the committee process. Since we are so close—we have worked on this Child Care and Development Block Grant Act a long time and it passed 96 to 2. The House added one little thing, and they passed it by voice vote; we agreed to that. We are ready to pass it and send it to the President.

We have had a great bipartisan working relationship on our committee thanks to our ranking member, Senator ALEXANDER, who will be taking over the chairmanship of this committee in January. I couldn't have asked for a better partner. We have a very diverse committee, but we passed 18 bills through our committee and signed by the President in the last 2 years. This will be the 19th.

So because we haven't had any markup on the amendment, that is why I am objecting—not that I am absolutely opposed to what the Senator is trying to do. But I do believe people on my committee deserve to have some input into this. Since I will be leaving, it will then be Senator ALEXANDER's committee after the first of the year.

I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania for allowing me to speak first, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa for his comments.

He cited I believe two principal arguments or concerns of his. One is the fact that this legislation has not yet been considered by his committee, and the second is that there are States taking action in various ways that ought to be contemplated. I am going to address both of those, but I would like to begin at what is, for me, the beginning.

Let me start by stating that I am a strong supporter of the Child Care and

Development Block Grant bill. I voted for this bill in March, and I look forward to voting for it again. But one of the very reasons I support the bill is this bill that we are going to vote on, the Child Care and Development Block Grant bill, addresses the issue that I am trying to address in my bill, and that is protecting our children from sexual and violent predators.

I am the father of three young kids. I can't imagine anything more important than the safety and security of my kids, and I think most Americans would agree with me on that. While the Child Care and Development Block Grant bill takes an important step in that direction—it requires criminal background checks on daycare workers. And because it does, it is going to provide a level of protection for the 1.6 million children in federally-subsidized daycare—protection from the sexual and violent predators who might otherwise obtain jobs as childcare workers or employees of these daycare centers.

My question is this. Why are we stopping there? Why are we interested only in protecting the kids in federally-subsidized daycare? The 1.6 million there deserve protection, but what about the 49.6 million children who are a little bit older? They are in our Nation's elementary, middle, and high schools. Don't they deserve the same protection from sexual or violent predators as the really young kids do? I think we need to act now to protect all of our kids. That is what I am trying to do here, and it is a very urgent matter.

Senator MANCHIN talked of the absolutely horrendous case of Jeremy Bell. That is how I became aware of this situation. As Senator MANCHIN pointed out, it began in my State, Pennsylvania, and the terrible story ended in Senator MANCHIN's State.

When the perpetrator began molesting and abusing children, he was a teacher. He had molested several boys and raped one before the school figured out what was going on. Unfortunately, the prosecutors never felt they had enough evidence to actually bring a case. The school dismissed the perpetrator. But then, amazingly, this school in Pennsylvania helped this monster get a job at a school in West Virginia. As Senator MANCHIN pointed out, he worked in West Virginia in exactly the same capacity, which gave him an opportunity to abuse more kids, and this tragic story didn't end until he raped and murdered a 12-year-old boy.

Well, justice has finally caught up with that teacher. He is going to spend the rest of his life in jail—which is, frankly, too good for him. But that is way too late for Jeremy Bell, his 12-year-old victim. Of course, now we know Jeremy Bell is not alone.

As Senator MANCHIN pointed out already, this year over 410 teachers and other school employees have been ar-

rested across America for sexual assault or misconduct with children—410. That is more than 1 per day. And let's be clear. These are the people about whom we know enough and have enough credible evidence to actually have an arrest. How many more are out there but the prosecutors aren't confident yet that they can make a case?

In contrast to the 410 that have happened so far this year, back in April when Senator MANCHIN and I first came to the floor and asked the Senate to pass our bipartisan bill, at the time the number of teachers arrested was only 130. In the time we have waited, we have gone from 130 teachers and other school employees arrested for sexual misconduct with children to now over 410. How much bigger does this number have to get before the Senate decides this is something we should address?

Every one of these 410 stories represents a horrendous tragedy. One is a child whose abuse began at age 10 and only ended when, at age 17, she found herself pregnant with a teacher's child. Another is a teacher's aide who raped a mentally disabled boy in his care. Another is a kindergarten teacher who kept a child during recess and forced her to perform sexual acts on him. One teacher after another caught with images of child pornography on their computer—child pornography involving children as young as 1 years old. It is unbelievable stuff.

It is important, especially in my home State of Pennsylvania. Twenty-five of these arrested have been Pennsylvania teachers. A recent study found that Pennsylvania is second in the Nation for teachers who have been investigated for sexual misconduct with the children who are supposed to be in their care.

So I think we need to be acting now. We need to stop these tragedies. Our bipartisan bill, Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, takes an important step toward that goal. It works to ensure that school employees we hire are not sexual or violent predators. In fact, the background check provisions in our bill are nearly identical to the background check provisions in the Child Care and Development Block Grant bill, the one that we are going to vote on.

Specifically, the protecting students act requires background checks for all existing and prospective school employees who have unsupervised access to children. The background checks must be thorough, covering four databases, including national databases. That would be the FBI fingerprint check, the National Crime Information Center database, the National Sex Offender Registry established by the Adam Walsh Act, the State criminal registries, and the State child abuse and neglect registries.

Now, let me give a recent example from the State of Alaska which illustrates just how important this requirement is. On August 29, Alaska State troopers arrested a middle-school teacher in Kiana, AK. The teacher had fled Missouri 4 years earlier to escape arrest.

Numerous witnesses accused the teacher over a decade of sexual and physical abuse of his own adopted children. This is hard to talk about because it is so disturbing, but I think we have to face it. The fact is he raped and starved his children. The children literally burrowed a hole in the wall, stole food from the freezer, and heated it on a furnace in their home just to survive. This monster was able to obtain a teaching certificate in Alaska and teach in the State for 4 years.

When asked how this could have happened, the Alaska Department of Education explained that Alaska only checks the State's criminal registry when running a background check on teachers. So his name never came up. Now, had Alaska searched the FBI criminal database, as my bill requires, the school would have learned that this monster was a fugitive in another State.

The protecting students act forbids schools from hiring a teacher who has committed certain crimes, including any violent or sexual crime against the child—whether a misdemeanor or a felony. This is necessary because all too often a predator will plead down to a misdemeanor when in fact he or she may be guilty of something more serious.

The legislation also bans the horrible practice of a school knowingly helping a child molester obtain a new teaching job somewhere else so that he becomes a problem somewhere else. This practice sounds outrageous, it sounds incredible, but it happens. In fact, it happens so frequently it has its own name. It is called passing the trash.

Finally, if the State fails to comply with these requirements, it loses a portion of its funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

I mentioned earlier that this is a bipartisan bill. It is, to say the least, bipartisan. Support is so broad, in the House it passed unanimously over a year ago, in October of 2013. It was introduced by Democrat GEORGE MILLER of California, cosponsored by two Republicans and seven Democrats, including FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, who herself served as an elementary school teacher and principal for 20 years, CHARLIE RANGEL of New York, and SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas. Here in the Senate, it has the bipartisan support of Senator MANCHIN, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator INHOFE, and myself.

Child advocates across America have endorsed the bill. The National Children's Alliance, which oversees na-

tional child advocacy matters, the Children's Defense Fund, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape have all endorsed this bill. Law enforcement and prosecutors all support this bill. The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association supports it, as do the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the National District Attorneys Association.

Teachers support this legislation—the American Federation of Teachers, the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

So more than 1 year after the House passed this bill unanimously, why have we refused to act in the Senate? Well, some have argued that the Federal Government doesn't need to act because we can leave it to the States. Some States have worked to address this problem to the extent that they can. The Senator from Iowa mentioned that my home State of Pennsylvania has recently enacted legislation that deals with it. This is true—much to the credit of State Senator Tony Williams, a Democrat, and State Representative Dave Maloney, a Republican.

The bill makes much-needed reform to strengthen background checks and ban passing the trash within Pennsylvania. But as my friend, Pennsylvania State Senator Tony Williams, explained, under the U.S. Constitution States cannot address the problem of child predators being passed across State lines. The jurisdiction of Pennsylvania ends at the Pennsylvania borders. There is nothing Pennsylvania can do to make it illegal for someone in another State to send into Pennsylvania a predator of this sort. Of course, the example of Jeremy Bell is just exactly one such case.

Another example is this. Recently in Las Vegas, NV, a kindergarten teacher was arrested for kidnapping a 16-year-old girl and infecting her with a sexually-transmitted disease. The same teacher had molested 6 children, all fourth and fifth graders, several years before while working as a teacher in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles school district knew about these allegations. How do we know they knew? In 2009 the school district had recommended settling a lawsuit alleging the teacher had molested children.

The Nevada school district specifically asked if there had been any criminal concerns regarding the teacher. The Los Angeles school district not only hid the truth, but they provided three references for the teacher.

Had my bill banning passing the trash been the law, maybe that 16-year-old child might have been spared.

There is another fundamental reason I think the Federal Government has to act; that is, it needs to be accountable to the American taxpayer. When the Federal Government gives billions of dollars to States to help pay for the

salaries of people who work with children, the Federal Government has a duty to make sure it is not paying the salary of child molesters. It is a basic accountability that every taxpayer, I would think, should demand.

Again, in this regard, our protect all students bill is nearly identical to the child care and development block grant bill that we are going to be voting on. Both the child care and development block grant bill and our protect all students bill act to create what is a voluntary mechanism for States to enhance their security. Both bills provide that if the State accepts Federal funds, the State government must pass the laws or regulations providing for the criminal background checks of persons who will work with children. Both bills provide that a State's compliance is essentially voluntary. A State that declines to improve its background checks forgoes Federal funds. Under the child care and development block grant bill, the State loses 5 percent of the funds under that bill. Under our protecting students bill, the State loses funds under the Elementary Secondary Education Act. Thus, both bills have the same worthy goal, the same principle of accountability for Federal funds. They even have the same basic enforcement mechanism.

Both bills were passed unanimously by the House of Representatives, the child care and development block grant bill 2 months ago on September 15, the protecting students bill over a year ago on October 22, 2013. If one bill has legal problems for being passed, so does the other, but in fact neither bill should be blocked. They both take the same approach and they both provide an urgently needed measure of security for our kids.

Others have argued and we heard the senior Senator from Iowa make the argument that the Senate should wait and let the committee of jurisdiction, the HELP Committee, consider the bill first. Well, it has been over 1 year now that the HELP Committee has chosen not to take any action on this bill. Senator MANCHIN and I have been working for months trying to pass this urgently needed legislation, but we have never been able to make progress with the committee.

On April 10 of this year Senator MANCHIN and I asked unanimous consent to pass our bill. The committee chairman objected. Next, the committee assured Senator MANCHIN and me that they would work with our staff and the committee would vote on the bill in July. The committee scheduled a vote on our bill in July, posted an announcement on its Web site that it was going to have a markup on this bill, and then at the last minute the committee removed our bill from the agenda, had no consideration of it, denied us a vote and we never got an answer as to why. Again, Senator MANCHIN and

I were assured that the committee would vote on this bipartisan bill. We were told the committee would work with our staffs during the 5-week recess in August and provide a vote in September. But then the committee ignored our staffs during the August recess and there was no such consideration in September.

Now here we are 7½ weeks after we went on recess in September and I still have no confidence that the committee is going to take this up and move this legislation. In the meantime, of course, child predators have not been at rest. They have been moving on to new victims. Every day brings another story of a teacher arrested, another family whose child has been shattered and a family who has been torn apart by grief and betrayal.

I think the children of America have waited long enough, and I say no more waiting, no more promises about jurisdiction and process and procedures that don't take place, no more passing child molesters on to new schools and new victims, no more defenseless kids such as Jeremy Bell falling victim to other child predators, no more excuses for avoiding an up-or-down vote that passed the House unanimously.

Let's act now. Let's protect all our kids. Let's act now to protect the 1.6 million kids in the federally subsidized daycares as the child care and development block grant bill does. Let's pass that. I am for that. But let's also protect the 49.6 million kids who are in our elementary and middle and high schools. We can do this. We can do this tomorrow. We can do this tomorrow. We can pass them both tomorrow if we just have a vote, and we would send two bills to the President's desk. I am quite confident he would sign them both. He would sign the child care and development block grant bill and he would protect those 1.6 million kids and I am confident he would sign the Protecting Students From Sexual and Violent Predators Act, and then we would be protecting the 49.6 million slightly older kids.

I urge my colleagues to act now and get on with a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I applaud the Senators from Pennsylvania and from West Virginia for their concern. Of course, every single Senator would like, as the Senator from West Virginia said, to make sure every single child is safe in every single school.

The question in my mind is, How does one do that? My mind goes back to a particularly horrific shooting in a school in the early 1990s and the country was revulsed by it and Congress acted. We are going to make every single school safe. So Congress passed the Gun-Free School Zones Act in about 1990, and the Supreme Court in a few

years held it unconstitutional under the commerce clause, which isn't a problem here, but I opposed that then—I was U.S. Education Secretary then—because the way to make every child and every school safe is not the job of the U.S. Senate and U.S. Department of Education. That is not the way to do it.

We have 40 million children, right. We have 100,000 schools, correct. We have 14,000 school boards. We have 100,000 principals. What this proposal would do is to put the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Congress—which currently has about a 10-percent approval rating—in charge of making every single child in every single school safer than the local school board can, than the local legislator can, than the local Governor can, than the local community can, than the parents can. If we want safe schools, that is the job of parents, communities, school boards, and States. It is not a duty to be bucked upstairs to the Senate and the Department of Education. That doesn't make Sam Houston Elementary School in Lebanon, TN, any safer. I don't think many parents would go home feeling better tonight in my hometown if they knew it was the Senate they were counting on to make their child safe in their school. Of course this is the right goal, but there is a better way to do that. There is a better way to do that.

The reason the Senator from Iowa and I offered to the Senator from Pennsylvania and the Senator from West Virginia an opportunity to have a hearing and a markup on this bill in September was we think we have a better idea, and that was simply to take the very well-meaning impulse that they have and change the direction in a fundamental way, which was to say instead of making every one of our 100,000 schools do this, and telling them how to do it, we will enable them to do it by giving them access to all the Federal registries by allowing them to use Federal title II money to do it, to use title II money for training. We thought we had a better way to get to the same goal, which is to make every single child safe.

All of us are horrified by these stories. So the question is, What is the best way to deal with it. Some people say let Washington do it.

I just went through a little reelection campaign in Tennessee. I don't think I had one person come up to me and say: Why don't you let Washington tell us what to do about the employment practices in our local schools. I don't think I had a single person come up and say: I think you guys in the Senate care more and know more about how to make every single child in every Tennessee school safer by your actions in Washington. They know better than that. In fact, they came up to me and said: Tell Washington to stop telling us

what to do about our academic standards, Common Core. This is Common Core for employment practices. Stop Washington from telling us what to do and about what the curriculum ought to be. Stop Washington from telling us what to do about training our teachers, about evaluating our teachers, about how long our class sessions ought to be, about how large our classes ought to be. We have proposals that come through this same committee. The President has one involving preschool that would create a national school board for preschool education. Class size, teacher salaries, length of school days, all those things would be decided by people with wisdom in Washington. I reject that. I would particularly object to that when I was Governor of Tennessee, which I was for 8 years.

If there were a horrific case in Tennessee of sexual predation in one of the schools, I wouldn't have phoned Washington to find out what to do about it. I would have called the legislature into session and done something about it. If I were to have found that I didn't have access to the Federal registries or any central registries, I would then have said to my U.S. Senator: Why don't you give us these tools to do it—which is what I would propose to do.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a summary of a proposal I would make that would help every one of our 100,000 schools to do a better job of dealing with employment practices and criminal background checks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PROTECTING STUDENT SAFETY ACT

Purpose: To protect student safety by allowing States to use federal funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to establish, implement, or improve policies and procedures for implementing background checks of school personnel.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Allows States or local school districts to use federal funding under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to establish, implement, or improve policies and procedures on background checks for school employees to:

- conduct searches of appropriate State and Federal criminal registries, as determined by the State;

- implement policies and procedures that prohibit the employment of individuals who either refuse to commit to a background check, make false statements, or have been convicted of certain violent or child abuse related crimes, as determined by the State;

- establish implement, or improve policies and procedures concerning the timely disclosure, notice, and appeal of background check results;

- develop, implement, or improve mechanisms for assisting in the identification of and response to incidents of child abuse, including by providing training and development for school personnel; and

- implement any other activities determined by the State to protect student safety.

Precludes any private right of action if a school or school district is in compliance with State regulations and requirements.

Allows States and local districts to charge limited fees to school employees for the costs of processing and administering background checks, as required by State law.

REASONS TO SUPPORT THIS BILL

Support what most States are already doing—According to GAO, 46 States already require background checks of some kind for all public school employees and 42 States have established professional standards or codes of conduct for school personnel.

Rather than mandating a one-size-fits-all approach for 14,000 local school districts and 100,000 public schools, provides States with flexibility to establish, implement, or improve background check policies and procedures that best meet State and local needs.

Supports State and local efforts to increase reporting of child abuse, limit the transfer of school personnel implicated in abuse, as well as provide training on how to recognize, respond to, and prevent child abuse in schools.

It will protect schools and local school districts from civil litigation resulting from background check decisions that are otherwise in compliance with State regulations and requirements.

Mr. ALEXANDER. This is a surprising development for me. I understand the terrible nature of the problem, but I think it is so important that we not lead the American people into thinking we could solve these community problems by asking Washington to do it. If we have an obstacle here, if there is no access to a registry, let's change that. I would love to have a Toomey-Manchin bill with their names on it to give every single school board, 100,000 schools the tools they need to do the job. But they should be accountable for it, not the Senator from Tennessee. They should be accountable for it.

ADM Hyman Rickover was the leader and inventor, really, of our nuclear Navy, and our nuclear Navy has never had a problem—never had a death I should say—from the reactors on our nuclear submarines. I think the reason is because Admiral Rickover hired every one of the captains. He told them: You have two responsibilities, one is the ship and one is the reactor. If something happens to the reactor, your career is over. I think putting the captain on the flagpole and making it clear whose job it is to be accountable for safe schools is a big part of it.

If we make it look as though somehow the Senate takes care of making a school in Pennsylvania or West Virginia or Tennessee safe because we passed some bill and wrote some regulation and caused everybody to fill out a lot of forms in the 46 States that already have criminal background checks of their own, then I think we have done a disservice. I think we have done a disservice. We had a recent example on legislation in our committee on compounding pharmacies. We had a terrible situation where a compounding pharmacy in Massachusetts, acting like a manufacturer, produced sterile products that weren't sterile, and as a result in Tennessee and many other

States people were injected with unsterile drugs and they caught meningitis and they died. It was an awful disease and a terrible thing to happen. Part of the problem was who was on the flagpole, who was in charge. Was it the Food and Drug Administration or was it the State Control Board in Massachusetts?

Our legislation sought to clean that up and to make it clear that someone was accountable. I think the persons accountable for safe schools are the principal of the school, the local school board, the parents, and the students in that community. The rest of us can give them tools and remove obstacles and get out of the way. But the idea that we should pass a law, tell them how to do it, and inevitably write these complicated regulations that they have to fill out, that is not going to make every single child in every single school safer.

As I said when I began, the Senator's passion is evident. I respect that, and I respect him as a Senator. We don't have two better Senators in our body than the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from Pennsylvania. They know I feel that way.

But I have a profound difference of opinion about this. I will say that if they wanted to consider this with the child care and development block grant, they have plenty of opportunity to do that. We have had a lot of complaining on our side of the aisle about the lack of what we call a regular order.

We say we have not been allowed to offer amendments, and that has been true. There has been a record-low number of amendments in this session of Congress, and the distinguished Senator in the chair has been among those who have pointed that out. But in this case, this was a model of how we should consider legislation. It was considered in the committees in the House and the Senate. This amendment was not offered in the committees in the House and the Senate. It then passed the Senate committee and came to the floor.

In March we had an open amendment process for anything that had to do with the bill. Fifty amendments were filed, and 18 amendments were considered and agreed to. There was no filling of the tree. There was no motion for cloture. There was simply an open amendment process and a vote. This amendment could have been offered then.

Let's put that off to the side. I think the more important discussion we need to have is who is in charge of these schools? Who should create the academic standards? If the U.S. Department of Education should be responsible for determining what the employment practices are in 100,000 public schools, then there should be no objection to the U.S. Department of Edu-

cation ordering every school in America to adopt the Common Core or ordering every school in America to have a class size of X or ordering every school in America to pay teachers this much or determining, as this current Department of Education tries to do, how you should evaluate teachers in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, or Tennessee. I don't think that is the way our country was set up. I don't think that respects our constitutional framework. I don't think it is consistent with the spirit, at least, of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution.

I do not think the American people—and I know Tennesseans don't—want Washington telling them how to run schools, and there is nothing more fundamental about running schools than telling 100,000 schools and their school boards and their Governors and their legislators and their parents what their employment practices ought to be. Plus, I don't think it will make the school safer. I think what will make it safer is a bill that has the courageous attention—as the Senator from Pennsylvania and West Virginia have given to the problem—that would give all those local organizations an opportunity to access the registries that are available, to deal with people who go across State lines, give them access to title II funding so they would have money for that and money for training. So it is a choice between mandating and enabling. I am on the side of local school boards, not a national school board.

While I respect the effort of the Senators and I believe the subject is urgently important for our country, I would prefer to see this matter considered with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which will be the first order of business in the new session of Congress, and I am chairman of that committee. Let's have a discussion about the best way to do that. Do a majority of the Senators on the committee really think Washington can do a better job of making every single child and every single school safe by mandating and ordering and regulating or does a majority of the committee in the Senate think that the Senators have called to us an important need where we might step in and make it easier for local school boards and State departments of education to update their programs—46 States already have them—and use Federal dollars to implement those programs? I prefer the latter; these Senators prefer the former. That is well worth discussing in the committee, and I look forward to doing that.

I came to the floor tonight to make clear that I see this as a fundamental difference of opinion, one that deserves attention, to show my respect for the Senators from Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and to offer the framework for what I think is a better idea for

making every single child in every single school safe.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I find myself in the unusual position of disagreeing with the senior Senator from Tennessee. I have so much respect for the Senator. We are in agreement far more than we are in disagreement, but we do disagree about this, and I feel compelled to address several of the issues the Senator from Tennessee raised, and then I will be finished. I know there are other Senators who would like to speak.

First of all, I think it is very clear that my bill no more creates a national school board than the child care and development block grant creates a national school board for childcare centers. It is the exact same set of circumstances, the exact same protections, and it is provided by the Federal Government.

I don't understand why, if it is OK for the Senate and the Federal Government of the United States to ensure greater security for children daycares, it is somehow not acceptable to provide that same level of security to kids who happen to be a little older. That is what we are talking about. I don't understand that.

The other point I would make is that, in fact, both bills—the child care and development block grant bill and my bill, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act—are voluntary. Neither one has the power or attempts to compel a State to do a thing. It says: This is what we want you to do. If you don't, you are going to lose some funding, but that is it.

So there is absolutely a mechanism that creates an incentive, but we don't have the constitutional power to actually enforce it. Neither bill does. Both bills use the exact same mechanism to encourage compliance with a standard that will ensure greater safety and security for our kids.

Furthermore, I suggest that we absolutely have a responsibility to be concerned with how the money is spent. The taxpayers whom we represent expect us to provide some oversight and insist that there are some standards in the way the moneys are spent. That is a reasonable expectation for the Federal Government.

In addition, there is an element of this problem that can't be solved by any given State, and that is the cross-border nature of the problem. Specifically, the case of Jeremy Bell illustrates this perfectly—tragically but perfectly—and that is when a teacher leaves one State and goes to another State and commits the atrocities on a new set of victims. There is nothing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

can do to make it illegal for another State to have a school that sends a letter of recommendation. The powers of Pennsylvania end at the border of Pennsylvania, and that is the case with all 50 States. So it seems to me that this, like other circumstances, simply requires a Federal solution.

Finally, I will say that my constituents are in many ways very skeptical of the Federal Government. There is no doubt about that, as Senator ALEXANDER observed with his constituents. But many of them are shocked to learn we don't have background-check requirements such as what my bill contemplates and what the child care and development block grant bill does. They are shocked to discover this is not already the law. I think they would feel safer if they knew it was the law.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from Rhode Island is here, and it is his turn. I wish to make a few comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. There are a couple of differences. Under the Parliamentary's ruling, this amendment is not under the block grant bill. No. 2, all the funding for the vouchers that go to mothers who may use the block grants for daycare while they go to work, which is what our bill is about, all comes from the Federal Government.

The whole principle of that bill—it is a pretty good Republican bill, in my view—is that there is a lot of flexibility. In fact, we had a pretty good debate about the criminal background checks in our bill. I would have preferred to have given the States more flexibility for the reasons I have stated, but I agreed to what was done. It has 100 percent Federal funding, whereas the Federal Government only funds 10 percent of our schools.

The penalties for not taking the Federal orders for what your personnel practices ought to be are much more severe in the bill from the Senator from Pennsylvania. He would cause you to lose 10 percent of your school funding. Under the childcare block grant, you would lose 5 percent of the Federal funding. But the issue remains the same, and it is a good issue.

I hear it on our committee. The Senator from Rhode Island is on that committee. He has heard Senator HARKIN and me argue about this. You can make a very good argument to say that we provide some money, therefore we ought to write some rules. So we are going to write the rules for personnel practices; we are going to write the rules for academic standards—also called Common Core; we are going to write the rules for qualifying how teachers should be evaluated. Even in our preschool programs, we are going to say what the rules are for class size and the length of the school day.

That sounds very good, but when you operate a school, you say: Who are

these people? They might give me some tools, which we could do—and I would propose we do—or they might allow us to use some Federal money so we can have a better personnel practice, but we really don't think it works. We don't think that every time there is a horrific problem in our community, the Federal Government should step in and tell us how to fix it.

That is a really big difference, and it is particularly a big difference with schools, and it is a debate that will likely go on for some time.

I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his patience.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I found the discussion edifying, and it was time that was well spent.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, we are now reconvened after the election recess, and I am back on the Senate floor for the 79th consecutive week of Senate session to draw the attention of this body to the growing threat of global climate change.

I will first congratulate my Republican colleagues on achieving a majority in the Senate in the coming Congress. With control of the House and a majority in the Senate, Republicans now have great power in Congress. As the well-known saying goes, however, "with great power comes great responsibility."

The hallmark of the Republican minority was obstruction—often pointless obstruction, obstruction for obstruction's sake. A rational and fact-based focus on the issues has not been, to put it mildly, their hallmark. That was their choice, and it is the privilege of the minority party in the Senate to behave that way. The minority party in the Senate can choose to simply make themselves antagonists with no policy responsibility. I have to say they did an amazing job of that. But now my colleagues have a majority, and they have the power and the responsibility that comes with that beginning in January.

The touchstone of responsibility is to be responsible. I will concede the Senate could actually become a better place if the new majority, when it comes in, chooses to be responsible and the uniquely partisan obstruction that characterized their role as the Senate minority passes away as they move into the majority.

A key test to this, however, will be whether the Republicans here in the Senate choose to become responsible about climate change; about what carbon pollution is doing all around us, to our atmosphere and to our oceans; about what happens when carbon concentrations in the atmosphere that have varied between 170 and 300 parts per million for as long as we have been a species on this planet suddenly surge

to 400 and beyond; about what happens when scientific laws that have been understood since Abraham Lincoln was riding around Washington, DC, in his top hat begin to impose their inexorable effects upon this world.

In the minority, they pretended it wasn't real. Some even said climate change was a hoax. Many said they were not scientists and so they couldn't do anything about it. I would note they are not gynecologists, either, but many have no hesitation about trying to regulate that area.

No one would work on doing anything serious about carbon dioxide emissions. It was not always this way. Republican Senator John Warner was the lead sponsor of the Warner-Lieberman climate bill. Republican Senator JOHN MCCAIN ran for President on a solid climate change platform. Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS coauthored an important cap-and-dividend climate bill with Senator CANTWELL. Republican Senator MARK KIRK voted for the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill in the House of Representatives. Republican Senator JEFF FLAKE was an original cosponsor of a carbon fee bill led by former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis that would have placed a \$15-per-ton fee on carbon pollution in 2010, more than \$20 per ton in 2015, and \$100 per ton in 2040. Well, all of that ended. That and more ended shortly after the Citizens United decision when for the first time our elections were flooded with polluter money and flooded with dark money, which is probably polluter money, but because it is dark and anonymous, we don't really know.

So say you are not a scientist. Isn't the responsible thing to sound out scientific opinion? Scientific opinion about climate change is now firmly settled. Climate change is caused by the massive carbon pollution we have unleashed. Every major scientific society in our country knows this and has said so. Here is a list. If my colleagues want to, they can check with them. This is a list from a letter dated October 21, 2009—more than 5 years ago. We have been fiddling around on this since the science was so clear.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OCTOBER 21, 2009.

DEAR SENATOR: As you consider climate change legislation, we, as leaders of scientific organizations, write to state the consensus scientific view.

Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver. These conclusions are based on multiple independent lines of evidence, and contrary assertions are inconsistent with an objective assessment of the vast body of peer-reviewed science. Moreover, there is strong evidence that ongoing climate change will have broad

impacts on society, including the global economy and on the environment. For the United States, climate change impacts include sea level rise for coastal states, greater threats of extreme weather events, and increased risk of regional water scarcity, urban heat waves, western wildfires, and the disturbance of biological systems throughout the country. The severity of climate change impacts is expected to increase substantially in the coming decades.

If we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must be dramatically reduced. In addition, adaptation will be necessary to address those impacts that are already unavoidable. Adaptation efforts include improved infrastructure design, more sustainable management of water and other natural resources, modified agricultural practices, and improved emergency responses to storms, floods, fires and heat waves.

We in the scientific community offer our assistance to inform your deliberations as you seek to address the impacts of climate change.

Alan I. Leshner, Executive Director, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Timothy L. Grove, President, American Geophysical Union; Keith Seitter, Executive Director, American Meteorological Society; Tuan-hua David Ho, President, American Society of Plant Biologists; Lucinda Johnson, President, Association of Ecosystem Research Centers; Thomas Lane, President, American Chemical Society; May R. Berenbaum, President, American Institute of Biological Sciences; Mark Alley, President, American Society of Agronomy; Sally C. Morton, President, American Statistical Association.

Kent E. Holsinger, President, Botanical Society of America; Kenneth Quesenberry, President, Crop Science Society of America; William Y. Brown, President, Natural Science Collections Alliance; Douglas N. Arnold, President, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics; Paul Bertsch, President, Soil Science Society of America; Mary Power, President, Ecological Society of America; Brian D. Kloeppel, President, Organization of Biological Field Stations; John Huelsenbeck, President, Society of Systematic Biologists; Richard A. Anthes, President, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I could start with the body that was chartered 150 years ago, actually, to provide us independent, scientific, objective advice—the National Academy of Sciences. If that doesn't suit, try the American Association for the Advancement of Science or the American Physical Society or the American Meteorological Society or the American Geophysical Union or the American Medical Association or the American Chemical Society or the Geological Society of America. If none of my colleagues are scientists, check it out. Ask the responsible scientists. Ask the leading scientific societies.

If my colleagues don't believe the measurements—measurements confirm what the scientists know. Sea level is rising, and the rise is accelerating. We measure that with a glorified yard-

stick. It is already up nearly 10 inches at the Newport Naval Station since the 1930s when we in Rhode Island had the devastating hurricane of 1938. It is similar at Fort Pulaski in Georgia. Go visit Miami Beach, where they just spent hundreds of millions of dollars installing huge, 14,000 gallon-per-minute pumps to keep the city dry as the rising tides flood in.

The ocean is warming. We measure that with a thermometer. Narragansett Bay is nearly 4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer, mean water temperature, than 50 years ago. That is an ecosystem shift, and it has wreaked havoc with our winter flounder catch, for instance. Warmer waters aren't just in Rhode Island. They have brought the snook—a game fish from the Florida Keys—up into Georgia waters.

The ocean is more acidic, and it is getting more acidic at the fastest rate measured looking back millions of years in the geologic record. If my colleagues doubt that the ocean is acidifying, ask the oyster growers in the Pacific Northwest and Maine. Ask the scientists who study Alaska's salmon fishery about what is happening to the pteropod, a key food source for salmon.

Here is my challenge to my Republican colleagues who say they are not scientists: Ask the scientists. Ask the scientists at your own home State universities. And ask the folks, by the way, employed by your outdoor industries—the people who see the changes happening around them. Ask your park rangers. Ask your forest rangers.

If a colleague is from North Carolina, ask the scientists at the University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences.

If a colleague is from Colorado, ask the scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder.

If a colleague is from Iowa, ask the scientists at the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research at the University of Iowa.

If a colleague is from Arizona, ask the scientists at the University of Arizona, which hosts the Climate Assessment for the Southwest Program.

If a colleague is from Florida, ask the scientists at the University of Florida's Climate Institute.

If a colleague is from Texas, ask the scientists at the Texas Center for Climate Studies at Texas A&M. The Aggies get climate change. Check it out.

If a colleague is from New Hampshire, ask biologist Eric Orff, who worked for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for 30 years, what is happening to the moose. Ask Mike Bartlett of the New Hampshire Audubon Society what is happening to the purple finch, the State bird.

If a colleague is from Utah, ask the Park City Foundation and, while colleagues are at it, employees at Alta

Ski Area, Canyons Resort, Deer Crest, Deer Valley, or Park City Mountain Resort what they foresee for that industry.

If a colleague is from Idaho, ask University of Idaho Professor Jeffrey Hicke how rising temperatures let loose the bark beetle and decimated almost 1,000 square miles of the iconic mountain pine forests.

If my colleagues like big business, if they think only the private sector knows anything, then ask the big property casualty reinsurers such as Munich Re or Swiss Re, who have billions of dollars at stake and have to get this right.

If a colleague is from Georgia, ask the folks from Coca-Cola. If a colleague is from Arkansas, ask the folks from Walmart. If a colleague is from North Carolina, ask the folks at \$30 billion clothing maker VF Corporation. They all have a lot of money riding on getting this right, and they are making decisions based on business, not on ideology. So ask them.

If my colleagues trust the military, ask ADM Samuel Locklear, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, who says climate risk is the most dangerous long-term challenge we face in the Pacific.

If my colleagues are looking for some pretty good high-level scientists, they might want to ask NASA and NOAA. Remember NASA? They put a rover safely on the surface of Mars, and they are driving it around on Mars. Do my colleagues think they might know what they are talking about?

If my colleagues need to hear it from Republicans, ask former Republican Treasury Secretaries, such as George Shultz and Hank Paulson. Ask former Republican EPA Administrators such as Bill Ruckelshaus, Christine Todd Whitman, William Reilly, and Lee Thomas. Ask James Brainard, the Republican mayor of Carmel, IN. Ask Bob Dixon, the Republican mayor of Greensburg. Ask Betty Price, the Republican mayor of Fort Worth, TX. Ask Republican mayor Sylvia Murphy and county commissioner George Neugent of Monroe County, FL.

If my colleagues are not scientists, just ask. Do your homework. Exercise this new great responsibility that will come with the great power you have won. But don't pretend climate change isn't real. Even your own young voters know better than that. A majority of Republican voters under age 35 think a politician who denies climate change is ignorant, out of touch, or crazy. Those were the words checked off in the poll. To paraphrase Michael Corleone from that great movie, "Don't tell me it isn't real, because it insults my intelligence and it makes me very angry."

To our Republicans, I say I want to be your best friend in all of this, the kind of best friend who tells you when you are in no shape to drive and should

hand over the keys until you are sober enough to drive safely even if it makes you mad to hear it, the kind of friend who will tell you the truth you need to hear but don't want to hear. And let me say, friends don't let friends deny climate change.

I know the big carbon polluters want this issue to be ignored. But responsibility is knowing when to tell even your friends no. Responsibility is doing what is factual and is based in real science and measurement. Responsibility is doing what is right for your State and for your country in the long run, not just what rewards your supporters—even those really big supporters—in the short run.

Maybe as their friends you might even want to have a little conversation with them because this is only going one way. As Pope Francis just said, God is not "a magician with a magic wand." He put laws of the universe, laws of nature in place, and we don't get a pass on them just because it is politically convenient. How long does ExxonMobil think it can pursue unsustainable fossil fuel goals by fixing the politics? Laws of nature can't be bought or repealed. The Koch brothers are rich enough to buy virtually anything, but even they can't buy new laws of nature. BP went and quietly shut down its solar and wind programs, but carbon still does what carbon does. As your friends, they might need a little intervention from you.

Just so you know, I am not going anywhere. I have homes and businesses being swept into the ocean in my State. I have fishermen who tell me it is getting weird out there in Rhode Island Sound, that the lobsters and fish aren't where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there, that they are catching the kinds of fish their fathers and grandfathers never saw in their nets.

It is getting weird out there. I am not going anywhere. My State is small and coastal, and worse, bigger storms put us in serious danger. I am not ever going to ignore that. I am never going to walk away from this issue. I will never deny what Rhode Islanders see right in front of their faces and what all our expert warnings tell us is only going to get worse.

If you are going to be responsible and not just powerful, you won't deny this issue and walk away either. I promise you this. One way or another, we are going to get this done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PARAGUAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a common reality that permeates the complex and colorful history of Latin America is large numbers of landless, impoverished people and small elites who control the majority of the land and the country's wealth, often exploiting its natural resources for personal gain.

While the significant growth of the middle class in some South American countries over the past decade is encouraging, nowhere is the disparity of land ownership more pronounced than in Paraguay, a landlocked country of 6.5 million people that rarely receives the attention of the U.S. Congress.

A few statistics tell the story. Some 80 percent of agricultural land in Paraguay is owned by just 1.6 percent of the landowners, and the 600 largest properties comprise 40 percent of the total productive land. Meanwhile, a third of a million small farmers have no land at all. It should surprise no one that 40 percent of the country's population lives in poverty and that land, wealth, and political power are concentrated in the hands of a few.

The conflict over land in Paraguay, which dates back hundreds of years, has grown even worse due to the expansion of mechanized soy production, primarily for export. Government policies, including tax breaks, access to credit, and weak environmental and labor regulations, have favored large corporate farms which are often foreign owned, over local family farms that receive little if any government support.

As we have seen in many other Latin countries, the Paraguayan Government has used the army, police, and judicial inaction or bias to protect the interests of the large landowners.

The 35 year dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner ended in 1989. He ruled under a state of siege, imprisoned and tortured political opponents, and reportedly gave away or sold for a pittance 20 percent of the country's land to friends of his regime. Paraguay is slowly moving beyond the Stroessner years, but since 1989 more than 130 small farmers who have tried to defend their rights under the agrarian reform law have reportedly been killed.

I mention this bit of history to put into context what happened on June 15, 2012. According to information I have received, on that day several hundred police officers forcibly evicted a group

of about 60 landless farmers who were occupying an area known as Marina Kue in eastern Paraguay. In the ensuing violence, eleven farmers and six police officers were killed and others injured from the gunfire. There has apparently been no investigation of the conduct of the police, despite the existence of published reports about human rights abuses, but all the farmers were charged with crimes.

This case offers the Paraguayan Government an important opportunity to conduct a thorough, independent investigation of the events of June 15, prosecute and punish those responsible for the killings and injuries of the farmers and police officers, and enable poor farmers in that community to acquire legal rights to land and put it to productive use to feed their families.

I understand that the Paraguayan Government recently began working to reach an agreement with the affected communities regarding the land dispute prior to the beginning of the trial of the farmers later this month. This is encouraging news, and it could be a turning point if it results in a thorough, independent investigation and prosecution of those responsible and a just resolution of the dispute.

Paraguay and the United States, while separated by more than 4,000 miles, share many interests. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations that funds U.S. foreign assistance programs, I have supported programs to help Paraguay strengthen its democratic institutions, promote efficiency and transparency, and promote equitable economic development. I also supported the funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Threshold Program in Paraguay.

There will be other ways the United States can help Paraguay build the capacity and accountability of its public sector, expand its economy, and sustainably manage its natural resources. Few things would do more to advance these goals, and improve social stability, than addressing what happened at Marina Kue and providing access to land for Paraguay's small farmers. I am aware that several other Members of Congress are sending a letter to President Horacio Cartes urging these steps, and I look forward to his response.

CHIXOY DAM REPARATIONS AGREEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, more than 30 years ago, in the midst of Guatemala's civil war, the construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the Chixoy River resulted in destruction of 33 indigenous Mayan communities and the massacres of more than 400 villagers and other abuses by the Guatemalan army.

The history of that tragedy is well known so I will not recount it here.

Suffice it to say that a great injustice was committed. There was ample blame to go around between the Army, the World Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank that financed the dam, governments, including the United States, whose representatives on the banks' boards of directors voted for the construction, and subsequent Guatemalan Governments that failed to compensate the victims or punish those responsible.

Last month, the Guatemalan Government and representatives of the communities culminated many months of negotiations with an agreement to implement the contents of the 2010 reparations plan, including individual payments and community development investments that will be financed over a period of years. The agreement was formalized at a public ceremony on Saturday, November 1, attended by Guatemala's President Otto Perez Molina, members of the communities, other government officials, and representatives of the multilateral banks and the United Nations.

There are many who thought this day would never come, and I commend the commitment and patience of the members of the communities, particularly those who lost loved ones so many years ago, the Guatemalan officials who negotiated the agreement, President Perez Molina for his personal support, as well as key officials from the multilateral banks who played an indispensable role, and Inter-American Development Bank President Luis Moreno, who also took a personal interest. I also commend the U.S. Embassy officials and representatives of the Catholic Church who provided encouragement and support during this process. Finally, I want to acknowledge Guatemala's Ambassador to the United States and the U.S. Treasury Department officials who recognized the need to resolve this issue.

This is a historic milestone that finally begins to right a grievous wrong, a wrong that was emblematic of the horrors of the armed conflict that engulfed Guatemala a generation ago. A great many innocent people lost their lives or their livelihoods in that war, and many of the key provisions of the 1992 Peace Accords remain unfulfilled.

Until now, Chixoy was among the unfinished business, so this is a welcome and important step toward addressing the damages suffered by these communities. Yet I am as mindful as others that in many respects this agreement is only the beginning. The task ahead is to ensure its implementation, which will be the responsibility of the current and future Guatemalan Governments, the multilateral banks that have pledged to redirect some of their own resources to this effort, and all those who care about Guatemala's past, present, and future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a description of Saturday's

ceremony formalizing the agreement, provided by the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRESIDENT PEREZ MOLINA FORMALIZES HISTORIC AGREEMENT

The President of Guatemala, Otto Perez Molina, formalized an historic agreement for economical reparations for 33 communities of Baja Verapaz affected by the construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric in 1978.

A public event was held in the Municipal Stadium in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz on Saturday, where representatives of the Executive, the affected communities, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights handed the Government Decree number 378-2014 to the Communities.

"Today is an historic day" expressed President Perez Molina, "one that closes a shameful chapter of abuses, human rights violations and injustices suffered by thousands of families that lived in the area where Chixoy was built". Also, in front of thousands of people from the affected communities that attended the formalization of the Government Decree at the Rabinal Municipal Stadium, he ratified his administration's commitment to comply with the terms of the Public Policy.

He continued to express, on behalf of the State of Guatemala, a public apology to the families of the 33 communities that were wronged by the construction in 1978 of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam. With this public apology, he began implementing the Government Decree for moral and material reparations. "I want to be the first to follow through with the public policy of reparations and comply with one of the main points of the agreement which is responsibility of the Presidency of Guatemala. So today, in this historic day of happiness and celebration of the Agreement reached by the Government and the Communities, I want to take the first step and publicly apologize as President of the Republic, as representative of the unity of our citizens, for the abuse and human rights violations that each one of the communities suffered".

He continued to say: "On behalf of the State of Guatemala I ask you to accept these apologies so that we can heal the wounds in our hearts without forgetting the injustices and human rights violations that occurred".

President Perez Molina also said that he felt honored that his administration managed to reach an historic agreement that will contribute to overcome the drama that the Communities suffered for more than three decades. He continued to say that with the public event to recognize and repair the affected populations, one of his main objectives when taking office in January of 2012 was fulfilled. He went back and quoted his inauguration speech: "I ask God to grant us the wisdom to actively promote true reconciliation. A reconciliation that gives us the strength to work on our pending issues, on unattended injustices, on reconstructing our social fabric and to keep investing on the most valuable thing our Guatemala has, its citizens."

PUBLIC POLICY FOR REPARATION OF DAMAGES

Several Government officials attended the public event, which had Vice President Roxana Baldetti as honor witness. Present also were representatives of the communities,

local authorities and representatives of international organizations.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the agreement required a public policy for reparations and a structured plan to combat poverty, social injustice, inequality and the abandonment that these communities have suffered.

The Government Decree that gives life to this agreement was published on Friday in the Official Gazette and establishes the Public Policy for the Reparation of the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam.

The Policy will be applied to benefit 11,383 families and will offer basic infrastructure for 33 communities in Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, where the affected populations lived when the violations occurred.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the implementation during 2015 and 2016 has a budget of 200 million dollars for individual reparations. Besides individual pay, the Government will direct 1 billion quetzals in the next 15 years to build basic infrastructure in the 33 affected communities.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY E. FORCHT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the leading businessmen and entrepreneurs from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Terry E. Forcht is the founder, chairman, and CEO of the Forcht Group of Kentucky and was honored to be named the "Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year" in recognition of his success in business and his contributions to the community.

Terry was born and bred in my hometown of Louisville, KY. Like me, Terry attended the University of Louisville for his undergraduate studies. He also obtained his law degree from the UofL Brandeis School of Law and subsequently left the Commonwealth to obtain his MBA from the University of Miami in Florida.

Terry would not leave Kentucky for long, however. He returned in 1964 to serve as a chairman of the Commerce Department at Cumberland College—now the University of the Cumberland—and 3 years later he started his own law practice in Corbin, KY.

In 1972, Terry bought the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Corbin—an acquisition that is widely considered to be the first piece of what would eventually become the Forcht Group of Kentucky. This initial purchase has grown into what is now called First Corbin Long Term Care and consists of nine health and rehabilitation centers in the region.

In 1972, Terry also became heavily involved in community banking. He was appointed to the board of directors of Corbin Deposit Bank and Trust Company, and as his interest and expertise in the industry grew, he founded Tri-County National Bank with a group of investors in 1985. As with his nursing home acquisition, this community bank quickly prospered and grew. Today there are 30 Forcht Bank locations in Kentucky with total assets of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Forcht has grown his company over the years into a sprawling enterprise that employs over 2,100 people. The Forcht Group currently consists of 22 radio stations, 19 finance company offices, 2 insurance companies, 2 newspapers, a pharmacy and diagnostic lab, a retail furniture and gift store, a construction company, real estate, and several other small businesses.

Outside of his business, Terry still manages to find time to stay involved in his community. Although he is no longer a practicing lawyer, he is still a member of the Whitley County and Kentucky Bar Associations. In the past he has been president of the Whitley County Republican Party and has run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also currently serves on the board of directors of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Economic Development Board.

Terry's success in business has also allowed him and his wife Marion to pursue their passion for philanthropy. They are both active members of Grace on the Hill Methodist Church and have generously donated large sums of their hard-earned money to the University of Louisville, the University of the Cumberland, and to the University of Kentucky. Many generations of Kentuckians will undoubtedly find new opportunities open to them because of Terry and Marion's contributions to education in the State.

The Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year Award is a fitting tribute to a man who has contributed so much to his community. Terry's entrepreneurial zeal and commitment to furnishing quality higher education in his State set a glowing example for us all. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF JUDGE JOHN HEYBURN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on October 3 of this year, I had the honor of speaking at the portrait unveiling of U.S. District Court Judge John G. Heyburn. I ask unanimous consent that my comments at that ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I first met John Heyburn in 1971. Somehow, we had both found ourselves here in Louisville working for a fledgling gubernatorial candidate named Tom Emberton. It was the first of many attempts by John to derail what was otherwise destined to be a dazzling legal and judicial career with a foray into politics. And I like to think the increasingly frequent television ads many of you have seen for a certain U.S. Senate race have finally confirmed him in the view that between the two of us, he chose the nobler path.

So you're very welcome for that, John. I assure you, it's been an expensive lesson in career advice.

Now, I don't remember a whole lot about that governor's race, but I do remember what I was thinking when John and I met—that we were cut from different cloth. He came from a very prominent family here in Louisville. His dad had run for Congress back when I was in college, which I remembered. He attended boarding school up in New England . . . he went to Harvard . . . he golfed. You get the drift . . .

So what happened next was unexpected, but in retrospect entirely predictable: I liked him. I liked him a lot. And the accuracy of that first impression has been validated again and again in the decades since.

John Heyburn is just impossible not to like.

That's the first thing to say about the man we've come here to honor. And I think it needs to be said, because it's certainly not the main reason so many of us made sure to be here today. But it's a big reason so many of us really wanted to be here, and why this is such a happy occasion. John doesn't just inspire confidence and respect. He doesn't just impress with his intellect and erudition. He makes you feel lucky to know him.

And I think I got a good sense for why that is on that first campaign for Tom Emberton. I mean, here was a brilliant young guy from a distinguished family, fresh out of Harvard, about a head taller than everybody else. The rest of us on the campaign were all basically operating without a license. And yet he just loved it. He brought the same enthusiasm to that race that he brings to everything else, the sense that whatever it is you're doing, he's interested. And as long as you put your whole self into it, it's worth it.

John's basic approach to life had already been set all those years ago, and I can't think of a better way to describe it than to borrow a phrase from Oliver Wendell Holmes, who once gave the following piece of advice to a group of Boston lawyers: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

The language may be a little antiquated, but I think the sentiment captures John perfectly. Because whether it's running a marathon in college, keeping time at one of Will's swim meets, tracking Jack's free-throw percentages in high school, drafting a judicial decision, resolving a dispute among lawyers . . . or facing up to the physical adversities of recent years, John has done it "with all his might".

And that's the second thing to say about John Heyburn.

Now, for those of you who may be wondering, Tom Emberton ended up losing his race for governor. But as I indicated, one losing campaign wasn't quite enough to drive John out of politics. A few years later, he helped me win my own first political campaign, as County Judge Executive here in Jefferson County. And once elected, he gave me some very good counsel as a lawyer on my staff.

In repayment for his services I invited John to join my ticket for a run of his own . . . and then proceeded to run what was hands-down the worst campaign of my life. The defining artifact of the race was a billboard we put up along I-65. It was basically just three disembodied heads on a big neon board. I looked like Howdy Doody. John looked like Hitler. We took it down after a day and a half. And John's hopes for a career in politics were dashed once again . . .

It would take one more run for a political office to extinguish John's political ambitions, and to show him where his greatest talents lay. One of his recent judicial decisions led him to make an unexpected cameo

in this year's Senate primary. But aside from that, he's been pretty quiet. For the past 22 years, John Heyburn has put all his might into this courtroom. And his impact has been enormous.

The truth is, John's such a friendly presence, it's easy to forget what a penetrating intellect he has or what an influential jurist he's been. But his skills and his focus as a judge are by now legendary.

As Chair of the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation, he's interacted with some of the best lawyers in the country. It's one of the main reasons he enjoys the job. It's a welcome duty for him, yes, and a testament to his very laudable commitment to public service. But mostly, I think, it's just a great opportunity for John to put his mind to work and to engage other legal minds on a very high level.

In more than two decades as a judge for the Western District, John has also untangled countless legal knots and delivered far-reaching opinions on some mind-numbingly complex and important cases. And that's to say nothing of the countless settlement conferences, which require a subtle genius of their own.

Others can speak more intelligently about the ins and outs of specific cases and the day-to-day demands of a judge. John has clearly excelled at both. But I think one of the far less-appreciated contributions he's made in his many years here has been his strong, positive influence on the culture of the place.

So let me just say that as someone who's played an active role in nominations to the court over the years, it's very gratifying to hear about the deep camaraderie and mutual respect that the district court judges in the commonwealth, and particularly in this district, enjoy. And of their reputation for excellence.

I think there's no question that no one is more responsible for that than John. And I'm grateful.

One veteran of the Kentucky bar summed it up like this: "It is a privilege," he said, "to practice law in Kentucky federal courts. The judges are fair, they're even-handed. They follow the statutes . . . they follow precedent . . . but they're [also] independent and they're really fine human beings."

I've heard of young lawyers dreading their first day in court but leaving here encouraged and energized not just because they made it through, but because Judge Heyburn was so kind and generous to them.

Experienced court-watchers say he's tougher on the lawyers he knows than on the ones he doesn't. And as for John's clerks, well, some speak of their time here as nothing short of a revelation. It's the dignified but humane way he conducts his chambers. It's the methodical way he decides a case. But it's also just the sheer joy he brings to his work on the bench, or to talking politics over a sandwich at the City Cafe, or even to teaching a high school civics class with his clerks.

I'm told that on some of these field trips, by the way, John actually has his clerks act out the characters in famous court cases. It's not exactly something law school prepares you for. But they seem to enjoy it. At least they pretend to.

The larger point is this: in a field that isn't exactly known for excitement, John has always found a way to make the law interesting. His enthusiasm is contagious. And that's been one of his great gifts to the profession, and to everyone whose lives intersect with the work of this court.

One of John's former clerks put it like this. He said that after law school he was totally burned out, and not really looking forward to the career ahead of him. Then he met Judge Heyburn.

"Judge Heyburn," he said, "he just made me fall in love with the law."

That's why John attracts some of the best and the brightest. It's why his clerks love him.

He brings the law to life. He looks beyond the facts at hand and forces his clerks to ask "Why." He takes an interest in their lives long after they leave here. And he also gives them something else. He gives them a model for how to do their jobs well without forgetting that their first and most important job is at home.

And that's the third thing I would like to say about John Heyburn. He's a scholar. He's a giant on the bench. He's a good friend to his friends. He's a lot of fun. But he is a husband and a father first.

Ask his clerks what they remember about his chambers and they're just as likely to remember all the photos of Martha and Will and Jack as the wood paneling. Ask Martha about their marriage and she'll tell you they have as much fun together today as they did the day they met. Ask the boys what they remember, and they'll tell you something about their dad that a lot of other kids wish they could.

They'll say: "My dad was never MIA."

Now, for the past year or so, young Jack has had the great misfortune of being one of the very first people that I see in the morning when I'm up in Washington. I'm sure he doesn't look forward to that. But to me it's a great comfort. Not just because I like him too, but because whenever I see Jack I see Martha and John.

It reminds me of home. It reminds me of good times past. And it makes me hopeful about the future. Because these are really good people. They're both impressive in their own right.

And they really care about others.

So I'm delighted to be here to honor the judge on this happy occasion.

John Heyburn finally found his calling. And to the surprise of absolutely no one, he has lived it out with all his might. He has earned the respect of his peers and the gratitude of many clerks. He is greatly admired. And as the impressive crowd that's gathered here attests, he is very deeply loved.

Congratulations, old friend.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to consideration of the nomination of Lourdes Castro Ramirez to be the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, for the Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Over the last 4 years, I have been raising concerns about serious problems at public housing authorities and HUD's failure to address them. The Office of Public and Indian Housing is responsible for overseeing the public housing authority program.

I recently learned that HUD is negotiating new, 10-year contracts with the 39 housing authorities participating in the Moving to Work, MTW, demonstration program. The Office of Public and Indian Housing is also responsible for

administering this program but has failed to conduct proper oversight for years.

The current contracts don't expire until 2018 so there is no need to rush into signing new contracts. Instead, I recommend HUD takes serious steps to address the program deficiencies and determine if this demonstration should continue.

A group of housing advocacy organizations sent a letter to HUD on November 7, 2014, raising concerns about the lack of transparency in the MTW contract negotiations. I am requesting that a copy of this letter be included with my statement in the RECORD. These organizations represent the people directly impacted by HUD decisions. They are asking questions that would strengthen the program and protect funding from abuse. But HUD is blocking them from participating in the process. Only the MTW agencies are allowed to review the contracts and comment on the proposed changes.

According to HUD briefing materials, the MTW housing authorities operate about 14 percent of the Nation's housing stock and receive over \$3 billion in funding per year, equal to about 20 percent of total program funding. Yet HUD has failed to require any meaningful accountability or transparency.

This has led to financial abuses at the Chicago Housing Authority and other MTW housing authorities. On October 23, I sent a letter to HUD about the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), a Moving to Work participant. CHA has diverted approximately \$432 million in Federal funding into a reserve fund instead of issuing over 13,500 vouchers to Chicago families who need affordable housing assistance.

For example, the Atlanta Housing Authority has at least 20 employees receiving annual compensation ranging between \$150,000 and \$300,000 per year. The executive director explained that these high salaries are necessary "to both 'attract and retain' competent staff."

The executive director of the Philadelphia Housing Authority also received a high salary over \$300,000 per year. He also threw lavish parties, provided patronage to friends and supporters, and secretly paid sexual harassment claims.

Instead of providing safe, affordable housing for those in need, housing authority officials are using Federal funding to feather their own nests. HUD tells me these problems are anomalies, which lead me to believe the Department may be turning a blind eye to program failures no matter what the costs.

Both the HUD inspector general and the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, audited the MTW program. Both determined that little program oversight is actually being done. HUD has no procedures to verify agency self-

reported performance data and HUD officials weren't even aware that they were required to perform annual risk assessments. HUD also has no program-wide performance indicators that would help determine if this program is a success or failure.

Worse yet, HUD never performed mandatory program evaluations to determine if the agencies complied with their MTW agreements or whether they should still be in the program. Department officials said they lack the funding to performing the evaluations. Under the current budget climate, additional funding may not be available anytime soon. In other words, HUD can't tell me if the Moving to Work program actually works or if it will work in the future.

GAO officials informed me that the agency may be close to closing three recommendations. For the other five recommendations, they are waiting for HUD to provide additional documentation about what steps are being taken or what is needed to close each of them. Instead of taking steps to improve program performance and provide more effective oversight, the Agency is, instead, rushing to extend contracts for an additional ten years.

I expect a lot more answers and accountability before there is a vote on Ms. Castro Ramirez's nomination. HUD must also refrain from adding new housing authorities to the MTW program until the agency provides GAO with the requested information and a definitive timeline for closing the outstanding recommendations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NOVEMBER 7, 2014.

Hon. JULIAN CASTRO,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CASTRO: We represent housing advocates who work with clients and community members in the jurisdictions of public housing agencies (PHAs) that have Moving to Work (MTW) status. We look forward to working with you to further HUD's mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

We are writing to ask HUD to take immediate action to create a more open, inclusive, and transparent process as HUD negotiates the terms for any potential extensions to Moving to Work Agreements past their current 2018 expiration. Consistent with the statutory language creating the MTW program, we specifically request that HUD consult with advocates during the contract negotiations. Indeed, Congress was clear that "in making assessments throughout the demonstration, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of public housing agencies and residents." As a first step, we urge HUD to make the baseline language it is crafting for MTW extension contracts available for public comment and discussion, and solicit and consider input from resident and community advocates on the conditions for extensions and the terms of the extension agreements.

As you undoubtedly know, HUD's MTW demonstration is steeped in controversy. In

addition to receiving criticism from advocacy agencies providing services to PHA residents in deregulated jurisdictions, HUD's own Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Government Accountability Office have released studies critical of the MTW program's underlying structure and HUD's implementation and oversight of the program, including the GAO's 2012 Evaluation and the HUD IG's 2013 Study. These studies indicate that the Moving to Work program lacks performance standards and evaluation, and HUD has not provided critical oversight to agencies participating in the MTW program to evaluate agencies' compliance with statutory requirements or verify agencies' self-reported performance data.

Based on these pervasive critiques, we believe that any extension of the MTW demonstration must be done with thoughtfulness, diligence, and open discussion of the lessons learned from HUD's previous experiments in deregulation, which simply have not demonstrated any of the programmatic results this venture was designed to achieve.

The current MTW Agreements do not expire until 2018. We understand that HUD's stated goal for beginning MTW extension discussions in 2014 has been to develop better tools and standards to enable more effective regulation and oversight of MTW Agencies moving forward. We support any process that will ensure that new language in MTW contracts will provide clear metrics for performance, clear processes for evaluation, and clear protocols for HUD to monitor and enforce Agencies' compliance with statutory requirements and standards, even amidst the flexibility the MTW program intentionally allows.

We strongly support some goals HUD has put forward for the extensions, including establishing requirements that agencies use the bulk of their voucher funds for vouchers, higher baselines to determine if agencies are assisting "substantially the same" number of families, and more rigorous evaluation of policies that pose risks to participants. Effective requirements in these areas would have major benefits for low-income families. Without more information on the details, however, it is impossible for us to assess whether the changes HUD plans will bring about meaningful improvements.

As advocacy organizations who work with tenants who are the "end-users" of HUD's programs in regions de-regulated under the MTW program, we believe we have experiences and observations that can help contribute to HUD's success in amending the program.

We have documented concerns with the current MTW Agreements that are not adequately addressed by the limited information HUD has released about the planned extensions. These concerns include but are not limited to:

How new MTW Agreements will prevent de-regulated PHAs from diverting significant resources out of their housing programs into unrestricted cash reserves or towards other questionable uses such as excessive executive compensation. These actions clearly contradict MTW's statutory goal to, "reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness." The agreements should, for example, include clear limits on reserve levels and specific sanctions for agencies that exceed those limits.

How HUD will evaluate the real effects of proposed or existing major policy changes allowed under MTW, such as time limits, work requirements, and major rent changes, to assess whether these changes are achieving the

program's statutory goals of helping families achieve economic self-sufficiency and increasing housing choice, or instead just creating a revolving door of homelessness and hardship. HUD has indicated that it will require more rigorous evaluation of some new policies, but it should also seek to evaluate policies already in place and should make clear that it will prohibit agencies from adopting risky measures like time limits and work requirements unless funding for a rigorous evaluation is available.

How HUD will define, monitor, and enforce, the new standard of 90% voucher utilization, both before and after new MTW agreements go into effect. This standard will be far more effective if HUD uses the voucher funding formula to enforce it, and if it prohibits agencies from counting funds spent for purposes other than rental assistance toward voucher utilization.

How HUD will define and enforce the requirement to assist substantially the same number of families. HUD has indicated that it will adjust the baseline number of families agencies must assist upward, but unless HUD also defines "assisted families" to include only families receiving substantial rental assistance this requirement will have little meaning.

How HUD will ensure appropriate hardship exemptions are in place.

How HUD will ensure MTWA jurisdictions increase housing choices and mobility to opportunity communities among program participants.

Thank you for considering this request.

Through a collaborative, thoughtful, transparent and inclusive approach, we are confident that we can work with HUD and participating public housing agencies to create targeted revisions to the MTW program which clarify performance metrics, and create clear processes for evaluation and oversight. Our goal is to create a structure that provides both flexibility and discipline—A well-considered framework for any continuation of the program will better ensure we realize the original goals of the MTW program, which were to expand housing choice, increase cost effectiveness, and help families achieve self-sufficiency.

Congratulations on your confirmation as HUD Secretary.

Sincerely,

Asian Americans Advancing Justice—
Asian Law Center, San Francisco Bay
Area, California, Christina Dang and
Thomas Lee, Staff Attorneys; Atlanta
Legal Aid Society, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia,
Margaret L. Kinneer; Cabrini
Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL,
Jill Roberts and Ryann Moran, Staff
Attorneys; Center for Tax and Budget
Accountability, Ralph Martire, Executive
Director; Chicago Housing Initiative,
Chicago, IL, Leah Levinger, Executive
Director; Community Alliance of
Tenants, State of Oregon, Steve Weiss,
Board President; Community Legal
Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
Rasheedah Phillips, Housing Law Division.

Delaware Housing Coalition, State of
Delaware, Trish Kelleher, Director of
Housing; Housing Action Illinois, State
of Illinois, Bob Palmer, Policy Director;
Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Chicago,
IL, Lori Clark, Executive Director;
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley,
San Jose, California, Nadia Aziz, Senior
Attorney; Legal Aid Society of San
Mateo County, San Mateo County,
California, Shirley E. Gibson, Directing

Attorney; Legal Assistance Foundation, Chicago, IL, Lawrence Wood, Housing Practice Group Director; Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Chicago, IL, John McDermott, Housing & Land Use Director.

Lugenia Burns Hope Center, Chicago, IL, Rod Wilson, Executive Director; Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants, State of Massachusetts, Michael Kane, Executive Director; Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Louisville, Kentucky, Cathy Hinko, Executive Director; Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Chicago, IL, John Bartlett, Executive Director. Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Minneapolis, MN, Dorinda L. Wider; National Alliance of HUD Tenants, National, Charlotte Delgado, Board President.

National Housing Law Project, National, Deborah Thrope, Staff Attorney; North Carolina Justice Center, State of North Carolina, Bill Rowe, General Counsel and Director of Advocacy; Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, IL, John S. Elson, Professor of Law; Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality, Chicago, IL, Jennifer Ritter, Executive Director; People for Community Recovery, Chicago, IL, Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL, Kate Walz, Director of Housing Justice; Tenants Union of Washington State, State of Washington, Jonathan Grant, Executive Director.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will once again consider S. 1086 as amended by the House, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. This is bipartisan legislation that I introduced along with Senators BURR, HARKIN, and ALEXANDER.

A version of this bill was passed by the Senate earlier this year by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 96-2. An amended version passed the House on September 15th, by unanimous consent. I stand here today, on the side of families and children across the nation, encouraging the Senate to once again pass this child care bill and send it to the President's desk to become law.

Before I was the Senator for Maryland, I was a social worker for Baltimore families and worked with children and the elderly. At the dawn of the civil rights movement, I went from being a social worker to a social activist in elected office. Today, I'm a social worker in Congress, working to build opportunities for families throughout America. I stand here today, proud that with this bill, we can make a difference for parents and children across America. Every family deserves child care that is affordable, accessible, and exceptional.

Child care is one of the most important decisions a parent will make when raising their child. But we live in the age of scrimp and save. Times are

tough and budgets are tight. Every day, parents across America struggle to put food on the table, pay their bills, and provide care for their kids. Maybe you are a single parent, working double shifts, wondering if your child is safe and sound, or maybe you are a student, working to get your degree for a better job and a brighter future. But instead of studying statistics, you are calculating the cash you need to pay your babysitter. Those worries weigh heavily on the shoulders of parents everywhere. Our bill helps lift that burden by giving families and children the child care they need to succeed.

That is why I am so proud to move this bill forward. This bill is the product of brilliant bipartisan effort between Senators BURR, HARKIN, ALEXANDER, and myself. We also worked on a bicameral basis with Representatives KLINE and MILLER from the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

This bill reforms and refreshes important child care legislation, so moms and dads earning lower incomes can afford child care for their kids while they go to work or school. Child care is something all families worry about, regardless of income or zip code. People want care that is reliable and undeniable, safe, affordable, and accessible. This bill helps ensure that all children get the care they need and deserve so they and their families can have a better, brighter future.

In 1990, the CCDBG program was first signed into law by President George H.W. Bush to assist working families with the cost of providing child care. It has not been reauthorized since 1996. Through the CCDBG program, the Federal government provides states and Indian tribes and territories with funding. That funding is used to help lower-income families afford child care while parents work, train for work, or attend school. Families are given vouchers based on their income level to help cover costs of care. These vouchers can be used by parents for the provider of their choice: care in the home, at a relative's home, or in a child care center. Every month, CCDBG serves more than 1.5 million children in the United States, including 19,000 children in Maryland.

Why is this program so important? Because child care is expensive. It is the highest household expense faced by dual income households and averages \$14,872 per year for two children. In Maryland, families spend, on average, 20% of their family income on child care. This is about \$14,000 per year or \$249 per week. Keep in mind that the Department of Health and Human Services recommends that families not spend more than 10% of their income on child care. Child care isn't a luxury, it is a necessity. It shouldn't reach beyond the bounds of the family budget, especially in these tough economic times.

CCDBG has not been reauthorized since 1996. At the time, the program was envisioned solely as workforce aid—something to help moms and dads get back to work. This was and remains an important goal, but we have learned a lot since 1996. What we know today, but didn't know 18 years ago, is that the most rapid period of development for the brain happens in the first five years of life. That is why it is so imperative that we ensure our young children are in high-quality child care programs that give kids building blocks for a lifetime of success. It is not enough to ensure that kids have someplace to go. We must ensure that they go someplace safe that nurtures their development, challenges their mind, and prepares them for school. The current program is outdated. It does not go far enough in promoting and supporting high-quality child care, safeguarding health and safety of children, ensuring children have continuity of care, and focusing on infant and toddler care.

Senators BURR, HARKIN, ALEXANDER, and I got together more than two years ago. We held three bipartisan Subcommittee on Children and Families hearings, got input from more than fifty stakeholder organizations, worked with every member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to put together a comprehensive reauthorization bill. It does not solve every program for every family, but it does a lot of good for families relying on CCDBG.

First, the reauthorization requires states to prioritize quality. States will be required to eventually set aside at least 9% of funding for quality initiatives, 5% more than current law. States will choose what is best for them, whether it is training of the workforce, supporting early learning guidelines, expanding quality rating systems, or improving quality and quantity of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers.

Second, it requires that providers meet health requirements so parents know that the individuals taking care of their children are capable and competent when it comes to handling first aid and CPR, child abuse, sudden infant death syndrome, or shaken baby syndrome. Third, it requires mandatory background checks. And lastly, this reauthorization gives families using the CCDBG program more stability by ensuring that their kids get care for at least one year, even if a parent sees a change in their pay check.

We know that increasing funding for this program is important. More kids and families are in need of access. That is why as Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am pushing for \$2.46 billion for child care in the FY15 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This is an increase

of \$100 million over FY14. This funding would ensure that countless additional children have access to this vital program, bringing more families of very modest means peace of mind when it comes to child care.

I am fighting hard for this increase, because I know quality child care is worth every penny. I could not have done it without Senator HARKIN as the Labor-HHS Chairman. And rest assured, we will keep fighting for this child care program. So you see, we put money in a program through appropriations channels and now we are improving the program through authorizing channels.

I would like to thank my partner in crime, Senator RICHARD BURR, who was Ranking Member of Children and Families when I was Chair of that Subcommittee. Senator BURR's unwavering commitment to reauthorizing this program and ensuring safety of children is unrivaled, unparalleled, and unmatched. It has been a pleasure working with Senator BURR and his staff, Chris Toppings. They deserve a lot of credit for getting us here today.

I would also like to extend a sincere thanks to Chairman HARKIN and Ranking Member ALEXANDER, as well as former Ranking Member ENZI, and all of their staffs. Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, and ENZI have been involved in drafting the bill from the outset. They have worked to make sure that the bill remained a priority for the HELP Committee. The expertise of their staffs has been invaluable throughout this process. I want to thank Senator HARKIN's staff, Mario Cardona and Mildred Otero, and Senator ALEXANDER's staff, Peter Oppenheim and Patrick Murray. I would also like to thank our House colleagues, Representatives KLINE and MILLER, for making this bill a priority and for getting it done.

Every working parent with children, no matter their income level, worries about child care. What's affordable? What's accessible? Will my child be safe? Where can I get the best care for my kid? The CCDBG program has given many families over many years peace of mind, but we can and should be doing more to improve child care for children, parents, and providers alike. It is long past time to revitalize, refresh, and reform this vitally important program. It is my hope that we can move swiftly to pass this bill and send it to the President's desk. It has been 18 years in the making. Let's not wait any longer.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, November 9, 1989, was the day the Berlin Wall came down, a day we can all be proud. It is a day that reminds us of the power of democratic values and ideals.

I am filled with happiness as I remember that wonderful day 25 years ago. I am a proud American, there is no other country blessed with such opportunity, but the roots of my heritage lie in Poland. I grew up in a home that kept the heritage of the old country alive. As a child of World War II, Europe has always been fundamental to my life.

Together with my family I watched Poland fall, along with Hungary and the Czech Republic and others, behind the Iron Curtain. I remember when Poland was sold out at Yalta and Potsdam because of an ill-conceived agreement. These countries became captive nations.

We watched as a wall was built in Berlin. Those in East Berlin found themselves behind not only the Iron Curtain but the Berlin Wall as well, cut off from family, friends, and their livelihoods.

I am proud that Americans stood up at this moment—the famous Berlin Airlift provided those in West Berlin during the Berlin Blockade. The United States, with our allies, delivered basic necessities, food, and fuel. We all stood with President Kennedy as he declared “Ich bin ein Berliner.” American leadership was instrumental in making small cracks in the wall. As Madeline Albright, whose heritage is also rooted in Eastern Europe like my own, has said of the United States, “We are the indispensable nation. We stand tall. We see further into the future.”

The wall began to crumble when an obscure Polish electrician named Lech Walesa jumped over a wall in a shipyard in Gdansk. It began with the Solidarity movement. From this, a people's revolution was sparked in Central Europe.

And thanks to the nonviolent protestors, the dissidents, such as Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia, and the political leadership from President Reagan and Maggie Thatcher and members of Congress the Wall came down.

I stand here to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall, bringing down the Iron Curtain. Twenty five years ago, as a citizen of a strong democratic United States of America, I joined President Reagan when he said, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” I take this opportunity to stand together with my countrymen and celebrate our democratic values, our respect for human rights, and our freedom. The United States is a great nation, and through our action, commitment, and resolve, we will continue to bring down walls of oppression.

This is a great occasion for all of us and for the world and deserves our remembrance.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL THOMAS A. BLAIR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and

sacrifice of Marine Cpl Thomas A. Blair of Wagoner, OK who lost his life on March 24, 2003, from injuries sustained during a lengthy battle with insurgents while serving his Nation in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

The son of Alfred Jr. and Nancy Hinton Blair, Tommy was born July 7, 1978, in Wagoner, OK. After graduating from Broken Arrow High School, he entered the Marine Corps in 1997 and was assigned to the 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group-28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, NC.

Tommy was posthumously awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal for helping pull nine wounded marines into an armored vehicle before it was hit by at least four enemy rocket-propelled grenades and then a missile fired from an American attack plane. He was among 18 marines killed that day in fighting around Nasiriyah.

Tommy was laid to rest in Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery in Joplin, MO, and is survived by his father Alfred Jr., mother Nancy, and brother Alfred III.

“He was a young man that would give the shirt off his back if someone needed it,” recalled his older brother, Marine SSG Alfred Blair, III. “He lived life to the fullest and enjoyed every minute of every day. In his first letter home to our mom, he said he was doing what he had been trained to do and was proud to be doing it for his country.”

Today we remember Marine CPL Thomas A. Blair, the first known native Oklahoman to lose his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CAPTAIN JOHN J. BORIA

Mr. President, I also pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Air Force Capt. John J. Boria of Broken Arrow, OK, who died on September 6, 2004, after injuries sustained in a all-terrain vehicle accident while serving his nation in Doha, Qatar.

Javy, as he was known by his family and friends was born on August 12, 1975. After graduating from Union High School in Tulsa, OK, in 1993, I nominated this bright young man to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. He spent a year at the Academy's Prep School before entering the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1998. Upon completing flight training, he was assigned as an instructor and KC-135 pilot at the 911th Refueling Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND, and was deployed to Qatar to work in the Combined Air Operations Center in June 2004.

Funeral services were held on September 14, 2004, at Broken Arrow Assembly of God Church, with internment at the U.S. Air Force Academy Cemetery in Colorado Springs, CO. Javy is survived by his parents John and Wanda and brother Joe.

His favorite Bible verse in John 15 states, depending on the translation, that "no greater love has a man than he lay down his life for his friends," his mother said. When discussing becoming an organ donor with his mother during his junior year at the Academy, Javy said, "I want to be a donor too. If I die and part of me could be used, it could give somebody else a chance to live the life that I won't have."

Today we remember Air Force Capt. John J. Boria, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TRAVIS W. GROGAN

Mr. President, I now pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army CWO Travis W. Grogan, who died on November 27, 2004, after the aircraft he was a passenger in crashed in Bamian, Afghanistan.

Born an only child on January 12, 1973, Travis grew up just outside Oklahoma City, OK, and graduated from Moore High School. Descending from a long line of servicemen, with relatives who served in Korea, World War I, and the Civil War, he initially enlisted in the Navy, where he served for 9 years as a search-and-rescue swimmer. Later, he became interested in flying and transferred to the Army to become a helicopter pilot with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Light, Schofield Barracks, HI. He had been in Afghanistan since April 2004.

"He died for our freedoms here in America," Barbara Grogan said of her only son. "This was important to him, and it should be important to everyone in America. Our freedoms are worth fighting for."

Travis is survived by his wife Tracy; daughter Ashley; son Austin; parents, Barbara and Lewis; and grandmother, Wilma North.

Funeral services were held on December 9, 2004, at the First Baptist Church in Moore, OK, with burial conducted at Ft Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, OK.

"He knew why he was in Afghanistan. He was very proud of being able to serve his country," said his grandmother. "If they had found him wounded, he would have said, Doctor me up; I'm going back."

Today we remember Army CWO Travis W. Grogan, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JARED D. HARTLEY

Mr. President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SPC Jared D. Hartley, of Newkirk, OK, who died on July 15, 2005, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Taji, Iraq.

Jared was born January 2, 1983, and enlisted in June 2002. After basic training he was assigned to 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Ar-

mored Division, based at Fort Riley, KS.

Jared was a 2002 graduate of Newkirk High School, where he played football and basketball. He joined the Army shortly after graduating high school and deployed for a 13-month tour in Iraq. "When he came back, he was going to get out of the military, but they told him they needed him," his brother Alex Hartley said. "He said, 'No problem, I'll stay in as long as you need me'." He returned for his second tour in March.

Alex said his brother was committed to the military's mission in Iraq and pleased with the positive response he received from the Iraqi people. "He said people he talked to were glad they were there. Protecting our country and helping people—he felt good about his mission."

Jared was buried at Newkirk Cemetery and is survived by his parents, Doug and Kathie, and his brother Alex.

Today we remember Army SPC Jared D. Hartley, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DANIEL E. HOLLAND

Mr. President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of Army LTC Daniel E. Holland, of San Antonio, TX, who died on May 8, 2006, of injuries sustained when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device while he served his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq. Daniel was a veterinarian assigned to South Plains District Veterinary Command at Ft Hood, TX, attached to the 352nd Civil Affairs Command at Fort Bragg, NC.

Daniel was born in Munich, Germany, on April 5, 1963, the youngest of 10 children. His father retired from military service in Marlow, OK, where Daniel graduated from high school in 1981. Selected to give the commencement address at his high school graduation, he went on to attend Oklahoma State University on an ROTC scholarship, transferring after 3 years into OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. His dreams were realized when he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1984. He and Sheryl Patton were married in August 1985 in Stillwater, OK.

Burial services with full military honors were held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on May 31, 2006.

Daniel is survived by his wife Sheryl; son Garrett; daughter Rachel; parents, Col (Ret.) and Mrs. Herbert S. Holland, Jr.; parents-in-law, Bancker and Lana Cade; brothers and sisters (and their spouses), Col (Ret.) Robert F. Holland (Carol), Mark M. Holland (Josie), Patricia Nixon (Thomas), David W. Holland (MaryAnn), Mary K. Ralya (Steven), Maj (Ret.) John R. Holland (Rita), Claire Nieswiadomy (Michael), Catherine Ochoa (Joseph), and Elizabeth Blute (Peter); sister-in-law, Kellie Robinson; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Today we remember Army LTC Daniel E. Holland, a man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANIEL R. PARKER

Mr. President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army PFC Daniel R. Parker, who died on August 12, 2003 from injuries sustained when he was thrown from his vehicle after the driver swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle while serving his Nation in Mosul, Iraq.

Dan was born August 17, 1984, in Oklahoma City and later moved to Lake Elsinore, CA. An active member of ROTC in high school in Lake Elsinore, CA, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, enlisting in the Army at the age of 17, just 2 weeks after graduating from Lake Elsinore High School. His first assignment after completing training at Ft Sill, OK was B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY.

Deploying for the first time in March 2003, Dan was part of the team sent to the villa where two sons of Saddam Hussein were hiding on July 23, 2003. After the gunfight that killed Odai and Qusai Hussein, Dan's photo was taken by media and he was on the cover of the Los Angeles Times standing in front of the building, holding his gun.

Dan was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA, and is survived by his parents, Billy and Sherri Parker; three brothers, Dustin, Dalton, and Dallas; and a sister, Danielle.

Just before Dan deployed, his father drove to Nashville, TN, to spend time with him. "We drove around Nashville, went out to Opryland, drove down Music Row. I told him no one has a guarantee on the number of years you got. We don't know what the number is, but the important thing is every day you do what you're supposed to do," said his father.

"Not one time, ever, did I think that he wasn't going to walk through that door back home, but that's OK. I'm not disappointed in the 20 or 30 or 40 or 50 years that he didn't have. I'm excited about the 18 he did have. He was able to touch so many people's lives," Billy Parker said.

Today we remember Army PFC Daniel R. Parker, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA F. POWERS

Mr. President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of Army PFC Joshua F. Powers, of Skiatook, OK who died on February 24, 2006, of noncombat related injuries while serving his nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

As the youngest of three boys, Joshua was born February 11, 1985 and enlisted in July 2005. After basic training he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. He had been in Iraq for just over two weeks.

Josh was buried at Osage Garden Cemetery, Skiatook, OK where Army personnel honored him with a 21-gun salute and played "Taps". He is survived by his mother Patricia; father Ernest; and brothers Michael and Jonathan.

At the funeral service, an elder at Sperry's Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, C.H. Whiteman, said Joshua was doing what he thought was right. "If it weren't for young men like him, we couldn't enjoy the kind of life we have in America," he said.

Today we remember Army PFC Joshua F. Powers, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST BRYAN L. QUINTON

Mr. President, I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of Army SPC Bryan L. Quinton, of Sand Springs, OK, who died on May 4, 2006, of injuries sustained when a rocket propelled grenade struck near his vehicle while he served his nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

Born June 29, 1981 to Timothy and Kristi Quinton in Tulsa, OK, Bryan enlisted in the United States Army on January 15, 2004 and completed basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He served in Alpha Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Giant, Korea before being reassigned to Bravo Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, Ft Leonard Wood, MO.

On the day he died, Bryan, like he had done so many times before, insisted on being in the "point"—the lead vehicle in a 12-vehicle convoy checking for bombs. "Let me make it safe for everyone else," he was quoted as saying. No one would travel those highways until he and his comrades gave the "all-clear signal," said BG Todd Semonite, commander of the engineer school at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Everyone looked to him for their own personal safety.

Funeral services were held on May 17, 2006 at First United Methodist Church in Sapulpa, OK. The road leading into the Green Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery was bordered on both sides by scores of American flags, snapping in the breeze. Nearly 100 motorcyclists, many of them veterans from previous wars, stood at attention along the flag-lined road as the funeral procession glided past them. As eight Army pallbearers pulled the silver-colored casket from the hearse, a bagpiper in the distance softly played "Amazing Grace." His wife Cyndi was given the folded flag that draped the coffin as her hus-

band was honored by a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps.

Bryan is survived by his wife Cyndi; daughter Pyper; son Connor; parents Tim and Kristy Quinton; brother Garth; brother Brent and his wife Alison; nephew Clay Quinton; grandmother Barbara Weaver; and grandfather Grady Quinton.

"My heart died when my husband did, but I know he would want us to think about all the crazy stunts he pulled and all the laughter," Cyndi said. "God, you are very lucky to have him! Heaven, just get ready to laugh!"

Today we remember Army SPC Bryan L. Quinton, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST STEPHEN M. SCOTT

Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SPC Stephen M. Scott of Lawton, OK, who died on August 23, 2003 from non-combat injuries sustained while serving his nation near Fallujah, Iraq.

Born in San Antonio, Stephen moved several times before settling in Lawton, OK. He met his wife Marie in a psychology class before graduating from Eisenhower High School in Lawton and the couple married on July 4, 2002.

Stephen joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 2001 and he and Marie chose to go on active duty a year later. Stephen was a cook assigned to 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and Marie worked community relations for the 14th Public Affairs Detachment in Fort Carson, CO. He deployed to Iraq in June 2002. While she was aware of the risk involved in her husband's deployment, Marie never thought her office would be handling a news release announcing his death.

"Especially not Stephen," she said. "He was amazing. I'm so sad, but sometimes I can't help but smile. He was so goofy he would make you laugh. He was very spiritual. He was very strong. We had a lot of plans."

Today we remember Army SPC Stephen M. Scott, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT DANTON K. SEITSINGER

Mr. President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Danton K. Seitsinger of Oklahoma City, OK, who died on January 29, 2004 when a weapons cache detonated west of Ghanzi, Afghanistan.

Kyle was born on October 4, 1974 and graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO, in May 1993. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on December 7, 1993 and spent his 6 years guarding U.S. embassies in Brasilia, Moscow and the consulate in Rio de Janeiro. After separating from the Marine Corps in 2000, he attended Oklahoma Christian University and enlisted with the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Broken Arrow, OK.

While at Oklahoma Christian University, Kyle worked for the student newspaper, serving as an editor for 2 years. In 2002, he was selected as one of 16 student journalists to participate in the Summer Institute in Journalism sponsored by the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities. His assignments included interviews with the Colombian president as well as U.S. Representatives Ernest Istook and J.C. Watts. In 2003, Kyle spent 6 months in Costa Rica in a program designed to immerse the learner in the Spanish language. While serving in Brasilia, he "adopted" two young poor girls and urged his family to send them gifts. He wasted no time, rising early to explore the many cities he visited. It is as though he knew he needed a faster pace to complete his life.

Just 12 months short of his graduation with a dual major in journalism and Spanish, Kyle was called to active duty in November 2003 and deployed to Afghanistan.

Kyle is survived by his father Dan; mother Jo; and two sisters, Karla Seitsinger and Penny Owen Cockerell. He is buried in Headrick Cemetery in Headrick, OK.

Today we remember Army SGT Danton K. Seitsinger, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

STAFF SERGEANT STEVEN W. WHITE

Mr. President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of Army SSG Steven W. White of Lawton, OK who died on August 13, 2003 from injuries sustained when his M113 armored personnel carrier hit an anti-tank mine while he served his nation in Tikrit, Iraq.

Steven was born November 6, 1973 and graduated from Fruitvale High School in Fruitvale, TX. A 9 year Army veteran, he re-enlisted in February 2003 for 6 more years and had been in Iraq for about 4 months. He was a truck mechanic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, based at Fort Hood, TX.

Steven was laid to rest in Haven of Memories Cemetery in Canton, TX. He is survived by his wife Laniece and four children ranging in age from 12 years to 16 months.

"He would always want to come home and visit with classmates and see his family," said his wife. "He was a simple man. It didn't take much to please him."

Today we remember Army SSG Steven W. White, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

LANCE CORPORAL HATAK KEYU YEARBY

Mr. President, I also remember the life and sacrifice of Marine Corps LCPL Hatak Keyu Yearby, of Overbrook, OK who died on May 14, 2006, of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device while serving his nation in Al

Anbar province of Iraq. Hatak was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, HI.

Hatak was born on March 11, 1985 in Overbrook, OK and graduated from Marietta High School in 2003 where he was remembered as a quiet, well-mannered young man who was a good student and person. A proud native American, he grew up attending powwows, where he performed and competed as a traditional Choctaw dancer. Good at his craft, he earned second place at the Trail of Tears Powwow in September 2003 and second-place at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Intertribal Powwow in October 2004. Wearing two long braids much of his life, he woke one morning and told his mother he had to cut his hair because of a dream. He then joined the Marines in May 2005, married Lindsey Michelle in February 2006 and went to Iraq the following month.

About 1,000 people attended a funeral service meant to celebrate the life of the 21-year-old newlywed. Burial services were conducted at the Yearby Family Cemetery in Overbrook, OK.

Hatak is survived by his wife Lindsey; his parents, Justin and Mary Yearby; and two sisters, Shema Yearby and Samarra Bell.

Today we remember Marine Corps LCPL Hatak Keyu Yearby, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

USS "PONCHATOULA"

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a naval vessel and crew that served with distinction during an important chapter of U.S. military history.

The Navy's modernization program of the 1950s included construction of a new class of fleet tankers that combined speed and an enlarged capacity to deliver fuel to the fleet. One of the vessels ordered in this modernization effort was named the USS *Ponchatoula*, AO-148. The vessel was laid down in Camden, NJ on March 1, 1954. The new fleet tanker displaced 38,000 tons when fully loaded greatly exceeding the capacity of tankers used during World War II. The ship had a complement of 324 officers and men. Although the USS *Ponchatoula* was a support vessel rather than a combat warship, she was armed with two 5-inch guns and twelve 3-inch antiaircraft guns.

The launching of the USS *Ponchatoula* into the waters of the Delaware River took place on July 9, 1954, at Camden, and she subsequently sailed across the river to Philadelphia, where the vessel was commissioned on January 12, 1956.

Assigned to the Pacific Fleet, USS *Ponchatoula* made the long voyage to

the west coast. Following her arrival at Long Beach, CA, on March 10, 1956, the oiler conducted her shakedown cruise off the California coast.

In the fall of 1956, USS *Ponchatoula* was ordered to the western Pacific, her home waters for most of her active career. While en-route to Sasebo, Japan, to join Seventh Fleet as a unit of Service Squadron Three, she assisted a disabled Panamanian merchant ship that had been battered by two typhoons.

USS *Ponchatoula* accompanied the Seventh Fleet in early 1958 as the Navy sailed into harm's way in the Formosa Strait off the coast of the People's Republic of China, PRC. PRC forces were threatening to occupy several small islands off the coast of China, notably Quemoy and Matsu. President Eisenhower ordered the Navy to the area to symbolize American determination and support Taiwanese forces holding those small islands. President Eisenhower's tough stand and the presence of the Seventh Fleet off shore forced the PRC to back down.

In late April and early May of 1962, USS *Ponchatoula* replenished ships in the task force that participated in the atmospheric nuclear test Operation Dominic near Christmas Island.

In September 1962, the oiler sailed to Midway Island to supply ships involved in the recovery of CDR Wally Schirra's Project Mercury Space Capsule *Sigma 8* and in May 1963 supported the recovery of the then-Major Gordon Cooper's Mercury Space Capsule *Faith 7*. USS *Ponchatoula* also supported recovery operations for *Gemini 4*, *6*, and *7* in 1965 and *Apollo 7* in 1968.

When hostilities began to escalate in Vietnam during the summer and fall of 1964, USS *Ponchatoula* was deployed to the South China Sea to support fleet operations off the coast of Vietnam. She refueled numerous warships in those waters during the 1964 and 1965 bombing campaign against targets in North Vietnam.

In the summer of 1969 and into 1970 the USS *Ponchatoula* returned to Pearl Harbor and served the fleet in Hawaiian waters.

During the 1970s USS *Ponchatoula*'s area of operations expanded into the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, reflecting growing U.S. Navy activity in that part of the globe. In September 1980 the ship was transferred to the Military Sealift Command, becoming USNS *Ponchatoula*, T-AO-148 and beginning operation with a mainly civilian crew. Based at Subic Bay for most of the next decade, she continued her underway replenishment work, helping maintain the Navy's mobility and striking power in an often troubled region. USNS *Ponchatoula* was inactivated in February 1992 and laid up at Suisun Bay, CA. Though stricken from the Naval Vessel Register at the end of August 1992, she remained in Navy custody until transferred to the Maritime

Administration for disposal in May 1999.

During the 43 years between her commissioning in 1956 and her transfer to the reserve fleet in 1999, the USS *Ponchatoula* rendered meritorious service to her country, helping to stop aggression in the Taiwan Strait, assisting the space program and supporting U.S. forces in Vietnam. She and the thousands of Navy sailors who served aboard her over the decades deserve the accolades of a grateful nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PIERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to honor the town of Piermont, NH, which is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding this year. I am delighted to recognize this very special milestone.

Piermont, a town in Grafton County, lies in the shadow of Piermont Mountain and is bordered by the Connecticut River and the magnificent White Mountain National Forest.

The town of Piermont has a unique history. It was chartered on November 6, 1764, by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth, and the town derives its name from the "Piemonte" region of Italy, which in Italian means "at the foot of the mountain." Piermont's location in the Connecticut River Valley played an important role in the development of its proud agricultural heritage.

Piermont is home to Lake Tarleton, named after Colonel William Tarleton, who served as a delegate to the 1791 Constitutional Convention. Two well-known summer camps are located on the lake—Camp Walt Whitman and Kingswood Camp for Boys. Each year, campers come to Piermont to enjoy the great outdoors and have some good old-fashioned summer fun.

Throughout the town's history, Piermont residents have been well known for their commitment to serve our great Nation. One distinguished Piermont resident, Ira Hobart Evans, a Civil War hero, was awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military honor.

As the town marks its 250th anniversary this year, Piermont citizens are demonstrating their pride and community spirit with many special events in celebrating this historic occasion—including a parade in August that brought together residents, businesses, and community organizations. I am pleased to join all Granite Staters in congratulating Piermont citizens on reaching this milestone and in thanking them for their contributions to the State of New Hampshire. Congratulations, Piermont.●

RECOGNIZING SUNSHINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a school that is celebrating its 150th year of service to students in Springfield, MO. Sunshine Elementary School began serving young people during the Civil War. The wooden one-room country school house was originally located at what is now the major intersection of Campbell Road and Sunshine Lane. During the Civil War, students often witnessed the movement of troops along the road known at the time as the Old Wire Road. Later, the adjacent Sunshine Drive took its name from the school.

According to "So That All May Learn," a history of the Springfield Public School system published in 1995, Sunshine Elementary School was annexed into the Springfield School District in the mid-1920s, and the one-room school was relocated and replaced with a larger structure at its current location. The original school site, close to what is now the headquarters of Bass Pro Shops, was sold by the district in 1930.

In the boom years following World War II, student growth surged with the start of the baby boomer generation. In the late 1940s, student enrollment at Sunshine Elementary School grew by 430 kids in a single year, creating an overcrowding issue. The solution involved moving students in grades five and six to the nearby Phelps School. The first major addition to the Sunshine School came in 1950 when six new classrooms were built, along with a multipurpose room. Forty years later, new restrooms, two classrooms, and a library were added. More recently, Sunshine Elementary School became the last traditional school building equipped with air conditioning.

In October, students, faculty, parents and community leaders observed the 150th year of educating children at Sunshine Elementary School. October 24 was designated as Sunshine Elementary School Day in Springfield, which included Civil War reenactors, games, the planting of a commemorative tree, food and other fun activities.

Current and former Sunshine Elementary School students joined together for a sesquicentennial celebration at the school. Sunshine Elementary School principal David Martin encouraged students, families, faculty, and alumni to participate in the sesquicentennial by providing oral histories and historical artifacts, including photographs, report cards, yearbooks, and newspaper articles.

Today, more than 200 students attend Sunshine Elementary School. Student to teacher ratios are 12 to 1, which is the second best among the 36 elementary schools in the Springfield district. In 2014, Sunshine Elementary School academically ranks higher than 65.3 percent of elementary schools in Mis-

souri and 11th among those in the Springfield district. I congratulate Sunshine Elementary School and its many alumni and supporters for its decades of continued service and success. Happy 150th birthday Sunshine Elementary School.●

REMEMBERING DR. CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I recognize the life and legacy of New Jersey and Newark city historian Dr. Clement Alexander Price, who was taken from us too soon on November 5. Clem was a mentor and valued friend to me, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

The foremost authority on the history of African Americans in New Jersey, Clement Alexander Price was born in 1945 in Washington, DC, to James Price, Sr. and Anna Christine Spann Price. He inherited his love of history from his parents and since then instilled in generations this love for history. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Bridgeport, Clem came to Newark to teach at Essex Community College. He earned his Ph.D. at Rutgers University, became a professor at Rutgers University-Newark, and founded the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience.

Clem was devoted to Newark, and he served not only as our leading historian but as a powerful spiritual force in our State's largest city. He was invested in Newark, and—ever generous with his time—was known to arrange tours for visitors that highlighted not only the city's rich history but its considerable promise. Clem always recognized the vital truth that charting a brighter course for the future requires a comprehensive understanding of the past. As a fervent believer in Newark's potential, Clem, with his unparalleled knowledge and thoughtful advice, was invaluable to me and so many others who were elected to serve the city.

Clem's commitment to the city of Newark was surpassed only by his dedication to public service, and he lent his time and expertise to a multitude of causes and organizations. From serving as president of the Newark Education Trust to chairing President Obama's 2008 transition team for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Clem was always seeking opportunities to serve his community and his Nation. He believed in the power of civic engagement, and he dedicated his career to cultivating that engagement through historical literacy and unyielding activism in service of Newark and beyond. Clem was truly one of Newark's great statesmen.

Most of all, Clem was kind. He touched so many lives and helped all who knew him to learn, grow, heal, and come together.

Clem is mourned by his wife Mary Sue Sweeney Price, his sister Jarmila, and his brother James, and by friends and colleagues in the city of Newark, the State of New Jersey, and across the Nation. I ask that the Senate join me in remembering and honoring the extraordinary life of Dr. Clement Alexander Price.●

REMEMBERING GEOFFREY "CRAIG" HUNT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Geoffrey "Craig" Hunt, a 13-year veteran pilot with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE. Craig was an exceptional firefighting pilot, a loyal friend, and most of all a devoted family man who was tragically killed in the line of duty fighting the Dog Rock Fire near Yosemite National Park on October 7, 2014.

Craig Hunt was born in Richmond, IN, and dedicated his life to serving his country, first as a U.S. Navy P-3 pilot from 1975 to 1984 and then in the Naval Reserve for 20 years after leaving active duty. Craig was also an enthusiastic and accomplished scholar who received a master's degree in business from the University of Southern California. A lifelong interest in science and the natural world led him to also earn a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His passion for learning led him to teaching. In the winter months, when the fire season was over, he worked at UC Santa Cruz as a course assistant teaching general chemistry and organic chemistry labs.

Always at home in the cockpit of a plane, Craig loved his job as a pilot with CAL FIRE. For 13 years he valiantly answered the call to protect public safety and the environment by piloting aircraft during emergencies. He had a vast knowledge about wild land fires and was skilled in pinpointing aerial attacks in places that were difficult for ground crews to reach.

Colleagues remember Craig as an experienced and respected pilot who loved his job. He was happy and outgoing, quick with a smile, and had a fantastic sense of humor. A friend and neighbor recalled that Craig would "drop anything in a heartbeat if you needed help or assistance."

When he was not on duty, Craig was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for golfing, fly fishing, hiking, bird watching, and scuba diving. Standing beside him through it all was his beloved wife Sally, whom he met in college and married in 1975. Craig was also a devoted father to his two daughters, Sarah and Nancy. His daughter Sarah said about him, "My dad died a hero. There was not a day that went by that I didn't talk to my dad. He was my best friend."

Craig Hunt dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his country, and his courageous service will be forever remembered. On behalf of the people of California, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues. He will be deeply missed.●

REMEMBERING EDGAR P. SILVER

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to honor retired Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Edgar P. Silver, who died yesterday at the age of 91. I am deeply saddened by the passing of Edgar Silver. He was a loyal friend, valued mentor, and trusted advisor—and not just to me but also to my father. Judge Silver served with my father on the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, and he also served with my uncle, Maurice Cardin, in the Maryland House of Delegates. Judge Silver was as fine a person as you could ever hope to meet, and he always found the time to listen. Foremost among his many remarkable qualities was his empathy. He had the rare ability to transcend generations and connect with people of any age: when he was a young man, he quickly won the respect of his elders, and as he became older he never lost the ability to speak to and inspire the young.

Judge Silver's parents Samuel and Lena were immigrants. His father was a tailor. Judge Silver was a native of East Baltimore and a neighbor throughout his later life, as well as a fellow alumnus of Baltimore City College. He served our Nation in the U.S. Merchant Marine from 1943 to 1945. He was a 1954 graduate of the University of Baltimore Law School and was elected as a city delegate to the general assembly that same year. He served in the house of delegates until 1965. In 1965, he moved to the judicial branch, where he served on the old Municipal Court of Baltimore City until 1971. He served on the District Court of Baltimore City until 1977, when he was appointed to the Circuit Court by acting Governor Blair Lee III. Judge Silver retired from the bench in 1988. But after retiring from the bench, Judge Silver found a whole new career as a partner in Rifkin, Weiner, Livingston, Levitan & Silver LLC, where he was still working when he died.

The Baltimore Sun obituary quoted Alan M. Rifkin, who cofounded the law firm that ultimately became Rifkin, Weiner, Livingston, Levitan & Silver LLC with Judge Silver, as saying, "He lived his life by two principles: 'The best is yet to come' and 'Never trade old friends for new ones, just keep adding them on.'" I couldn't agree more. Judge Silver simply loved his home city and relished the chance to serve its citizens. He approached his time on the Baltimore Circuit Court with enormous humility and never lost sight of the fact that his decisions from the

bench had far-reaching effects on people's lives. His contributions to the Maryland Legislature were varied and lasting, and the number of issues he shaped for the better are innumerable. Judge Silver was a political historian and touchstone with a perspective like few others. His counsel through the years has been invaluable to me and my family. We will be forever grateful.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Ann, his wife of 64 years; their children, Michael Silver and Roslyn "Rozzie" Benjamin; and Judge Silver's other family members, all of whom he loved deeply, including his four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The people of Maryland have lost a tremendous asset with Judge Silver's passing, but all of us who knew him are richer for having done so.●

TRIBUTE TO LEROY GOODMAN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mayor LeRoy Goodman, of Fernley, on his retirement. After serving as the mayor of Fernley for several years, Mayor Goodman will be retiring on November 19, 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after 42 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

Upon graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a bachelor's degree in business, Mayor Goodman went on to earn his master's degree in education and became a basketball coach and teacher at Fernley High School in 1965. Aside from dedicating his time educating the youth in Fernley, he has devoted much of his time and efforts to the betterment of his community through his roles as a board member of the Northern Nevada Development Authority, a member of the Fernley Town Board, sitting on the board of directors for a multitude of Nevada organizations, and as Lyon county commissioner. His many years of experience made him an ideal candidate for Fernley Mayor after the resignation of former Mayor Todd Cutler. Upon being sworn in as mayor on August 5, 2009, he immediately began working on improving the functioning of the council and city operations. His main focus remained his constituency and ensuring their needs and priorities were met.

I have been fortunate during my time in Congress to be able to work closely with Mayor Goodman on Federal legislation—the Fernley Economic Self-Determination Act, S.1983, which will provide the city of Fernley the option to purchase Federal lands within the city's boundaries that are currently landlocked by checkerboard parcels of Federal land. Working alongside private business partners and State and Federal regional agencies, we are seeking to develop a long-term sustainable economic development plan that will enable all parties to benefit from the use of private land within the city. This bill will greatly help the city and

will clear the way for thousands of high-paying, private sector jobs. The progress we have made in Congress on this initiative would not be possible without the mayor's strong leadership.

His service to the Fernley community extends far beyond the many positions he has held in the Silver State over the years. Mayor Goodman also served his country as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mayor Goodman for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve America but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Fernley and to the State of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Goodman on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12170 ON NOVEMBER 14, 1979—PM 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2014.

Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is still under way, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

BARACK OBAMA,

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 12, 2014.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 19, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 40. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 44. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 4323. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 124. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on September 19, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bill was signed on September 29, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 594. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2600. An act to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

H.R. 3043. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

H.R. 3716. An act to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5062. An act to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5404. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on September 19, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARPER).

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 25, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) had signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 4980. An act to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and improve international child support recovery.

H.R. 4994. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 40. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed on September 26, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2. An act to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

H.R. 4. An act to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4. An act to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 19, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park Commission.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 29, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 40. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7171. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the authorization of a comprehensive and sustained counterterrorism strategy to stop the advance by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), received during adjournment of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7172. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the authorization of targeted strikes in Syria, received during adjournment of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7173. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Butanedioic Acid, 2-methylene-, polymer with 2,5-fuandione, sodium and ammonium salts, hydrogen peroxide-initiated; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9915-81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7174. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic acid, butyl ester, polymer with 1,6-diisocyanatohexane, N-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methyl-2-propenamide and 2-propenenitrile; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9915-82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7175. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Issued Under the Export Apple Act; Exempting Bulk Shipments to Canada From Minimum Requirements and Inspections" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0022; FV14-33-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7176. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0057; FV14-987-3 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7177. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to chemical agent destruction operations at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Pueblo, Colorado; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7178. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Clyde D. Moore II, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7179. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OCC Guidelines Establishing Heightened Standards for Certain Large Insured National Banks, Insured Federal Savings Associations, and Insured Federal Branches; Integration of Regulations" (RIN1557-AD78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7180. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled "Report to the Congress: Russian Sanctions: Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and End-Users"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7181. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7182. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Obsolete Community Planning and Development (CPD) Regulations" (RIN2506-AC36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7183. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AG26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7184. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Understandings Reached at the 2005, 2012, and 2013 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Plenary Meetings and a 2009 NSG Intersectoral Decision; Additions to the List of NSG Participating Countries; Correction" (RIN0694-AD58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7185. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of construction of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility (MOX facility) at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7186. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7187. A communication from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System" (RIN1090-AB02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7188. A communication from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Debarment and Suspension Program" (RIN1090-AA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7189. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Open Burning Rule" (FRL No. 9916-47-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7190. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, State of California, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, New Source Review" (FRL No. 9916-06-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7191. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan; State Stationary Source Rules" (FRL No. 9912-67-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7192. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Use of Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods for Permit Applications and Reporting; Correction" ((RIN2040-AC84) (FRL No. 9916-33-OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7193. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9915-35-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7194. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; 2014 Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9916-82-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7195. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 59" (FRL No. 9916-74-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7196. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Strategic Plan for fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7197. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-096); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7198. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-051); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7199. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-054); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7200. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-089); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7201. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-078); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7202. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7203. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates—Visa and Citizenship Services Fee Changes; Correction" (RIN1400-AD47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7204. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Postmarketing Safety Reports for Human Drug and Biological Products; Electronic Submission Requirements" (RIN9010-AF96) (Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0334) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7205. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Edition Release 2 Electronic Health Record (EHR) Certification Criteria and the ONC HIT Certification Program; Regulatory Flexibilities, Improvements, and Enhanced Health Information Exchange" (RIN0991-AB92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7206. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7207. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Ex-

penditure Goals through the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7208. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7209. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Legal Process for the Enforcement of a Tax Levy or Criminal Restitution Order Against a Participant Account." (5 CFR Part 1653) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7210. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the March 2014 session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7211. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7212. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Home Adaptation Grants for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans with Certain Vision Impairment" (RIN2900-AP12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7213. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Certain Citations in VA Medical Regulations" (RIN2900-AP04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7214. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Program; Amendment of Procedures and Notification of Request for Referendum" (AMS-LPS-13-0066) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7215. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Sheep Industry Improvement Center" (AMS-LPS-14-0028) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7216. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Modification of the Handling Regulations for Yellow Fleshed and White Types of Potatoes" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0026; FV14-946-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7217. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Modification of Container Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0046; FV14-945-2 IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7218. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Change in Maturity Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0051; FV14-915-1 IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7219. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Mangoes From Jamaica Into the Continental United States" (RIN0579-AD80) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0018) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7220. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Standard Requirements; Addition of Terminology To Define Veterinary Biologics Test Results" (RIN0579-AD86) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0034) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7221. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Fresh Bananas From the Philippines Into Hawaii and U.S. Territories" (RIN0579-AD82) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0045) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7222. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Quarantined Areas and

Regulated Articles” (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0031) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7223. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Importation of Cape Gooseberry From Colombia Into the United States; Technical Amendment” (RIN0579-AD79) (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0038) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7224. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expansion of Areas in the Philippines Considered Free of Mango Seed Weevil and Mango Pulp Weevil and Establishment of a Lower Irradiation Dose as a Treatment for Mango Pulp Weevil” (RIN0579-AD84) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0057) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7225. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Methodology and Formulas for Allocation of Loan and Grant Program Funds” (RIN0570-AA30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7226. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tetraacetylenediamine and Its Metabolite, Diacetylenediamine; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9916-44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7227. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9916-28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7228. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Nonylphenol Category; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting” (RIN2025-AA34) (FRL No. 9915-59-OEI) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7229. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sulfentazone; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9915-47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to

the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7230. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration’s 2014 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7231. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Organization; Institution Stockholder Voting Procedures” (RIN3052-AC85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7232. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Farm Loan Programs; Entity Eligibility” (RIN0560-AI25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7233. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs” (RIN0560-AI24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7234. A communication from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Eliminate the 6-Day Reservation Period Requirement for Rural Development Obligations” (RIN0575-ZA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7235. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7236. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2009 and 2010 Operation and Maintenance, Army, and fiscal year 2010 Other Procurement, Army, funds, that occurred at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, and was assigned Army case number 13-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7237. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), transmitting, pursuant to law, a fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 report relative to data mining (OSS-2014-1682); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7238. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the EP-3 and Special Projects Aircraft Electronic Intelligence (OSS-2014-1683); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7239. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to order the Selected Reserve and certain members of the Individual Ready

Reserve to active duty to augment the active forces in support of Operation United Assistance; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7240. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2013 through 2015”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7241. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7242. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7243. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7244. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7245. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7246. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jan-Marc Jouas, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7247. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Asian and Pacific Security Affairs), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7248. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation: Ocean Transportation by U.S.-Flag Vessels” (RIN0750-AI38) (DFARS Case 2014-

D012)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7249. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates—Taxes" ((RIN0750-AI19) (DFARS Case 2013-D025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7250. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Storage, Treatment, and Disposal of Toxic or Hazardous Materials—Statutory Update" ((RIN0750-AI07) (DFARS Case 2013-D013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7251. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Flowdown of Specialty Metals Restrictions" ((RIN0750-AI30) (DFARS Case 2014-D011)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7252. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Limitation on Use of Cost-reimbursement Line Items" ((RIN0750-AI16) (DFARS Case 2013-D016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7253. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Period for Task and Delivery Order Contracts—Deletion of Congressional Reporting Requirement" ((RIN0750-AI35) (DFARS Case 2014-D018)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7254. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Payment in Local Currency (Afghanistan)" ((RIN0750-AI14) (DFARS Case 2013-D029)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7255. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7256. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order

13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7257. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7258. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7259. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7260. A communication from the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2013 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7261. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7262. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7263. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Model Manufactured Home Installation Standards: Ground Anchor Installations" (RIN2502-AJ15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7264. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Section 232 Healthcare Facility Insurance Program—Aligning Operator Financial Reports With HUD's Uniform Financial Reporting Standards" (RIN2502-AJ125) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7265. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Russian Sanctions: Addition of Persons to the Entity

List and Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and Military End Users" (RIN0694-AG28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7266. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition and Modification of Certain Persons on the Entity List; and Removal of Certain Persons from the Entity List" (RIN0694-AG21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7267. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7268. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7269. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled "Report to the Congress: Export and Reexport License Requirements for Integrated Circuits, Seismic Detection Systems, Helicopter Landing System Radars, and Technology for Infrared Up-Conversion Devices"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7270. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7271. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7272. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7273. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7274. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and

Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7275. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards" (RIN3064-AE04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7276. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions and Technical Corrections to Conform the Commission's Regulations to the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013" (RIN1902-AE93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7277. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities" (Docket No. RM05-5-022; Order No. 676-H) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7278. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Concession Contracts" (RIN1024-AE22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7279. A communication from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees" (RIN1004-AE36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7280. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation: Access to and Ownership of Records" (RIN1991-AB85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7281. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Green Building Certification Systems for Federal Buildings" (RIN1904-AC13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7282. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Final Principles of Integrated Resource Planning for Use in Resource Acquisition and Transmission Planning" (10 CFR Part 905) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7283. A communication from the Designated Federal Official, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States World War One Centennial Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7284. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Lynnhaven River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, Virginia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7285. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Contiguous United States Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx and Revised Distinct Population Segment Boundary" (RIN1018-AZ77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7286. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner" (RIN1018-AZ34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7287. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner" (RIN1018-AY55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7288. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for *Physaria globosa* (Short's bladderpod), *Helianthus verticillatus* (whorled sunflower), and *Leavenworthia crassa* (fleshy-fruit glaucous)" (RIN1018-AZ11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7289. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wild-

life and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Physaria globosa* (Short's bladderpod), *Helianthus verticillatus* (whorled sunflower), and *Leavenworthia crassa* (fleshy-fruit glaucous)" (RIN1018-AZ60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7290. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Arabis georgiana* (Georgia rockcress)" (RIN1018-AY72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7291. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Georgia Rockcress" (RIN1018-AZ55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7292. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding 10 Species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BA55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7293. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Florida Leafwing and Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak Butterflies" (RIN1018-AZ08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7294. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Florida Leafwing and Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak Butterflies" (RIN1018-AZ59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7295. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Brickellia mosieri* (Florida Brickell-bush) and *Linum carteri* var. *carteri* (Carter's Small-flowered Flax)" (RIN1018-AZ15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7296. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Agave eggersiana* and *Gonolobus concolor*, and Threatened Species Status for *Varronia rupicola*" (RIN1018-AZ10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7297. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Agave eggersiana*, *Gonolobus concolor*, and *Varronia rupicola*" (RIN1018-AZ79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7298. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Vandenberg Monkeyflower" (RIN1018-AY27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7299. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for Oregon Spotted Frog" (RIN1018-AZ04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7300. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.134, Revision 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7301. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Format and Content for a Specific License Application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation or Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility" (Regulatory Guide 3.50, Revision 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7302. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel" (RIN3150-AJ20) (NRC-2012-0246) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7303. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, De-

partment of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Early Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands" (RIN1018-AZ80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7304. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (RIN1018-AZ80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7305. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2014-15 Early Season" (RIN1018-AZ80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7306. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, and 2010 SO₂ NAAQS" (FRL No. 9917-60-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7307. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; State Boards Requirements" (FRL No. 9917-69-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 9917-62-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Nevada; Clark County; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 9917-82-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Amendments to Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements for Illinois." (FRL No. 9917-42-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead NAAQS" (FRL No. 9917-61-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9917-84-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7313. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 9917-81-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7314. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, California Air Resources Board—Consumer Products" (FRL No. 9915-53-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; Approval of the Redesignation Requests and Maintenance Plan of the Washington, DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9917-39-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Las Vegas Valley, Nevada; Redesignation to Attainment for PM₁₀" (FRL No. 9917-23-Region 9) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9915-37-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1997 Fine Particle (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS; Correction" (FRL No. 9917-34-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Idaho State Implementation Plan; Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: Idaho, Northern Ada County PM₁₀ Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan and Pinehurst PM₁₀ Contingency Measures" (FRL No. 9917-38-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7320. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9916-02-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7321. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries" (FRL No. 9917-28-OSWER) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7322. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Children's Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7323. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Recovery Auditing in Medicare for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7324. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA): Impact on U.S. Industries and Con-

sumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution, 2013"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7325. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund" ((RIN1505-AC49) (31 CFR Part 34)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7326. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendment to List of User Fee Airports: Addition of John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, California and Renaming of Williams Gateway Airport in Mesa, Arizona to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport" (CBP Dec. 14-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7327. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment in group trusts by certain Puerto Rico retirement plans and by certain insurance company separate accounts" (Rev. Rul. 2014-24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7328. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—October 2014" (Rev. Rul. 2014-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7329. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Method Changes for Final Disposition Regs" (Rev. Proc. 2014-54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7330. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Rev. Proc. 2011-16" (Rev. Proc. 2014-51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7331. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Regarding Inversions and Related Transactions" (Notice 2014-52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7332. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014-2015 Special Per Diem Rates" (Notice 2014-57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7333. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on Allocation of After-Tax Amounts to Rollovers" (Notice 2014-54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7334. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 1298(f) Reporting Requirements for U.S. Persons that Hold Stock of a Passive Foreign Investment Company that is Marked to Market Under Section 475 or Another Chapter 1 Code Provision Other Than Section 1296" (Notice 2014-51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7335. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2014-50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7336. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee Retirement Benefit Plan Returns Required on Magnetic Media" ((RIN1545-BL54) (TD 9695)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7337. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority for Voluntary Withholding on Other Payments" ((RIN1545-BL92) (TD 9692)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7338. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additional Rules Regarding Hybrid Retirement Plans" ((RIN1545-BI16) (TD 9693)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7339. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The \$500,000 deduction limit for remuneration provided by certain health insurance providers" ((RIN1545-BK88) (TD 9694)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7340. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a

Middle East country (OSS-2014-1674); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7341. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-023); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7342. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 13-3677); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7343. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-084); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7344. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-111); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7345. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-076); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7346. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-071); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7347. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-037); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7348. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7349. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7350. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7351. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report responding to a GAO report entitled "Combating Terrorism: U.S. Efforts in Northwest Africa Would Be Strengthened by Enhanced Program Management"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7352. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0123—2014-0128); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7353. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at Simonds Saw and Steel Co. in Lockport, New York, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7354. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Update on the Adoption of Health Information Technology and Related Efforts to Facilitate the Electronic Use and Exchange of Health Information"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7355. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's budget submission for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7356. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D3" (Docket No. FDA-2012-F-0138) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7357. A communication from the Director, Directorate of Construction, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Certification" (RIN1218-AC86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7358. A joint communication from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents and Toxins for Calendar Year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7359. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7360. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7361. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the

Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7362. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Nursing Facility Quality of Care Fund is Improving the Lives of District Residents but Additional Oversight Necessary"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7363. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Improved Oversight of the UDC Land Grant Endowment Fund is Required"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7364. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Certification of Revised Fiscal Year 2014 Total Local Source General Fund Revenues (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2014A and 2014B)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7365. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Metropolitan Police Department First Amendment Investigations Complied with District Law in 2013"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7366. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District Special Events Processes Can Be Improved"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7367. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Public Schools' Budget Development and Execution Processes Were Not Sufficient to Avoid Divisional Over- and Under-Spending"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7368. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NARA Records Subject to FOIA" (RIN3095-AB73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7369. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Government Affairs Division, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual submission regarding agency compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and revised Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7370. A communication from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7371. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the Commission's fiscal year 2014 FAIR Act inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7372. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7373. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flag Recognition Benefit for Fallen Federal Civilian Employees" (RIN3206-AM58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7374. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7375. A communication from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Credit Union Administration's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7376. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2014-0052) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7377. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Uniform Procurement Identification" (RIN9000-AM60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7378. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Irrevocable Letters of Credit" (RIN9000-AM53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7379. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Contracting Programs for Minority-Owned and Other Small Businesses" (RIN9000-AM05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7380. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Introduction" (FAC 2005-77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7381. A communication from the Acting Director of the Acquisition Policy and Legislation Branch, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation; Lead System Integrators (HSAR Case 2009-003)" (RIN1601-AA49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7382. A communication from the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of four recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 60th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7383. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7384. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board Annual Performance Report for FY 2013 and Annual Performance Plan for FY 2014 (Final) and FY 2015 (Proposed)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7385. A communication from the Acting Director, Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Occupational Injury and Illness Reporting Requirements—NAICS Update and Reporting Revisions; Final Rule" (RIN1218-AC50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7386. A communication from the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment (ISE)" (OSS-2014-1546); to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-7387. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7388. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice,

received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7389. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (32) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7390. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7391. A communication from the Clerk of Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (United States of America v. P.H. Glatfelter Company and NCR Corporation); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7392. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications by Corporations and Labor Organizations" (Notice 2014-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7393. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members" (RIN2900-AO79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7394. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans" (RIN2900-AO78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7395. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Claims and Appeals Forms" (RIN2900-AO81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7396. A communication from the Acting Deputy Chief Counsel (Regulations and Security Standards), Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cessation of the Aviation Security Infrastructure Fee (ASIF)" (RIN1652-AA018) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7397. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Fishery; Framework Adjustment 2" (RIN0648-BD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7398. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States" (RIN0648-BD93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7399. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Final Listing Determinations on Proposal To List 66 Reef-Building Coral Species and To Reclassify Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals; Final Rule" (RIN0648-XT12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7400. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 26 and Amendment 29 Supplement" (RIN0648-BD36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7401. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North and South Atlantic 2014 Commercial Swordfish Quotas" (RIN0648-BD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7402. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Areal American Fisheries Act; Amendment 106" (RIN0648-BD35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7403. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 105" (RIN0648-BD23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7404. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Whale Shark Conservation Measures" (RIN0648-BD53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7405. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telecommunications Relay Services And Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Waivers of iTRS Mandatory Minimum Standards" (FCC 14-125) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7406. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (McCall, Idaho)" ((MB Docket No. 14-69) (DA 14-1400)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7407. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sports Blackout Rules" ((MB Docket No. 12-3) (FCC 14-141)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7408. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Connect America Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58" (FCC 14-98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7409. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northcentral United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0960)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7410. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Flagstaff, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0957)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7411. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled Modification of Class E Airspace; Hulett, WY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1016)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7412. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airspace Designations; Incorporation By Reference" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0450)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7413. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Albuquerque, NM" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0994)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7414. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Sandusky, OH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0274)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7415. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of VOR Federal Airway V-298 in the Vicinity of Pasco, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0369)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7416. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Pine Knot, KY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0441)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7417. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D. Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Blackstone, VA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0220)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7418. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cynthiana, KY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1074)) received during

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7419. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0271)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7420. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2901A, B, G, H, J, K, L and N; Avon Park, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0703)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7421. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northeast ME" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0273)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7422. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (118); Amdt. No. 3604" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7423. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (80); Amdt. No. 3603" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7424. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0172)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7425. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0145)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7426. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1026)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7427. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0588)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7428. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0766)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7429. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0794)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7430. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0137)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7431. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0190)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7432. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Technify Motors GmbH Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0179)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7433. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0623)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7434. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Various de Havilland Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0617)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7435. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0298)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7436. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; DASSAULT AVIATION Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0423)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7437. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0216)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7438. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0929)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7439. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0390)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7440. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0061)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7441. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rockwell Collins, Inc. Transponders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0326)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7442. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0464)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7443. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7444. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0088)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7445. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; APEX Aircraft Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0647)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7446. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0978)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7447. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments 38; Amendment No. 515" ((RIN2120-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7448. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Com-

mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications, PS Docket No. 11-153; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, PS Docket No. 10-255" (FCC 14-118) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7449. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014, MD Docket No. 14-92, FCC 14-129; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013, MD Docket No. 13-140; and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees, MD Docket No. 12-201" (FCC 14-129) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7450. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Application Requirements" (RIN2125-AF50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7451. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Value Engineering" (RIN2125-AF64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7452. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2015 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2015" (RIN2127-AL50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7453. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Application Requirements" (RIN2132-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7454. A communication from the Procurement Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Organization and Delegation of Powers and Duties in the Transportation Acquisition Regulation" (RIN2105-AE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7455. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private

security screening company to provide screening services at Roswell International Air Center (ROW); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7456. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Communications, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Protective Services Enforcement" (RIN2700-AE10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7457. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper" (RIN0648-XD386) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7458. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7459. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7460. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD520) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7461. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2014 Commercial Fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Closed in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-XD448) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7462. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper" (RIN0648-XD389) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7463. A communication from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer,

Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Reinstatement of Exemptions Related to Temporary Exports, Carnets, and Shipments Under a Temporary Import Bond" (RIN0607-AA53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7464. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Closure of the 2014 South Atlantic Commercial Sector for Red Snapper" (RIN0648-XD478) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7465. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD480) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7466. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD473) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7467. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the 2014 Trimester 2 Directed Longfin Squid Fishery" (RIN0648-XD378) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7468. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XD423) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7469. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD509) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7470. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure" (RIN0648-XD514) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7471. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2014 Sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Harvested for Management Area 3" (RIN0648-XD501) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7472. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" (RIN0648-XD486) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7473. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD440) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7474. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD439) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7475. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Closure for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XD458) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7476. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Closure for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XD474) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7477. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Rex Sole in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD450) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7478. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Depart-

ment of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Kamchatka Flounder in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD463) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7479. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XD456) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7480. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD451) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7481. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Lone Component" (RIN0648-XD352) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7482. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD438) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7483. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Regulation and Enforcement, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise: Program Implementation Modifications" (RIN2105-AE08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7484. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Ambient Standards for Nitrogen Oxides and for Ozone" (FRL No. 9916-43-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7485. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Infrastructure SIP for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide Primary

Standards" (FRL No. 9916-49-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7486. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Redesignation of Phoenix-Mesa Area to Attainment for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9916-12-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7487. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9916-50-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7488. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; ordered to lie on the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of September 18, 2014, the following reports of committees were submitted on October 1, 2014:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1622, A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-264).

Report to accompany S. 1948, A bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program (Rept. No. 113-265).

Report to accompany S. 2299, A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to reauthorize a provision to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages (Rept. No. 113-266).

Report to accompany S. 2465, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico (Rept. No. 113-267).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1347. A bill to provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences (Rept. No. 113-268).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 1690. A bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2646. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1793. A bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-269).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 1353, A bill to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-270).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2020.

*Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security.

*Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2913. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2914. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2915. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the "Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2916. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to promote watershed health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COBURN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2917. A bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2918. A bill to designate Federal election day as a public holiday; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2919. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "widow" and "widower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 576. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 20, 2014, as the "National Day of Writing"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 577. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of

military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 541, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples col-

lected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1090

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1090, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to consolidate the current education tax incentives into one credit against income tax for higher education expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to perma-

nently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1904

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1904, a bill to amend the eligibility requirements for funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1968

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1968, a bill to allow States to let Federal funds for the education of disadvantaged children follow low-income children to the accredited or otherwise State-approved public school, private school, or supplemental educational services program they attend.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2305

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to amend the method by which the Social Security Administration determines the validity of marriages under title II of the Social Security Act.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2622, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2679

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2679, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the financing for the Hazardous Substance Superfund, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

S. 2742

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2742, a bill to provide for public notice and input prior to the closure, consolidation, or public access limitation of field or hearing offices of the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, *supra*.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2851, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the programs and activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to Tourette syndrome.

S. 2856

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2856, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production of electricity from renewable resources for certain open-loop biomass and trash facilities placed in service before the date of the enactment of this Act.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2863, a bill to require the Secretary of Education to complete a data analysis on the impact of the proposed rule on gainful employment prior to issuing a final rule on gainful employment.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and expand Coverdell education savings accounts.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 540, a resolution recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the

face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

S. RES. 561

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 561, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that recently proposed measures that will reduce transparency and public participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) should be disapproved by United States representatives to the IAIS.

S. RES. 573

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 573, a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 3862

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3862 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2919. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “widow” and “widower”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the past few years we have seen remarkable progress in one of the defining civil rights issues of our era—ensuring that all lawfully married couples are treated equally under the law. In 2011, when I chaired the first Congressional hearing to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, only five states, including Vermont, recognized same-sex marriage. Following the Supreme Court’s historic decision last month to not review decisions from several circuits striking down same-sex marriage bans as unconstitutional, same-sex couples in 35 States and the District of Columbia are, or will soon be, able to marry. This is welcome progress. In modern America, no person should face discrimination based on the one they love.

Despite this tremendous progress, there is still more to be done. As I said when the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, “All couples who are lawfully married under state law, including in Vermont, should be entitled to the same Federal protections afforded to

all other married couples.” Court challenges will continue in the remaining states that do not recognize marriage equality. In Congress, there are several steps we can take immediately to help ensure our federal laws treat all marriages equally.

Surprisingly, the Copyright Act, which protects our Nation’s diverse creative voices, still bears vestiges of discrimination. A provision in the Act grants rights to surviving spouses of copyright owners only if the marriage is recognized in the owner’s state of residence at the time he or she dies. This means that a writer who lawfully marries his or her partner in Vermont or California is not a “spouse” under the Copyright Act if they move to Florida, Georgia, or one of the other states that do not currently recognize their marriage.

Congress should close this discriminatory loophole to ensure our federal statutes live up to our Nation’s promise of equality under the law. It is wrong for the federal government to deny benefits or privileges to couples who have lawfully wed.

Today I am introducing the Copyright and Marriage Equality Act in the Senate to correct this problem. The bill, a version of which was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives DEREK KILMER, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and JARED POLIS, amends the Copyright Act to look simply at whether a couple is lawfully married—not where a married couple happens to live when the copyright owner dies. It will ensure that the rights attached to the works of our Nation’s gay and lesbian authors, musicians, painters, photographers, and other creators pass to their widows and widowers. Artists are the creative lifeblood of our Nation, and our laws should protect their families equally.

Statutes like the Copyright Act, or laws governing the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs which also contain remnants of discrimination, are no place for inequality in our country. It is time to fix these outdated laws once and for all. I urge the Senate to pass this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2919

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Copyright and Marriage Equality Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF WIDOW AND WIDOWER IN TITLE 17, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking the definition of “widow” or “widower” and inserting the following:

“An individual is the ‘widow’ or ‘widower’ of an author if the courts of the State in which the individual and the author were married (or, if the individual and the author were not married in any State but were validly married in another jurisdiction, the courts of any State) would find that the individual and the author were validly married at the time of the author’s death, whether or not the spouse has later remarried.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the death of any author that occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 20, 2014, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY OF WRITING”

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 576

Whereas people in the 21st century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation consider writing to be essential and influential in their work;

Whereas writers continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools like print, audio, and video to Internet website tools like blogs, wikis, and podcasts; and

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States to write, enjoy, and learn from the writing of others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2014, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to celebrate and promote the National Day on Writing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 577

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a non-profit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 113th Congress.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3936. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3937. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3938. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3939. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3940. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3936. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 332. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and investments needed to modernize Department of Defense space launch facilities and supporting infrastructure at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of the investigation into the failure of the radar system supporting the Eastern range in March 2014, including the causes for the failure.

(2) An assessment of each current radar and other system as well as supporting infrastructure required to support the mission requirement of the range, including back-up systems.

(3) An estimate of the annual level of dedicated funding required to maintain and modernize the range infrastructure in adequate condition to meet national security requirements.

(4) A review of requirements to repair, upgrade, and modernize the radars and other mission support systems to current technologies.

(5) A prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SA 3937. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PRODUCED IN COUNTRIES ALONG A MAJOR ROUTE OF SUPPLY TO AFGHANISTAN.

Section 801(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2399), as most recently amended by section 832(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 814), is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

SA 3938. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed

by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. STRATEGY FOR THE PROMOTION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State shall jointly develop a strategy for promoting security and stability in Central Asia in support of United States objectives in Afghanistan through enhanced coordination of assistance programs for bordering countries in the Central Asia region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include mechanisms for efforts by the Department of Defense and Department of State to coordinate assistance programs among Afghanistan and countries that border Afghanistan in Central Asia with respect to areas that include the following:

- (1) Counternarcotics.
- (2) Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR).
- (3) Border security.
- (4) The Northern Distribution Network.
- (5) Anti-corruption.
- (6) Programs conducted under the New Silk Road Initiative.

SA 3939. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. PLAN FOR SUPPORT OF INTEGRATION OF AFGHAN LOCAL POLICE PERSONNEL INTO AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall develop a plan detailing how the Department of Defense and the Department of State will support efforts to integrate the Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel into the Afghan National Police (ANP).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

- (1) catalogue the reports of human rights abuses committed by ALP forces to date;
- (2) describe current efforts to train ANP and ALP forces on Afghan human rights laws and international human rights obligations;
- (3) describe the constraints associated with integrating the ALP personnel into the ANP;
- (4) include a proposed timeline for the integration of ALP personnel;
- (5) ensure that any integration of ALP personnel into the ANP does not adversely affect United States interests in Afghanistan.

SA 3940. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for

military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

TITLE XXXVI—VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

SEC. 3601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Vessel Incidental Discharge Act”.

SEC. 3602. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning with enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in 1980 (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 21,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) Over the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted statutes on a number of occasions dealing with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) in 1980;

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 415 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3434) and section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residue;

(E) title XIV of division B of Appendix D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1902a), which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural cargo residue material in the form of hold washings; and

(G) title X of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), which provided for the implementation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 3603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.—The term “aquatic nuisance species” means a non-indigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(3) BALLAST WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “ballast water” means any water, including any sediment suspended in such water, taken aboard a vessel—

(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment technology of the vessel.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “ballast water” does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology under this title.

(4) BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—The term “ballast water performance standard” means the numerical ballast water discharge standard set forth in section 151.2030 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations or section 151.1511 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (a)(1)(B), (b), or (c) of section 3605.

(5) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term “ballast water treatment technology” or “treatment technology” means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, alone or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

(6) BIOCIDES.—The term “biocides” means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into or produced by a ballast water treatment technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this title.

(7) DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” means—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I)(aa) ballast water, graywater, bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust, sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel;

(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, welldeck

effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, or repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the vessel is waterborne.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” does not include—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

(II) oil or a hazardous substance as those terms are defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321);

(III) sewage as defined in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6)); or

(IV) graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6));

(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

(8) GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.—The term “geographically limited area” means an area—

(A) with a physical limitation, including limitation by physical size and limitation by authorized route, that prevents a vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(9) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufacturer” means a person engaged in the manufacture, assemblage, or importation of ballast water treatment technology.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) VESSEL.—The term “vessel” means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or practically or otherwise capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

SEC. 3604. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. The standards and requirements shall—

(1) be based upon the best available technology economically achievable; and

(2) supersede any permitting requirement or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under any other provision of law.

(b) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall administer and enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title. Each State may enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title.

SEC. 3605. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements set forth in the final rule, Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (77 Fed. Reg. 17254 (March 23, 2012), as corrected at 77 Fed. Reg. 33969 (June 8, 2012)), shall be the management requirements for a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water performance standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) ADOPTION OF MORE STRINGENT STATE STANDARD.—If the Secretary makes a determination in favor of a State petition under section 3610, the Secretary shall adopt the more stringent ballast water performance standard specified in the statute or regulation that is the subject of that State petition in lieu of the ballast water performance standard in the final rule described under subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD; 8-YEAR REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the feasibility review under paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water performance standard under subsection (a)(1) so that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 living organism per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension;

(B) less than 1 living organism per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension;

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxigenic *Vibrio cholera* (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples;

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of *Escherichia coli* per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of intestinal enterococci per 100 milliliters; and

(D) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes and of viruses as may be specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) FEASIBILITY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1).

(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—In conducting a

review under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water performance standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

(ii) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

(I) the capability of such treatment technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

(II) the effectiveness and reliability of such treatment technology in the shipboard environment;

(III) the compatibility of such treatment technology with the design and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(IV) the commercial availability of such treatment technology; and

(V) the safety of such treatment technology;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

(II) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) LOWER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water treatment technology can be certified under section 3606 to comply with the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the treatment technology that achieves the performance levels of the best treatment technology available.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) COMPLIANCE.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall recommend action to ensure compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) HIGHER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that ballast water treatment technology exists that exceeds the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water performance standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher performance standard.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Adminis-

trator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024.

(4) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water performance standard under this subsection.

(B) PROCESS FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(D) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(c) FUTURE REVISIONS OF VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further revision of the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) REVISED STANDARDS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may

include in a decennial review under this subsection best management practices for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more best management practices for such discharges after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising 1 or more of such practices would substantially reduce the impacts on navigable waters of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(3) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall consider the criteria under section 3605(b)(2)(B).

(4) **REVISION AFTER DECENNIAL REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water performance standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

SEC. 3606. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) **CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.**—Beginning 60 days after the date that the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (i), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for a vessel unless the treatment technology has been certified under this section.

(b) **CERTIFICATION PROCESS.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the treatment technology in achieving the current ballast water performance standard when installed on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel);

(B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations;

(C) the effect of the treatment technology on vessel safety;

(D) the impact on the environment;

(E) the cost effectiveness; and

(F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **APPROVAL.**—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the treatment technology meets the criteria, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(3) **SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.**—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a process to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this section.

(c) **CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.**—

(1) **IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.**—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment technology onboard a vessel as is necessary for—

(A) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;

(B) the protection of the environment; or

(C) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

(2) **FAILURE TO COMPLY.**—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condi-

tion imposed under paragraph (1) shall be considered a violation of this section.

(d) **PERIOD FOR USE OF INSTALLED TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.**—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this title or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allow a vessel on which a system is installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard under this title to continue to use that system, notwithstanding any revision of a ballast water performance standard occurring after the system is ordered or installed until the expiration of the service life of the system, as determined by the Secretary, so long as the system—

(1) is maintained in proper working condition; and

(2) is maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and any treatment technology certification conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(e) **CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL FOR THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—

(1) **ISSUANCE.**—If the Secretary approves a ballast water treatment technology for certification under subsection (b), the Secretary shall issue a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology to the manufacturer in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) **CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.**—A certificate of type approval issued under paragraph (1) shall specify each condition imposed by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(3) **OWNERS AND OPERATORS.**—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology under this subsection shall provide a copy of the certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

(f) **INSPECTIONS.**—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under subsection (e)(3) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

(g) **BIOCIDES.**—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water treatment technology under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide, as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under that Act or the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator, has approved the use of the biocide in such treatment technology; or

(2) it uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

(h) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the use of a ballast water treatment technology by an owner or operator of a vessel shall not satisfy the requirements of this title unless it has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(A) **COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.**—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

(B) **BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.**—

An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) **TESTING PROTOCOLS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue requirements for land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

(1) certifying the performance of each ballast water treatment technology under this section; and

(2) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

SEC. 3607. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this title apply to—

(1) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is less than 79 feet in length and engaged in commercial service (as defined in section 2101(5) of title 46, United States Code);

(2) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a fishing vessel, including a fish processing vessel and a fish tender vessel, (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code);

(3) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a recreational vessel (as defined in section 2101(25) of title 46, United States Code);

(4) the placement, release, or discharge of equipment, devices, or other material from a vessel for the sole purpose of conducting research on the aquatic environment or its natural resources in accordance with generally recognized scientific methods, principles, or techniques;

(5) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or part 153 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or human life, or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shore-side facility; or

(7) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) **BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standards under this title apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area;

(B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of introduction or establishment of an aquatic nuisance species;

(C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code, or an equivalent restriction issued by the country of registration of the vessel; or

(D) continuously take on and discharge ballast water in a flow-through system that

does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters;

(2) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel consisting entirely of water suitable for human consumption; or

(3) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel in an alternative compliance program established pursuant to section 3608.

(c) **VESSELS WITH PERMANENT BALLAST WATER.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standard under this title apply to, a vessel that carries all of its permanent ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge.

(d) **VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to apply to a vessel of the Armed Forces, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 3608. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may promulgate regulations establishing 1 or more compliance programs as an alternative to ballast water management regulations issued under section 3605 for a vessel that—

(1) has a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters;

(2) is less than 3 years from the end of the useful life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary; or

(3) discharges ballast water into a facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards promulgated by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

(b) **PROMULGATION OF FACILITY STANDARDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate standards for—

(1) the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility; and

(2) the disposal or treatment of the ballast water under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3609. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An interested person may file a petition for review of a final regulation promulgated under this title in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—A petition shall be filed not later than 120 days after the date that notice of the promulgation appears in the Federal Register.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a petition that is based solely on grounds that arise after the deadline to file a petition under subsection (b) has passed may be filed not later than 120 days after the date that the grounds first arise.

SEC. 3610. EFFECT ON STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No State or political subdivision thereof may adopt or enforce any statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State or political subdivision thereof may enforce a statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that specifies a ballast water performance standard that is more stringent than the ballast water performance standard under section 3605(a)(1)(A) and is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator and any other Federal department or agency

the Secretary considers appropriate, makes a determination that—

(1) compliance with any performance standard specified in the statute or regulation can in fact be achieved and detected;

(2) the technology and systems necessary to comply with the statute or regulation are commercially available; and

(3) the statute or regulation is consistent with obligations under relevant international treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party.

(c) PETITION PROCESS.

(1) **SUBMISSION.**—The Governor of a State seeking to enforce a statute or regulation under subsection (b) shall submit a petition requesting the Secretary to review the statute or regulation.

(2) **CONTENTS; DEADLINE.**—A petition shall—

(A) be accompanied by the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based; and

(B) be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall make a determination on a petition under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date that the petition is received.

SEC. 3611. APPLICATION WITH OTHER STATUTES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this title shall be the exclusive statutory authority for regulation by the Federal Government of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies. Except as provided under section 3605(a)(1)(A), any regulation in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act relating to any permitting requirement for or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies shall be deemed to be a regulation issued pursuant to the authority of this title and shall remain in full force and effect unless or until superseded by new regulations issued hereunder.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lourdes Castro Ramirez to be an Assistant Secretary of HUD for the Office of Public and Indian Housing, dated November 12, 2014.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public, that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 3 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Building.

The purpose of the Business Meeting is to consider the following legislation:

1. S. 2638, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas. (Mr. Hoeven)

2. S. 2379, a bill to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve

natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, and for other purposes. (Mr. Wyden)

3. S. 1784, a bill to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and for other purposes. (Mr. Wyden)

4. S. 2602, a bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington. (Ms. Cantwell)

5. S. 182, a bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for the purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City. (Ms. Murkowski)

6. S. 776, a bill to establish the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness in the State of New Mexico, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State, and for other purposes. (Mr. Udall of New Mexico)

7. S. 841, a bill to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, and for other purposes. (Mr. Bennet)

8. S. 1419, a bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes. (Mr. Wyden)

9. S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes. (Ms. Murkowski)

10. S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes. (Ms. Collins)

11. S. 2031, a bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary to that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes. (Ms. Baldwin)

12. S. 1750, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes. (Mr. Flake)

13. S. 1966, a bill to provide for the restoration of the economic and ecological health of National Forest System land and rural communities, and for other purposes. (Mr. Barasso)

14. S. 2104, a bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown. (Mr. Flake)

15. H.R. 1526, an Act to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from

National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes. (Rep. Hastings)

16. H.R. 885, an Act to expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and for other purposes. (Rep. Doggett)

17. S. 1328, an bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes. (Mr. Kirk and Mr. Durbin)

18. H.R. 1241, an Act to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes. (Rep. Cook)

19. S. 1437, a bill to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agriculture Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon. (Mr. Wyden)

20. S. 2873, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System. (Mr. Coburn)

Because of the limited time available for the Business Meeting, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the business meeting record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Sam_Fowler@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a 2 day hearing entitled, "Wall Street Bank Involvement With Physical Commodities." After a 2 year bipartisan investigation, the subcommittee will hold a hearing examining the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

The Subcommittee hearings have been scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014, and Friday, November 21, 2014. The hearing will begin on both days at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. A witness list will be available on Monday, November 17, 2014. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 12, 2014, at 6:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "CLOSED/TS/SCI: Countering ISIL in Iraq and Syria."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 12, 2014, at 4 p.m., in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Joseph Majkut, who is an American Association for Advancement of Science fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGING FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Oliver Kim:									
India	Rupee		1,655.50		457.30				2,112.80
Australia	Dollar		936.11		106.63				1,042.74
Total			2,591.61		563.93				3,155.54

SENATOR BILL NELSON,
Chairman, Committee on Aging, Oct. 28, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United Kingdom	Pound		4,530.96						4,530.96
Germany	Euro		2,643.05		1,679.85				4,322.90
Czech Republic	Koruna		985.73		100.16				1,085.89
Austria	Euro		1,446.03						1,446.03
United States	Dollar				21,925.91				21,925.91
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United Kingdom	Pound		3,264.78						3,264.78
United States	Dollar				9,735.00				9,735.00
William D. Duhnke III:									
United Kingdom	Pound		2,973.23						2,973.23

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				12,797.00				12,797.00
Brian Potts:									
United Kingdom	Pound		4,405.55						4,405.55
Germany	Euro		2,113.05		1,679.85				3,792.90
Czech Republic	Koruna		985.73		100.15				1,085.88
Austria	Euro		482.84						482.84
United States	Dollar				21,330.31				21,330.31
Jacqueline Russell:									
United Kingdom	Pound		3,477.23						3,477.23
United States	Dollar				9,518.60				9,518.60
Anne Caldwell:									
United Kingdom	Pound		4,405.55						4,405.55
United States	Dollar				9,518.60				9,518.60
Van Cato:									
United Kingdom	Pound		4,312.55						4,312.55
United States	Dollar				12,797.00				12,797.00
Stacy McBride:									
Vietnam	Dong		757.00						757.00
Cambodia	Riel		940.00		25.00				965.00
Thailand	Baht		644.00						644.00
United States	Dollar				16,809.50				16,809.50
Carlisle Clarke:									
Vietnam	Dong		757.00						757.00
Cambodia	Riel		940.00		25.00				965.00
Thailand	Baht		498.00						498.00
United States	Dollar				16,809.50				16,809.50
Shannon Hines:									
Thailand	Baht		479.12		94.28				573.40
Cambodia	Riel		704.00						704.00
United States	Dollar				10,400.00				10,400.00
Jennifer Eskra:									
Thailand	Baht		479.12		94.28				573.40
Cambodia	Riel		704.00						704.00
United States	Dollar				17,607.60				17,607.60
Allen Cutler:									
Japan	Yen		1,628.00		1,320.00				2,948.00
United States	Dollar				15,827.20				15,827.20
Adrienne Hallett:									
China	Renminbi		1,478.19		1,123.42				2,601.61
United States	Dollar				18,094.00				18,094.00
Lisa Bernhardt:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,673.60						1,673.60
Thailand	Baht		1,162.98		331.03				1,494.01
United States	Dollar				13,543.00				13,543.00
Laura Friedel:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,673.60						1,673.60
Thailand	Baht		1,162.98		331.03				1,494.01
United States	Dollar				13,543.00				13,543.00
Christina Evans:									
Germany	Euro		595.80						595.80
Romania	Leu		441.57						441.57
Poland	Zloty		541.05						541.05
United Kingdom	Pound		1,658.99						1,658.99
United States	Dollar				12,337.40				12,337.40
Michael Bain:									
Germany	Euro		595.80						595.80
Romania	Leu		441.57						441.57
Poland	Zloty		541.05						541.05
United Kingdom	Pound		1,658.99						1,658.99
United States	Dollar				12,497.40				12,497.40
Patrick Magnuson:									
Germany	Euro		595.80						595.80
Romania	Leu		441.58						441.58
Poland	Zloty		541.05						541.05
United Kingdom	Pound		1,658.99						1,658.99
United States	Dollar				12,337.40				12,337.40
Paul Grove:									
Singapore	Dollar		906.00		943.52				1,849.52
Cambodia	Riel		1,180.00						1,180.00
United States	Dollar				4,537.12				4,537.12
Alexander Carnes:									
Kenya	Shilling		1,615.00						1,615.00
South Sudan	Pound		125.00						125.00
United States	Dollar				3,751.20				3,751.20
* Delegation Expenses:									
Austria	Euro				1,079.68				1,079.68
Cambodia	Riel						130.70		130.70
China	Renminbi						1,902.76		1,902.76
Germany	Euro						898.54		898.54
Kenya	Shilling						22.57		22.57
Romania	Leu						220.00		220.00
Thailand	Baht						980.39		980.39
United Kingdom	Pound						24,984.08		24,984.08
Vietnam	Dong						1,816.28		1,816.28
Total			65,246.11		274,643.99		30,955.32		370,845.42

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Azerbaijan	Manat		820.00						820.00
Moldova	Leu		123.00						123.00
Joseph G. Lai:									
Azerbaijan	Manat		820.00						820.00
Moldova	Leu		123.00						123.00
Thomas W. Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				11,992.40				11,992.40
Georgia	Lari		355.00						355.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		848.00						848.00
Moldova	Leu		272.68						272.68
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia	Lari		107.62						107.62
Moldova	Leu				49.79				49.79
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States					15,106.35				15,106.35
* Delegation Expenses:									
Qatar	Riyal					599.21			589.21
United Arab Emirates	Dirham					227.71			227.71
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				21,020.90				21,020.90
Turkey	Lira		676.18						676.18
India	Rupee		238.75						238.75
Afghanistan	Afghani		56.00						56.00
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				21,020.90				21,020.90
Turkey	Lira		421.74						421.74
India	Rupee		510.00						510.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		66.00						66.00
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States	Dollar				21,095.90				21,095.90
Turkey	Lira		560.72						560.72
India	Rupee		493.44						493.44
Afghanistan	Afghani		78.00						78.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Turkey	Lira					1,141.95			1,141.95
India	Rupee					467.41			467.41
United Arab Emirates	Dirham					683.13			683.13
Senator Bill Nelson:									
United States	Dollar				9,744.30				9,744.30
United Kingdom	Pound		2,365.23						2,365.23
Ireland	Euro		2,080.70						2,080.70
Daniel McLaughlin:									
United States	Dollar				9,744.30				9,744.30
United Kingdom	Pound		2,365.23						2,365.23
Ireland	Euro		2,080.70						2,080.70
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom	Pound				2,498.50		319.60		2,818.10
Ireland	Euro				2,397.93		1,050.80		3,448.73
Senator Carl Levin:									
United States	Dollar				11,498.70				11,498.70
Afghanistan	Afghani		14.00						14.00
Peter K. Levine:									
United States	Dollar				11,584.70				11,584.70
Afghanistan	Afghani		14.00						14.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham					1,542.20			1,542.20
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
United Kingdom	Pound		207.82		62.07				269.89
Anthony J. Lazarski:									
United Kingdom	Pound		353.92		195.55				549.47
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
United Kingdom	Pound		291.45		63.34				354.79
Sandra Luff:									
United Kingdom	Pound		395.28		239.08				634.36
Senator Roger Wicker:									
United Kingdom	Pound		944.00						944.00
Joseph G. Lai:									
United Kingdom	Pound		944.00						944.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom	Pound					6,207.93			6,207.93
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				14,949.45		30.00		14,979.45
United Kingdom	Pound		10.28						10.28
Italy	Euro		412.98						412.98
Anthony J. Lazarski:									
United States	Dollar				14,949.55				14,949.55
United Kingdom	Pound		18.86						18.86
Italy	Euro		485.54						485.54
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom	Pound				920.48				920.48
Italy	Euro					577.48			577.48
Joseph M. Bryan:									
United States	Dollar				1,766.30				1,766.30
United Kingdom	Pound		1,164.49						1,164.49
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States	Dollar				22,922.44				22,922.44
Vietnam	Dong		413.00				26.46		439.46
Thailand	Baht		146.00		269.55		222.64		638.19
Cambodia	Riel		530.00						530.00
Australia	Dollar		1,464.46		375.00				1,839.46
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				14,201.40				14,201.40
Vietnam	Dong		638.71						638.71
Indonesia	Rupiah		755.52						755.52
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				14,276.40				14,276.40
Vietnam	Dong		790.24						790.24
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,113.00						1,113.00
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States	Dollar				14,281.40				14,281.40

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Vietnam	Dong		717.73						717.73
Indonesia	Rupiah		844.54						844.54
* Delegation Expenses:									
Vietnam	Dong					4,124.63			4,124.63
Indonesia	Rupiah					2,315.50			2,315.50
South Korea	Won					133.32			133.32
Daniel Lerner:									
United States	Dollar				22,605.00				22,605.00
South Korea	Won		989.76		1,330.08				2,319.84
Australia	Dollar		846.90		359.00				1,205.90
William K. Sutey:									
United States	Dollar				15,123.50				15,123.50
Australia	Dollar		1,706.87						1,706.87
Singapore	Dollar		1,079.14						1,079.14
South Korea	Won		716.26						716.26
Ambrose R. Hock:									
United States	Dollar				14,978.10				14,978.10
Australia	Dollar		1,811.36						1,811.36
Singapore	Dollar		1,089.77						1,089.77
South Korea	Won		663.41						663.41
Jason W. Maroney:									
United States	Dollar				14,978.10				14,978.10
Australia	Dollar		1,813.47						1,813.47
Singapore	Dollar		1,151.16						1,151.16
South Korea	Won		670.26						670.26
* Delegation Expenses:									
Australia	Dollar					2,628.00			2,628.00
South Korea	Won				1,120.35				1,120.35
Senator Bill Nelson:									
United States	Dollar				7,040.30				7,040.30
Turkey	Lira		200.00						200.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		721.20						721.20
Lithuania	Litas		560.36						560.36
Norway	Krone		868.73						868.73
Pete Mitchell:									
United States	Dollar				10,931.60				10,931.60
Turkey	Lira		324.65						324.65
Ukraine	Hryvnia		605.86						605.86
Lithuania	Litas		564.34						564.34
Norway	Krone		820.69						820.69
* Delegation Expenses:									
Turkey	Lira					61.77			61.77
Lithuania	Litas					302.11			302.11
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				10,455.00				10,455.00
United Kingdom	Pound		462.00						462.00
Belgium	Euro		353.00		477.31				830.31
Germany	Euro		915.00						915.00
Italy	Euro		306.00						306.00
Netherlands	Euro		350.00						350.00
Adam J. Barker:									
United States	Dollar				14,312.50				14,312.50
United Kingdom	Pound		456.04						456.04
Belgium	Euro		764.03		477.31				1,241.34
Germany	Euro		324.00						324.00
Italy	Euro		350.00						350.00
Netherlands	Euro		793.90						793.90
Michael J. Noblet:									
United States	Dollar				14,524.00				14,524.00
South Korea	Won		677.00						677.00
Germany	Euro		584.00						584.00
United Kingdom	Pound		495.00						495.00
Anthony J. Lazarski:									
United States	Dollar				14,369.09				14,369.09
South Korea	Won		900.45						900.45
Germany	Euro		1,344.26						1,344.26
United Kingdom	Pound		724.01						724.01
Daniel C. Adams:									
United States	Dollar				12,468.39				12,468.39
South Korea	Won		638.20						638.20
Germany	Euro		839.26						839.26
United Kingdom	Pound		624.16						624.16
* Delegation Expenses:									
South Korea	Won				979.75				979.75
Senator Mazie Hirono:									
Italy	Euro		847.52						847.52
Ethiopia	Birr		1,036.84						1,036.84
Tanzania	Shilling		654.16						654.16
Senegal	Franc		411.10						411.10
Jeremy Horan:									
Italy	Euro		847.04						847.04
Ethiopia	Birr		878.36						878.36
Tanzania	Shilling		642.60						642.60
Senegal	Franc		428.31						428.31
* Delegation Expenses:									
Italy	Euro					308.65			308.65
Ethiopia	Birr					5,827.33			5,827.33
Tanzania	Shilling					3,840.49			3,840.49
Senegal	Franc					1,057.82			1,057.82
Senator Carl Levin:									
United States	Dollar				12,116.84				12,116.84
Ukraine	Hryvnia		294.15						294.15
Peter K. Levine:									
United States	Dollar				15,135.70				15,135.70
Ukraine	Hryvnia		284.16						284.16
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				9,973.10				9,973.10
Ukraine	Hryvnia		289.16						289.16
* Delegation Expenses:									
Jordan	Dinar				75.12		127.05		202.17
Germany	Euro						1,308.72		1,308.72

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Belgium	Euro		567.11						567.11
Italy	Euro		2,382.44						2,382.44
Portugal	Euro		561.65						561.65
Spain	Euro		901.74						901.74
Alice James:									
Belgium	Euro		561.74						561.74
Italy	Euro		2,486.56						2,486.56
Portugal	Euro		573.66						573.66
Spain	Euro		808.34						808.34
* Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro					746.63			746.63
Italy	Euro					1,306.01			1,306.01
Spain	Euro				1,329.24	394.00			1,723.24
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Tunisia	Dinar		401.92						401.92
Morocco	Dirham		596.30						596.30
Spain	Euro		181.77						181.77
Mike Henry:									
Tunisia	Dinar		437.26						437.26
Morocco	Dirham		631.62						631.62
Spain	Euro		217.11						217.11
Mary Naylor:									
Tunisia	Dinar		428.92						428.92
Morocco	Dirham		629.28						629.28
Spain	Euro		208.79						208.79
* Delegation Expenses:									
Tunisia	Dinar					1,739.99			1,739.99
Morocco	Dirham					4,416.62			4,416.62
Spain	Euro				1,135.13	1,153.28			2,288.41
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				7,681.30				7,681.30
Ukraine	Hryvnia		258.80						258.80
Italy	Euro		2,572.33						2,572.33
Christian Brose:									
United States	Dollar				7,696.85				7,696.85
Ukraine	Hryvnia		376.09						376.09
Italy	Euro		1,082.76						1,082.76
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States	Dollar				7,698.30				7,698.30
Ukraine	Hryvnia		258.80						258.80
Italy	Euro		1,070.92						1,070.92
* Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia					108.74			108.74
Total			82,045.62		456,597.64		44,997.18		583,640.44

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Nov. 4, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
Canada	Dollar		486.55						486.55
United States	Dollar				889.52				889.52
Isaac Edwards:									
Canada	Dollar		584.74						584.74
United States	Dollar				2,427.81				2,427.81
* Delegation Expenses:									
Canada	Dollar					185.51			185.51
Total			1,071.29		3,317.33		185.51		4,574.13

SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 14, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Barbara Boxer:									
United States	Dollar				15,454.80				15,454.80
Denmark	Krone		2,881.39						2,881.39
Netherlands	Euro		5,002.12						5,002.12
Bettina Poirier:									
United States	Dollar				16,204.40				16,204.40
Denmark	Krone		2,881.39						2,881.39
Netherlands	Euro		5,367.59						5,367.59
Christopher Jason Albright:									
United States	Dollar				11,546.80				11,546.80
Netherlands	Euro		5,333.49						5,333.49
Frederick Illston:									
United States	Dollar				11,534.80				11,534.80

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Denmark	Krone		3,084.39						3,084.39
Michal Freedhoff:									
United States	Dollar				13,003.90				13,003.90
Denmark	Krone		2,172.51						2,172.51
* Delegation Expenses:									
Denmark	Krone					1,588.81			1,588.81
* Delegation Expenses:									
Netherlands	Euro					4,442.04			4,442.04
Total			26,722.88		67,744.70		6,030.85		100,498.43

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jayne White:									
Vietnam	Dong		537.40						537.40
United States	Dollar				12,125.40				12,125.40
Elissa Alben:									
Vietnam	Dong		783.57						783.57
United States	Dollar				12,125.40				12,125.40
Everett Eissenstat:									
Vietnam	Dong		1,380.26						1,380.26
United States	Dollar				11,076.60				11,076.60
Shane Warren:									
Vietnam	Dong		622.72						622.72
United States	Dollar				14,036.26				14,036.26
* Delegation Expenses									
United States	Dollar					674.08			674.08
Senator Maria Cantwell:									
Senegal	Franc		422.28						422.28
Ethiopia	Birr		769.39						769.39
Tanzania	Shilling		543.09						543.09
Italy	Euro		863.09						863.09
Total			5,921.80		49,363.66		674.08		55,959.54

* Delegation expenses include transportation, embassy overtime, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 29, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Belgium	Euro		452.35						452.35
Portugal	Euro		573.66						573.66
Spain	Euro		808.58						808.58
Italy	Euro		2,202.71						2,202.71
* Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro					118.49			118.49
Portugal	Euro					1,632.50			1,632.50
Spain	Euro					1,667.88			1,667.88
Italy	Euro					2,884.88			2,884.88
Senator Bob Corker:									
Germany	Euro		599.16						599.16
United Kingdom	Pounds		405.97						405.97
United States	Dollar				14,223.90				14,223.90
Todd Womack:									
Germany	Euro		599.82						599.82
United Kingdom	Pounds		432.19						432.19
United States	Dollar				14,223.90				14,223.90
* Delegation Expenses:									
Germany	Euro					823.14			823.14
United Kingdom	Pounds					717.86			717.86
Senator Bob Corker:									
Vietnam	Dong		450.83						450.83
Singapore	Dollar		699.79						699.79
Malaysia	Ringgit		252.89						252.89
Philippines	Peso		593.56						593.56
United States	Dollar				19,102.20				19,102.20
Lester Munson:									
Vietnam	Dong		450.83						450.83
Singapore	Dollar		743.33						743.33
Malaysia	Ringgit		252.89						252.89
Philippines	Peso		593.49						593.49
United States	Dollar				16,864.60				16,864.60
Todd Womack:									
Philippines	Peso		758.94						758.94
United States	Dollar				15,998.00				15,998.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Carolyn Leddy:									
Vietnam	Dong		529.67						529.67
Singapore	Dollar		832.20						832.20
Malaysia	Ringgit		252.89						252.89
Philippines	Peso		593.56						593.56
United States	Dollar				15,499.30				15,499.30
Caleb McCarry:									
Philippines	Peso		769.56						769.56
United States	Dollar				13,407.30				13,407.30
* Delegation Expenses:									
Vietnam	Dong						282.24		282.24
Singapore	Dollar						680.28		680.28
Malaysia	Ringgit						150.00		150.00
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Estonia	Euro		160.86						160.86
Poland	Zloty		844.57						844.57
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,037.42						1,037.42
United States	Dollar				11,583.80				11,583.80
Daniel O'Brien:									
Estonia	Euro		160.86						160.86
Poland	Zloty		844.97						844.97
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,111.74						1,111.74
United States	Dollar				10,373.00				10,373.00
Jodi Herman:									
Estonia	Euro		160.86						160.86
Poland	Zloty		864.98						864.98
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,126.19						1,126.19
United States	Dollar				16,281.30				16,281.30
* Delegation Expenses:									
Estonia	Euro						896.89		896.89
Poland	Zloty						253.62		253.62
Ukraine	Hryvnia						501.40		501.40
Sergio Aguirre:									
Tunisia	Dinar		454.16						454.16
Morocco	Dirham		463.13						463.13
Spain	Euro		1,393.31						1,393.31
Margaret Murphy:									
Spain	Euro		1,330.65						1,330.65
United States	Dollar				1,957.50				1,957.50
* Delegation Expenses:									
Tunisia	Dinar						579.99		579.99
Morocco	Dirham						1,656.25		1,656.25
Spain	Euro						1,414.45		1,414.45
Sarah Downs:									
Dem. Republic of the Congo	Franc		1,565.00						1,565.00
United States	Dollar				6,988.90				6,988.90
Jenifer Healy:									
Dem. Republic of the Congo	Franc		1,929.00						1,929.00
United States	Dollar				6,958.90				6,958.90
Jaime Fly:									
Georgia	Lari		533.48						533.48
Ukraine	Hryvnia		635.00						635.00
Moldova	Leu		178.12						178.12
United States	Dollar				2,518.97				2,518.97
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia	Lari						215.23		215.23
Moldova	Leu						99.57		99.57
Michael Gallagher:									
Israel	Shekel		1,075.00						1,075.00
Jordan	Dinar		760.82						760.82
Qatar	Riyal		345.04						345.04
United States	Dollar				3,634.32				3,634.32
Jamil Jaffer:									
Israel	Shekel		1,075.00						1,075.00
Jordan	Dinar		1,141.23						1,141.23
United States	Dollar				4,656.30				4,656.30
* Delegation Expenses:									
Israel	Shekel						495.41		495.41
Jordan	Dinar						343.57		343.57
Lebanon	Pound						1,705.43		1,705.43
Qatar	Riyal						181.23		181.23
Kirsten Madison:									
Venezuela	Dollar		1,178.32						1,178.32
United States	Dollar				3,234.70				3,234.70
Caleb McCarry:									
Venezuela	Dollar		1,450.40						1,450.40
United States	Dollar				3,297.30				3,297.30
* Delegation Expenses:									
Venezuela	Dollar						3,571.43		3,571.43
Damian Murphy:									
Kazakhstan	Tenge		1,336.00						1,336.00
Uzbekistan	Som		1,103.00						1,103.00
United States	Dollar				8,660.90				8,660.90
* Delegation Expenses:									
Kazakhstan	Tenge						51.00		51.00
Stacie Oliver:									
Uzbekistan	Som						532.16		532.16
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,054.84						1,054.84
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		712.91						712.91
United States	Dollar				3,882.50				3,882.50
* Delegation Expenses:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						460.00		460.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham						1,362.08		1,362.08
Michael Phelan:									
Niger	CFA Franc		448.00						448.00
Ghana	Cedi		326.00						326.00
United States	Dollar				4,045.60				4,045.60
Morgan Vina:									
Niger	CFA Franc		336.00						336.00
Ghana	Cedi		326.00						326.00
United States	Dollar				3,795.60				3,795.60

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
* Delegation Expenses:									
Niger	CFA Franc						1,312.35		1,312.35
Ghana	Cedi						298.08		298.08
Ariana Reks:									
Netherlands	Euro		4,024.94						4,024.94
United States	Dollar				1,549.80				1,549.80
* Delegation Expenses:									
Netherlands	Euro						1,480.67		1,480.67
Michael Schiffer:									
Australia	Dollar		994.90						994.90
Indonesia	Rupiah		290.30						290.30
Singapore	Dollar		133.21						133.21
United States	Dollar				6,343.10				6,343.10
Daniel Vajdich:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		530.33						530.33
Bulgaria	Lev		296.00						296.00
United States	Dollar						5,500.51		5,500.51
* Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						234.10		234.10
Bulgaria	Lev						31.56		31.56
Debbie Yamada:									
Georgia	Lari		303.46						303.46
Azerbaijan	Manat		634.38						634.38
Moldova	Leu		271.68						271.68
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia	Lari						353.14		353.14
Azerbaijan	Manat						1,010.68		1,010.68
Total			48,790.93		214,582.20		27,997.56		291,370.69

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Harkin:									
Georgia	Lari		105.00						105.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		114.00						114.00
China	Yen		357.00						357.00
United States	Dollar				7,477.60				7,477.60
Michael Gamel-McCormick:									
Georgia	Lari		105.00						105.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		114.00						114.00
China	Yen		0.00						0.00
United States	Dollar				7,477.60				7,477.60
Brian Ahlberg:									
Georgia	Lari		105.00						105.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		228.00						228.00
Moldova	Leu		73.00						73.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia	Lari						2,460.28		2,460.28
Azerbaijan	Manat						6,191.68		6,191.68
Moldova	Leu						145.00		145.00
China	Yen						4,835.13		4,835.13
Total			1,201.00		14,955.20		13,632.09		29,788.29

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–394, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Oct. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Harkin:									
Slovenia	Euro		501.00						501.00
Thomas Buttry:									
Slovenia	Euro		501.00						501.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Slovenia	Euro						1,261.05		1,261.05
Total			1,002.00		0.00		1,261.05		2,263.05

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Oct. 17, 2014.

November 12, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE, Vol. 160, Pt. 11

15585

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Christian M. Cook	Dollar		682.00						682.00
					9,344.00				9,344.00
Ryan Tully	Dollar		682.00		9,344.00				10,026.00
Paul Matulic	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar				11,903.20				11,903.20
Hayden Milberg	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar				11,903.20				11,903.20
Jon Rosenwasser	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar		646.00						646.00
	Dollar				11,903.20				11,903.20
Ryan Tully			778.00						778.00
			546.00						546.00
Brian Walsh			778.00						778.00
			546.00						546.00
James Catella	Dinar		159.00						159.00
	Dinar		382.00						382.00
	Riyal		164.00						164.00
	Dinar		326.00						326.00
Nathaniel M. Adler	Dinar		159.00						159.00
	Dinar		382.00						382.00
	Riyal		164.00						164.00
	Dinar		326.00						326.00
Tressa Guenov	Dinar		159.00						159.00
	Dinar		382.00						382.00
	Riyal		164.00						164.00
	Dinar		326.00						326.00
Senator Saxby Chambliss	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		984.00						984.00
Teresa Ervin	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Tyler Stephens	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Martha Scott Poindexter	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Brian Miller	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Christian Cook	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Senator Richard Burr	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		322.00						322.00
	Euro		355.00						355.00
	Euro		948.00						948.00
Senator Dan Coats	Euro		215.00						215.00
	Euro		161.00						161.00
	Euro		161.00						161.00
	Euro		152.00						152.00
	Euro		203.00						203.00
	Euro		228.00						228.00
	Euro		228.00						228.00
	Euro		246.00						246.00
	Euro		246.00						246.00
Total			25,737.00		54,397.60				80,134.60

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Nov. 4, 2014.CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Lueptow:									
United States	Dollar				1,814.20				1,814.20
England	Euro		1,012.24						1,012.24
Total			1,012.24		1,814.20				2,826.44

SENATOR THOMAS R. CARPER,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Sept. 22, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Vietnam	Dong		665.72						665.72
Indonesia	Rupiah		763.48						763.48
Lacy Dwyer:									
Vietnam	Dong		681.12						681.12
Indonesia	Rupiah		778.88						778.88
* Delegation Expenses:									
Vietnam	Dong						2,749.76		2,749.76
Indonesia	Rupiah						1,543.66		1,543.66
South Korea	Won						53.33		53.33
Total			2,889.20				4,346.75		7,235.95

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 31, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
Georgia	Lari		306.07						306.07
Azerbaijan	Manat		724.22						724.22
Moldova	Leu		218.00						218.00
David Killion:									
Georgia	Lari		306.07						306.07
Azerbaijan	Manat		724.22						724.22
Moldova	Leu		218.00						218.00
Poland	Zloty		1,340.10						1,340.10
United States	Dollar				8,995.10				8,995.10
Robert Hand:									
Azerbaijan	Manat		1,911.12						1,911.12
Moldova	Leu		209.54						209.54
United States	Dollar				3,308.70				3,308.70
Shelly Han:									
Georgia	Lari		306.07						306.07
Azerbaijan	Manat		724.22						724.22
Moldova	Leu		218.00						218.00
Kyle Parker:									
Georgia	Lari		306.07						306.07
Azerbaijan	Manat		724.22						724.22
Moldova	Leu		218.00						218.00
Alex Johnson:									
Georgia	Lari		306.07						306.07
Azerbaijan	Manat		724.22						724.22
Moldova	Leu		218.00						218.00
Alex Johnson:									
Austria	Euro		6,204.00						6,204.00
United States	Dollar				1,775.20				1,775.20
Austria	Euro		3,718.29						3,718.29
United States	Dollar				811.60				811.60
Orest Deychakiwsky:									
Poland	Zloty		1,558.52						1,558.52
United States	Dollar				1,853.90				1,853.90
David Kostelancik:									
Poland	Zloty		1,207.57						1,207.57
United States	Dollar				1,744.50				1,744.50
Total			22,390.59		18,489.00				40,879.59

SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
Oct. 10, 2014.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				16,059.50				16,059.50
Algeria	Dinar		263.00						263.00
Jordan	Dinar		610.82						610.82
Qatar	Riyal		339.83						339.83
Kuwait	Dinar		611.95						611.95
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Belgium	Dollar		561.00						561.00
Portugal	Dollar		668.00						668.00
Spain	Dollar		829.00						829.00
Italy	Dollar		2,441.00						2,441.00
Total			6,324.60		16,059.50				22,384.10

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, Sept. 28, 2014.

NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 576, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 576) expressing support for the designation of October 20, 2014, as the "National Day on Writing."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 576) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that appointments were made during the recess of the Senate, pursuant to the order of September 18, 2014, and those appointments will be stated in the RECORD.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: George Hanks Brown of Colorado.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon recommendation of the majority lead-

er, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-498, as amended by Public Law 110-315, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: John White of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term expiring 2018: the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS of Delaware.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term expiring 2020: Mike Moore of Mississippi.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 112-166, and further amended by Public Law 113-128, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council on Disability: Bob Brown of Nevada.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. For the information of all of our colleagues, there will be three rollcall votes at approximately 2:30 p.m. Those votes will be on confirmation of the Moss and May nominations and cloture regarding the child care and development block grant bill. Additional votes remain possible during Thursday's session beyond those three.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:15 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:52 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

JEFFERY S. HALL, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 13, 2018, VICE LELAND A. STROM, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DAVID J. BERTEAU, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ALAN F. ESTEVEZ, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

JAY NEAL LERNER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, VICE JON T. RYMER, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

DAVA J. NEWMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE LORI GARVER, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. O'RIELLY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

MARK SCARANO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON OF THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION, VICE SANDFORD BLITZ, RESIGNING.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SIM FARAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SIM FARAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

WILLIAM JOSEPH HYBL, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

LEON ARON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2016, VICE S. ENDERS WIMBUSH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AZITA RAJI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

ROMONIA S. DIXON, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2018, VICE MATTHEW FRANCIS MCCABE, TERM EXPIRED.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

WALTER A. BARROWS, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

ROBERT A. SALERNO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ROBERT ISAAC RICHTER, RETIRED.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DAVID S. SHAPIRA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2019, VICE DENNIS J. TONER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MICHELLE K. LEE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, VICE DAVID J. KAPPOS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

LEIGH A. BRADLEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE WILL A. GUNN, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHELLEY R. CAMPBELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK C. NOWLAND

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MICHAEL G. AMUNDSON
COLONEL CHARLES K. ARIS
COLONEL TOMMY H. BAKER
COLONEL JOE G. BARNARD, JR.
COLONEL BRIAN B. BARRONTINE
COLONEL BARRY K. BEACH
COLONEL MICHAEL R. BERRY
COLONEL THOMAS H. BLACKSTOCK, JR.
COLONEL WILLIAM B. BLAYLOCK II
COLONEL DANIEL J. BOCHICCHIO
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER P. CALLAHAN
COLONEL LLOYD P. CAVINESS, JR.
COLONEL FRED M. CHESBRO
COLONEL DAVID L.G. COLLINS
COLONEL JAMES D. CRAIG
COLONEL THOMAS G. CROYMANS
COLONEL ZACHARY F. DOSER
COLONEL GORDON L. ELLIS
COLONEL WILLIAM J. FREIDEL
COLONEL DANIEL J. FUHR
COLONEL TROY D. GALLOWAY
COLONEL JEFFREY L. GAYLORD
COLONEL DAVID E. GRAETZ
COLONEL MATTHEW J. HEARON
COLONEL WILLIAM J. HERSH
COLONEL THOMAS F. HESLIN, JR.
COLONEL MICHAEL T. HESTON
COLONEL MARK C. JACKSON
COLONEL BERT S. KOZEN
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER F. LAWSON
COLONEL TIM C. LAWSON
COLONEL COLLIER H. LIPPLE
COLONEL JOANE K. MATHEWS
COLONEL KENNETH L. MCCREARY
COLONEL ANTHONY V. MOHATT
COLONEL ADRIAN B. NETTLES
COLONEL TRACY R. NORRIS
COLONEL STEPHEN B. OWENS
COLONEL LAWRENCE R. POWELL
COLONEL JOHN M. PRINE
COLONEL HELEN E. ROGERS
COLONEL PAUL D. ROGERS
COLONEL ROBERT A. SPARING
COLONEL MARK C. STRONG
COLONEL BARRY K. TAYLOR
COLONEL BRIAN R. TRENDIA
COLONEL BRYAN A. TUTKO
COLONEL WILLIAM J. WALKER
COLONEL STEVEN H. WARNSTADT
COLONEL RONALD A. WESTFALL
COLONEL CLIFFORD W. WILKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DARSIE D. ROGERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK S. RUDESHEIM

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. EDWARD E. HILDRETH III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN J. HAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. EUGENE J. LEBOEUF

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. HARRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEWIS G. IRWIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID E. QUANTOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTHONY R. IERARDI

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL R. REGNER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ADEWALE ADEYEMO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MARISA LAGO.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DANIEL R. ELLIOTT III, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARISA LAGO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE MIRIAM E. SAPIRO, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ANTONIO F. WEISS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MARY JOHN MILLER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANTONY BLINKEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE WILLIAM J. BURNS, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

LAUREN MCGARITY MCFERRAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2019, VICE NANCY JEAN SCHIFFER, TERM EXPIRING.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

DAVID AVREN JONES, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MICHAEL D. KENNEDY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 25, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

NICHOLAS J. RASMUSSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE MATTHEW G. OLSEN, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, VICE ANTHONY J. SCIRICA, RETIRED.

KARA FARNANDEZ STOLL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, VICE RANDALL R. RADER, RETIRED.

DALE A. DROZD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE ANTHONY W. ISHII, RETIRED.

LASHANN MOUTIQUE DEARCY HALL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE NICHOLAS G. GARAUPTIS, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MICHAEL GRECO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSEPH R. GUCCIONE, TERM EXPIRED.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 12, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

JO ANN ROONEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE ROBERT O. WORK, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

MICHAEL G. CARROLL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE DONALD A. GAMBATESA, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

SHARON BLOCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2019, VICE NANCY JEAN SCHIFFER, TERM EXPIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 14, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAYOR MARIAN
DELEON GUERRERO TUDELA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, June 8, 2014 marked a pivotal moment in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands, when Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela was sworn in not only as the first female mayor of Saipan, but the first female mayor of any of our municipalities. Mayor Tudela assumed this position by operation of law upon the untimely death of Mayor Donald Glenn Flores. Though residing at the time in the mainland United States, she honorably agreed to serve her community through the remainder of his term, and returned to Saipan.

With over 21 years in the private sector and over 10 years in government service, Mayor Tudela has a long and rich professional history. And this is not her first time to answer to the people directly. From 1994 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, Mayor Tudela was a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. She has also served on the boards of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

As mayor, Ms. Tudela oversees a staff of approximately 40 hard-working members of our community. Her office undertakes programs and projects that range from improving local infrastructure to fostering better relations with our tourism partner countries. For example, each year, the mayor's office sponsors exchange programs among our high school students and students from Japan and Korea. And on any given day, you can find her employees trimming trees to make our beautiful lagoon more visible to tourists traveling on Beach Road, patching potholes on secondary roads or catching stray dogs that roam the streets. Couples intending to wed visit the mayor's office to obtain their marriage license, and those who do not drive but desire identification cards can receive those through her office. The mayor's office also spearheads the annual Liberation Day festivities on Saipan, which celebrates the freeing of our islands from occupying Japanese forces by the American military in 1944.

Mayor Tudela is now one of the highest-ranking female officials ever to hold office in the Northern Mariana Islands. And as such, she serves as a role model and a reminder to all women that they have come of age in our local political arena. But championing women's issues is nothing new to Mayor Tudela. She formerly served as a Governor's Special Assistant for Women's Affairs, and over the years has participated in numerous symposia

addressing issues of import to women in the Pacific region.

Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela's willingness to step into this position so unexpectedly, serve so unassumingly and carry on the fine tradition not only of her predecessor but of the mayors of all our islands should serve as an inspiration for women, but more, should serve as a model for all people who aspire to serve their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES DEREK HILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Brigadier General James Derek Hill of the Iowa Air National Guard and to congratulate him on his illustrious 29-year military career.

General Hill began his military service in 1985 upon receiving his commission through Direct Appointment. Eighteen years later, General Hill joined the Iowa Air National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel and has faithfully devoted the following decade to guiding our state's men and women in uniform. General Hill retired as the Iowa Air National Guard's Deputy Adjutant General where he served as principal advisor to Iowa's Adjutant General while organizing, manning, equipping, and training more than 1,800 airmen to accomplish missions assigned at both the state and national level. General Hill's unfailing leadership has proven to be instrumental in preparing the men and women of the Iowa Air National Guard for numerous successful deployments in an often chaotic and unpredictable environment.

Throughout nearly three decades of selfless service, General Hill has earned numerous decorations for his consistent leadership and uncompromising standards. Most recently, General Hill was nominated by Iowa's Adjutant General Timothy Orr to receive the hallowed Legion of Merit for his "exceptionally meritorious conduct" as Iowa's Assistant Adjutant General over the past four years. I believe it goes without saying that the Iowa Air National Guard's world-renowned 21st century capabilities would not be possible without the positive and professional guidance expertly offered by General Hill over the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Brigadier General James Derek Hill a great debt of gratitude for his decades of selfless service and sacrifice. His unwavering commitment to his country and fellow Americans is a testament to our nation's service members and our great state. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in thanking General Hill and congratulating

him on a truly stellar career. In retirement, General Hill leaves behind a grateful state and nation and I wish him, and his wife Rhonda, the very best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY DANNY OLIVER

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative AMI BERA, Representative DORIS MATSUI, and Representative DOUG LAMALFA, in honor of the service and sacrifice of Sacramento County, California, Sheriff Deputy Danny Oliver.

Danny Oliver grew up in the Del Paso Heights neighborhood of Sacramento, where he graduated from Grant High School. During his youth, Danny experienced parts of the community that he was determined to improve. This drove his desire to work in law enforcement, even though he came from a family of firefighters.

Danny finished the academy at the top of his class and served with the Sheriff's Department for fifteen years. In keeping with the lifelong goal of cleaning up his community, Deputy Oliver worked on a highly competitive team of problem-oriented policing officers.

Tragically, Deputy Oliver was killed in the line of duty on October 24, 2014, during a violent crime spree that would later take the life of another officer, Detective Michael David Davis, Jr. Deputy Oliver died for his love of and devotion to his community.

Danny loved going into his job an hour early every morning, knowing he was putting his life on the line to make a difference in Sacramento County. While his sacrifice is to be honored, this is not his legacy. Rather, Danny's legacy is the memory of the man he lived his life as: a devoted husband to his wife Susan, a father who guided and supported his two children, and a dedicated officer.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Danny Oliver will be deeply and sorely missed not only by his family, but also by the community that he tirelessly worked to better. The State of California is particularly blessed to have such men of character and heroism protecting our citizens.

Danny was known for influencing his children to do what they love, just as he did. We can all learn from his heart and strength of character. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his sacrifice and to honor his memory.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXIS HARDRICK—
RECIPIENT OF THE GIRL SCOUT
SILVER AWARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexis Hardrick of Girl Scout Cadette Troop #1677, who recently earned the Girl Scout's prestigious Silver Award.

The Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can earn and was presented to Alexis for her project on raising awareness about Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Additionally, Alexis also earned the Girl Scout Journey Award and completed over 50 hours of work and planning devoted to this cause.

In the spring of 2013, Alexis began to research CF, a disease her sister has been diagnosed with. Shortly thereafter, she compiled a learning board exhibit which detailed the effects caused by CF.

Over the next several months, Miss Hardrick traveled to various events around Lewisburg, Tennessee, discussing her learning board and arranging activities to promote a greater understanding of CF. Moreover, during the fall of 2013, Alexis enlisted the help of her Girl Scout Troop to host CF Awareness Day and from all accounts was a great success.

On behalf of the people of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, I want to congratulate Alexis on receiving the Silver Award and thank her for her dedication and hard work in raising awareness for Cystic Fibrosis.

CONGRATULATING THE JOHN F.
KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WIN-
NING THE CHICAGO CITY CHAM-
PIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John F. Kennedy High School Girls Volleyball team. On October 17, the Crusaders won the Chicago Public League Championship and became the first non-selective enrollment school to win in nearly a decade. I appreciate all of the incredibly hard work and dedication everyone on the team puts into their sport and would like to congratulate them on this tremendous achievement.

The 25–21, 22–25, 25–20 win over Whitney Young Magnet School was a monumental victory for neighborhood schools. Coached by Tim Laughlin and Kimberly Thinnies, the Crusaders finished the season with a 16–1 record, securing the top seed in the tournament. To get to the championship, the Crusaders had to get through Young High School and Payton High School, who between them have won 7 city championships. The Crusaders are composed of seniors Grace Jurevis, Nebal Algoleh, Dana Majerczy, Sydney McCarthy, Melissa Mazur, and Morgan Paske, along with freshman Johanna Hoeftling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this impressive accomplishment made by the John F. Kennedy High School Girls Volleyball team and to congratulate them on their city championship win.

RECOGNIZING DR. SHAFI AHMED
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND
SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE
GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SO-
CIETY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Shafi Ahmed, President of the Genesee County Medical Society, for his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to community.

Dr. Ahmed lived in several countries before moving to the United States of America, where he now practices internal medicine at Court Street Family Medicine. Dr. Ahmed is a kind-hearted individual who has lived a broad life.

After graduation from medical school, he worked in the capital of Bangladesh and completed two years of surgical residency. He then went to Algeria to practice in a government clinic for four years. He was recruited to Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iran but political chaos eventually landed him in Algeria.

Dr. Ahmed's wife, Ruqsana, became pregnant while the Ahmeds were living in Algeria. She returned to Bangladesh to stay with his parents and joined Dr. Ahmed eight months later in the United States where he had begun studying for Masters in Public Health in Dallas. Dr. Ahmed then switched to a research associate position in a cancer research institute in Dallas for three years. His "big break," as he refers to it, occurred when Dr. Norwood Hill took him under his wing along with a Pakistani oncologist, Dr. Amanullah Khan, helped him get a permanent visa and a residency at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI.

Dr. Ahmed decided to stay in Michigan to raise his family and make a living practicing medicine. He is honored to be a resident of Genesee County, and we are grateful to have him. Our community is made better because of people such as him.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Shafi Ahmed for his resilience, strong leadership, and unwavering commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
HENRY ERNEST LOWENSTEIN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Colorado's most respected and honorable residents, Mr. Henry Ernest Lowenstein, who passed away October 7 at age 89. This remarkable man merits both our

recognition for decades of work in the theater and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to improve our community. He leaves behind an impressive body of theatrical work as well as his legacy of encouragement and mentorship not just in the arts, but for social justice as well. He made an enormous impact on scores of lives and is widely considered one of the most important people in the shaping of Denver.

Henry Lowenstein was born in Berlin on the 4th of July in 1925, to parents Max and Maria Lowenstein, whose home became a magnet for that city's arts scene. In fact, Henry often told the story of listening to Kurt Weill compose the now classic Three Penny Opera in his parent's apartment. But Berlin in the 1930's was no place to raise a Jewish family. Fearing for the safety of their son following the harrowing Kristallnacht in 1938, Henry would become part of history himself as a child of the Kindertransport program, which saved the lives of thousands of children before the outbreak of World War II. Miraculously, the Lowenstein family was reunited after the war and was able to immigrate to America in 1947. Consistently fighting against discrimination in any form, Henry held a deep compassion for artists and outcasts. This passion, born from the horrors of Nazi Germany, would shape the artist he would become.

After working for years as a foundry man and a gravedigger, Henry joined the U.S. Air Force, where he worked as an illustrator before attending Yale University. While at Yale he studied theatrical design and worked as a stagehand on Broadway. It was during that time he received a call from the Denver Post publisher, Mrs. Helen Bonfils, who was the wife of theater producer George Somnes. That 1956 request to run what would become the nationally recognized Bonfils Theatre changed not only Henry's life but the lives of hundreds of artists over the next five decades. Henry earned the nickname "Father of Denver Theater." The Bonfils Theatre produced more than 400 plays, operas, ballet, children's theater, and touring productions until it closed in 1986 by which time it had been renamed the Lowenstein Theater. It was then that Mr. Lowenstein retired—for the first time. The next stage in Mr. Lowenstein's theatrical life was to found the Denver Civic Theater which he ran until his second retirement in 1995, although Henry never fully retired. He was a prolific scenic and costume designer and contributed designs into the early 2000's.

Mr. Lowenstein's passion for theater was equaled by his commitment to human rights. Henry was a prolific mentor, particularly for women and people of color. His hiring practices, like his theatrical productions, consistently broke down racial and societal barriers. His work was so important to the theatrical community that the Colorado Theater Guild's annual theater awards were renamed "The Henry's" in his honor in 2008. In his later years, Mr. Lowenstein was also actively involved in the historical preservation of personal artifacts related to his family's experience in Nazi Germany.

Mr. Lowenstein is survived by his wife, Deborah Goodman Lowenstein and sons David, Daniel and Joshua by his late wife, Doris Brewer, and his granddaughters Sarah and Nyssa.

Please join me in commending Mr. Henry Lowenstein for his leadership in the search for justice, equality and beauty through the vehicle called theater; which dares to show us our humanity. Henry's generosity of spirit, kindness and compassion continues to enhance our lives and builds a better future for us all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.
VERNON H. HUKLE JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Vernon H. Hukle Jr. of Winchester, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Hukle served our nation in uniform from October 20, 1942 to November 20, 1945.

As a young man, Mr. Hukle began his service in the United States Marine Corps as a Corporal within the 2nd Marine Division—8th Regiment—1st Battalion—Company C 182. He entered the war against the Axis Powers by storming the deadly beaches of Okinawa and fought valiantly, sustaining serious injuries during combat.

On June 20, 1945, Mr. Hukle received two separate bullet wounds to his arm and leg. Throughout the heated battle, Mr. Hukle witnessed many of his comrades killed in action including the 10th Army Commander, Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. The battled raged on for two more days until Allied Forces were able claim victory in controlling the island on June 22, 1945. Mr. Hukle received two Purple Hearts for being wounded in action by an enemy of the United States.

Mr. Hukle embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and work ethic. He served this nation proudly, answering the call to prevent the Axis Powers threat from arriving on our shores.

Mr. Hukle's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING CORETHA MACK

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Coretha Mack of Clermont, Florida as she celebrates her 90th birthday on November 14, 2014.

Ms. Mack was born in Orlando where she spent her childhood and graduated from Jones High School in 1946. She then moved to Hartford, Connecticut where she lived and worked for more than 50 years. In Hartford, she was a member of Faith Congregational Church and served on the church's Diaconate Board and Board of Trustees. Ms. Mack returned to Florida in 2002 and has been an active member of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church.

Her faith and dedication to service have been an inspiration to others, and she continues to cherish her relationships with God, her family and her friends.

I wish Ms. Mack a very happy birthday, and all the best in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Since its founding in 1889, Holy Trinity has been at the center of the religious life in Delaware County, and the congregation lives its faith of love and charity every day. Members of the Holy Trinity family are well known for their commitment to their community through charitable fundraising and volunteer projects to provide meals to the homeless and clothing to the disadvantaged. Under the leadership of Pastor Gordon Simmons, Holy Trinity's membership has grown and the church community has been strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, its leadership and its congregants for 125 years of faithful service to our community, and wish them good health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING ST. JANE DE CHANTAL PARISH ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Jane de Chantal Parish on its 60th anniversary as a Catholic community of faith in Chicago, Illinois. St. Jane de Chantal embodies the core pillars of the Roman Catholic Church and its congregation upholds the values and practices of Catholicism through their devotion to charity and spiritual development. From humble beginnings in 1954, Father John Ward organized the first Mass at the Mark Twain Public School, which he rented for \$96 on a Sunday. Today, the parish celebrates 60 years of faithful service to God and to the Garfield Ridge community and to the 3rd District of Illinois.

St. Jane de Chantal Parish is currently led by Fr. Ed Cronin, with Fr. Joe Mol in residence and Fr. John Wachala as the Polish Associate. As part of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the parish offers daily masses, community-building events, and countless fundraising and community-outreach events. The Parish hosts blood drives on Saturdays and food drives on the weekends. In November, they run a Hungry and Homeless Turkey Tree program in which families from the Parish spon-

sor needy families from the community and provide them with Thanksgiving meals.

The Polish Ministry of St. Jane de Chantal supports the Polish community by offering five services a week as well as other special Masses and events. The school, led by Principal Nancy Andrasco, provides a Catholic education for children starting in pre-school up to the eighth grade. Children are taught the Catholic ideals of love, sacrifice, and charity while receiving an outstanding education in a compassionate and supportive environment.

I am happy to join with St. Jane de Chantal Parish and help commemorate its 60th anniversary. I am confident that they will continue to perpetuate Catholic ideals by providing spiritual nourishment through worship and service to their community. Mr. Speaker, St. Jane de Chantal is an exemplary Catholic parish and I ask my colleagues to join me as I extend my blessings to all the parishioners on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDGEWATER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Edgewater Behavioral Health Services as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the organization is hosting a celebratory event on Friday, October 17, 2014, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, in Merrillville, Indiana.

The growing need for quality mental health care in the United States led to Congress passing the Community Mental Health Act of 1963. The Gary Community Mental Health Center was one of the original facilities set up in Indiana after the passage of this bill. In 1974, due to the hard work of many leaders in Gary at the time, the center was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Over the years, the organization continued to grow, expanding its range of services and leadership. Under the direction of current president and chief executive officer, Dr. Danita Johnson Hughes, the center's name was changed to Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living, Inc. and, in 2014, began doing business under the name Edgewater Behavioral Health Services. Edgewater provides services ranging from crisis intervention and addiction services to day treatment, out-patient programs, and residential services, to name a few. Due to the outstanding leadership of Dr. Johnson Hughes and the entire staff, Edgewater currently provides services for over 30,000 clients each year. The organization also provides over \$3 million in services to charity cases.

Edgewater partners with other service providers, groups, and organizations in order to meet the needs of each person that walks through its doors. This year, Edgewater is honoring Dr. Daniel Lowery, Ph.D., president of Calumet College of Saint Joseph, with the Commonweal Award for Personal and Professional Leadership. This award recognizes distinctive contributions made by individuals who

hold the value of the common good over personal gain. The Sojourner Truth House, a ministry for women and children in Gary, will be honored with the Commonweal Award for Institutional Leadership. This award recognizes institutional and organizational leadership that promotes the common good within communities faced with long-term, difficult challenges. For their exceptional commitment to the community of Northwest Indiana, and for touching the lives of countless individuals, each recipient is worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Edgewater Behavioral Health Services as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary. Edgewater has played an important role in enriching the quality of life in Northwest Indiana. As a community we are grateful and proud to have had its support during the past 40 years. For its remarkable leadership, devotion, and compassion shown in its service to so many in need, Edgewater is worthy of the highest praise.

CONGRATULATING JASMINE
BABERS FOR RECEIVING USA
NETWORK'S CHARACTERS UNITE
AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jasmine Babers of Rock Island, Illinois, who is one of ten individuals nationwide to receive the USA Network's Characters Unite award this year.

Jasmine Babers, at a very young age, has shown an amazing amount of dedication, hard work, and drive. She is the founder and publisher of Love, GIRLS, a magazine that strives to build confidence and self-esteem in teenage girls. Jasmine's hard work has paid off as she was able to publish the first issue in 2012. Love, GIRLS has expanded its distribution over the past two years from Illinois to include Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, as well as the District of Columbia, reaching more than 5,000 young girls. Jasmine also has led local events, in conjunction with her magazine, that help bring attention to bullying and the dangerous effects that it can have on our youth.

The Characters Unite award is presented annually to ten individuals who through extraordinary efforts are able to combat hate, intolerance, and discrimination, as well as make significant contributions towards promoting greater tolerance, respect, and acceptance in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to know that individuals like Jasmine Babers are making a difference in our communities. Once again I would like to congratulate her on her momentous achievement and wish her luck with her ongoing efforts, as well as her upcoming collegiate career.

HONORING PARK LABREA NEWS
AND BEVERLY PRESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

Park Labrea News and Beverly Press has been a local paper and critical presence in Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Hollywood and West Hollywood since 1946. Park Labrea news and Beverly Press have a long and important history in our community. Residents of Park Labrea began distributing a newsletter throughout the apartment complex in 1946 and within a few months "Parklabrea News" was born.

In 1948, Joseph Duplain took over the newsletter and converted it into a newspaper. In the 1950s, Nan Dayhoff became editor and ran the paper for the next twenty years, publishing twice a month. In the 1970s veteran TV newsman Charles "Chuck" Riley acquired the paper.

In 1990, the newspaper was sold to the current publishers, Michael and Karen Villalpando. By June 1990, the Villalpandos had expanded the paper to a weekly installation that reaches more than 5,000 homes in neighborhoods in Los Angeles. In 1991, the circulation was expanded again and the name Beverly Press was added to the original Park Labrea News masthead.

Michael and Karen Villalpando have been the publishers for the last twenty-five years and have transformed the paper from a 3,000 circulation, bi-weekly newspaper, to a 13,000 paid circulation newspaper, delivered weekly with the Los Angeles Times. The Villalpando's goal has been to provide the best local news coverage to the residents of Park Labrea, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, the Fairfax District, Hollywood and West Hollywood. They have proved extremely successful in their goal. Local community members look forward to receiving the paper every Thursday and rely on it to get global news and community happenings.

Michael and Karen Villalpando, through the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press, play a key role in sharing national, state, and local news within the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Michael and Karen and the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH
LESLIE BUDDY COLE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Leslie Buddy Cole, Jr. for a noteworthy life dedicated to public service. Mr. Cole passed away at the age of 80, having lived a selfless life as a veteran of the Texas Air National Guard, public servant, and civic leader.

Buddy was born on August 19th, 1934 and grew up picking cotton in Krum, Texas. His commitment to public service and civic leadership started at a young age, notably when he founded the Krum Young Citizens Club and subsequently served as its first president. Buddy's public service career included serving on Pilot Point's City Council, first by election in 1981 and again by appointment in 1986. Additionally, he served as Denton County Judge for 4 years after being elected in 1982 and then served as Denton County Commissioner for Precinct 1 after winning election in 1986. Buddy is deserving of recognition not only for his continuous dedication to civic leadership and public service, but also for the example he demonstrated in his personal life and character. Buddy was regarded throughout the community as a pragmatic problem solver, something that no doubt contributed to his success in public office.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Norma, his sons Alan and Leslie, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. I join his family and the community of lives he touched in celebrating the accomplishments of Buddy Cole. It is my privilege to represent the 26th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 DISTIN-
GUISHED CITIZENS AWARD RE-
CIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Monday, November 3, 2014, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the community in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Michael and Jill Schrage.

Michael Schrage, president and chief executive officer of Centier Bank, is a truly innovative business leader. Mike became the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the First Bank of Whiting, which was renamed Centier Bank years later. This family-owned bank has grown throughout the years, and today Centier includes over fifty branches in Indiana. Under Mr. Schrage's leadership, an award winning lender division was established, a financial literacy program was introduced, and the company has been named one of Indiana's best places to work for the past eight years. This is unquestionably due to Mike's value-based work ethic, and the importance he places on Centier's most important resource: its employees. Additionally, Mike gives much of his time and efforts to charitable endeavors, including the Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few.

Jill Schrage is a true humanitarian in every sense of the word. She gives selflessly and passionately of her time and efforts to various organizations and civic activities throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond, including the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, TradeWinds, Speaking of Women's Health, the Girl Scouts of America, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Opportunity Enterprises, and the Valparaiso Art Advisory Committee, among others. For her truly exceptional devotion to such worthy causes, Jill serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Michael and Jill Schrage. For their lifetime of leadership and outstanding dedication to serving those in need, Mike and Jill are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE CLASS OF 1964 FROM WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty veterans of the Class of 1964 from Winters High School as they celebrate their 50th class reunion this year.

These twenty men embody a spirit that echoes throughout Texas, a spirit that has made America strong. Their decision to join and serve is a reflection of their love for country and the understanding that everyone has a part to play in making our nation great. Winters High School wishes to honor these proud Blizzards: Kenneth Adams, United States Army; Adolfo Arroyo, United States Air Force (ret.); Glynn Awalt, National Guard; Dickie Bellis, United States Army; Alan Benson, United States Marine Corps; Ricky Boles, United States Army; Ronald Colburn, United States Army; Lynn Cornelius, United States Navy; Earl Green, United States Air Force; William Green, United States Army (ret.); B.M. Grenwelge, Jr., National Guard; Steve Grissom, United States Army; Gary Hester, United States Army and National Guard (ret.); Mike Hill, National Guard; Johnney Hopper, United States Army; Charles Nitsch, United States Army; Mike Mitchell, United States Army; Louis Simpson, United States Marine Corps; Arnold Thormeyer, United States Air Force; Marcelo Torres, United States Army.

These veterans embody the qualities that are necessary to serve a greater good, without which, our nation could not secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Today, we show our debt of gratitude for these men and women and the displays of greatness that have defined us as a nation.

Colleagues, please join me in honoring these veterans and their families for their dedication and service to our great nation.

IN HONOR OF BEVERLY ANN NEWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Beverly Ann Newell, a truly remarkable woman who enriched us all. Beverly's recent death has left her family and friends with a deep sense of grief, though the memory of her life still shines brightly.

Beverly was born in December, 1936 in Albuquerque N.M., the descendant of New Mexico and Colorado pioneers. She moved with her family to Seattle where she grew into a vibrant young woman. Beverly attended the University of Washington where she began her lifetime career in physical therapy. She quickly followed with a masters degree in physical therapy from Stanford University. Then in 1961, she found herself in Switzerland where she met a young traveling American student named Roger Newell.

In 1965, Beverly and Roger married and began a long honeymoon on the Newell family ranch in Big Sur. After living in the San Francisco Bay Area for a few years, they returned to Big Sur to raise their children Mark, Jonathan, and Annika. At the same time, Beverly became an integral part of the Big Sur community. She took active roles with the Big Sur Volunteer Ambulance Service and the Big Sur Historical Society. And in an effort that has had tremendous long term value, Beverly helped co-found the Big Sur Land Trust, which has played a pivotal role in the intervening years in preserving Big Sur's incomparable natural landscape.

As their children entered high school, Beverly and Roger moved up the coast to the Monterey Peninsula. Beverly became active with her church, Mayflower Presbyterian, where her deep faith helped her serve many years as a deacon. As her children grew and moved away, Beverly returned to her professional life as a physical therapist working with elderly patients in local nursing homes as well as people suffering from cerebral palsy. She also devoted herself to the lives of her grandchildren: Kyler, Micaela, Ohanapecosh, and Tole.

Beverly was the sort of person who had a tremendous influence on the lives of the people around her. She was invariably kind and loving. People's lives were enriched from the simple joy of being with her. She was also inexhaustibly creative. She was a phenomenal pianist who could play just about anything from ear. She also loved creating beauty with her hands whether through weaving, sewing, ceramics, gardening, or many other ways.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our condolences to Beverly's family and friends. While we mourn her death, we celebrate the gift that her life was to all of us. The world is a far better place because Beverly lived her life with her own particular style of love and joy.

HONORING DR. FRANCIS X. VAN LIESHOUT

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Francis X. Van Lieshout on his 87th birthday, which he celebrated on October 11, 2014. Dr. Van Lieshout has been an integral member of the Fox Valley community and I am proud to recognize his dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

Dr. Van Lieshout was born in Kimberly, Wisconsin on October 11, 1927. After graduating from Kimberly High School in 1945, Dr. Van Lieshout served for three years overseas in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning to the United States, he received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Marquette University.

Dr. Van Lieshout returned to Little Chute with his wife Josephine after graduating from medical school. There, he and his wife raised seven children. He practiced family medicine in Little Chute for 42 years, working long hours at the hospital and making house calls following work. After retiring from medicine, he dedicated his time to volunteering in the community, working at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Bernadette's parish in Appleton, WI.

He has received multiple awards for his service to the community, dedication to Catholic education, and service to the poor. In 1999, Van Lieshout Park was named in his honor in Little Chute.

Today, Dr. Van Lieshout and his wife live in Appleton, where he enjoys volunteering, spending time with his family and friends, and fishing. It is truly an honor to represent an extraordinary citizen who has dedicated his life to serving the people of the Fox River Valley in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 8th district of Wisconsin, I congratulate Dr. Van Lieshout on his 87th birthday and sincerely thank him for his service to Wisconsin.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JEAN BOYD

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Judge Jean Boyd, who has been a proven leader in Fort Worth, Texas.

Judge Jean Boyd is the presiding judge of the 323rd Family District Court, which serves Tarrant County as its Juvenile Court. Judge Boyd has presided in this Court since 1995, having previously served as its Associate Judge since 1987. She is retiring from the bench in December 2014 after 27 years of judicial service.

Throughout her career, Judge Boyd has worked to serve her community and her profession as a whole. She is the Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and she has

previously served as Chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. She served on the Board of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission from 2005 to 2011. In January 2014, she was appointed by Governor Perry to the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families.

Judge Boyd is a past board member of the Tarrant County Bar Association and a past president of the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court, the Tarrant County Young Lawyers' Association and the Tarrant County Women Lawyers' Association. Judge Boyd was honored as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Tarrant County in 1988 and received The Professionalism Award from the Tarrant County Bar Association in 2001. In 2011, Judge Boyd became the first woman to receive the Tarrant County Bar Association's prestigious Silver Gavel Award, which is given to jurists who have made a substantial contribution to the bench by exemplifying ability, integrity and courage.

In 2000, Judge Boyd spearheaded the implementation of National Adoption Day in Tarrant County and has participated in every National Adoption Day event since then. She was selected as Judge of the Year by Texas CASA in 1999. In 2002, Judge Boyd received the Judge Scott Moore Award from Child Advocates of Tarrant County. In 2003, she was the recipient of the Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She served on the founding boards of CASA of Tarrant County and the Alliance for Children and is currently a member of the board of Gill Children's Services.

Judge Boyd has dedicated her career to making Tarrant County a better place to live, and her contributions to our community are undeniable. I join in congratulating her on her outstanding service and retirement.

HONORING JERRY HANAS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Jerry Hanas and to wish him well upon his retirement as General Manager of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Mr. Hanas's many years of service and expertise in his field have been a remarkable asset to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. In honor of Jerry's retirement, a celebratory reception was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Indiana.

Northwest Indiana's extensive transportation network earns this region's reputation for being the crossroads of America. Interstates 80, 94, 90, and 65 traverse our landscape, as do the railroad tracks servicing the Norfolk Southern, Canadian National, and CSX rail lines, connecting travelers and business interests alike from the East to West Coasts. Most notably, the South Shore Rail Line, a passenger rail service offered by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), provides riders access to the envi-

rons of Chicago and its \$500 billion economy. Under Mr. Hanas's direction, NICTD and the South Shore Rail Line have flourished.

Established in 1908, the South Shore Rail Line provided passenger service to the city of Chicago as well as to the recreational opportunities found in Northwest Indiana, given its proximity to Lake Michigan and South Bend. With the advent of the interstate system, and the newfound ability to travel between neighboring communities with ease, ridership along the South Shore Rail Line began to decline. In order to prevent the complete loss of this asset, the state of Indiana created NICTD for the sole purpose of maintaining and operating the passenger line. Jerry Hanas was hired as the General Manager of NICTD upon its creation in June 1977, and it is here where he has served the railroad for 37 years.

NICTD's success is due to Jerry's competence, hard work, and dedication to a long-term vision in which passenger rail service is improved and expanded throughout the region. He effectively coordinated NICTD's purchase of the South Shore railroad and passenger assets, resulting in a stable and reliable relationship between the passenger and freight services. This acquisition required a steadfast commitment to a series of strategic investments to ensure the line's continuation. To that end, under Jerry's leadership, since 1977, over \$500 million has been dedicated to upgrading the rolling stock, stations, track, catenary, bridges, and signals associated with the line in order to enhance safety and to make much needed capacity-related track improvements.

Currently, NICTD is in the process of conducting the appropriate environmental studies as part of its effort to expand services to the suburban areas in Northwest Indiana. This expansion is a key component to capitalizing upon our region's transportation network and maximizing economic development opportunities. Although Jerry Hanas retires this fall, he leaves a completely rebuilt and vibrant South Shore Rail Line to serve as his legacy and a well-established corporate vision to keep the momentum going for future generations.

Jerry's commitment to his career and to the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his family. He and his wonderful wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Melissa, son-in-law, Tom, and one beloved grandson, Donovan. They also have one son, Roger, whose fiancée, Annie, will be joining Jerry's exceptional family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Jerry Hanas for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Jerry's impact on the region will be evident for generations to come, and he is worthy of the highest praise. I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF DETECTIVE
MICHAEL DAVID DAVIS, JR.

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOUG LAMALFA, in honor of the service and sacrifice of Placer County, California, Sheriff Detective Michael David Davis, Jr.

A long-time resident of Roseville, Detective Davis was a man of integrity and compassion. He cared about the community and took initiative to protect and better it. Such an example would be when Michael organized a funeral for an abandoned baby.

On October 24th, Detective Davis displayed immense courage and gallantry during a manhunt for the murderer of a fellow officer, Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver. Detective Davis was killed in the line of duty, just as his father was struck down 26 years prior to the day.

Detective Davis faithfully and honorably served the Placer County community, joining the Sheriff's office in 1996. For the past fifteen years, Michael contributed to his family's legacy of law enforcement, just as his father did before him. Michael tirelessly worked as a homicide investigator, but he will be remembered for much more.

His bravery and kind soul will never be forgotten. He was a family man, devoted to his loving wife and four children. Michael is also survived by his four siblings, mother and stepfather.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Michael David Davis, Jr. will be deeply and sorely missed not only by his family, but also by his community. The State of California, and particularly the Fourth Congressional District, was blessed to have had such a man of character and heroism protecting our citizens.

Michael's legacy will live on in the lives that he touched. Just as he served, he died embodying the virtues that form the foundation of this great nation. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his sacrifice for Placer County and to honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA T.
WOOD ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY
ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Virginia T. Wood on her 100th birthday. Ms. Wood has led a remarkable life as a lifelong resident of Chicago and has lived in my district for over 60 years.

Virginia Wood has devoted much of her time as a High School Physical Education Teacher for the Chicago Board of Education, teaching at several schools including South Shore High School and Bogan High School. Ms. Wood was then promoted to Coordinator of girl's athletics for the Chicago Board of

Education, eventually retiring with over 26 years of service. Even after retirement, she remained an active supporter of girls high school sports.

Ms. Wood has enjoyed a very active life, continuing to swim and bowl until she reached the age of 96. She has never missed voting in an election, and became involved with the neighborhood watch program for the Chicago Police Department. She is a model participant in her community, and we should all try to emulate her outstanding service.

Ms. Wood has led an extraordinary life that has given so much to others. I join her many family members and friends in celebrating this event and I wish her more years of happiness, fulfillment, and health. Congratulations to Ms. Wood on her centennial birthday milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARCUS HIGH
SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another stellar achievement by the Marcus High School Marching Band. This is the fifth time the Marcus High School Band has won first place in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching competition and been crowned state champions! The Marcus High School Marching Band has furthered their already impressive record of four consecutive state marching finals victories, cementing their UIL record.

The Marcus High School Marching Band has a talented and dedicated leadership team, headed by Amanda Drinkwater, Director of Bands, and Associate Directors: Kennan Wylie, Chase Howard, and David Simon as well as Color Guard Director, John Leonard. The student members of the Marauder Band have worked long hours over many months to bring their winning performance "Imperial Treasures" to fruition. They have been capably led by Drum Majors Amanda Elmendorf, Hannah Hadden, and Nicholas Kohn. Edward S. Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas within the Lewisville Independent School District. The school's administrators, teachers and students as well as its committed booster organization have wholeheartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended for their contributions to its great success.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band, winner of the 2014 Class 6A Texas UIL State Marching Band Contest. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REGIS
GROFF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Denver's most respected residents, former Colorado State Senator Regis Groff, who passed away on October 5 at age 79. This remarkable man merits both our recognition and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to stand for what's right. He leaves behind an impressive record of leadership in social justice and education, and he made an enormous impact on many lives.

Regis Groff wasn't afraid to fight the tough battles when he knew he was standing up for others. He worked to strengthen education and to ensure a fair system for everyone. He was an educator, a state senator and a community servant. We in Colorado are fortunate to have had Mr. Groff laboring for equality in our community. The legacy that he leaves behind should inspire us all to continue his fight with a measure of dedication with which he worked.

Born in a small town in Illinois, Regis Groff first came to Denver while serving in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base for several months. He returned to Illinois and attended Western Illinois University earning a BA in 1962. When it came time to settle down and raise a family, he chose to make Denver home. He taught at Smiley and Lake Junior High Schools before starting an African-American history class at East High School. Later he earned a master's in Education from the University of Denver in 1972.

A long-standing interest in politics led him to run for the Colorado State Senate. He was successful in his bid and served from 1974 to 1994. During those twenty years, he demonstrated time and again his willingness to fight for fairness and justice, including an effort to divest Colorado from South Africa's apartheid government. He cites the highlight of his time in the Senate as passing legislation that established a holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. in Colorado. His colleagues recognized his leadership and elected him the first African-American Minority Leader of the Colorado State Senate. His efforts were also rewarded with numerous awards from the community, including Legislator of the Year from the Associated Press.

Roy Romer appointed Regis as the first Director of the new Youthful Offenders System. His dedication to community service then continued in his role as Executive Director of the Metro Black Church Initiative. He was selfless to the end. As a teacher, Mr. Groff had an impact on countless students. I hope some of them are as inspired by him as I am and will carry on his work to fight the good fight. His talents and perseverance are an example for us all.

Please join me in commending Regis Groff. His leadership in the search for justice and equality enriches our lives and builds a better future for everyone living in Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
ROSCOE R. CASSIDY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of an outstanding individual, Mr. Roscoe R. Cassidy of Preston, Kentucky. Mr. Cassidy served our nation in military uniform from June 3, 1942 to October 9, 1945 and recently passed-away at the age of 107.

As a young man, Mr. Cassidy began his service in the United States Army as a Private First Class assigned to Company E, 335th Engineering Regiment, Duty Soldier 188. During the United States' campaign to achieve victory over the Axis Powers, Mr. Cassidy fought his way from Tunisia, Africa, up through southern France, across Italy and did not stop until the Allies achieved victory in Germany.

Mr. Cassidy's valiant performance fighting in four major campaigns earned him great distinction, and for his actions he received the European Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, four Bronze Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After victoriously returning to his home in Preston, Kentucky, Mr. Cassidy began his career of farming and working for the Bath County Road Department. Mr. Cassidy enjoyed life and loved to dance while listening to country and bluegrass music.

Mr. Cassidy's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING MS. CLARA I.
SISSEL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Clara I. Sissel of Odessa, Texas. Since 2002, Ms. Sissel has sent more than 1,200 care packages to our armed services members stationed overseas. For her efforts, she is being honored by her family, friends, and the members of the Omni Club for her tireless and selfless service to our armed forces.

Ms. Sissel has made her care packages, or love boxes as she prefers to call them, a personal mission to show each service member that someone back home is thinking of them and cares about their well being. Although fourteen years is a long time, her service did not start in 2002. Ms. Sissel started her mission during the Vietnam War. Through the years, she has sent at least one package per week at her own expense. As a token of remembrance, Ms. Sissel has created scrap books containing every letter that she has received from recipients of her care packages.

However, her efforts did not stop at her front door. Ms. Sissel has also led many Odessa organizations to join her mission in showing

our armed service members that they are in our thoughts and prayers back home. She has brought together the VFW and local churches to help in running community care package drives. These care package drives allow people to donate goods or their time to help fill care packages for our veterans.

Clara Sissel's selflessness and determined dedication embody the American spirit and has lifted the hearts of thousands of service members worldwide. Her weekly token of appreciation reminds our service members that their daily sacrifices are not taken for granted, and I am sure they are thankful for Ms. Sissel's support. I am honored to recognize her as a true patriot in our community and to share her story with you all today.

IN HONOR OF BOB LEE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Lee, a champion for justice who committed his life to public service and worked tirelessly to assure that the Central Coast of California is a safe place to live for all.

Bob launched his career in 1985 as a prosecutor in Monterey County before joining the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office in 1988, where he served as Assistant District Attorney for fourteen years. Bob was a notably gifted trial attorney, having never lost a case in Santa Cruz County.

Bob was elected Santa Cruz District Attorney in 2002. As District Attorney, he made significant structural improvements to the District Attorney's Office. He led efforts in developing and strengthening specialized units that prosecuted gang members, violent criminals, sex offenders, and cases involving environment and consumer protection abuses. Bob also played a pivotal role in establishing the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force, which centered on the containment of gang activity and prosecution of gang members.

A native of Santa Cruz, Bob was the youngest of four brothers. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from California State University of Sacramento in 1980. His Juris Doctorate was obtained only four years later from the University of Santa Clara.

After a long and brave battle with cancer, the Central Coast of California mourns the loss of one of its strongest leaders. Bob will be remembered for his incredible achievements in building a safer and more thriving environment in Santa Cruz County. He gave his life to his service and his fervor for justice will forever remain unmatched. The District Attorney's office will certainly cherish Bob's unforgettable dedication and will continue to carry out his resolute spirit in future pursuits. Bob was also an amazing family man, and is survived by his wife, Barbara Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an accomplished seeker of justice and loving husband, District Attorney Bob Lee. His life, legacy, and service to Santa Cruz County will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK ON THE VILLAGE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of the Village of Palos Park as they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the village's incorporation on October 31, 2014.

European settlers first came to the area around the village in 1834. Not long after, the building of the Illinois-Michigan Canal—completed in 1848—brought an influx of laborers, blacksmiths, and woodcutters to join the local farmers. A township was organized in 1850 and named Trenton, but that name was soon changed to Palos by the recommendation of the first Postmaster, M.S. Powell.

In the late 1800s the Wabash Railroad was extended into the area, allowing people to live in along the rail route and commute to work in Chicago. The resulting increase in population led to the incorporation of the Village of Palos Park in 1914. The village attracted many artists, writers, and intellectuals and became known as a country retreat outside of Chicago.

Today, Palos Park, under the leadership of Mayor John Mahoney, has a little over 4800 residents who enjoy a residential area nestled within beautiful forest preserves. One of the special places in Palos Park is the McCord Gallery & Cultural Center, which is a learning center for the arts and cultural history which also showcases artworks of local and regional artists. Among the many special events that occur in the village every year, I especially enjoy participating in the Autumn in the Park Festival and Parade in September.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the residents of Palos Park as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of their village and to wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argyle High School Band from Argyle, Texas for their recent outstanding achievement in winning the 2014 Class 4A UIL Texas State Marching Band Championship.

Argyle High School's Band decisively won the Class 4A crown for the fourth consecutive time. The band's stellar performance of "Alleluia" earned the top award and allowed them to retain the state title they have held since 2008. The accomplished members of the Argyle High School Band deserve praise for their hard work and commitment.

I commend the staff and students of Argyle High School for their tremendous support of

the Eagle Band under the dedicated leadership of Band Director Kathy Johnson, Associate Band Director Michael Lemish, Superintendent Telena Wright, and Principal Jeff Butts. It is my privilege to represent the administrators, teachers, staff and students that comprise the Argyle Independent School District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND HONOREE BETH WROBEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will host its 38th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 15, 2014, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at the annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have generously devoted themselves to providing superior medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, academic and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Beth Wrobel. Mrs. Wrobel is to be commended for her exceptional contributions to her field and her community.

In 1979, Beth graduated from Valparaiso University where she majored in Mechanical Engineering. Mrs. Wrobel's engineering career includes twenty years of service with NiSource, Inc. Subsequently, in 2007, she also earned her Healthcare Executive Certificate from the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Business.

Beth has been the chief executive officer of HealthLinc, Incorporated since 2002. She has since advanced the organization from a free medical clinic serving only adults to a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical services to over 4,000 uninsured or underinsured patients, through all life cycles, from prenatal to seniors. HealthLinc provides comprehensive, quality and affordable care that includes medical, dental, optometry and behavioral health services at six locations and one mobile van in Northern Indiana.

In 2013, Beth was honored by Northwest Indiana Business Quarterly as top not-for-profit chief executive officer in Northern Indiana due to her success improving and expanding HealthLinc from a one-location, small organization, known as Hilltop Community Health Center, with a budget of less than \$350,000 in 2001, to the multi-location organization that is known today, with a budget of \$20 million and a staff of more than 200 employees. Beth has

also earned distinction as Porter County Community Foundation's 2012 Outstanding Executive and was honored by Porter County United Way as an Outstanding Agency Professional in 2014.

Among her many accomplishments, Beth is a member of the Indiana Primary Healthcare Association Board and has previously held the position of president. She also serves as an adviser to many medical groups, including Indiana University Northwest Medical School, and has presented at many conferences, both at the national and state level.

Additionally, Beth selflessly gives of her time through her involvement in various organizations and civic activities, such as the Porter County Reading Foundation Board and the City of Valparaiso Human Relations Council. She also serves as president-elect of the Valparaiso Rotary Club and is an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Beth's compassion and dedication to her field and her commitment to charitable endeavors exemplifies the self-driven person that she is and is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. Beth and her husband, Joe, have three amazing sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Beth Wrobel, for their outstanding contributions to their community and beyond. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational.

HONORING THE CAREER OF REAR
ADMIRAL GARY W. ROSHOLT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and celebrate the retirement of Rear Admiral Gary W. Rosholt, who has served in the United States Navy for over thirty-four years and, though with the U.S. Embassy at the United Arab Emirates at this time, resides in Irving, Texas.

Rear Admiral Rosholt's decades of service to our nation were notably preceded by his own father's career with the U.S. Air Force. Rosholt himself was commissioned during his years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and was enrolled in the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC). In February 1980, he completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training with Class 106.

In his commendable career, Rosholt served multiple tours in Naval Special Warfare, including assignments with Underwater Demolition Team 12, SEAL Team One, and Special Boat Unit 20. He also earned his masters of science degree in operations management at the University of Arkansas while on a shore duty assignment with the Chief of Naval Technical Training.

Rosholt served valuable roles in the Reserve component as well. He held a staff position in the Naval Surface Warfare Center, White Oak, and was a Navy emergency preparedness liaison officer with the Director of Military Support and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. He also commanded five units in the Navy Reserve: Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Norfolk Detachment 406, Special Boat Unit 20, Naval Special Warfare Unit 4, U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment 108, and Naval Special Warfare Command headquarters.

In October 2008, Gary W. Rosholt earned his promotion to Rear Admiral and returned to active duty in the U.S. Navy. He then served as the deputy commanding general for Special Operations Command in U.S. Central Command. Currently, he serves as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Rosholt is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and, in a civilian setting, was also a consultant with a focus on Special Operations, particularly with regard to research, development, and acquisition programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in marking the retirement of Rear Admiral Gary W. Rosholt and thanking him for his long career of honorable service to the United States Navy.

HONORING DIGNITY & MERCY
ADULT DAYCARE SERVICES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dignity & Mercy Adult Daycare Services.

Tamekia Renix Jackson was born on September 18, 1974 to Albert Black III and Fannie Renix Johnson. Tamekia is the oldest of her seven siblings. She is a graduate of the North Panola High School Class of 1992. She currently resides in Como, MS, where she was born and raised. She attends the First Baptist Church in Como, where she serves faithfully as associate minister, choir president, and youth advisor. She serves on the Board of Directors for Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center and as President of the Mississippi Association of Adult Day Services.

In 1995 Tamekia graduated from the Licensed Practical Nursing Course at Northwest Community College in Senatobia, MS. She decided to further her education by enrolling in the Registered Nurse Curriculum in Senatobia, MS. She graduated in 2005 and passed her NCLEX as a RN.

Tamekia began working at the age of 15 at Wendy's in Senatobia, MS. After passing her LPN NCLEX, she became employed with Golden Living Center in Batesville, MS and remained with the company for three years learning that she really desired the role of RN. After becoming an RN she was gainfully employed with Baptist Desoto Hospital, where

she remained for 2 years working in critical care. She later moved on to the position of travel nurse where she traveled extensively and enhanced her skills, gained friends, and encountered remarkable experiences. After becoming home sick, she accepted a position as Director of Nursing for Monette Hospice until it closed in 2009. She was then led to open Dignity & Mercy Adult Day Services, LLC.

During her first year as an entrepreneur, she also gave birth to her first born, McKenzie Janae Jackson on July 2, 2009. On September 6, 2010 she gave birth to her 2nd born, Cayden Allen Jackson. They are outgoing, intelligent, inquisitive children. She also has a son, Alex Shaw, 17 years old, whom she adopted from a prior marriage.

While working at Monette Hospice, the owner opened an Adult Daycare next door. Tamekia found herself drawn to the participants of this center. She also realized there was no such program at home for the elderly and disabled. She began to research adult daycare and sought information in the community regarding funding, transportation, and other services needed in Panola and the 8 surrounding counties. In August of 2010, Dignity & Mercy Adult Day Services received a provider number for Adult Daycare in the state of MS. Later Dignity & Mercy also received a provider number for Respite and Homemaker Services. In January of 2014 Tamekia felt lead to open a facility in Oxford, MS. On July 1, 2014 Dignity & Mercy received a contract for Non Emergency Transportation with Division of Medicaid via MTM.

Dignity & Mercy is located at 569 Hwy 6 West in Batesville, MS. Dignity & Mercy recently purchased and renovated a 13,000 sq. ft. facility located at 405 Hwy 51 south in Batesville, MS. The date for occupancy is set for Oct. 1, 2014. They are excited about the grace of God affording them such an opportunity.

Dignity & Mercy services 50 to 60 clients per day at the Batesville location and 10 to 15 clients at the Oxford location. Their participants range from 21 years of age to 99 and provide the transportation to and from the center along with breakfast, lunch and a snack before they leave. The participants attend movies monthly, visit schools and nursing homes. The Adult Day Care offers exercise class daily and other activities including shooting pool, reading, cooking, quilting, gardening, basketball, checkers, bowling, wii sports, ring toss, crocheting, coloring, and various arts and crafts.

Dignity & Mercy has faced numerous challenges but God has delivered them from them all. When Tamekia is faced with struggles she takes comfort in the scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dignity & Mercy Adult Daycare Services for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Brunswick Fire Department as it celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. Since its formation, the New Brunswick Fire Department has upheld its duty to protect and serve the community.

Organized in 1764, the New Brunswick Fire Department has seen many changes and much growth throughout its history. Its equipment has advanced as new technology became available, from buckets to various engines and wagons. During its first 100 years, more than ten companies were organized. Throughout the 1900s, 493 volunteered to serve in the department. On July 1, 1914, the New Brunswick Fire Department was officially installed as a paid department.

Over its long history, a number of qualified leaders have served the New Brunswick Fire Department. Staats Van Dursen was the first head of the department. James M. Carman served as the first Fire Director over 200 years later. Today, the New Brunswick Fire Department is led by a Director, five Deputy Chiefs, eight Captains, eight Lieutenants, fifty-six firefighters and a secretary and operates out of three companies and its headquarters. Seventy-five percent of the force are also trained Emergency Medical Technicians and certified in defibrillation, a result of a requirement begun in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the New Brunswick Fire Department on this milestone. Its outstanding service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH NELSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the valiant effort of a friend and colleague, 2nd Lt. Joshua "Josh" Nelson, West Virginia Air National Guard. I have come to know Josh through his service in the West Virginia Legislature, and feel that it is most fitting to acknowledge a recent good deed.

Earlier this year, Josh stopped by his local Wal-Mart, near Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, to pick up some fish hooks for a family trip. This small stop would soon turn out to be an experience that he will, likely, never forget.

The following account is taken from the U.S. Air Force News, written by Joel Langton, 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs, published October 24, 2014:

The West Virginia Air National Guardsman was walking to the Hunting and Fishing section when he heard a woman say, "Stop, put it down!"

"I could tell she was stressed and she sounded frightened," said Nelson. "I looked

into the aisle, and this young man had a knife to a woman's stomach."

According to police reports, the young man was mad at his mother, who he had a knife to, because she wouldn't buy him a gun. Nelson told his wife Brittany to go alert the store manager and call the police.

Nelson, who has a concealed weapons permit stepped up beside the woman.

"I put my hand on my pistol where he'd notice, and then I stepped in between them," said Nelson. "I kept demanding he hand me the knife. I wanted him to see only one option. As I was standing beside that lady, I felt like I was responsible for her life. I was going to do whatever I had to do to protect her."

Then, according to the police report, Nelson went from trying to stop a murder to trying to stop a suicide when the assailant turned the knife on himself.

Nelson pointed to his training and the Air National Guard and previously in the Marine Corp as helping him talk the young man down.

By this time, several Wal-Mart employees had joined Nelson's effort. "When he handed me the knife, he turned like he was going to just leave," said Nelson. "We told him he needed to have a seat and wait for the police to arrive."

"It was the most surreal five minutes of my life while waiting for the police," said Nelson. He added that throughout the entire event, he was never scared.

"I just relied on all of the training I've had," he said.

This event was just another storied chapter in an almost Hollywoodesque life for Nelson. He's gone from working in coal mines, to the Marine Corp, back to the mines, and today, when he's not refining his flying skills, he serves in the West Virginia legislature as a delegate.

The former Liberty University student body president points to his grandfather for his love of flying and the Founding Fathers for his passion to serve his nation and state . . . When Nelson graduates Oct. 24, he will be serving like the Founding Fathers never dreamed as he flies C-130s around the globe for the WVANG's 130th Airlift Wing."

The first time I met Josh, I knew he was a smart, caring and capable young man. This is just one instance of Josh's outstanding service to the citizens of this country, whether in uniform or civilian clothes.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize the heroism and selflessness exhibited by 2nd Lt. Joshua "Josh" Nelson, WVANG. He could have easily turned away, but he chose to become involved and save two lives, instead of one. I would also like to thank him for his service to the State of West Virginia and the United States of America. It is indeed an honor to call him friend and fellow West Virginian.

HONORING KIM BENNETT ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my Director of Constituent Services, Kim Bennett, as she prepares to retire from her two decades of public service.

Kim has served the State of Indiana and our country very capably throughout her career. She has headed our team's constituent services operation since my election last year. Kim helped get our district offices up and running so that residents of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District continued to receive the assistance they needed with the federal government, even during the congressional transition. I have heard from many of my constituents about how caring and professionally Kim has served them in matters involving a myriad of federal agencies.

She worked for my predecessor in Congress, Governor Mike Pence, for more than a decade, serving in various roles, including Deputy District Director, Director of Grants, and Director of Economic and Rural Development. She also has coordinated the Sixth District Job Fair since 1997, an event which continues to this day. Kim also worked for Congressman David McIntosh as his Social Security caseworker from 1995 to 2001. Kim always went above and beyond in these various roles. She produced positive results to improve people's lives in a caring and compassionate manner.

Mr. Speaker, hiring Kim was one of the best decisions I made after my election to Congress. I learned very quickly that her stellar reputation among Hoosiers in the Sixth District was well-deserved after watching how diligently she worked on their behalf. I hope she knows how much she has meant to them and to me. I wish her and her husband, Robert, all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION
HONORING KAILASH SATYARTHI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating and Honoring Kailash Satyarthi, Recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives MCGOVERN, BROWN, WILSON, MEEKS, RANGEL, COHEN, SCOTT, and GABBARD in honoring 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Kailash Satyarthi for his tireless efforts to combat child labor, forced servitude and human trafficking. In his 34 years as a children's rights advocate and social activist, Mr. Satyarthi has saved over 80,000 children from forced labor, has vigorously worked to call international attention to the scourge of same by spearheading global initiatives, and has been instrumental in launching local programs to teach trades to Indian youth and rescue girls sold into abusive forced marriages. His contributions to the protection of children's rights and the promotion of peace are deserving of recognition.

I welcome my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Kailash Satyarthi on receiving the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

HONORING THE STAFF OF
MERRICK, INC.

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the staff of Merrick Incorporated, past and present, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since this private, non-profit organization was founded in 1964, it has served as a shining example of leadership and progressive commitment to advancing the quality of life of those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Merrick Community Center first opened to serve fifteen young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to supplement the services provided by public schools. As the center grew in size, the volunteers and staff members recognized that these young adults had an interest in working and many skills to offer employers. Merrick Community Center began working tirelessly to partner with businesses and clients to provide valuable employment opportunities for these young adults.

Since it was founded, Merrick Community Center and Daytime Activity Center has grown into a non-profit charitable corporation with two program sites. More than one hundred professional staff are dedicated to providing necessary support for over 375 adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. As Merrick, Inc. has expanded, the community around them has also seen great advances and growth. Through day training and habilitation, adult day services and the Ticket-to-Work program, young adults at Merrick, Inc. build personal and professional relationships, actively engage in their communities, and lead more self-determined lives.

Mr. Speaker, during the last 50 years, Merrick, Inc. has worked towards improving the quality of life for every person who passes through their doors. The families and communities of Minnesota have been empowered and advanced as a result of this remarkable organization. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Merrick, it is a privilege to recognize the great work of the many dedicated employees, as well as those whose lives have been enriched through job skills and career training.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
HONORABLE SUE LANDSKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous gratitude and the highest respect that I take this time to honor a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest citizens, the Honorable Sue Landske, Indiana State Senator. During her many years of public service and because of her countless efforts toward improving the lives of her fellow Hoosiers, Sue has left an indelible mark as an outstanding public servant, and for this, she is to be commended. Senator Landske will be retiring at the end of this year.

Sue Landske pursued her education at Saint Joseph's College and Indiana University, followed by graduate studies at the University of Chicago. In the years to follow, Sue, through hard work and a spirit for public service, was elected Center Township Assessor in 1978. She was also elected Lake County Republican Vice Chair the same year and maintained that position until 1989, then again from 2001 to 2007. Senator Landske was first elected to the Indiana Legislature in 1984 and has selflessly represented the people of Indiana Senate District 6 for the last thirty years. Throughout her tenure as State Senator, Sue has consistently fought for the rights of the residents of her district and throughout Indiana. In particular, Senator Landske's legislative achievements include authoring Indiana's lemon law, which guards Hoosiers against the sale of defective vehicles, creating living will legislation, which gives Indiana residents better control over their future medical decisions, and spearheading the passage of a bill requiring all Indiana nursing homes to have fire sprinklers throughout their facilities and smoke detectors in every patient's room. Senator Landske's record speaks for itself. She has passionately devoted herself to improving the lives of Hoosiers and to protecting the interests and well-being of Indiana's most vulnerable citizens. Highlighting her leadership in Northwest Indiana and the Indiana General Assembly, Sue has distinguished herself by serving as the Assistant Pro Tempore in the Indiana State Senate. She has also served on numerous legislative committees including the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, as a ranking member of the Civil Law Committee, and as chair of the Elections Committee. Along with her career as a State Senator, Sue is also a retired colonel in the Indiana National Guard and president and owner of All Golfcar, Incorporated.

Senator Landske's exemplary service has been rightfully recognized numerous times during her legislative career. In both 1980 and 1983, she was honored with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash for her service to the people of Indiana. Following this honor, Sue was awarded the title of Outstanding Republican Senator, as well as the accolade of Business and Professional Woman of the Year. Sue was also recognized as Lake County Republican of the Year in 1988, the Jaycees' Citizen of the Year in 1991, and was named Small Business Champion in 2000 by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Senator Landske's remarkable career is exceeded only by her devotion to her amazing family. Sue and her loving husband of fifty-seven years, Bill, have five children and seven grandchildren.

I have been truly fortunate to call Sue Landske my friend. Throughout the years, she has been an outstanding advocate for the community of Northwest Indiana, as well as for all Hoosiers. She epitomizes what it means to be a public servant, and for her selfless, lifelong commitment to the people of Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Senator Sue Landske for her lifetime of leadership and exceptional

service to the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the state. Senator Landske's impact will be evident for generations to come, and she serves as an inspiration to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
HUGHES

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert Hughes, a man who broke incredible records in basketball while simultaneously overcoming tremendous obstacles. Robert Hughes paved the way for African American students to have the same opportunities as their counterparts and bridged the divides of a segregated community.

Robert Hughes was born on May 15, 1928, in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He was the youngest of five brothers with a successful high school basketball career. After a tour in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Hughes played college basketball at Texas Southern University. In 1955, he was drafted to the Boston Celtics, but ended up playing for Marques Haynes' barnstorming team, the Harlem Magicians. During his time with the Harlem Magicians, he ruptured his Achilles tendon and began his legendary coaching career.

From 1958 to 1973, Hughes coached the Fort Worth I.M. Terrell High School basketball team, with an astonishing record of 378-84. During this time, I.M. Terrell was a segregated high school, placing the team in a specific division called the Prairie View Interscholastic League. The PVIL governed the Texas African American high schools. Hughes won three PVIL championships and came second in two more during his time at Terrell. In 1973, the desegregation of public schools would lead to the closing of Terrell and the beginning of Hughes' career at Fort Worth Dunbar High School.

Hughes remained at Fort Worth Dunbar until he retired in 2005 with an astonishing overall career record of 1,333-264. He had the most wins in the entire nation until recently when Leta Andrews passed his record. During his 47 seasons at Dunbar, Hughes brought his team to victory while changing the lives of thousands of students. As a coach, he broke the racial divide and bridged the gap between communities. For 50 years, the Southwest Conference denied entry to black high school athletes. Hughes navigated his way around these policies and created relationships with the Big Ten, Pacific 8 and Missouri Valley Conferences so that all of his players could be offered the same opportunities.

Dallas cinematographer, Ronald Nance and Lindell Singleton, producer of major feature films such as Lone Star and Holy War, are partnering to bring Robert Hughes' story to life in a feature-length documentary called Relentless, which will premiere in February 2015. The film will capture the incredible feats of Hughes and the impact that he had on the Texas basketball community.

In honor of Coach Robert Hughes, a pillar of the Fort Worth and Texas athletic community,

this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

HONORING DR. GERALDINE B.
CHANNEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Geraldine B. Chaney, M.D., who is a native of Mississippi. She was born into a family of nine children (six girls and three boys), with parents who stressed the importance of strong religious beliefs. Dr. Chaney's parents were not formally educated, but possessed a wealth of knowledge. They taught God first, family and education next.

Dr. Chaney chose to attend Tougaloo College and major in Biology and Chemistry. As tradition would have it, Dr. Chaney's brothers and sisters who had gone to college before her, went to school to become school teachers. All of that changed when she heard some of her classmates talking about going to medical school. At that moment without telling anyone, Dr. Chaney closeted in her mind that she wanted to become a physician. She thought that her idea was a bit farfetched. She had never seen or known a black or white female physician.

However, Tougaloo offered unique experience. Dr. Chaney excelled in her studies and took the exam for entry into medical school. Her score was good enough to get her into her choice of four schools. She chose the University of Mississippi, because she wanted to practice in Mississippi.

Dr. Chaney entered medical school with only five other African Americans. There were five black males, and she was the only black female. It was a very grueling experience, but they all managed to finish. Dr. Chaney admits that she did better in medical school than in college. Probably because she really wanted to be a doctor. It was also important to her that the medical community get to know her and see what she was capable of doing.

When Dr. Chaney completed her residency in 1977, there was only one other black pediatrician in the Jackson area. She knew that she couldn't start a private practice right out of school, because she would be swamped by those looking for a black physician to care for their children. So, she spent the first ten years working at the clinic, the University Medical Center, with another physician, and volunteering. She also worked part-time in public health and consulting.

Dr. Chaney is one of the most prominent pediatricians in the state of Mississippi, serving patients of all races and nationalities.

Dr. Chaney is quick to point out that her husband played a huge part in her success. She left her salaried position at the Health Center to start her own business, and he stood with her 100%. When she began the practice, her earnings were only half of what she had made from the clinic and consulting. But, she knew that was only temporary. In her

own words, "To build a business, there has to be some sacrifice." She and her family decided that they could make the sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Geraldine B. Chaney for her dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN H.
ELMORE

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephen H. Elmore who was posthumously selected as the 2014 Farmer of the Year by the Imperial County Farm Bureau and will be presented with the Tenth Annual Jim Kuhn Memorial Farmer of the Year Award as a tribute to his exemplary record of agricultural and community leadership.

Before passing away in 1999, Mr. Elmore was a distinguished agriculturalist who had half a century of experience in agriculture with The Elmore Company, Stephen H. Elmore Company, Desert Sky Farms and Echo II. Under his leadership, they grew numerous amounts of crops of all shapes and sizes such as sweet corn, sugar beets, tomatoes, wheat, onions, melons, potatoes and many more. Throughout his life, Mr. Elmore was highly respected by his community, employees and family. He was known for his innovative water management practices and active participation with well-regarded organizations such as Imperial County Farm Bureau, Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, and the Western Growers Association, among others.

Furthermore, Mr. Elmore never hesitated to support local youth activities such as Brawley and Westmorland Little League, Brawley Parks and Recreation Youth Sports, and the Boys and Girls Club of Brawley. He will always be remembered by all those that were lucky enough to experience his goodwill.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ruth Hyman on the occasion of her 95th birthday this year. I would like to join with her family and friends in honoring her remarkable accomplishments and philanthropy.

Born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, Ruth Hyman continues to give back to the community. At a young age, Ms. Hyman recognized the meaning of generosity and has spent her life working to make a difference in the world. Her achievements are numerous, wide-ranging and noteworthy, from serving in the federal government to opening her own small business. She has been actively involved with various organizations, including the Long Branch Hadassah, Deborah Hospital, Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Jewish Community Center, and Congregation

of Brothers of Israel. She is also a life member of Daughters of Miriam and the Central Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged. Ms. Hyman is an esteemed member of the Jewish community and a passionate philanthropist.

Ms. Hyman's impact on the community has not gone unnoticed. The Chabad House at Rutgers University presented her with the Kesser Shem Tov (Crown of a Good Name) award and she was named Philanthropist of the Year from Generations ElderCare Charity, among many other honors.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Hyman on her 95th birthday. I know that I join with all those who know her in expressing my sincere gratitude for her warm and giving nature and immeasurable contributions to our community. Her leadership and spirit of generosity are truly admirable.

HONORING MR. JOHN P. SINDONI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow Holy Cross alumnus, Mr. John P. Sindoni, Esq., class of 1967. John has served with distinction as a highly effective class chair and co-chair of the Holy Cross Alumni Association since graduation.

Through his dedicated efforts, he has kept his classmates informed, energized and supportive of the Holy Cross mission. He has maintained a strong bond with the College for 47 years since graduation. Since 1967, his engaging and informative class letters to his fellow Crusaders has added to the cohesiveness of our class.

The esprit de corps John has sustained among his classmates and the strong ties he has helped them to maintain with their Alma Mater have led to record levels of participation in annual giving to the Holy Cross Fund from the Class of 1967. Thanks to his work, a majority of our classmates have donated generously for the past thirty years. During reunion years, that number hovers closer to 70 percent.

John has also been a driving force in the Holy Cross Club of Central New York and a leader among a core group of dedicated alumni in the Syracuse area. A frequent organizer, sponsor and host of alumni activities in his hometown, John is a prominent alumnus whose dedication to the College is widely known. John has mentored many young Holy Cross graduates over the years and has fostered interest in Holy Cross among students at the Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, where his decades of work has earned him recognition for distinguished service.

After college, John graduated from Cornell University Law School and is now a partner in the law firm Hiscock & Barclay, LLP. He and his lovely wife, Cecilia, live in Cicero, NY, and have six children, including Laura, Holy Cross Class of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, John deserves the recognition of this body for a job well done. His years of service have made our class, college, and our

country ever more deserving of our respect and our pride.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 375

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 375 and to acknowledge their persistent endeavor to fairly represent their members.

On February 3, 1914, a dedicated group of seventeen electricians organized into the Local Union 375. Their goal was to obtain better wages and better working conditions. In 1947, LU 375 initiated an apprenticeship program. Now seen as a key function, the apprenticeship program meets the demand for high quality electricians highly skilled in fiber-optics and advanced technologies as well as the traditional delivery modes. That same year, LU 375 joined the National Electrical Contractors Association, which leveraged their bargaining power. The benefits afforded members increased again in 1961, when the Health and Welfare Plan was put in place to provide healthcare and other benefits. Another milestone was reached on June 1, 1990, when LU 375 began to train Telecommunication Technicians as part of the Telephone Interconnect Communications system agreement.

On December 19, 1998, LU 375 moved to their new office and training center at what is now their current headquarters in Allentown. A short eleven years later, in 2009, they hired their first full-time Training Director and expanded the apprenticeship program. Today, they serve up to 150 apprentices in their training center and offer programs to keep veteran members current on the newest techniques and technologies. Although hit by the economic downturn in 2008, they have since seen new opportunities, including those generated by the redevelopment of downtown Allentown through the Neighborhood Improvement Zone awarded in 2013.

As one of the oldest unions in the region, LU 375 has grown to a membership approaching 1100, with ranks continuing to expand thanks to well-planned organizing. After 100 years, the IBEW Local Union 375 has remained true to their mission to provide strong, fair representation and open communication for members, fellow unions, contractors, and the community. It is an honor for me to recognize their 100 years of service and fraternity.

HONORING MR. EUGENE HICKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Entrepreneur of Clarksdale, Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Clarksdale business owner, Eugene Hicks, Sr., continues to receive recognition for his world famous hot tamales. He has been featured on the Food Networks television show, Rachel Ray's, Chile Pepper, Southern Living, Esquire magazines and other national magazines. He has also been featured in the local and national newspapers.

Mr. Hicks has hosted and served quite a few famous people and celebrities from the late, John F. Kennedy Jr., and John Amos, Blues entertainers, Bobbie Rush, Rufus Thomas, Tyrone Davis, and many worldwide tourist travelers. The most exciting historical event hosting and serving President Bill Clinton, Rev. Jessie Jackson, and several Mississippi governors including Governor Ray Mabus, Governor Ronnie Musgrove, and Governor Haley Barbour, and many more distinguished customers.

Mr. Hicks, who is now 70 years old, has been making tamales since age 16 when he was introduced to the cooking craft by the late Angelo Thompson who was the owner of Liberty Super Market in Clarksdale. Mr. Thompson instructed him on how to properly cut meat and how to manage a store and a restaurant. Mr. Hicks started working at the Liberty Super Market at the age of 12 years. He would work after school and worked at local stores doing various types jobs.

During the same time around the age of 12, an older black gentleman named Acy Ware befriended him. Mr. Ware made and sold tamales to the public by push cart and Mr. Hicks would go back and forth to the local grocery stores on his bike to pick up the different spices and shucks that Mr. Ware needed to make his tamales. A couple of years later, Mr. Ware taught Mr. Hicks how to make tamales and informed him that the skill of making tamales can assist in him becoming an entrepreneur.

Mr. Hicks was drafted into the military at the age of 21 and worked in the mess hall preparing and cooking for the officers and his fellow soldiers. His ability to cook afforded him the opportunity to stay state side and be shipped off to Vietnam. After his military service he went back to work at Liberty Super Market, and at the federal building before opening his own grocery store. He opened Hicks' Superette in 1973, on 109-5th Street at the age of 26 with \$52 dollars where he sold groceries and his tamales.

Business was booming and people from all over the world came to eat his tamales. Customers liked his tamales and the word spread that he had the best tamales in the Mississippi Delta and they would request orders to be shipped to them in various parts of the United States and foreign countries.

"The mid-90s were really tough," Hicks said. However, he had to close down Hicks' Superette. In 2000 because of high crime and drug usage in that area of down town, people began to move out.

Mr. Hicks moved and opened a restaurant/banquet hall, called Hicks' World Famous Hot Tamales & More on 305 South State Street. He has independently own his business for 41 years now. Hicks is one of the oldest independent black business in Clarksdale.

Mr. Hicks is amazed that these years his business still attracts people from all over the world.

So, what is the secret to Mr. Hick's success? It is the shucks he uses to wrap the tamales in before cooking. Many people use wax paper which is cheaper. It's kind of expensive the way he does it, but it is the way he was taught 50 years ago and it has paid off. He does not believe in cutting corners like most people may.

His wife, Betty, of 44 years has worked in the business for the last 11 years after retiring from the Clarksdale Public School System. She said, "Eugene has recently contemplated retirement."

Mr. Hicks stated that his career has been a blessed one, because he has had a chance to meet a lot of people due to his tamales. Mr. Hicks lives by the motto of: "What you do—do it well."

Mr. Hicks and his wife are the proud parents of 3 children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for his dedication and service to his profession.

IN HONOR OF CLARENCE D. BROCKLEBANK, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join with the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in Oceanport, New Jersey in recognizing Clarence D. "Buddy" Brocklebank for his 50 years of continuous, active service to the company. Mr. Brocklebank's outstanding record will be honored at the fire company's 37th Annual "Old Timer's Night" on October 20, 2014.

As the only member to accomplish this record in the company's 98 year history, Mr. Brocklebank's achievement is truly commendable. At 80 years of age, Mr. Brocklebank continues to maintain active duty at the fire company, fulfilling the Emergency Services Volunteer Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) requirement to make 50 percent of the company fire calls, meetings and borough functions listed in the program. Mr. Brocklebank has served as Captain, Chief, President and Trustee of the company, and became a life member in 1989.

In addition to his service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1, Mr. Brocklebank also joined the Oceanport, Monmouth County and State Relief and Exempt Fireman's Association, the Oceanport Ex-Chiefs Association, the Port-Au-Peck Benevolent Association and the Oceanport Fire Police Unit. He is also a life member of the New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

Mr. Brocklebank was born on July 14, 1934 and has been a resident of Oceanport since 1964, joining the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in April of the same year. He and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of Donald, Jr. and Matt and grandparents of 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Clarence D.

Brocklebank, Sr. for his 50 years of continuous, active service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1. His remarkable dedication and duty to his community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY'S
PLAYGROUND

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2014 a community in my district teamed up to show that together we can overcome heartbreak.

Over 100 volunteers, local businesses and community leaders worked to complete Bobby's Playground—a new park area at the Lower Bucks Family YMCA's Holland Campground. The playground is named in honor of Robert Edward Osterhout IV of Holland who tragically passed away at just 14 months.

The project, a Kaboom Playground, was completed by the hands of volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to remember the life of Bobby and ensure that generations of kids to come would have a safe place to play, laugh and learn.

It was a pleasure to participate in the event and offer a few words about the amazing work being done in my district by those I represent.

While Bobby's passing is a tragedy, the completion of this playground serves both as a reminder of his memory and a point of community pride.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS
EXCELLENCY NGUYEN QUOC
CUONG, AMBASSADOR EXTRAOR-
DINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States. Ambassador Cuong is more than a friend. He is my brother and, for historical purposes, I wish to pay tribute to him as he completes his term in the United States and returns to Vietnam.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was appointed by President Nguyen Minh Triet as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States of America in early 2011. He has been accredited to the title of Senior Ambassador—the highest rank for a Vietnamese career diplomat. He presented his Credentials to President Barack Obama in July 2011.

From 2008 to 2011, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of relations of Vietnam with European

countries. He was also the chief negotiator in charge of relations between Vietnam and the Vatican.

From 2007 to 2008, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Director-General, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was later appointed as the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 2005 to 2007, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong served as Deputy Director-General, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Head of Political and Security Section of the APEC Vietnam Secretariat when Vietnam was host of APEC in 2006.

From 1981 to 2005, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was an officer at the China Department and researcher at the Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this time, he also served in the Vietnam People's Army from 1983 to 1985.

During his 30 year career, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was posted twice to Vietnam's missions abroad, as Minister Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Vietnam in Ottawa, Canada from 2002 to 2005 and as Second Secretary at the Embassy of Vietnam in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 1990 to 1993.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong graduated from the University of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam (1976–1981) and earned an MA in International Relations at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA (1996–1997). Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong also conducted studies on public administration at the Maxwell School of Public Administration, Syracuse University in 1998. He also participated in the Vietnam Executive Leadership Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2009.

On November 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of State honored Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong by hosting a farewell reception for him at Blair House, the President's Guest House which serves as a site for American diplomacy in action. Blair House is the official state guest house for the President of the United States and is maintained by the Department of State. An invitation to be hosted at Blair House is an honor of the highest significance. Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong is the first Ambassador from Vietnam to be honored with a farewell reception at the Blair House and this speaks to the significance of his work for and on behalf of strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations.

As Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, it has been my distinct privilege to work side by side with Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong. Together, we created the first Friends of Vietnam Caucus in the U.S. Congress, and I have every hope that it will grow in importance. We have also worked to improve economic and trade relations and I am pleased that during Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong's service in the United States, the U.S. and Vietnam celebrated 20 years of trade relations.

I commend Vietnam's leadership on the matter of maritime territorial and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) disputes in the South and East China Seas. Vietnam has demonstrated restraint and strength in dealing with China by adopting a strategy that promotes

peace and stability in the region and, going forward, I have every reason to believe that Vietnam's influence in the region will be pivotal in resolving further disputes.

On a personal note, I want to publicly thank Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong for all he did on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which I am a member. For as long as I live, I will never be able to thank Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong for giving his all to bring about recognition of the interim representative committee of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam.

For their love, support and prayers, I especially express my deepest gratitude to Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong and his very talented and beautiful wife, Madam Hoang Minh Ha. When I was ill, they prayed over me and when I returned to work they stood beside me. They are more than friends. They are family to me, and I hope I am family to them.

We have walked together with faith in every footstep and it is only fitting that I conclude my service in Washington, D.C. at the same time Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong and Madam Ha conclude their service. I wish for the Ambassador and his wife life's sweetest blessings. I wish the same for the Ambassador's daughter and son—Nguyen Huong Chi and Nguyen Quoc Anh—and Madam Ha's niece Mai Hoang Anh. I pray God will be with them, until we meet again.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY EARL
(ROBIN) HUDSON, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 3, 2014, funeral services for Bobby Earl (Robin) Hudson, Jr., were held at Lexington Baptist Church, in Lexington, South Carolina. Mr. Hudson, 60, was the founder and owner of Hudson's Smokehouse in Lexington, South Carolina, and is remembered as a kind and generous gentleman of character who dedicated himself to supporting the local civic groups and his fellow citizens.

His obituary in The Lexington County Chronicle of Lexington, South Carolina, contained this tribute:

BOBBY EARL (ROBIN) HUDSON, JR.

LEXINGTON.—Robin Hudson, age 60, died on Thursday, October 30, 2014. Born August 16, 1954 in San Marcos, Texas, Robin was the son of Bobby Earl (Bob) Hudson and Stella H. Kyzer. He moved back to South Carolina in 1958. Robin graduated from Airport High School in 1972 and attended Massey Fashion Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Shortly thereafter Robin moved to Clemson, South Carolina, and opened up a successful Foosball Parlor/Bar Business. This would prove to be his initial first step into business ownership. From there he went to work for Explorer Van Sales, where he served as the Southeastern Sales Representative. After many successful years with Explorer he went on to open his own Van Business in Columbia, which was known as Buddy Baker Boat and Van World. He later joined his brothers, Darrell and Chuck, opening up Hudson Brothers

Truck Accessory Center where he headed up the Truck Accessory Department. Along the way he began cooking BBQ using the recipe from his family heritage back in Warsaw, North Carolina. He began catering on the side and eventually bought a trailer and did mobile catering. From then he went on to open what we all know and love today, Hudson's Smokehouse in 2002, with the help of his wife, Barbara and sons, Clint and Clay. Robin was a creative genius in marketing and he made Hudson's Smokehouse what it is today. He is known for his dependability, his enormous heart and strong work ethic. Robin worked tirelessly, endless hours to serve the community with whatever need they had. It was truly his heart's desire to serve others.

In addition to his successful restaurant business, he was a beloved son, admired brother, loving husband and devoted father. Robin is survived by his wife, Barbara Kice Hudson, and 4 children, Clinton Garrett Hudson, Clayton Windham Hudson, Jessica Lauren Brown Hudson and Cody Arthur Hudson; father, Bobby Earl (Bob) Hudson and his wife Laura Slade Hudson; mother, Stella H. Kyzer; brothers, Darrell Craig Hudson and his wife, Gay Jewell Hudson, Charles Alan Hudson and his wife, Cindy Momand Hudson; sister, Melinda Hudson Dailey and her husband Gregory Scott Dailey. Robin is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and many, many dear friends who will all miss him terribly.

A Drop-in Celebration was held at 5 p.m., Sunday, November 2, 2014 at Hudson's Smokehouse, 4948 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC. A memorial service was held at noon on Monday, November 3, 2014 at Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E. Main Street, Lexington, SC. The service was officiated by Pastor Mike Turner and longtime friend, Pastor R. V. Brown.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity, 209 S Sumter Street, Columbia, SC 29201, and/or Oliver Gospel Mission, 1100 Taylor Street, Columbia, SC 29202.

ANTHONY F. WIENERS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Wieners' leadership and dedication to the law enforcement community and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor his years of commitment, his friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his amazing career.

Anthony F. Wieners is a life-long resident of Belleville, New Jersey. A veteran of the United States Navy, Anthony began his law enforcement career in January of 1980 as a patrolman with the East Orange Police Department, transferring to the Belleville Police Department in September of 1980, where he held the position of Detective until his retirement in July 2014. In 1991, Anthony was elected State Delegate of Belleville Police Benevolent Association (PBA), a position he held until his retirement. Anthony also held the offices of Belleville PBA Local President and Vice President. In addition to holding local offices, Anthony is a past chairman and co-chairman of the Essex County PBA Conference.

Anthony was appointed to the New Jersey State PBA Executive Board in 1993 and on May 1, 1997, he was appointed to the position of Executive Vice President. In 2007, Anthony was elected State President of the New Jersey PBA with a membership of over 33,000 officers. Anthony served as PBA President with distinction until earlier this year when he stepped down to allow for new leadership.

As PBA President, Anthony instituted many new programs within the organization including the NJ PBA COP SHOT program that provides automatic reward money whenever any NJ law enforcement officer is killed or wounded in the line of duty. On the national level, Anthony was a Vice President of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), which represents over 254,000 law enforcement officers from more than 4,000 organizations throughout the United States. Anthony has also been involved in the Police Unity Bike Tour for many years. In 1998, 2006 and 2014, he participated in rides from NJ to Washington, DC and helped raise over \$2 million in funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I was proud to have Anthony as a partner on many efforts including our fight to protect the COPS program from budget cuts that would have decimated the program.

Anthony holds memberships in many organizations, including the NJ Police Honor Legion, the Belleville Kiwanis Club, the Asian American Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, and the Knights of Columbus in Belleville.

Anthony is married to Julia, and they have two children, Michael and Kaitlin.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Anthony F. Wieners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Wieners' family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Anthony Wieners for his dedication to his family and his nation.

TRIBUTE TO ED WALKER AND
"THE BIG BROADCAST"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to congratulate WAMU 88.5's "The Big Broadcast" on its 50th anniversary and to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments and career of my constituent, Ed Walker, one of the most respected radio broadcasters in generations. Mr. Walker's distinguished career spans over 50 years as a broadcaster, most recently as the outstanding host since 1990 of The Big Broadcast.

Through The Big Broadcast, Mr. Walker has kept alive and shared with new generations the classic radio shows of a bygone era—shows like "The Lone Ranger," "Gunsmoke" and "Fibber McGee." The art form in these

broadcasts was magnificent, of the highest quality, and truly innovative. In addition to entertaining us, they served a unique role in American society by uniting us with imagery that one finds only in radio, featuring the great writing and talent of the performers, and sharing unique perspectives. Families would crowd around the radio listening for the latest episodes and waiting to learn of the latest heroics or antics of their favorite characters. In the Big Broadcast, Mr. Walker not only brought all of this extraordinary material to us week after week, but put it in context and served as our tour guide through decades of American history as portrayed through the wonderful radio broadcasts.

Mr. Walker was appropriately recognized in 2009 by the Radio Hall of Fame for his lifetime of achievements, placed alongside the greats that include Bob Hope and Abbott & Costello. I am pleased and honored to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Walker on his distinguished contributions to radio and to our cultural heritage.

HONORING MR. TIMOTHY CRUDUP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Mr. Timothy Crudup. Mr. Crudup has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Timothy Crudup, the fourth child of Mr. Jonas Crudup and Mrs. Tommie Lyles Crudup, was born in Scott County, Forest, Mississippi. He lived in Forest all of his childhood and young adult life, where he attended elementary school and the ninth and tenth grades of high school. While in high school, he was drafted in 1943, to serve in the United States Navy, during WWII. After his tour of duty, Mr. Crudup received an honorable discharge from the United States Navy in January 1946.

In the fall of 1946, having a desire to complete his high school education, he enrolled in the Alcorn Laboratory High School in Lorman, MS. With an interest in furthering his education, after graduating from high school, he enrolled in Alcorn College, with a major in education. Later, he received the Master's degree from Jackson State University in Administration and Supervision.

In 1952, Mr. Crudup began his teaching career in the Madison County School System and remained with this school system until his retirement in 1985. His first position was as a high school teacher at the Farmhaven High School in Farmhaven, MS. After teaching for one year, his leadership abilities were recognized, and he was offered the position of principal of that school. Later the school was relocated to a new school building with the name changed to Luther Branson. He continued to serve as principal in that community for 14 years. Then he was asked to accept the principal position at Rosa Scott High School, in

Madison, MS, where he served in that position for 19 years, retiring in 1985.

He married his college sweetheart, Miss Annie Camille Jefferson of Yazoo City, Mississippi. They have one child, Linda Crudup Gladney, and one grandchild, Brian Timothy Gladney.

Although Mr. Crudup's career as an educator was in the Madison County School System, he and his wife made their home in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He was active in both communities. Upon his retirement, he was recognized by the Madison Ridgeland branch of the NAACP for his dedicated service in the field of education and his pivotal role in school desegregation in Mississippi, specifically, in Madison County. Also, he was recognized by Rosa Scott Parent/Teacher Association for his leadership and unceasing efforts to provide quality education for all students of Madison County Schools.

A strong spiritual foundation has always been central in Mr. Crudup's personal and family life. He has been very active in Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church where he served as Deacon, Superintendent of the Sunday School and Church Treasurer. He dedicated much of his time in service through his church, in whatever capacity needed. The church formally recognized his many years of service in 2005.

In the Yazoo City community, he served on the Board of Trustees for the King's Daughter's Hospital from October, 2002 through March, 2005. Other organizations he was affiliated with are: Masons, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Yazoo County Alcorn Alumni Club, American Legion, the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc. On March 26, 2006, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi and Senator Joseph Thomas, commended the civic and charitable accomplishments of Mr. Crudup and designated that day as "Timothy Crudup Day" in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Mr. Crudup has been a role model to many and is spoken highly of by so many citizens of various segments of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Timothy Crudup for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHERINE
GRANT-DAVIS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis as she retires as President and CEO of the New Jersey Primary Care Association. Her contributions to the health care field are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Ms. Grant-Davis brought a wealth of experience to the New Jersey Primary Care Association. Prior to joining the New Jersey Primary Care Association, Ms. Grant-Davis served as the New Jersey Department of Health Chief of Staff. She also held positions

as Director of Payment and Health Care Delivery for the Health Industry Manufacturers Association in Washington, D.C., Assistant Director and Acting Director of the New Jersey DRG Hospital Reimbursement Program, Director of the New Jersey WIC Program and Project Director for Title XX Implementation. She also served on Governor Jon Corzine's Department of Health and Senior Services Transition Team and Governor James McGreevey's Department of Human Services Transition Team.

In addition to her professional work, Ms. Grant-Davis is an active member of the community, working with Jack and Jill of America, The Links, Inc., the National Association of Community Health Centers, Capital Link, Inc. and the United States Swimming Association. She has been named one of the 100 Most Influential New Jerseyans by City News and one of the Power 50 in Health Care by NJ Biz. She has also received numerous awards for her service and accomplishments, including the National Association of Community Health Centers Leadership Award, the New Jersey Citizen Action Community Service Award and the Shirley Chisholm Catalyst for Change Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis on her retirement and thanking her for her service to the residents of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF KENNA
OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT/PLAYGROUND

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the citizens of Jackson County, and the Friends of Kenna on an exciting community development project that has taken place in my district. Kenna Elementary School is the first new school construction in the county in 40 years. The unincorporated community of Kenna, illustrates what is best about America and the State of West Virginia. It is a rural area that believes in hard work and helping ones' neighbor. The geography of the area physically separates its residents, but that does not deter it from making an extra effort at creating community. That's why I think it is important to recognize the work of the Friends of Kenna, a group of residents, whose work has resulted in a state-of-the-art outdoor learning environment, playground and walking track in Jackson County, as a part of the new Kenna Elementary School. The new school playground and track is available for all of the residents of Jackson County to use and should serve as a shining example of the importance of fitness and health. I would like to applaud all of those who rallied together to bring about this substantive change.

I would like to recognize The Friends of Kenna Association and local residents who are responsible for this extremely worthy project. Special recognition for the effort behind the project should go to Kerynn Sovic, Sonya White, Deanna Cunningham, Jessie

Cox, Jessie Thompson, and Melissa Donelson. I would also like to salute the following: Mike Gwinn, John Zimmer, Corky McCorkle, John & Gina Myers family, Larry Thompsons, State Senator Mitch Carmichael, State Delegate Steve Westfall, Steve Wedge, Steve Chancey, Jim & Sally Laine, Amy Mellace, Larry & Terry Hersman, Paul & Aiden Barnette, Erin & Michael Sovic, Lisa Quisenberry, Gale Donelson, Robert & Terri McCloy, Tanna Craigo, Kam Barnette, Patrick Anderson, Robert, Rachel & Sarah White; Christian Walker, John & Patsy Stanley, Lori, Mack & Daney Brookover; Greg, Shannon & Ace Eagle; Jason & Tucker Landis, Steve, Brock & Luke Matson; Steve, Melissa, Michael & Jarrett Lough; Luke Lopez, Brenda & Sammy Brown, Jimmy, Hilary & Joyce Groves; Janice Stump, Mike & Rita Casdorph, Raymon Cunningham, Eduardo & Ellen Goff, Jessie Cox, Dr. Tom Layne, Arden Lantz, Bill Barnette, Donna Spencer, Toby & Christy Scholl, Mrs. Rucker & Children, Jill & Mike McFee, Vernon & Paul Holstine, Todd Games, Tabitha Martin, Dylan Martin, Toby & Denise Hershey, Josie & Clay Eisenhard, Bill Shanklin, Karen Barnette, Crystal, Paige & Johnny Harrison; Karen, Patrick, Everett & Garnet Kish; Sherry Dillard, Rylan & Erin Petry & Grandpa Bird; Krista Baker, Heather, Elliot & Hailey Baria; Juanita Wimmer, Michelle Brotherton, Bob, Terri & Ellie McCloy; Brandi, Trey & Kieren Poff; Kenneth, Kendall & Lucas Allison, Dave Miller, Leslie & Mark Stover; Cardinal Concrete, Atlas Poured Walls, BBU Service, CJ Enterprises, TomKat Construction, Ben's Bobcat & Backhoe Service, Life Tite Metal Products, Dougherty Company, Bobby Bostic Masonry, Jackson County Community Foundation, Highmark Foundation, Action for Healthy Kids, Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Funds, McDonough Foundation, Little Kanawha Resources Conservation & Development, Sayre Excavating, Dairy Queen of Ripley, Blosser Concrete, Francis Brothers, Alpha Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, EQT, Boy Scout Pack 419, Floyd Bowlby, Brickstreet Insurance and to all who donated and volunteered, for their generous contribution to the construction.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge Blaine Hess, Superintendent of Jackson County Schools for his oversight and commitment to the Friends of Kenna and this very important project.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to congratulate the Friends of Kenna for their investment in the next generation through the construction of the new Kenna Elementary School and its Outdoor Environmental Learning playground and track. Community effort, such as this, makes me proud of my state and proud to be a West Virginian.

HONORING LAUREN HILL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lauren Hill for her athletic accomplishments and continued strength in her fight against Pediatric Brain Cancer.

Last year, Lauren was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, an incurable form of Brain Cancer. The disease has made it increasingly difficult for Lauren to fulfill her dream of playing college basketball. Yet, this college freshman at Mount St. Joseph University persevered and scored four points in her college debut earlier this month to help her team defeat Hiram College. Lauren was named Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week for her performance.

Lauren is a remarkable young woman, not just because of her athletic ability, but for her passion and dedication to live her life to the fullest while raising awareness about Pediatric Brain Cancer. Her grace and dignity has been a source of strength for children and families facing this terrible disease. Lauren has chosen to donate all proceeds from the basketball game to The Cure Starts Now, an organization working to find a cure for Pediatric Brain Cancer. Though Lauren's story has made national headlines, she has remained the same humble and tenacious young woman whose story has inspired our nation.

During the game against Hiram, Lauren said "I've never felt so good in my entire life. Let's not call it my last game. This is my first collegiate game." This positive attitude should serve as a reminder about what we can accomplish even against the most insurmountable odds.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring this outstanding young woman for the way she has lived her life and the courage with which she has bravely fought this disease.

MARGIE SEMLER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Semler's leadership and dedication to the community of Passaic and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor her years of commitment, her friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate her amazing career.

Margie Semler, daughter of Max and Riva Orlin, a life-long resident of Passaic, New Jersey, was born on June 22, 1923. In 1941, she moved to Passaic with her husband Mac and for the next eleven years began her career in government, where she took a part-time job at a junkyard run by the city's public works department.

While raising and tending to her two young children along with her fun loving, good natured husband Mac, she decided to run for a seat on the Passaic Board of Education. For the next 6 years while on the Board of Education she began her illustrious career as a public servant in which she earned the respect of the residents in the City of Passaic.

Margie decided to further her career and passion for serving the people of Passaic. For the next sixteen years, she was able to serve the residents while on the Passaic City Council. Her passion to being a public servant

drove her ambitions when she was elected as the Mayor of the City of Passaic in 1993. She became the first and only female mayor to serve for eight years during her term from 1993–2001.

In 2005, Margie was inducted into the New Jersey Elected Officials Hall of Fame. She has been and remains to be a vital asset to the City of Passaic. Margie is an active participant in various public and civic organizations. She has a great love for animals and an even greater affection for the city in which she has called her home for nearly her entire life.

Margie continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Passaic Head Start and remains an avid supporter of the families and children in the City of Passaic. As a result of her tireless dedication and commitment to the people of Passaic, the staff, policy council, and the Board of Directors of the Passaic Head Start have renamed their building to the Margie Semler Education Center in her honor.

Margie is married to the late Mac Semler and have two children, Lorrie and Marc.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Ms. Semler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Ms. Semler's family, friends, and all those whose lives she has touched, and me, in recognizing Margie Semler for her dedication to her family and her nation.

THANKING PATRICK MILLIGAN

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a retiring leader of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Patrick Milligan. Patrick Milligan was born in San Bernardino in 1937. His family started one of the original citrus farms in Rialto. He fondly recalls memories of growing up in Rialto during a time when he and his friends could walk through vacant land shooting BB guns. In 1955, he graduated with honors from San Bernardino High School and later graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law. He returned to his hometown and began practicing trial law in 1961, starting a law firm in San Bernardino where he continues to practice law. Pat is married to Jean Miller Milligan and has four children, two of whom have followed in his footsteps as attorneys.

In 1964, at the age of 28, Pat was elected to the Board of Directors for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District). He has served on the Board for over 41 years and has served as President of the Board for 19 of those years, almost half of his tenure. When Pat was elected, Valley District was only 10 years old. So, Pat has been involved in building this new agency from the ground up. He "hit the ground running" helping Valley District settle two lawsuits with Orange County Water District and Western Municipal Water District, respectively. The settlements fairly divide water resources providing the downstream agencies with the guar-

anteed amounts they desired while providing the upstream, Valley District service area, the flexibility they desired. The resulting court judgments are still used to this day to manage water resources. To help reduce the possibility of costly lawsuits in the future by providing a forum where water issues could be discussed, Valley District along with Orange County Water District, Chino Basin Municipal Water District (now Inland Empire Utilities Agency), and Western Municipal Water District formed the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Pat was also instrumental in settling a 40-year legal dispute that involved both the Department of Water Resources and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). He directed the effort to negotiate with MWDSC which led to a cooperative agreement. Under that agreement, MWDSC has purchased some of Valley District's unused imported water from the State Water Project resulting in substantial revenues used to build facilities and purchase water for storage locally. The agreement also benefited MWDSC when their partially completed Inland Feeder Pipeline was connected to Valley District's Foothill Pipeline allowing MWDSC to fill their newly constructed Diamond Valley Reservoir before their pipeline was complete.

When Pat took office, Valley District had a contract with the State of California to receive up to 98,000 acre-feet of water from the State Water Project but Valley District had no facilities in place to distribute the water. Under his leadership, Valley District built a regional pipeline system that began with the 84,000 foot long, 6.5 foot diameter Foothill Pipeline. The system now spans from Rialto in the west to Yucaipa in the east. To save money, these facilities were built in partnership with other water agencies. Pat shepherded this ambitious project through good and bad economic times, and never lost the vision to complete these regional facilities. Later, Valley District had the foresight to purchase an additional 4,600 acre-feet of entitlement water raising the total annual amount to 102,600 acre-feet. Pat was the innovator and force behind using "Super Wells" to lower high groundwater conditions in South San Bernardino to help prevent liquefaction, a new term at that time, during earthquakes. The super wells and accompanying pipeline, known as the Baseline Feeder, pumped the nuisance high groundwater to meet needs in Rialto. On the east end of the valley, additional facilities were added that enabled the transport of local storm water. These facilities, in combination with other local facilities, were used in a creative arrangement to meet supplemental water needs in the Yucaipa area without construction of a pipeline to Yucaipa. The agreement, known as the "Exchange Plan", enabled Mill Creek water to be delivered to Yucaipa in exchange for State Water Project (SWP) water.

Pat has always looked out for the Valley in which he grew up. In the early 1970's the United States Army Corps of Engineers unveiled an ambitious flood control plan on the Santa Ana River that included the proposed Mentone Dam that would capture both the Santa Ana River and Mill Creek. While the Mentone Dam made sense as a flood control facility, it did not make sense to people that lived in the valley. The dam would have created an eyesore on the east end of the valley

and covered over most of the community of East Highland! Valley District took the lead in encouraging alternate proposals and in 1986, the Army Corps agreed to an alternative that moved the dam into the foothills where it stands today. Under Pat's leadership, the Seven Oaks Dam is being used not only for flood control but also for water supply. Valley District, on behalf of water customers throughout the valley, partnered with the Western Municipal Water District and secured Water Right Permits to capture the newly detained water made available by the construction of the Dam. The capture of this water, which would have historically flowed into the Pacific Ocean, will save the people of the valley hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pat has always understood the value of the investment in the State Water Project. When that value was threatened by the Department of Water Resources and other State Water Contractors, Pat directed litigation to protect the District's contract right to sell any unused imported water at a fair price. Valley District prevailed and the resulting revenue has been used over the years to help fund regional facilities, reducing local costs.

Pat has always believed in good planning backed by solid science. Valley District has been a leader in studying the valley's resources to determine the opportunities and constraints. Through a relationship with the United States Geological Survey that has lasted decades, a groundwater flow model was produced which has proven invaluable to analyze water management scenarios and new projects. This model continues to be enhanced and is used every year to develop a management plan for the valley.

This year, Pat announced that he would be retiring from the Valley District Board. His vision and leadership will be dearly missed by both the Board and the Staff. I commend Pat for his years of leadership and service and wish him all the best.

HONORING MRS. RUBY HUNT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Ruby Hunt. Mrs. Hunt has dedicated her life to working for the public good. Her efforts were instrumental in leading good governance efforts in both the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Ruby was introduced to the world of public service as a long time and highly active member of the League of Women Voters. Her work with the League led to a leadership position on the Charter Commission where she was instrumental in crafting and passing the Saint Paul City Charter. The new Charter created a strong mayoral form of government, increased accountability for the city budget, and professionalized the operation of city departments. Mrs. Hunt was only the third woman elected to the Saint Paul City Council, serving from 1972 to 1982. During that time, she continued to improve the functions of city government includ-

ing moving the Housing and Redevelopment Authority under the control of the City Council. In 1983, Mrs. Hunt was elected to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and served until 1995. As a Commissioner, she played a vital role in the establishment of the Ramsey County manager position and the privatization of Regions Hospital through Health Partners. She also had an early role in the development of the Central Corridor/Green Line Light Rail Transit corridor.

Ruby is a quiet leader with a passion for building alliances across lines and working toward social justice. She has dedicated her lifework to the common good and even in retirement continues to make the world a better place. She is committed to mentoring women as public servants and encouraging them to become government leaders.

In recognition of her lifelong commitment to public service and achievements as an elected official for over 20 years, Ruby Hunt was selected by Hamline University as the first recipient of the Women in Public Service Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. As a former Saint Paul City Council Member and Ramsey County Commissioner with a passion for good governance and social justice, Mrs. Hunt truly exemplifies the spirit of the award. On November 14, 2014, Hamline University is celebrating the establishment of the Ruby Hunt Endowed Scholarship in Public Administration. Establishing a scholarship devoted to women in Mrs. Hunt's honor is a fitting recognition of her contributions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ruby Hunt's many substantive and impressive contributions to Minnesota's Capitol City and Ramsey County. Our nation is grateful for the selfless commitment she has made throughout her life supporting and encouraging others.

ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION
HONORING MALALA YOUSAFZAI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating and Honoring Malala Yousafzai, Recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives MCGOVERN, BROWN, WILSON, MEEKS, RANGEL, COHEN, SCOTT, GABBARD, FRANKEL, LOWENTHAL, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, CLAWSON, and CASTOR in honoring 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai for her outstanding contributions to global education equality. As the youngest Nobel laureate in history, Ms. Yousafzai has distinguished herself as a courageous and tireless activist for gender equality in education despite being met with great adversity. After surviving an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen she has emerged as a leading advocate for gender equality in education in a time when approximately 13 million school age girls in her home country of Pakistan remain deprived of an education and where girls' schools continue to be targeted by militants. Her strength, determination and accomplishments are deserving of recognition.

I welcome my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Malala Yousafzai on receiving the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by becoming a co-sponsor of this resolution.

HONORING MS. CARLA ROSS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Professional woman of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Ms. Carla Ross is an effective, skilled and professional community developer. Carla has used her education and work experience to transform her community. She is a native of the Mississippi Delta, having been born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She has worked for Mound Bayou Public School District and St. Gabriel Mercy Center. As the Parent Center Coordinator, she supervised daily operations of the center, conducted workshops and seminars, provided educational materials and equipments, and served as a link between home and school to improve parental involvement in the education of their children.

During her time at St. Gabriel Mercy Center, Carla served as the Assistant Director supervising all educational programs, coordinated community service group activities and worked independently to develop methods and procedures to enhance existing programs. She is presently serving on the Board of Trustees for St. Gabriel Mercy Center. Carla previously served as the Regional Coordinator for America Reads Mississippi, the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi for the Mississippi Delta Region at Delta State University. During that time she was instrumental in placing individuals from the community in various school districts to tutor students in the area of reading.

Carla is presently employed with Southern Bancorp Community Partners as an Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program Coordinator. She is helping the Mississippi Delta residents save funds to purchase a home, start a small business or further their education.

Also, teaching financial literacy classes to program participants. Carla has earned a Masters Degree in Community Development from Delta State University and a Bachelors Degree in Family Human and Development from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi.

Carla is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated and serves as the Vice President of the Theta Phi Zeta Chapter located in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. The organization focuses on community service, academic achievement and mentorship. Serving to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarship, support charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Supporting such projects as Breast Cancer Awareness, Prematurity Awareness, Highway Clean-up and Youth Literacy Rallies.

Carla is the daughter of Ms. Carolyn Ross and sister to Mr. Chance Ross of Mound

Bayou, Mississippi. Carla is the niece to Ms. Portia Burton of Mound Bayou, Mr. Carlton Ross of Conyers, Georgia, Mr. Stanley Burton of Memphis, Tennessee and Mr. Ozzie Ross of Waco, Texas. Carla is the grand-daughter of the late Dorothy Ross Grady and niece to the late Brenda J. Grady and Bruce K. Burton of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Professional for her dedication and service to her profession.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF COMER
COTTRELL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Comer Cottrell, one of Texas' leading African American entrepreneurs and an education philanthropist in the Dallas community. His passing on October 3, 2014, leaves a void in the city of Dallas, and I join with the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Cottrell family.

Comer Cottrell was born on December 7, 1931, in Mobile, Alabama. He was 15 when he graduated from a private high school in 1946 and attended the University of Detroit, a Jesuit college. At age seventeen, Mr. Cottrell joined the United States Air Force and excelled to the rank of First Sergeant at a very young age. After completing his military service, Cottrell returned to Alabama, where he worked part time for his father's insurance company.

In 1968, Mr. Cottrell recalled his time serving in the U.S. Air Force and the lack of ethnic hair-care products, which sparked his interest in the black hair care business. In 1970, Mr. Cottrell and his brother James Cottrell founded Pro-Line Corporation, an African-American hair care products company in Los Angeles, California. The company's success grew and prompted his move to Dallas, Texas in 1979.

In 1990, Mr. Cottrell purchased and restored the former Bishop College land in southern Dallas to persuade Paul Quinn College to move its campus from Waco to Dallas, Texas. Today, the historically black college continues to provide educational opportunities for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow. In addition to his interest in education philanthropy, Mr. Cottrell became the first African-American to hold a major stake in a professional baseball team. In 1989, he became a part owner, with George W. Bush, of the Texas Rangers.

Mr. Cottrell is survived by his wife, Felisha Starks Cottrell of Dallas; a daughter, Renee Cottrell-Brown of Arlington; four sons, Comer Cottrell III of Dallas, Aaron Cottrell of New York, Bryce Cottrell, a University of Texas at Austin student, and Lance Cottrell, a University of Colorado student; a brother, James Cottrell of Dallas; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

In honor of Mr. Comer Cottrell, a pillar of the Dallas business community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSE
GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the House German-American Caucus and the work it has done to maintain and strengthen the economic and cultural relationship between the United States and Germany.

The German-American Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group of House Members that was established in 2011. The idea of the Caucus originated with one of my constituents in Pennsylvania's 6th District, Thomas Siedenbuehl, who is a native of Germany and now a proud U.S. citizen. Given the countless contributions that early and recent German émigrés have made to our nation, the formation of a caucus to bridge the historical, cultural and economic ties of the U.S. and Germany was most appropriate.

In total, over 50 million American citizens claim German ancestry. Additionally, Germany is not only the largest economy in the European Union and third largest in the world, but the largest market for U.S. goods in Europe, importing more than \$50 billion each year. German-owned companies are investing in America and have created approximately one million jobs in the U.S. Because of these strong economic and cultural ties, the Caucus has worked to build a closer relationship with our European ally to encourage further investment in America.

In addition to the numerous roundtable discussions and dinners between Members of Congress and the German Bundestag, as well as with the German Ambassador and U.S. Ambassador to Germany, the Caucus has helped facilitate various other events that highlight and strengthen German-American ties. These include the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, the Maifest Dinner, and the annual Oktoberfest celebration. The Caucus also works closely with the German-American Business Council and its executive committee chairman, Uli Gamerding, who provides outstanding advice and support for Caucus activity.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the work the Caucus has done to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the United States and Germany, and with the hope of continuing the work it has begun, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the efforts of the German-American Caucus of the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC
HIGHLANDS LIONS CLUB

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club as its members gather to celebrate its 90th

anniversary this year. This milestone and its commitment to service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Founded by local businessmen, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club was chartered on December 14, 1924. Over its 90 years, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has grown in outreach and in membership. Today, its 42 members continue to carry out the mission of Lions Club International, serving its local community, the State of New Jersey, our nation and the world. Its efforts provide a range of assistance, including health programs, youth programs, environmental programs, and disaster relief. It has also sponsored Lions Clubs in nearby New Jersey communities as well as the local Leo Club, which was one of the first Leo Clubs established in New Jersey.

The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has been providing active community volunteer work since its inception. Its members promote the Lions Club International mission to improve eye health and sight, providing free eye exams, eye treatments and surgery to local residents. They also uphold the mission to provide disaster relief, supporting recovery efforts in Indonesia, Haiti, Honduras and the United States, including New Jersey and its own community in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Among many other community service efforts, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club provides scholarships to local students, has taken part in the Lions Club International project to plant one million trees globally, honored our nation's veterans through the purchase of a state highway construction project that would become a median in their honor (which the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club still maintains and enhances), helped develop the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, and provided evacuation assistance from New York City after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club also pays the club membership dues of a member of the United States Coast Guard and encouraged Lions Club International to offer membership discounts to members of the military.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club on its 90th anniversary and thanking its members for their dedication to local, statewide, national and international community service.

GREG KOMESHOK

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Komeshok's leadership and dedication to the community of Passaic and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor his years of commitment, his friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his amazing career.

Greg Komeshok son of John and Emily Komeshok, a life-long resident of Passaic, New Jersey was born on March 23, 1947. A product of the Passaic School District, Greg graduated from Holy Rosary grammar school and Passaic High School where he played on

both the basketball and baseball teams. After high school, Greg went on to further his education where he earned his Bachelor's in Industrial Arts and a Master's in Administration and Supervision from Montclair State University. Upon achieving both of his degrees, Greg became a teacher at Passaic High School, later becoming the Principal at the Learning Center Elementary School in Passaic. Greg also held various administrative positions throughout the Passaic Board of Education, before becoming the Supervisor of Physical Education and Health, and later appointed to become the Director of Athletics.

Greg's achievements and passion in serving his community has led him to hold various leadership roles within his community. After being a lifetime member of the Holy Rosary Young Men's Club, he became its President. Later, he went on to serve as the President of the Passaic Boys and Girls Club. Through his leadership and dedication, he was able to establish the annual outdoor Jimmy Sturr Concert in Passaic which is now in its eleventh year. Greg's devotion to the community and to the youth led him to the Clifton Little League and Babe Ruth League where he served as Coach. Later, he went on to become the General Manager/Coach of the Wayne Post 174 American Legion Baseball League, then becoming the President of the Bergen Area American Legion Baseball League.

His service to his community even led him to pursue public office. In 1968, he became a Member of the Passaic Redevelopment Agency; later in his career in 1972 he was selected to become the Chairman of the Democratic Party in the City of Passaic. Then in 1976, he was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in New York City. In 1978, Greg was given the opportunity to serve his State when he was appointed to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, where he served as Commissioner. In 1983 he was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders and later in 1985 was selected to become the Freeholder Director. In 1984 Greg became a member of the Camp Hope Commission and the Passaic County Community College-Board of School Estimates.

Greg is married to his wife Susan, and they have two sons Kevin and Christopher.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Greg Komeshok.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Komeshok's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Greg Komeshok for his dedication to his family and his nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE "JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD POST OFFICE"

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, here in Washington we have the unique opportunity

to work for the citizens of this great nation and provide positive change in the lives of many. Together we work for the good of our communities, and in the process we cross paths with some remarkable leaders.

Today I am introducing a bill that will recognize the life of one of those very special leaders of our time, the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating a facility of the United States Postal Service in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office."

Rep. Millender-McDonald was a pillar in many of the communities I represent. She was a resilient public servant who was deeply loved by her community first as an educator, then as program coordinator for a nonprofit fighting gender issues, and finally as a beloved elected official. Undaunted by the work to be done, Rep. Millender-McDonald took charge of her opportunity to serve and became the first African American woman to be named Chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration. She was also an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus and served over a decade in the House of Representatives.

An exemplary piece of her legacy was her work to better the lives of not just those here at home but internationally as well. Her work to aid victims of genocide and human trafficking serves a testament to her dedication to creating a better world. Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office," we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record that I hope will further serve as inspiration for the community which I serve—the same community which so revered her.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLUMBIA CLUB

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an extraordinary Hoosier institution, The Columbia Club, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. I wish to express my admiration and appreciation for the Club and its members' service to our community, state, and country.

The Columbia Club was originally formed in 1889 by local prominent Republicans as the Harrison Marching Society to support the presidential campaign of the last Hoosier president, Benjamin Harrison. After the election, the Society moved into a clubhouse on Monument Circle and changed its name to the Columbia Club to continue operating as a private club. As its membership grew, the Columbia Club became the premier private club in Indianapolis. No longer a partisan club; the Columbia Club welcomes Hoosiers of all political stripes and affiliations as members to share in fellowship.

The Columbia Club's members can also join associations within the Club. It hosts the Co-

lumbian Business Network, Columbian Veteran's Association, Columbia Club Devine Dames—a chapter of the National Red Hat Society, and the Harrison Society—the Club's premier group for young professionals.

In 1925, the current home of the Columbia Club was built on Indianapolis' famed Monument Circle on the very location that the original building was once located. In 1983, the current structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Legend indicates that the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, met at the club to discuss construction of the famed track. It also served as host to discussions that eventually brought the NFL's Colts to Indianapolis.

The Columbia Club has hosted every Republican President since Benjamin Harrison while in office or as a candidate. Thousands of business leaders and politicians have been members of the Club as have famous Hoosiers like musician Hoagy Carmichael and Impressionist T.C. Steele. Each year the Club holds its annual Beefsteak Dinner, of which I had the honor to keynote on October 7, of this year.

Congratulations to the Columbia Club and all of its current and former members for the 125 years of excellence in our Indianapolis community.

HONORING MR. ALBERT A. CURTIS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character and determination, Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County. He is the son of Lucille and Albert Curtis, Sr.

As a child: Like his father, Albert A. Curtis, Sr., he was a shrewd manager of a few assets. But here is how he got started. This was during a time when racism was considered acceptable. Albert, Sr. saw no racism in money. And as a little boy Albert, Jr. learned that as he watched his father conduct business with Blacks, Whites and everyone else. Albert Sr. had several mantra's his son would often hear him say like, "A lil negotiation don't hurt, but don't compromise your beliefs and dignity." or "A bicycle of your own is better than someone else's Cadillac . . . always work hard cause nobody is going to give you anything" and "Sometimes you got to lose to win."

Time to grow-up: Albert, Jr.'s mother, Lucille died suddenly when he was eight (8) years old. But because of his strong belief in family and deep love for his wife, Albert, Sr. felt that was all gone when she died. He was broken hearted and turned to alcohol to escape the reality of that inevitable change. Albert, Jr. saw his father lose his will to live and began losing the businesses he had worked so hard to build. Those businesses also provided the financial support for the family. The family began moving around from place to place until Mattie Curtis took the family in, which is Albert Jr.'s grandmother. The family began to hire

out, young Albert, Jr. to work on other farms for money and to work odd jobs. Unfortunately, young Albert remembers how his father would take the money from him to buy alcohol instead of support the family. Rather than defy his father in any way, he simply quit school to increase his work hours, believing he could continue giving his father the "little" money and the extra money he would make by increasing his hours, he thought some money would go to the family. This was a life changing decision for a young boy—who didn't truly understand.

His schoolmates started seeing him around and they began to make fun of Albert, Jr. with words like "He done quit school and ain't gon' mount to nothin' . . . plus he smells like horses and mules." Well, Albert just kept on because his father's words and work ethics were deep inside of him, "Never give up and make people's ideas of you a lie!" As he grew older, people began to notice him never wavering, never quitting, steadfast, and focused, but they just didn't see anything—material that is.

Time to start a family: In 1964, Albert, Jr. met and married Alma "Emma" Jean Blackburn. She was his soul-mate and helpmate—heaven sent. She was strong in areas he was weak. He was hard working and could make money while she was strong minded and book smart (as they called it). Emma managed the books, opened up bank accounts, paid the bills . . . she took care of the family business. Soon the couple had acquired enough money and assets that they were able to purchase their own home and leave Grandma Curtis' home.

Albert, Jr. then with the support of this wife, set out to re-acquire all the land and holding his father had lost. He began buying land back from his family members (e.g., aunts and uncles and anyone who had his daddy's land). He was the only one who had the money to do this. Eventually Albert, Jr. was able to buy back all the property and land his father had owned but two (2) pieces of property.—Now, it's not known of anyone else accomplishing this, but Albert deserves being recognized and applauded.

But wait, this story is not over . . . Remember, Albert, Jr. was never wavering, never quitting, always steadfast and focused, and didn't understand because they just didn't see anything—material that is. Well, by now he managed to acquire a wife, home of his own, money in the bank, all his daddy's previously owned property (but 2 pieces) and now property of his own. Albert continued until he was able to acquire 52 residential properties, commercial properties, more acres of land, several types of businesses of his own (e.g., plumbing, and financing for other small business owners) and work a full-time job for the City of Public Works in the community he lived.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA SIPERSTEIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbra "Babs" Siperstein as she is honored with the Stonewall Legacy Award by The Pride Network at their New Jersey Leadership Awards Dinner. It is truly a fitting tribute to recognize Ms. Siperstein as we celebrate LGBT History Month as she has played such a vital role in the LGBT movement.

Born Barry Siperstein, Barbra Siperstein acknowledged her true identity when she was nearly 50 years old. In 2007, she legally changed her name and the following year changed her Hebrew name to Baila Chaya in a ceremony at her synagogue, Congregation Beth Mordecai in Perth Amboy.

Through her own journey, Ms. Siperstein became a pioneer of transgender equality. She is a political activist and a staunch advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) causes. In 2009 she became the first openly transgender member confirmed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Additionally, she was appointed to the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission and served as Vice Chair of Garden State Equality. She has also been a member of the DNC's executive committee, deputy vice chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats.

Ms. Siperstein was married for 34 years to the late Carol Siperstein, who stayed by her side until she lost a sudden battle with cancer in 2001. Together, they had a daughter and two sons. In addition to her activism, Barbra is a United States Army Veteran and a small-business owner.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbra Siperstein on receiving the prestigious Stonewall Legacy Award and thanking her for her continuous efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDUARDO POSADA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Posada. Born in Puerto Rico on February 8, 1929, his father was a Colombian native and his mother was Puerto Rican. He spent his early years in New York City until 1935, when his family moved back to Puerto Rico. Except for two brief stints back in New York, Ed stayed in Puerto Rico where he obtained his BA from the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico (now Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico) in 1949.

Ed worked for two years in Puerto Rico as a secondary school teacher. He married

Urania Feliciano and had a son, Luis. The family then moved to New York, where Ed joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving at Governor's Island, New York, Ed and his wife had a second son, Danny. In June, 1955 Ed was separated from the Air Force as a sergeant and assigned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In 1956, he was found unfit for active duty and discharged from the service due to disabilities.

Ed went to work as a secondary school teacher and completed his MA at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1959. Ed eventually became Assistant Dean for Boys at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

The family next moved to Miami where Ed continued to teach until 1987, when he retired. While in Miami, he had the honor of being part of the newly formed United Teachers of Dade and served as vice president for the group. In 1987, Ed retired from teaching and moved to Orlando with his wife.

Ed has since been an active member of the American Legion, Korean War Veterans, and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He has held leadership positions in all three organizations and, at present, he is a member of the executive board and legislative officer for the local chapter of the DAV. He also volunteers at the VA Medical Center and runs the Bingo event once a month at the VA nursing home in Lake Nona.

I am happy to recognize Eduardo Posada, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to our country and the Central Florida community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,937,617,036,693.09. We've added \$7,310,739,987,780.01 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BERGEN 350TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the outstanding achievement of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood. Furthermore, I am proud to celebrate the historic tradition of Bergen County and its many important contributions to the history of New Jersey as part of the Bergen 350 Gala. As one of the first four original counties of New Jersey, I have the honor of being its Representative in the U.S. Congress.

Founded by Dutch settlers in the 17th century, the area of Bergen County was settled as part of the New Netherlands, the 17th century North American colonial province of the Dutch Republic. In 1683, Bergen County received official recognition as an independent county by New Jersey's provincial assembly.

It is clear that Bergen County has played a crucial role in shaping the proud history of the Garden State.

In the Revolutionary War, Bergen County demonstrated its commitment to American independence. In fact, Fort Lee served as a key strategic asset to General Washington and his army.

In the Civil War, Company K of the 22nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment trained at the Civil War Drill Hall Theatre, which still stands in Leonia today. In World War I, Bergen County made use of innovative agricultural knowledge to support the war effort, canning fruits and vegetables and sending them to where they were needed.

After the nation fell into the Great Depression, Bergen County hosted numerous Work Projects Administration projects like the murals that decorate the County Courthouse in Hackensack. At the onset of World War II, Bergen County once again demonstrated its commitment to the nation, with more than 26,000 of its residents enlisting to serve.

In the Civil Rights Era, Teaneck became one of the earliest towns to voluntarily integrate its public schools by busing, doing so in 1964.

I am truly honored to represent Bergen County as part of New Jersey's 9th Congressional District in the United States Congress. As such, I was proud to cosponsor H. Res. 624, to honor the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey and recognize the valuable contributions of people of the Garden State.

As we move forward, I would like to recognize the Bergen County Historical Society and the Bergen 350 Gala on October 15th, 2014 to commemorate the role of Bergen County in light of the state of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the state of New Jersey in recognizing the historic contributions of Bergen County in honor of the 350th anniversary of New Jersey's statehood.

CONGRATULATING COACH JOHN
GILLEN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my former coach and dear friend, Mr. John Gillen, for his over 50 years of incredible work at my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. His titles were athletic director, coach, and teacher, but those were just labels. Coach Gillen was a role model for me and many other student athletes. He was fair, dedicated, and had a great sense of humor. But most importantly he was able to give us the tough love that was so often need-

ed to instill discipline and resiliency. He would spend countless hours at our school and would ask for so little in return. His joy and fulfillment comes from shaping the minds and spirits of the young people at our school.

I will never forget watching daily as a high school student Mr. G quietly stepping into the school chapel. He took time to pray, meditate, and to thank God for all of his blessings. That stuck with me as I walked my own personal spiritual journey. I have him to thank for, through his modeling and leadership the encouragement to pursue my own personal journey. For that I will be forever grateful as it is the best gift he could have given to me. I treasure my experiences on and off the field with Coach Gillen. He represents the best of Kennedy High School and the best example of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. If those who know him could measure up to be half the person he is we would vastly improve our schools, our community, and our nation in countless ways.

I would like to also submit the following article that appeared in the Tribune Chronicle on August 9, 2014 in his honor.

STILL GOING STRONG GILLEN A LEGEND IN
KENNEDY HISTORY

WARREN.—John Gillen likes to keep things simple and understated. Nothing displays that more than the tiny office Gillen occupies as the Athletic Director at John F. Kennedy High School. Tucked in behind the ticket office next to the gymnasium that's named after him, the work space can best be described as a cubicle. With a desk, chair and some filing cabinets in place, there's no more than 50 square feet of walking space. To get a view of the outside world, Gillen has to step from the office and peek through the ticket office towards a set of doors. To some it might seem a bit claustrophobic, but to Gillen it's served with the comfort a tree house would to a young boy for decades.

John F. Kennedy athletic director John Gillen is shown in his office at the high school. Gillen has been AD since 1971 and was a part of the first staff when Kennedy opened its doors in 1964. "I never wanted to move," Gillen said as he took a break from work on a late July day. "They asked me if I wanted to move down close to the main offices. I like it here. It would probably make a great bomb shelter if we ever get attacked; or a hurricane or earthquake; this would be the place to come." Gillen moved to the office from a nearby work space that was even smaller. To the best of his recollection, he's been in the current office about 35 years, which was about seven years into what is now his 42nd year as athletic director.

It probably seems like only yesterday to Gillen, who is living proof that the love of work and an active mind can keep a person young at heart. Gillen doesn't show much of his 81 years other than the usual gray hair and perhaps slower walk that are inevitable with the aging process. His mind is sharp, which it has to be to deal with the demands of a job that can be thankless and rewarding at the same time. How he does it when most people his age have given in to retirement or infirmity is remarkable. The phone calls from parents upset about a child's lack of playing time. The constant demands of scheduling at a time when it's become impossible to find an area conference willing to extend JFK an invitation to the club. The secret for Gillen is to keep physically active and tap into the energy of those around him, including his wife Gloria, and an unwavering

faith in God. It starts with a workout with light weights every morning. "Dealing with the kids," Gillen said. "They keep you young. They'll keep you on your toes, I'll tell you."

Another key to Gillen's longevity is his humility and the accommodating manner in which he's treated those he's worked with all these years. Ask any JFK coach that's had dealings with Gillen, and you won't find one that will say a bad word about him. "John is a very calm, easy-going guy," said Dennis Zolciak, who coached the Eagles' football team from 1977-90. "The thing is his heart is totally into the school. He wants what's best for the school." There are generally two types of athletic directors—ones that want control of everything, including calling a few plays, and ones that take a back seat and try to make life as easy as possible for the coaches. Gillen fits the latter category to the max, always being careful to meet the demands of every coach, even if he might not agree with all the requests. "He couldn't do enough for you, and then some," said Tony Napolet, the football coach from 1970-72 and 1991-2010.

Few people know Gillen better than Napolet, whom Gillen coached in football at St. Mary's Junior High School more than 60 years ago. The two are as much a part of the athletic fabric at JFK as any person ever associated with the school. "He's the best part of that place," Napolet said. "He's been there 50 years. Since before they opened. He loves it. That place is his life." Gillen was raised here and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1950. He coached basketball and served as the school's athletic director before moving to JFK High School when it opened in 1964. He taught and coached before replacing Jim McQuaide as athletic director in 1972. Gillen has worked closely with each of JFK's six football coaches prior to this season. From George Landis in 1964 to McQuaide (1965-69), followed by Napolet, Gene Nara (1973-76), Zolciak, Napolet again and Dave Pappada (2011-12). He's begun working this year with first-year coach Jeff Bayuk. Add the coaches of other sports, boys and girls, and you can begin to understand how many lives Gillen has touched.

"When the bricks for the school came together, John was there," said Dennis Jasinski, basketball coach from 1978-89. "He's a solid part of the whole thing. We always got along. He was a pleasure to work with. He's a gentleman and a friend." Jasinski recalls a time when Gillen was set to scout a future basketball opponent but at the last minute had to cancel. Jasinski assumed the task of driving to Akron, which led to a surprising moment when he settled into his seat to begin taking notes. "I went with an assistant coach and a minute before the game started, who comes walking in? I said, 'John, I thought you couldn't scout,'" Jasinski said. "He said, 'I told my wife I was going out for a loaf of bread.' That's the type of guy he was. He was always willing to help." Gillen doesn't like to talk about himself. He's more comfortable in the background, where he can let others accept the laurels of victory. He allows himself a moment of boastful pride when pointing out that each of his four sons—John, Brian, the late Tom and Jim—played on JFK football teams that made the playoffs. Brian and Tom were on the 1991 team that won the only state championship in school history. All Gillen needs these days to remain happy is morning exercise, daily prayer, the love of friends and family and a cozy seat in his tiny office. The one that sits a few strides from the gymnasium that bears his name.

It will seem strange when the day arrives that Gillen is no longer the athletic director. Life will go on, but not quite the same. "You're only one part in a machine," Zolciak said. "I've seen guys go, and the wheels keep turning. The great thing about John is he's healthy, he can do things, and he's glad he can do it. When the day comes and he leaves, the place will keep on going. I think he's left a great legacy there." Retirement can be a lonely place for those that thrived on work for lengthy periods of time. Some don't handle it well but find a way to cope. Others give in to time and fade away quickly. Gillen has no fears when he contemplates retirement.

"A gentleman told me at one time, and I'll never forget it," he said. "When you retire, you know what you're retiring from, but do you know what you're retiring to? I've thought about that often. What would I do after I retire?" Exactly how will Gillen live life when that day arrives? "I won't lay on the couch; I know that," he said.

TRIBUTE TO KEN SHAW

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Kenneth "Ken" Alden Shaw (Ret.) who passed away Oct. 19, 2014 following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 80 years old and will be missed by many who he touched through his various professional, military and civic affiliations throughout his life.

Ken was a native of my hometown, Charleston and graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Kansas State University in 1957. Following graduation, Ken moved to Ravenswood and was employed by Kaiser Aluminum as a chemical engineer. Ken worked for Kaiser for 28 years, including his role as Carbon Plant Superintendent with his final post as Environmental Services Superintendent. In this role, he managed the air, water, solid and hazardous waste environmental systems and procedures at the aluminum plant. In 1976, Ken also served as Carbon Plant Superintendent for the Kaiser Aluminum Smelter in Ghana, Africa.

Ken had a long and distinguished military career in the West Virginia Army National Guard. He served in various line, staff and command positions with the Engineer Units of the State, which included Battalion Commander of the 1092nd Engineer Battalion. He further served as the Operations Officer and Commander of the 111th Engineer Group. In 1963 he completed flight training, becoming a fixed wing, rotary wing and instrument qualified pilot. He served on continuous flight status until 1980 and was awarded the Master Aviator badge. Colonel Shaw's military training included 34 specialty schools, including the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Colonel Shaw was placed on active duty in 1986 and appointed the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for West Virginia in Buckhannon.

Ken was an active member of the community and held positions on many organizations in Jackson County, as well as national organizations such as Rotary International, Toastmasters International and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Ken was a longtime member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Ravenswood.

Ken is survived by his wife, Gayle Twigger-Shaw; his sisters, Katherine Bowns of Tampa, Fla., and Nancy Burns of Ashville, N.C.; his children: daughters, Janie Frist (Moe) of Morgantown, Juli Seaman (Steve) of Leesburg, Va., and Carolyn Yost (Brian) of Clarksburg; and sons, Jim Spano (Beverly) of Ravenswood, Joe Spano (Donna) of Charleston and Mike Twigger of Charleston. Ken had six grandchildren, Joseph Spano Jr., Samantha Spano, Jessica Spano, Ian Frist, Jillian Frist and Hunter Yost.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, our communities, and indeed, the United States of America owe Colonel Shaw a debt of gratitude for his many years of distinguished service in his professional, military and personal life. I am honored to have known him and call him a fellow West Virginian.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALEX GORSKY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Alex Gorsky for his dedication and leadership to CADCA, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. CADCA has honored Mr. Gorsky with the Humanitarian of the Year Award for his advocacy on behalf of CADCA's Drug-Free Kids Campaign.

Mr. Gorsky's efforts with CADCA have had a profound impact on drug abuse prevention efforts in my district. Bucks Promise for Youth and Communities is comprised of a number of Drug Free Communities whose outstanding work to combat the rise of teen drug abuse in our community was recognized last year by CADCA. One of the success stories from the district is the Prescription Drug Take Back Program which has captured more than 19 tons of unused medication since the program began just 4 years ago. The potential for these drugs to harm, addict, and take lives has been extinguished due to the vision and commitment of individuals like Alex Gorsky.

On behalf of the constituents of the Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Alex for his unrelenting support for CADCA's mission—building safe, healthy and drug-free communities around the country and in my home state of Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KENNETH D. MCCLINTOCK

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recog-

nize Kenneth D. McClintock. McClintock served as the 22nd Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. As Secretary of State, he fulfilled two roles, serving as the head of Puerto Rico's Department of State and, perhaps even more important, serving as lieutenant governor. McClintock also served as Acting Governor whenever the Governor was away from Puerto Rico.

As Secretary of State, he digitalized his department, reducing backlogs and speeding up services, in spite of having lost 60 percent of his employees through early retirements, attrition and involuntary layoffs triggered by the fiscal crisis of 2008 to 2009. Governor Fortuño delegated multiple additional responsibilities to McClintock, such as chairing the Advisory Council on Government Reform and Reorganization. McClintock's government reorganization plans resulted in the streamlining of government services and agencies, the creation of new agencies, such as the Financial Education Institute, and multi-million dollar savings.

McClintock capped a 16-year career as a member of the Puerto Rico Senate, serving as the 13th President of the Senate of Puerto Rico from 2005 to 2009. He also served as the youngest and the first Hispanic chairman of the nationwide Council of State Governments in 1999. In 2000, McClintock served as the second president of the hemispheric-wide Parliamentary Conference of the Americas (COPA).

McClintock is the author of Puerto Rico's Telecommunications Reform Law of 1996 as well as over 100 other laws.

McClintock is an adjunct professor of US Government and Government Management at Interamerican University's San Juan campus. He coauthored a book with Puerto Rico's State Democratic Chair, Roberto Prats, about the 2008 Clinton presidential campaign in Puerto Rico, which they co-chaired.

The founder of a congressional internship program that has been replicated by nineteen states and territories, he is a longtime board member of a DC-based nonprofit, The Washington Center for Academic Internships and Scholarships. In his spare time, McClintock is an avid coin collector and an active member of the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico.

Born in London, England in 1957, his father, a native of Texas, was an architect, while his mother, born in Puerto Rico, was a college professor. McClintock is the proud father of a Georgetown University sophomore and aspiring actor, Kevin Davison, and a high school senior, Stephanie Marie.

I am happy to honor Kenneth McClintock, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions to the Puerto Rican community.

COMMEMORATING THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all of the men and women who

have worn the uniform of country and risked their lives to keep our nation free and safe.

We come together to celebrate our veterans who have courageously defended our freedom, and honor the memory of those who have borne the battle, including the more than 4,400 American servicemen and women who have died in Iraq and more than 2,200 who have died in Afghanistan.

We also honor the sacrifices of over 50,000 brave troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Let us pay tribute to those currently serving around the globe as well as veterans and service men and women who are with us today as they have served our nation with honor and distinction.

Today, I reaffirm my commitment to the nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 22 million veterans, including 32,477 in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, that they will be provided the quality job opportunities they have earned.

A grateful nation cares for its soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, not only when they're abroad, but also upon their return home.

Congress must communicate its wholehearted support for the security of the nation and build upon the historic improvements made in strengthening quality health care for veterans and offering the promise of college to those returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it is our duty to leave no veteran behind.

This day and every day, let us honor their service with actions that fulfill our commitment to our troops, their families, and our veterans—and that are worthy of our grateful nation.

HELPING ENCOURAGE REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS

I introduced H.R. 4110, the Transitioning Heroes Act, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers a business-related \$1,000 tax credit for each veteran hired.

ENSURING JOBS IN ENERGY FOR VETERANS

I am proud to have authored legislation amending the Innovation Act (H.R. 3309) to include a provision requiring the PTO Director to evaluate the economic impact of the Innovation Act on the ability of veteran-owned small businesses to secure their right to their inventions and discoveries.

This amendment was critical to our community of veterans and to the strength of our economy because historically veterans have struggled to adjust to life upon returning home.

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS

The House of Representatives unanimously adopted an amendment I offered to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriation Act for FY 2015, which expresses the sense of Congress that programs designed to assist homeless veterans should receive priority consideration by the Department.

Reducing and eliminating homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should be one of the nation's highest priorities. My amendment will help ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

The Jackson Lee Amendment helps remind us of our obligation to provide our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequate funding for Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) programs that provide case-management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veteran homelessness.

GUARANTEEING MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS TO MEET THE LONG TERM NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

I am also proud to have succeeded in amending H.R. 1960, the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act to include my amendment providing qualified and professional mental health care to serve our armed forces members, veterans, and their families.

Without proper mental health services veterans will fall short of full recovery and be less able to function as productive citizens.

INCREASING PTSD FUNDING BY \$5,000,000

I succeeded in amending National Defense Appropriations Acts for FY2014 and FY2015 to include my amendments providing \$10 million in increased funding to treat veterans suffering from PTSD.

The additional funding is necessary to identify the research needed to combat these diseases that are crippling our men and women in our Armed Services and their respective families.

As we look to PTSD, some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye, for these are wounds that should be properly treated.

One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

MAKING SURE OUR DISABLED VETERANS RECEIVE THE HEALTHCARE AND DISABILITY COMPENSATION THEY HAVE EARNED

I co-sponsored the H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act, which increases veteran's pay and disability compensation and maintains secure, dependable and reliable veterans' programs, especially for disabled veterans is very important.

I also strongly supported and voted to pass H.R. 3202, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, which expands access to health care for veterans and addresses the shortage of health professionals in the VA.

This legislation also ensures access to care for rural veterans and provides funding to establish 27 new VA clinics, including a new research facility in Houston.

The law also expands access to education for veterans and their families and extends a community-based housing program for veterans.

From 2007 through 2010, when Democrats were the majority in both the House and the Senate, there was no government shutdown—the Congress made historic gains for America's troops, veterans and military families.

That is why the American Legion said "11th Congress Achieves Banner Year on Veterans Legislation."

The real successes were the passage of bills that affected nearly every veteran in America.

For example, the Democratically-led Congress:

Enacted the new Post 9–11 GI Bill to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education, that has already allowed over 700,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars to afford college, just like after World War II, along with tax incentives for hiring to expand job opportunities for returning soldiers.

Strengthened health care for more than 5 million veterans, with a historic commitment—including the largest single increase in the history of the VA—for more doctors and nurses, better access for rural veterans, and expanded efforts to treat the signature injuries of the war, PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, while enacting a law to guarantee timely and predictable funding for veterans' health care and to address the health care needs of our nearly 2 million female veterans.

Provided troops and veterans the benefits they have earned and resources they need, giving troops a pay raise, restoring military readiness, providing the best training and equipment for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, taking steps to reduce the backlog and wait for veterans trying to access their earned benefits, providing special payments for service members and veterans who were forced to serve under stop-loss orders since 2001, and making headway in ending the Disabled Veterans Tax and the Military Families' Tax.

Strengthened support for military families, building more military child care centers and better military family housing, and enacting landmark legislation to provide much-needed support for family members and other caregivers for wounded veterans.

Added \$23 billion for veteran's health care and services, and accomplished a 60% increase in VA discretionary spending between 2007 and 2010.

Secured advance appropriations for the Veterans Administration for the first time—creating an uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act helped veteran caregivers with training, access to mental health counseling, and 24-hour respite care in veteran's homes.

1. The law helped veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom by allowing them to select a caregiver who would receive a financial stipend along with travel and lodging expenses associated with the veteran's care.

2. This law also expanded and improved services for the then 1.8 million women veterans, and provided for the expected increased number of veterans that would transition from active duty to civilian life.

3. The law authorized the VA to provide healthcare for newborn infants of women veterans.

It is important that we preserve and build upon this record of achievement.

Veteran homelessness was addressed in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 by increasing the VA loan limit which helped veterans with refinancing their homes by making low-interest home loans more available to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, all members of this body were deeply concerned over the troubling disclosures reported in the media regarding conditions at some of the nation's VA facilities.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Veterans Affairs, at the direction of President Obama and mandated by Congress, has made substantial progress in improving the performance of VHA healthcare now, developing a positive service culture, transitioning from "sick care" to "health care" in the broadest sense, and developing agile business systems and management processes that are efficient, transparent and accountable.

For example, The "Road to Veterans Day" initiative, launched on September 8, 2014 by Secretary Robert A. McDonald, has resulted in significant progress for Veterans over the past 3 months.

During that time, DVA has taken deliberate actions to improve service delivery for Veterans, rebuild trust, increase accountability and transparency and put the department on the path to long-term excellence and reform.

Secretary McDonald has traveled extensively during his first few months in office, visiting 41 DVA facilities in 21 cities while also making 11 recruiting visits to medical schools.

To improve service delivery, VA has prioritized efforts to accelerate Veterans off of wait lists and into clinics through the Accelerated Care Initiative begun by Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson this summer.

Through this initiative, VA medical centers have increased access to care inside and outside of VA, added more clinic hours and work days, deployed mobile medical units, and shared their best practices from VA's high-performing facilities throughout the organization.

Significant improvements have resulted nationally:

1. Scheduling more than 1.2 million more appointments in the past four months than in the same period last year.

2. In total, VA medical centers have scheduled over 19 million Veteran appointments from June to October 1, 2014.

3. Reducing the national new patient Primary Care wait time by 18 percent.

4. Completing 98 percent of appointments within 30 days of the Veterans' preferred date, or the date determined to be medically necessary by a physician.

5. Authorizing 1.1 million non-VA care authorizations, a 47 percent increase over the same period last year.

Secretary McDonald addressed all employees via Video Teleconference, where he directed each employee to reaffirm the mission and core values of the Department.

A new award program has been initiated to highlight employees who truly embody DVA's ICARE values—Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The first nominations for this new incentive program will be accepted in January 2015.

Since June 2014, DVA has proposed disciplinary action against more than 40 employees nationwide related to data manipulation or patient care.

DVA is also working diligently to cooperate with the over 100 investigations currently being undertaken by the VA Inspector General, the Justice Department, and the Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

On October 3, OSC certified DVA under their Whistleblower Protection Certification Program after DVA worked to achieve compliance and protect employees who identify or report problems from unlawful retaliation.

DVA also worked closely with OSC to successfully resolve whistleblower retaliation complaints filed by three individuals from the DVA Phoenix Health Care System.

DVA has posted data online on a regular basis since the beginning of June showing the number of appointments on waiting lists and the average wait times at each medical center across the country.

Additionally, each medical center and benefits office has conducted a town hall with Veterans and the public to collect feedback. These town halls will continue at each facility every three months.

DVA is reviewing options to reorganize the department for success, guided by ideas and initiatives from Veterans, employees, and all of our stakeholders.

This reorganization will be known as "MyVA" and is designed to provide Veterans with a seamless, integrated, and responsive customer service experience—whether they arrive at VA digitally, by phone, or in person.

Long-term reform of DVA also means making sure DVA has the medical professionals we need to best care for our patients, which is why Secretary McDonald launched a national recruiting effort in August, visiting medical schools in an effort to bring the best and brightest to work at DVA.

On September 17, DVA announced an increase in the salary pay scale for DVA doctors and dentists to aid in recruiting and retention.

As part of the "Road to Veterans Day," Secretary McDonald has reaffirmed DVA's homelessness program and the Veterans Benefits Administration's Claims Transformation Strategy.

DVA remains committed to working with its federal, state and local partners to end homelessness among Veterans, which has been reduced by 33% since 2010.

With the backlog of disability claims reduced by 60% since its peak in March of 2013, DVA is also on track to eliminate the backlog in 2015 and will continue to expand online claim-submission capability in all programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor and remember the sacrifices of the millions of veterans who have served our country throughout its history, let us always remember that the first obligation of a grateful nation is, as President Lincoln reminded us long ago, "to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN VALOR AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE AND THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATTON PRAYER CARDS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the bravery of American

troops who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and to recall the unique prayer cards General George Patton distributed to his Third Army in December 1944. The prayer, which asked for favorable weather, was printed on the back of a Christmas greeting from General Patton. The troops received these prayer cards prior to the Battle of the Bulge.

The incident of the now famous Patton Prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army Chaplain on the morning of December 8, 1944. After weeks of severe rains that threatened the prospects of victory, General Patton called to ask Msgr. James H. O'Neill if he knew a prayer for good weather. While looking out on the steadily falling rain, the chaplain wrote an original prayer alongside a Christmas greeting, and then had it circulated to all 250,000 Third Army troops on the eve of the Battle of the Bulge.

The prayer, in part, read: "Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory . . ."

The Battle of the Bulge, one of World War II's most critical battles, started when Nazi forces launched a major surprise offensive on December 16. Fought among the dense forests bordering Belgium and Luxembourg, it was the bloodiest battle the U.S. encountered during the World War II, with over 18,000 Americans killed and over 65,000 captured or injured. The heavy rains and thick fog eventually subsided, and Allied forces were able to hold off Nazi forces and severely deplete their resource supply. The Battle of the Bulge is symbolic of the resilience and strength of American soldiers, who were unyielding in the face of both enemy fire and debilitating weather. After the Battle, General Patton told Msgr. O'Neill that "our prayers worked." To General Patton, prayer was just as powerful a weapon of war as defense and attack strategies.

It is an honor for me to commemorate the valor of these American soldiers, the leadership of General Patton, and the ultimate victory of the "Greatest Generation."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE M. LAWSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Lawrence M. Lawson and congratulate him on his recent retirement as Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge. Judge Lawson has served honorably, breaking barriers and serving as an example for younger generations.

Judge Lawson received his undergraduate degree at Bowie State College (now Bowie State University) and his Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Prior to enrolling at The Catholic University, Judge Lawson completed the

Council in Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Program and earned a 3-year scholarship for law school.

Judge Lawson's judicial experience began after he graduated from law school. In 1972, he worked as a law clerk for the late Honorable Thomas L. Yaccarino in Monmouth County, and was the first black law clerk to work in the Freehold court house. He was nominated as a Monmouth County judge by Governor Tom Kean in 1987 and was appointed to Assignment Judge on April 15, 1993, serving as the first black assignment judge. Early in his career, Judge Lawson served in the Civil Division and the Criminal Division, eventually serving as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. With this assignment, Judge Lawson became the first black judge of a division of the court system. Judge Lawson retired as Assignment Judge on September 1, 2014.

In addition to his judicial service, Judge Lawson worked for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs State Office of Legal Services, held a general law practice in Asbury Park for 12 years, worked as the Asbury Park Municipal Prosecutor, the Neptune Township Board of Adjustment Attorney and served as a delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention and the 1984 Democratic National Convention for Ted Kennedy and Walter Mondale, respectively. Judge Lawson also served on the Neptune Township committee and was elected mayor in 1984, serving as the first black mayor of the township.

Judge Lawson is also an active member of his community. He has coached a midnight basketball team, volunteered as a mentor at Second Baptist Church and worked with the United Fellowship men's program. Through his background and community outreach, Judge Lawson has motivated the community's youth to strive for success.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Honorable Lawrence Lawson on his retirement and thanking him for his service. Judge Lawson dedicated nearly 30 years to the bench and his contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IZADELI "IZA" MONTALVO VÁZQUEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Izadeli "Iza" Montalvo Vázquez. Iza was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was raised in the town of Sabana Grande. From a very early age, she demonstrated a gift for poetry and by the age of seven, she wrote her first poem. Her love for writing was inherited from her uncle, Emilio Forestier Gregory, a lawyer and published poet in Puerto Rico.

Her parents, both public school teachers, encouraged her to get involved in the community. She started writing theatrical plays for her school to bring awareness to different topics and to raise funds for student clubs. In middle

school, she founded the student's newspaper, "Eco Estudiantil." Iza was an honor student throughout her school years. At the age of 14, she started playing professional volleyball. In her senior year of high school, she was offered a scholarship to play for the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico's volleyball team. The Puerto Rican Volleyball Federation also signed her to join Las Leonas de Ponce.

In college, Iza continued to follow her passion for writing by joining the José Gautier Benítez literature club, where she received numerous awards for her poetry. She also earned third place in a poetry competition where film director, Jacobo Morales, served as the judge.

In 1998, Iza moved to New York City. She continued her undergraduate studies at St. John's University in Queens, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism in 2001. During that time, she interned at Univisión 41 in New Jersey and at El Diario La Prensa, where she was hired to work as reporter. She has reported about the protests at the United Nations against the Navy's presence on the island of Vieques, protests in Times Square against the War in Iraq, the World Economic Forum, the aftermath of September 11th, Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo's police brutality cases, and dozens of homicides.

In 2004, Iza moved to Orlando to work as a reporter for El Nuevo Día Orlando, part of Puerto Rico's largest daily newspaper. Her work has been published in newspapers including Caribbean Business, El Nuevo Día in Puerto Rico, La Prensa in Panamá, La Opinión, La Raza and El Mensajero.

Iza has also worked as a reporter for The Ledger, a company owned at the time by The New York Times Regional Newspaper Group. There she covered immigration and other topics of interest to the Hispanic community. In Florida, Iza reported on the 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the NBA's All-Star Game in Orlando, and the 2012 presidential and local elections, among other stories. Iza has conducted many interviews, including one with Jose Mélendez Pérez, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Protection Inspector at the Orlando International Airport who became a key national figure when he refused entry to a terrorist involved in planning the 9/11 attacks. As a TV producer, she arranged an exclusive interview with Joseph Acaba, the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be named as a NASA astronaut candidate.

Iza's professional experience also includes working as a producer for Univisión WVEN TV 26 in Altamonte Springs and as my press secretary during 2013. She has been a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) since 2001, and she was recently named honorary godmother of the International Association of Writers and Poets (AIPEH). At age 39, Iza became the editor in chief of La Prensa, Central Florida's oldest Spanish language newspaper. La Prensa is owned by ImpreMedia, the leading Hispanic news and information company in the U.S.

I am happy to recognize Iza Montalvo Vázquez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING DR. TALMADGE WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Dr. Talmadge Williams. He was a man of consequence who forever strived to restore balance to the scales of justice, whether it was ensuring that our government committed to telling the full story, or making sure someone he knew had a fair shot at success. And he was my friend.

I am not exactly sure when our paths first crossed, but Talmadge had a way of growing on you. As a local elected official, particularly in my early years of service, I was out almost every night at a different event, connecting with communities and constituents I represented, first at City Hall in Alexandria and subsequently in Congress.

Somewhere among the meetings and events I saw Talmadge as a familiar face and in a short while we would seek each other out and discuss local issues of concern. His quiet demeanor and keen insight made him an indispensable ally and a trusted friend.

He always seemed to know more about a local issue than what was common knowledge, and in sharing it with me, he opened my eyes to a narrative and a perspective that was largely unknown.

It was more than just folklore; it was history that was still unwritten but needed to be. And, there was often a reason it went unrecorded and remained unwritten. It was part of a painful truth that too many, particularly those in power, found inconvenient or uncomfortable to acknowledge.

Well, Talmadge's sense of justice wouldn't let it stand and a great deal of his life was devoted to finding ways to tell the full story.

One monumental way he found to tell the full story was when he conceived the idea of building in Arlington The Black Heritage Museum. It was a vision I am pleased to be associated with through congressional legislation I helped pass that reserved a segment of the Navy Annex site for the future museum.

But, Talmadge was not one to pass up on other opportunities and I was proud to join with him in restoring the surviving slave quarters at Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. You see, before Talmadge made it an issue, the Park Service was using the two surviving slave quarters as a storage facility, erasing the significance of these two buildings and the story of slavery at Arlington House.

It is not uncommon to find some of Virginia's historic plantations beautifully restored, but with all traces of its slave history removed, as if that peculiar institution never existed. We could not undo what these owners did to erase the vestiges of slavery from their grounds, but we were not going to let the National Park Service get away with it.

I made sure the Park Service had the funds and the instructions from Congress to restore the slave quarters.

Today, Talmadge's work is now on display at Arlington House. When Talmadge made his point, it had a lasting effect.

While I was on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee I made sure the history of the U.S. Capitol acknowledged the sweat and blood of the slaves who built it. Today, in the Capitol's new visitor center there is a memorial dedicated to the slaves who built the nation's house of democracy. For me, this memorial also honors my friend Talmadge Williams.

While we have faced some setbacks on acquiring the land for the Black Heritage Museum, I have no doubt it will be built.

You see, Talmadge is recruiting new allies in heaven to aid the cause. Though I am saddened by his death, I rejoice in knowing that Talmadge has transformed those around him directing us to a better, more just tomorrow.

He is a man who dared to make a difference, and I am so ever grateful I am among those he touched.

HONORING MS. CHERISSE
MARSHALL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Entrepreneur Ms. Cherisse Marshall from Lexington, Mississippi.

Cherisse Marshall was born in Chicago, IL and at an early age her parents moved to Flint, Michigan along with her other five siblings. She was raised in Flint, MI where she attended school. After graduating from high school, she later attended Ferris State University where she studied journalism. After graduating from Ferris State University, she later entered into the corporate world in an administrative support role that would be the beginning of a long rewarding career in administration.

After a few years of working at home in Flint, MI, she decided to relocate to Atlanta, Georgia where she continued to tune and develop her administrative expertise.

As a detail-oriented, results-oriented professional, she has effectively utilized her diverse skills to benefit companies in the engineering, financial, insurance, information technology, and advertising industries. Throughout her corporate career that spans over 17 years, she has provided diverse administrative support in the areas of office administration, customer support, contract administration, problem resolution, information technology, project management, as well as everyday administrative support.

She later relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she created OfficeStar Administrative Consulting, LLC to provide the same administrative expertise to entrepreneurs and small businesses to help them focus on growing their business instead of worrying about everyday administrative tasks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for her dedication and service to her profession.

RECOGNIZING MR. BERNARD
MAZZOCCHI ON HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Bucks County businessman and entrepreneur, Bernard Mazzocchi, on the occasion of his birthday. As an entrepreneur, he has developed small businesses and properties, and revitalized aging buildings that have added to the economy and the quality of life in the Lower Bucks County community. Additionally, he uses his energy and drive as a volunteer on the local level. In this way, Bernard Mazzocchi represents American enterprise at its best, having worked his way up the ladder to success and always willing to give back. With a generous spirit, he contributes the benefit of his experience to civic, educational and charitable causes. In so doing, he has set an example of what it means to be a successful businessman and a good neighbor. We wish him continued success with our appreciation for his good work. Happy birthday and many more.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT
OF MAJOR SARAI MARTIN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Sarai Martin on the occasion of his retirement after 22 years of service in the United States Army.

Major Martin's distinguished military career began as a Private at Fort Benning, Georgia when he was only 17 years old. He served assignments throughout the United States and abroad as an enlisted Soldier, Non-Commissioned Officer and Commissioned Officer as well as enduring deployments to both Bosnia and Iraq.

Throughout his career, Major Martin continued to improve himself and rise through the ranks. After earning a college degree, Major Martin was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served in positions as varied as Company Commander for an Ordinance Company, a Military Transition Team advisor in Iraq, and eventually rose to become the Mobilization Chief in the Logistics Division of the National Guard Bureau's G4 department.

We owe Major Martin a debt of gratitude for his selfless devotion and years of service to our nation. It is my true honor and privilege to recognize Major Sarai Martin for his distinguished career, and I offer him my best wishes for continued good health and success in the years to come.

HONORABLE PATRICK J. ROMA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Patrick J. Roma who was celebrated in October for his retirement from judicial service by his friends, family, and coworkers. He retires after a long career in which he faithfully upheld New Jersey's Constitution.

The Honorable Patrick J. Roma received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in 1971. He later received his law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1975 and his L.L.M. Degree from New York University School of Law in 1981.

Early in Judge Roma's legal career, he worked as the late Judge John J. Cariddi's Law Secretary in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Judge Roma then went on to work at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C. where he worked as an attorney for over two decades. During this time, he also served as Prosecutor for the Boroughs of Palisades Park, Fairview, Little Ferry, Saddle Brook, Haworth, and Leonia.

During his time as Partner at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C., Judge Roma was elected as Council President and Police Commissioner for the Borough of Palisades Park. He served from January 1985 through December 1987. Thereafter, Judge Roma was elected as New Jersey's District 38 General Assemblyman from 1988 through 1997 during which time he served as Assistant Minority Whip and Assistant Minority Leader.

As an Assemblyman, Judge Roma received a number of awards. He was awarded Legislator of the Year by Local 518 the Motor Vehicle Employees Union in 1993, and Shelter Our Sisters and the Italian American Police Society both in 1994, as well as, Man of the Year by New Jersey AFL-CIO in 1995 and Parole Officers Association in 1991.

Judge Roma received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Consul General Franco Mistretta, on behalf of the Italian Government, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and dedicated service to the Italian-American community from Ambassador Boris Biancheri, Ambassador of Italy to the United States.

Judge Roma was appointed in 1997 to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor Christie Todd Whitman and reappointed with tenure in 2003 by Governor James McGreevy. He has served on the bench in the Criminal Division of the Bergen Vicinage.

Having served alongside Judge Roma in the State Assembly, I know personally of his dedicated and hardworking nature. Judge Roma has made an outstanding mark on Bergen County with his compassionate nature and passion for upholding justice.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals like the Honorable Patrick J. Roma.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Judge Roma's family, friends, coworkers, and all those whose lives he has

touched, and me, in recognizing the Honorable Patrick J. Roma.

HONORING FRED T. NOLAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Fred T. Nolan, a native of Dyer, Tennessee, but raised in Paducah, Kentucky, and has lived in Jackson, Mississippi since his graduation from Tougaloo College in the early 1960s.

One of his early career choices was teaching in the Jackson Public School District (JPS). Mr. Nolan taught two years at the then Brinkley High School located on Livingston Road and was a ninth grade teacher of Social Studies and Mathematics. He left JPS to pursue other career options and worked briefly for the Urban League of Jackson as director. The majority of his career spanned 25 years as the executive director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, a division of Housing Urban Development (HUD).

After fully retiring from HUD in 1996, Mr. Nolan rejoined the JPS family as a substitute and limited service teacher. He worked three years in a limited service capacity at Siwell Middle, Lanier High, and Forest Hill High schools.

Mr. Fred Nolan is married to Mrs. Kisiah Nolan, a former JPS Board member and president. His son, Fredrick Nolan, is coordinator of the JPS WATCH D.O.G.S. program. The Nolan's also have two daughters: Renee Nolan Johnson of Huntsville, Alabama, and Adrienne Nolan Colar of Smyrna, Georgia. All three of their children are graduates of the Jackson Public School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Fred T. Nolan for his dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF BENNY G. BENAVIDEZ

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief Benny G. Benavidez for his outstanding and invaluable service to the Imperial County community and to congratulate him on his retirement. Throughout his 37-year public service career, Chief Benavidez exhibited dedication to the Imperial County Probation Department's staff and clients, while keeping a steadfast commitment to improving services in Imperial County.

Chief Benavidez began his career in Imperial County Probation as a Juvenile Hall Officer in the 1970s. During his career, he served in many capacities for the Imperial County Probation Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In his leadership position at the Imperial County

Probation Department, Chief Benavidez practiced and preached ethical conduct, professionalism, knowledge, loyalty and evidence-based practices. He also created a new mission statement that embodies the driving force and tempo for all officers, enhanced officer training, established the Day Reporting Center, a one stop shop for services and referrals, improved Juvenile Hall Medical Services and brought a wealth of resources to the area through his collaborative efforts.

Chief Benavidez was heavily involved in the community he served. He routinely attended Imperial County Board of Supervisors meetings, Law Enforcement Coordination Council meetings, Community Corrections Partnership meetings and local events designed to bring awareness to the resources available in the community to reduce recidivism, motivate behavioral change and advocate for victims. With a degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, Chief Benavidez continues to be a valuable asset to the Imperial Valley College faculty as a Correctional Science instructor.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Georgia Military College as it celebrates its 135th anniversary. I take great pride in representing this historic institution, comprised of a junior college and a separate preparatory school, located in scenic Milledgeville, Georgia.

Once the site of the Georgia state capitol, GMC now is one of only five United States Military Junior Colleges. At the center of its main campus stands the Old Capitol Building where the Georgia General Assembly met from 1807 until 1868 before the capital was moved to Atlanta. As President Emeritus Major General Peter J. Boylan has highlighted, "It was on the parade on the east plaza that every soldier from Georgia marched before going off to defend our values in war . . . the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, the War with Mexico, and, of course, the Civil War." In light of this rich history, it is fitting that the institution's core values are that of Duty, Honor, and Country.

What began in 1879 as Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College with just 219 students has flourished into an institution with more than 12,000 students enrolled online or at one of its nine campus locations. Nationally recognized as one of the best community colleges, GMC is producing accomplished and well-rounded individuals. It has a highly regarded junior college cadet program that culminates at the end of two years of study with a select few men and women being commissioned as officers in the United States Army. Additionally, it boasts such prestigious graduates as Georgia Governor George Busbee, Coach Bill Yoast of "Remember the Titans," U.S. Secretary of Labor W.J. Usery, and comedian and actor Oliver Hardy. Its alumni in-

clude judges, artists, educators, inventors, doctors, aviation pioneers, and thousands of men and women who have served in uniform.

For this reason, and on the occasion of its anniversary, it is my honor to acknowledge the educational leadership of this remarkable institution, under the direction of Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV. Furthermore, I extend my sincere appreciation to the entire Georgia Military College community—students, staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters—for the contributions they have made for more than a century to Georgia and beyond.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT TAX-EXEMPT STATUS TO PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES THAT PROMOTE THE USE OF THE TERM REDSKINS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would amend section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit tax-exempt status to professional sports leagues that promote or allow a member club or franchise connected to that league to promote the use of the term "Redskins." Senator MARIA CANTWELL has introduced the same bill in the Senate.

Currently, the National Football League (NFL) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) "business league" organization that receives tax-exempt status. It is the nation's largest sports franchise, generating almost \$10 billion annually. Unlike some of its counterparts—the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball, for example—it operates as a non-profit, which allows for its profits to trickle down to its 32 teams, including the Washington football team.

Over 300 tribes and two million Native Americans, as well as religious and human rights organizations, have called on NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Daniel Snyder, the Washington football team owner, to change the name of the Washington football team because the name and mascot insult native people. In addition, several media outlets around the country no longer print or use the term "Redskins" when referring to the Washington football team because the term is offensive.

On June 18, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in a landmark decision (*Blackhorse v. Pro Football, Inc.*), found the name used by the Washington football team to be disparaging to Native Americans and not deserving of trademark protection, and cancelled federal trademark protection for the "Redskins" trademarks. While the ruling did not persuade Daniel Snyder or Roger Goodell to change the name, the ruling has the potential to affect the profits received from the sale of the team's merchandise.

American taxpayers have been subsidizing a multibillion dollar league that promotes what has now been officially found to be a racial slur for profitable gain. Relief from taxes should no longer be given to a league that

profits from the continued use of a racial slur, which degrades some Americans. As an organization that enjoys tax-exempt benefits, the NFL also has a duty to American taxpayers to ensure that its teams are not promoting or benefitting from a racial slur. This bill would revoke the tax-exempt status of professional sports leagues that choose to continue to use the offensive and derogatory term "Redskins."

Because this bill only revokes the tax-exempt status of leagues that promote the use of the term "Redskins," it would not affect other leagues that fall under the same 501(c)(6) tax exemption such as the Professional Golfers Association and the National Hockey League.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

REMEMBERING PAUL G. (JERRY)
GOFORTH

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul G. (Jerry) Goforth who passed away on October 3, 2014. Jerry, a family man, United States Marine, and a horseman will be remembered as a compassionate and respectful man who provided unconditionally for his family.

Jerry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Second Division, in 1943 and served over two years in the Pacific Theatre.

After leaving the USMC, Jerry made Southern California home where he fell in love with his wife Barbara (Bobbie) Baylis. Together they married in 1948 and raised a family.

Jerry was a distinguished member of the Long Beach Police Department as a motor officer. After an accident that prematurely ended Jerry's career, he joined the team at State Farm in Costa Mesa as a claims superintendent.

Retiring after twenty-five years, Jerry and Bobbie built their dream home and moved to my hometown of Yucca Valley.

I can remember Jerry and Bobbie traveling at every opportunity they had. Either abroad or in their motor-home, they loved the chance to see old friends and make new ones. Jerry raised Arabian horses, leather tooled, and restored antique factors.

Jerry was a member of the California Chapter of the Second Marine Division Association. He was devoted to promoting the tenets of the association and served as both President of the California and National Associations.

"Once a Marine, Always a Marine"
Semper Fi

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIONVILLE NATURAL PHARMACY OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lionville Natural Pharmacy of Ches-

ter County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

After graduating from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1973, Ben Briggs, RPh, CNC, IACP, began his career as a retail pharmacist and founded Lionville Pharmacy in 1979. While the store was originally located in the Medical Arts Building on Route 100, it moved in 1987 to a larger location on Route 113 and Whitford Road, and then finally to its current location in 1992 at Route 113 and Gordon Drive. In 1996, the store was renamed Lionville Natural Pharmacy and Health Food Store. In 1999, upon his graduation from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Ben's son, Michael, Pharm.D., CNC, also joined the practice.

Over the years, Lionville Natural Pharmacy added a compounding pharmacy lab and a holistic health center offering therapeutic massage, acupuncture, shiatsu, and more. Throughout its long and storied history, Lionville Natural Pharmacy has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles, including Best of the Main Line in Main Line Today from 2006 to 2014.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its 35 years of faithful service to its patients and customers, along with its outstanding history of commitment to the life and health of the Chester County community and its citizens, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Lionville Natural Pharmacy of Chester County, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMPLE COVENANT OF PEACE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 175th anniversary of the Temple Covenant of Peace. They are the third oldest Temple in Pennsylvania and the tenth oldest in the United States. Committed to a mission of cultivating a love and understanding of Jewish heritage and to inspiring fellowship in the Jewish Community, they have offered many avenues for service to the larger community. Their history is intertwined with the history of the City of Easton, Pennsylvania.

Founded on August 26, 1839, the Congregation Brith Sholom (Covenant of Peace) held their services in a rented space on Third and Bank Street in Easton. As they grew, they endeavored to build a synagogue on Sixth Street between Pine and Ferry. Its façade mirrored that of a great synagogue in Florence, Italy. Until 1959, it was the oldest synagogue in continuous use, for 117 years, in the United States. In 1954, the Covenant of Peace purchased property to build a new synagogue for their growing congregation. This synagogue was dedicated on November 20, 1959. The synagogue was built with no work performed on the Sabbath or on Jewish holidays. The Temple Covenant of Peace has what is believed to be one of the first free-standing monuments to the victims of the Holocaust.

Through the years, members of the Temple Covenant of Peace have served the Easton community well. The Rabbis and members have served on the boards of community nonprofits and similar organizations. They have organized food drives and participated in community dialogues on faith and the ethical issues of our day. They have stood with members of the community to help them grieve times of loss and to offer courage in times of change.

It is my honor to commend the Temple Covenant of Peace and their commitment to cultivating a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage and to inspiring fellowship in the Jewish Community as well as service in the broader community in the Easton area.

HONORING COLONEL ANDREW J.
FRANK

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Andrew J. Frank who retired after 36 years of faithful service in the United States Army on September 30, 2014. As a fitting finale to his long and distinguished career, on July 28, 2014, Colonel Frank was awarded the National Intelligence Medal for Valor in recognition of his extraordinary heroism while serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. As the Intelligence Community's second highest award, the National Intelligence Medal for Valor recognizes only the most exceptional acts of courage in the pursuit of intelligence community and national security objectives.

On the occasion of Colonel Frank's retirement to my home-state of Wisconsin, I would like to take a moment to underscore his heroic actions to the House.

On March 20, 2008, while serving as the Defense Intelligence Agency's Chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency Support Organization in Afghanistan, Colonel Frank displayed unflinching leadership and bravery leading security activities for an inter-agency intelligence task force. Caught in an ambush by a numerically superior enemy force with a marked tactical advantage, Colonel Frank courageously disregarded his own safety, maneuvering through multiple kill zones over open terrain, on no less than seven occasions, to save the lives of his teammates, coalition soldiers, and civilian bystanders. He personally led the fire and maneuver of his team, rallied the Afghan National Police (ANP) to engage enemy forces, and heroically retrieved a critical resupply of ammunition desperately needed by his team. Colonel Frank's uncommon valor and determined leadership allowed his three-member team, trapped in two ambushes for over two and one half hours, to neutralize the enemy without a single loss of U.S. or ANP life. Colonel Frank's bravery under fire is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the United States Intelligence Community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Andrew and his family for their many years of faithful service and a job very well done. I wish them years of good fortune as they enjoy their retirement from military service in Wisconsin.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S (TAIWAN) 103RD NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Taiwan's 103rd National Day on October 10, 2014. This event marks the anniversary of the 1911 uprising that led to the establishment of the Republic of China.

As my colleagues know, the U.S.-Taiwan relationship is a warm one, cemented by our shared commitments to democracy and free enterprise. This stands in contrast to Taiwan's unique political status in the international community, which too often leaves it shut out of the world's deliberations. All across the globe today, we see new and emerging threats of rare complexity, the solutions to which would benefit greatly from Taiwan's participation at the negotiating table.

I ask that my colleagues join me in redoubling our efforts to secure meaningful participation, wherever possible, for Taiwan in the work of international and multilateral organizations. As we work toward that end, I once again join my colleagues in wishing our Taiwanese friends all the best as they commemorate this momentous day.

RECOGNIZING DR. AHMED MAZAHERI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to proudly acknowledge the many accomplishments of Ahmed Mazaheri, M.D. and his contributions to the local and global community. He recently was recognized by Rotary Club International and the Rotary Club of Doylestown with its "50 Years of Service Award." Dr. Mazaheri retired from medical practice in 1994 and, with his generous spirit, devoted his time to community and international service, particularly through the Rotary Club of Doylestown and service on various county health and educational associations. Dr. Mazaheri, a native of Iran, left his country at age 18 to study medicine at the University of Bonn and the University of London and later, medical residencies at Georgetown University and Pennsylvania Hospital. Prior to 1961, he was a medical liaison for the U.S. Army in Germany. We sincerely congratulate him for selfless dedication and devo-

tion to the health and well-being of the greater community and grateful that he has reached out to so many others. In so doing, Dr. Mazaheri has set an outstanding example for others to follow.

CELEBRATING VIVIAN L. WOOD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary service of Williamson County Treasurer Vivian L. Wood as she begins the next exciting chapter of her life. Recognizing the importance of allowing a new generation of leaders a chance to make a positive impact, Vivian is stepping down from her two decades of dedication to making Williamson County a great place to live and work.

Under Vivian's stewardship, Williamson County has enjoyed tremendous population and job growth while the rest of the nation was still recovering from recent economic challenges. As the fastest growing county in the USA from 2010 through 2012, Williamson County is home to Dell Computers, cutting edge medical centers, and thriving small businesses. Vivian's forward-thinking financial management has been critical to the county's continuing success.

Widely admired and respected for her leadership, Vivian has been a treasurer both her colleagues and constituents could rely upon. Her commitment to public service doesn't end when she leaves the office. Vivian has served in all offices of the County Treasurers Association of Texas since 1996 and has received numerous awards for her dedication to excellence.

Vivian's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. She's positively impacted the lives of thousands and there's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend Vivian Wood for her selfless service to her beloved community and wish her only the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Save Mart Supermarkets, who will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame's "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 13, 2014.

Save Mart Supermarkets, a California corporation, owns and operates 221 stores in Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada under the Save Mart, S-Mart Foods,

Lucky, and FoodMaxx banners. A privately-owned retail food company, it is sustained by a familial corporate culture. The company has always believed in supporting local suppliers and producers, and is actively engaged with the charities and causes of the communities where its stores do business.

Their long history began when the first Save Mart opened in Modesto, California on January 17, 1952. Over the next four decades, many changes took place. Long known for innovation, Save Mart was one of the first supermarkets to offer customers pre-packaged meats, yard and garden supplies, plants, fresh-cut flowers and gift items, all creative concepts for the 1950s, and relatively unheard of for the area until Save Mart introduced them. In 1984, major growth occurred for Save Mart Supermarkets with the opening of eight new stores and a new partnership established to produce Sunnyside Farms dairy products. The company expanded throughout the 1980s including the acquisition of twenty-seven Fry's supermarkets located in the East Bay area in 1989; 1997 saw the acquisition of 10 Lucky stores in the Central Valley.

With their success, the company developed its own warehouse concept under the name FoodMaxx, which it owns independently. In 2003, Save Mart Supermarkets acquired 25 Food 4 Less stores and rebranded them FoodMaxx. The FoodMaxx division is now 50 stores strong.

Still growing, in 2007 Save Mart Supermarkets acquired Albertsons stores in the Metro Sacramento area, San Francisco Bay Area, and Northern Nevada, and converted them to Lucky and Save Mart stores. Today, the company operates stores throughout the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, and Northern Nevada.

Save Mart Supermarkets is committed to being a responsible corporate citizen—conducting business ethically and giving back to the communities that it serves. The company has partnered with a number of organizations and established giving programs that can deliver both tangible and intangible benefits to the communities served by Save Mart Supermarkets' stores. Some of the partners include American Heart Association, City of Hope, Children's Hospitals: Madera, Oakland, San Francisco, and Sacramento and local food banks.

One event that the company has made its own is the Toyota/Save Mart 350. Ranked as one of the top ten annual NASCAR races by Maxim magazine, the Toyota/Save Mart 350 is a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event held every year in June at Sonoma Raceway. Save Mart Supermarkets has sponsored this race since 1989, when it attracted only 20,000 spectators. The annual event now draws a crowd of approximately 110,000 and raises money for the company's charities and Save Mart CARES.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Save Mart Supermarkets for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the people of our local community.

RECOGNIZING DR. LARRY
SCHMITZER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to proudly acknowledge the many accomplishments of Dr. Larry Schmitzer and his legacy of kindness and commitment to the well-being of others. Prior to serving individuals and families in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Dr. Schmitzer served our country as a flight surgeon in Vietnam.

Dr. Schmitzer started his medical practice along with Dr. Mark Radbill. As their practice grew, they saw the need to expand in order to better serve our community. Along with other individuals, Drs. Schmitzer and Radbill helped establish the Delaware Valley Medical Center. Eventually, the organization joined Aria and is now known as Aria Health-Bucks County.

Although an esteemed medical practitioner, the hallmark of Dr. Schmitzer's career was his effort to form the Warminster Chapter of Gilda's Club. Dr. Schmitzer was among the 12 original founders and deemed the driving force. Named after comedian Gilda Radner who died from ovarian cancer in 1989, the organization provides emotional and social support for people living with cancer and the families that love them. They have been particularly attentive to the needs of children impacted by family members battling this horrible disease.

On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I offer Dr. Schmitzer my gratitude for a career marked with selfless dedication and compassion for our friends, neighbors and loved ones. Thank you, Dr. Schmitzer.

GAETANO ARMANDO FORMICA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaetano Armando Formica who selflessly served as a U.S. Army soldier during World War II and is celebrating his 100th birthday. His family and friends will join together this Sunday to celebrate and wish him continued health, happiness, and prosperity.

Gaetano Armando Formica, also known as Al, was born September 4, 1914. Al worked in the family bakery and then went on to work for Federal Leather. With his experience there, Al eventually went on to open his own shop where he recovered chairs and furniture.

Al married his wife Anna in 1943. Soon thereafter, he was drafted into the Army and served in several European countries during World War II. His services in World War II deserve special recognition.

Al was on Utah Beach, the westernmost part of the Allied landing beach on D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge toward the end of World War II.

Al helped to liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. It was one of the first and largest concentration camps on German soil where over 55,000 innocent souls lost their lives. Today, the remains of Buchenwald serve as a memorial and permanent exhibition and museum.

Al returned to civilian life after being injured during the war. For many years, he served as commander in the Disabled American Veterans Post 38. He was also the Grand Marshal in the Memorial Parade in 2009.

Al and his wife Anna have been blessed with three children, Armand, Gary, and Roberta as well as six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Sadly, his son Gary was killed in 1970 while serving his nation in the Vietnam War. Truly the Formica family has given of itself in service of our great nation.

Al and Anna currently reside in Bloomfield, NJ. Al keeps busy with gardening work, playing the guitar, and cooking. He also takes care of Anna who is wheelchair bound.

As his friend, I am very pleased to have the great fortune of being able to honor such a marvelous member of our community. I sincerely wish Mr. Gaetano Armando Formica and his entire family the best.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Gaetano Armando Formica.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Formica's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Gaetano Armando Formica for one hundred years of life dedicated to family and nation.

HONORING FRANCHESTER
COLEMAN EASON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mrs. Franchester Coleman Eason, who is the owner of Franchester's Salon.

Franchester was born January 3, 1969 to the late Eddie and Henrietta Coleman. She along with her 13 siblings was raised south of Rolling Fork, MS in a small rural community called Edgermount. Franchester is a graduate of Rolling Fork High School and holds an AA degree from Hinds Community College in the field of Cosmetology. She has worked as a cosmetologist since earning a license from the MS State Board of Cosmetology in 1990.

Franchester began her career working for the late Minnie Pearl Brown at the Rolling Fork Beauty Charm. After working at Rolling Fork Beauty Charm for several years Franchester decided to work for Lee's Hair Care, for the late Mrs. Letha Lee. Upon the passing of Mrs. Lee, Franchester managed the shop as her own for many years. In 2009 she and her husband, Frank, were blessed with the opportunity to buy the business. The beauty shop is now called Franchester's Salon

and is located at 153 North 2nd Street; opens at 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday. Franchester's Salon offers a wide variety of hair care techniques.

Franchester is a member of the National Beautician Association. She is also a member of Mt. Ollie M. B. Church in Edgermount.

Franchester and her husband, Frank, are the proud parents of Catina, Mariesha, Jeremy and Frank III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Franchester Coleman Eason for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.

HONORING VINCE CALLAHAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., who passed away on September 20th, 2014, at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia.

Vince represented Virginia's 34th District in the Virginia General Assembly for nearly four decades. During his tenure on the Appropriations Committee, he worked tirelessly on important regional projects for his constituents in McLean and Arlington. He was always willing to work across the aisle to find compromise and get things done.

Vince's many legislative accomplishments include supporting the growth of George Mason University and the Dulles Corridor, as well as securing state funds for public spaces, like Wolf Trap. The northern Virginia we know today would not exist if it were not for Vince and his outstanding statesmanship in the Virginia General Assembly. The region owes him a debt of gratitude for his faithful and effective service.

Vince was a man of strong convictions and the highest moral character. He was a true Virginia gentleman, family man and a loyal friend; he will be sorely missed by his family, friends and community. Vince is survived by his wife Yvonne, eight children, 22 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I respectfully submit Vince's obituary from The Fairfax Times and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vince's life and achievements.

[From FairfaxTimes.com, Sept. 26, 2014]

CALLAHAN'S LEGACY BURNS BRIGHT

Fairfax County lost one of its true statesmen—and untold amounts of institutional knowledge—when longtime state legislator Vince Callahan died last Saturday from complications related to West Nile virus.

Callahan, who represented McLean in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1967 to 2008, will best be remembered as someone who cared deeply about Northern Virginia and spent more than half his life fighting for his district, his constituents and for Virginia.

It's hard to travel through Fairfax County today and not see Callahan's fingerprints on many key institutions and roadways. He was critical in drumming up dollars and support for George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College; many Fairfax

residents could locate either school on a map. He championed Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts when many others viewed the project as a waste of money and land. He was instrumental in establishing Georgetown Pike as a scenic byway, fending off intense pressure to four-lane the road through Great Falls and parts of McLean.

He also played a lead role in establishing the Dulles Toll Road, erecting sound walls along Interstate 495 and sparking commercial development on the Dulles corridor.

Callahan's list of accomplishments goes on and on, fueled mostly by a calm, inclusive leadership style rarely seen in today's General Assembly.

In an era of partisan bickering and political gamesmanship, Callahan built his career on putting people ahead of party and solving old problems rather than creating new ones. He was keenly aware that he worked at the behest of those in the 34th House district—not the other way around. A lifelong Republican, he went to Richmond each winter focused on improving the lives of his constituents in McLean, Arlington and other parts of Virginia. That often meant crossing the aisle and working with Democrats to pass critical legislation. It also meant standing up to lawmakers in his own party when they were pushing policy harmful to his district.

In the midst of yet another expensive, attack-oriented election cycle, Vince Callahan's passing should serve as a reminder that there's always going to be a place for people with firm spines, positive ideas and good intentions.

RECOGNIZING THE COLLINSWORTH FAMILY AS THE 2014 WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Collinsworth family of Westville, Florida, for being selected as the 2014 Walton County Farm Family of the Year.

The Collinsworth family traces its Northwest Florida roots to 1894, where their ancestors settled near the small community of Gaskin, Florida. Today, about 25 miles southeast of Gaskin, the Collinsworth family farm, owned by Bobby and Hazel Collinsworth, comprises three generations of farmers, including their son-in-law and grandchildren of the Currid family, each of whom play an integral role in the family's farming operations.

Since 1924, Bobby and Hazel Collinsworth have worked tirelessly to cultivate their farm to the successful operation it is today. What originally produced corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and consisted of hogs and cattle has flourished into 320 acres owned and 240 acres leased to raise 129 crossbred cows and 16 registered Simmental cows.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by farmers and their families. The Walton County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Collinsworth's family dedication to family and farming and their shared passion for ranching and caring for the land for future generations to come. On behalf of the United

States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Collinsworth family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING CALVIN L. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Calvin L. Johnson, Sr. as he completes his time as the Worthy Grand Joshua, of the Most Ancient Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho, Inc., Prince Hall PHA of Pennsylvania.

The Prince Hall Freemasonry is a collection of predominately African American jurisdictions in North America with a rich history dating back to before the Revolutionary War. In the 1700s, upon receiving rejection by over a dozen colonial Freemasonries, a freed slave by the name of Prince Hall, along with fourteen other freed slaves, created a chapter through the Grand Lodge of England, the original source of Freemasonry. The position of Worthy Grand Joshua is one of the highest honors within the Prince Hall Freemasonry. During the past two years, Mr. Johnson's duties have involved a demanding schedule of visits to many lodges throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and participation in countless ceremonies and events.

A lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, Mr. Johnson was born in Harrisburg and spent his formative years in Steelton. He graduated from Steelton-Highspire High. After completing high school, Mr. Johnson entered the U.S. Army and was able to retire as a Chief Warrant Officer 3, as a Criminal Investigator for the Department of the Army.

His career after the military includes working for the Department of Environmental Resources, the Office of the Attorney, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Most recently, after four years as a Security Investigator, Mr. Johnson left to pursue part-time work as a private investigator, constable, and tax preparer. It is during this time that he became the Worthy Grand Joshua, of the Most Ancient Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho, Inc., PHA. He has served in this capacity for two years, performing his duties professionally and never without a smile.

Outside of his current role as Worthy Grand Joshua, Mr. Johnson also serves on the Executive Board of Steelton Youth in Action (S.Y.I.A.) as the Financial Secretary. Even with his many commitments, he finds time in his schedule to drive a school bus for Steelton-Highspire, McDevitt, and Central Dauphin students.

George Washington, a notable Mason, once shared: "To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

Mr. Speaker, upon the completion of his duties as Worthy Grand Joshua, I thank Mr. Johnson for all that he has done for our area and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING DR. DEBRA STAKES

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Dr. Debra Stakes, President of the Cuesta College Federation of Teachers, AFT 4909. Throughout her career, Dr. Stakes has been a committed individual to the advancement of high-quality education and scientific research. She has been a champion in moving forward these principles all while being a staunch advocate for faculty concerns and promoting community engagement, organizing, and political activism.

Dr. Stakes prestigious career in the sciences is a product of her academic tenacity and achievements. She is a graduate of Rice University and received her doctorate in Oceanography from Oregon State University. Dr. Stakes' prominent postgraduate work included research appointments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology, as well as a year at the National Science Foundation. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Stakes was the first woman to participate in a range of groundbreaking discoveries such as the seafloor hot vents.

Later, Dr. Stakes taught at the University of South Carolina for almost eight years, where she was the only woman on a faculty of twenty-five in the Department of Geology. During her time at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Stakes promoted the management of large educational programs to support students to excel and succeed in the fields of mathematics and science.

Dr. Stakes continued her work and research in scientific and oceanic developments during the decade she worked as the only female scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

In 2006, Dr. Stakes began teaching at Cuesta College in the fields of Geology and Oceanography, where she became involved in the faculty union as a Division Representative and later as the Committee on Political Education (COPE) Chair. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Stakes became the Vice President and took on the role of the organization's Chief Negotiator.

Dr. Stakes' passion for the sciences is evident throughout the trajectory of her career. She has been a trailblazer for women in her field and has continuously shown outstanding dedication towards the value of people's work and has stood against the injustice to deny anyone acknowledgement of their contributions.

As the current Chief Negotiator for Cuesta College's faculty union, Dr. Stakes continues to strive for the progress and enhancement of our education system, as well as the lives of educators. Dr. Stakes has encouraged and cultivated a strong bond of partnership between Cuesta College and the Tri-Counties

Central Labor Council, which has benefitted many people throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

For these reasons, I am pleased to join the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring Dr. Debra Stakes for her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts to expand the role of women in the workforce, the education sector and our community.

HONORING PETER ANDREAS SZEGO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA, to recognize the impact of Mr. Peter Andreas Szego's lifelong involvement in the life of our community. We would like to express our deep sadness over his passing on September 28, 2014, in San Jose at the age of 89.

To escape Hitler's Germany, Mr. Szego immigrated to the United States with his family in 1934. After he started his studies at Stanford University, his education was interrupted in 1944 when he entered the U.S. Army to serve in Europe as a dental technician until 1946. After WWII, Mr. Szego returned to the United States to finish college, undertake course work toward a Ph.D., and teach at Rice University, Houston, Texas, and Santa Clara University.

Around this time, Mr. Szego began his lifelong activism for civil rights, justice, peace, and many political campaigns for candidates who stood for these causes. After doing research for over a decade and while continuing to work and publish in applied mathematics, Mr. Szego left engineering to join the staff to Mr. Dan McCorquodale, the Santa Clara County Supervisor at the time. Among other things, in 1963, Mr. Szego joined an interracial group to take part in the March on Washington. Additionally, Mr. Szego served as an advisor to U.S. Representative Phil Burton on the issue of drafting fair political districts long before computer programs were used to draw boundaries.

After his retirement from the Legislature in 1991, Mr. Szego continued to work even harder to improve the lives of people of all races, backgrounds and ages, both on the local and national levels. In fact, in recognition of his numerous years of dedicated volunteer service, Mr. Szego received the AARP's highest state honor, the California Percy Andrus Award for Community Service. Deservedly, in May, 2014, Mr. Szego received the Santa Clara County Democratic Party Don Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award.

We join Mr. Szego's family, colleagues, and our community to express our heartfelt sense of loss. Mr. Szego's service leaves our world a better place, and he will be dearly missed.

TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF SARDAR GANGA SINGH DHILLON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the distinguished life of Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon, who passed away on September 24, 2014 at the age of 86.

Ganga Singh Dhillon was born in the Sheikhpura area of West Punjab. He received his early education at Chak 19 and the Guru Nanak Khalsa High School Nanakana Sahib. He later joined the Sikh National College Lahore.

This was a time of great political and religious turmoil throughout the Indian sub-continent. The region was on the verge of being divided, and the interests of the Sikh community were not being addressed. S. Dhillon became one of the foremost original leaders of the Sikh struggle. In 1947 he was arrested in Lahore along with several other students for promoting Khalistan, a Sikh nation. That same year, his father was shot and killed by the Pakistani army while trying to resolve an issue between the Sikhs and Muslims.

Ganga Singh Dhillon then moved with his family to India where he was mentored by S. Joginder Singh Mann, an old family friend. While in India, S. Dhillon began his battle to preserve Sikh holy sites, especially the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev, and to allow Sikh pilgrims the right to visit these sites. However, his cause was considered far too radical, and he was taken into custody and held in the Nabha jail for a year and a half. It would take fifty years for this battle to be won; in 1999 the President of Pakistan finally granted the Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee the right to maintain Sikh shrines and began granting more visas so that Sikhs abroad can visit them.

With the help of S. Mann, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon moved to the United States in the 1960s where he continued his advocacy on behalf of Sikh concerns. S. Dhillon was committed to improving relationships and understanding between Sikhs and other cultures and religions. He discussed issues with patience, logic, and advocacy for peaceful solutions, even with his most bitter adversaries. In 1965, S. Dhillon founded the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hockey Tournament. The core mission of this tournament was to build friendship and stronger bonds through sport, and to develop better understanding and mutual respect for people of all countries, rich and poor, through competition and sportsmanship. This tournament is now one of the largest international hockey tournaments in the United States.

In 1981, S. Dhillon returned to India to deliver a Presidential Address entitled "Sikhs Are a Nation" at the 54th All India Sikh Educational Conference. Reaction to his speech was overwhelmingly hostile, forcing him to leave India immediately. He was banned from ever travelling to India as a result.

S. Dhillon was also a leader on other issues of importance to the international Sikh community. He along with others established the

Nanakana Sahib Foundation, the purpose of which was to bridge the gap between Sikhs and their Pakistani Muslim brothers. This foundation is jointly funded and run by Muslim and Sikh private individuals, and houses a library, a guest house, and hospital where free medical care is provided to the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating and celebrating the life of my friend, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon and in expressing sincere condolences to his family. Sadar Ganga Singh Dhillon rightfully belongs in a select group of very rare individuals who, through peaceful means, have truly changed the world. His efforts on behalf of the international Sikh community and in improvement of relationships between cultures will leave a lasting legacy.

RAINN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), one of our Nation's most effective victims' organizations.

Founded by Scott Berkowitz in 1994, RAINN is the Nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Their cutting edge work has changed the outcome for victims of sexual violence for years.

They have made the country more aware of the evil of sexual assault and have aided millions of victims.

RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, which provides victims of sexual assault with free, confidential services around the clock and has served over 1.5 million people since 1994.

The hotline expanded its services going online in 2007 helping to reach even more victims.

In addition, RAINN operates the DOD Safe Helpline to aid victims of sexual violence in our military.

Beyond the hotline and other direct victim services, RAINN advocates for policies that change the lives of victims of sexual assault and engages the public to advocate on behalf of victims' rights bills.

They were vital in the passage of the Debbie Smith Act, its subsequent reauthorizations, the DNA Fingerprint Act, and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, and the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act.

I worked with RAINN on SAFER for years along with Congresswoman MALONEY and Senator CORNYN.

SAFER provides grants to states and localities with existing funds to audit their rape kit backlog and makes this information available to the public.

SAFER also mandates that more current funds go directly to test rape kits.

Despite the various barriers we encountered throughout the years since this idea was brought to me by RAINN, Scott Berkowitz and the incredible staff at RAINN never gave up.

They persevered because they knew it was right.

They knew that SAFER would bring justice to victims and put perpetrators where they belong, behind bars.

Scott's spirit is like that of a Texan, even though he's from New Jersey, but we won't hold that against him.

That is why we work together so well.

Congratulations on 20 years of making a true difference in victims' lives.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN CUNDIFF AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Susan Cundiff as the Hurlburt Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Cundiff was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Ms. Cundiff joins the ranks of teachers previously bestowed this honor for her more than three decades of service as an educator at Gulf Breeze High School and her service to the Gulf Coast community. Since 1983, she has witnessed and has played an integral role in the growth of some of the finest minds of our Nation's youth. Through her passion for teaching, which has helped spark her students' sense of wonder and interest in the world around them, Ms. Cundiff's contributions to producing the next generation of active participants in our society, and perhaps future scientists and engineers, cannot be overstated.

Her tireless efforts and innovative techniques have brought unique hands-on learning opportunities into the classroom. As a result of this practical learning, her students gain a working knowledge of wireless computer integration and electronics construction. Today, her students can also be found researching, building, wiring, programming and testing robots on a specified task.

Her dedication to the community, however, is not confined within the classroom. Ms. Cundiff is active in Hurlburt AFA Chapter's aerospace educational programs, devoting her time and energy to assist in planning and organizing events. She also utilizes her considerable experience and success in the classroom to assist in the professional development of other educators throughout the area at the Chapter's Teacher Workshops, sharing best practices and stimulating lessons that can be brought back to their respective classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Cundiff on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and

dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Cundiff all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2014 Elly Doyle Park Service Award, the Elly Doyle Special Recognition Award, the Eakin Philanthropy Award, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award, the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award as well as the 2014 Student Honoree. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients also have been selected for the 2014 Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the family that donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship, named in honor of a celebrated local historian and military veteran, and the 2014 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named in honor of a local champion of environmental education and protection. I congratulate each of the following recipients of these prestigious awards and proudly enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2014 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients: James "Curly" Anderko, Bob Dinse, Alan Figgatt.

Elly Doyle Special Recognition: Mona Enquist-Johnston, John Eltzroth, Fairfax County Farmers Markets Market Masters, Donn Grover, REI.

Student Honoree: Matthew Baker.

Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipients: Mike Rolband, Transurban—Fluor.

Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award: Bob Lundegard.

Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award Recipient: Diane Hoffman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking these honorees for their demonstrated commitment to our open spaces and public parks. Fairfax County is able to enjoy a high quality of life because of the efforts of these individuals and

they are deserving of our praise and appreciation.

RECOGNIZING PASCO L. SCHIAVO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Pasco L. Schiavo, who has been selected as the 2014 UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter's Italian American of the Year.

A lifelong resident of Hazleton, Mr. Schiavo served our country honorably as a first lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. In 1962, after completing his military service, he established a law practice in Hazleton and began teaching at the local Penn State Hazleton Campus. Mr. Schiavo generously donated not only his time, but also his financial support to the school, establishing multiple scholarships in memory of his parents.

Along with his commitment to higher education and learning, Mr. Schiavo has held many leadership positions in the community. He served as Assistant District Attorney of Luzerne County, was President of the County Commission on Economic Opportunity, and was appointed to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he served as solicitor for the Hazleton Area School District, Hazleton Housing Authority, Hazle Township Municipality, and the Hazleton City Authority. He continues to give back to the community through his support of the Hazleton Public Library, Hazleton Kiwanis, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and the Serento Gardens Drug and Alcohol Services.

He has taught at and held many leadership roles at Penn State Hazleton. The plaque on the side of Pasco L. Schiavo Hall says it all: "A lawyer, author, educator, community leader, and philanthropist. The only title missing is Proud Italian American."

Mr. Speaker, for his exemplary service to the Italian American community and the greater Hazleton Area, I commend and thank Mr. Schiavo and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. STEVE HALL

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Dr. Steve Hall, President and Chief Negotiator for the Ventura County Federation of College Teachers, AFT Local 1828, who has successfully worked with labor and community groups throughout Ventura County to promote high-quality education and academic excellence for all students throughout the region.

Throughout his life, Dr. Hall has followed his passion for teaching, but more importantly helping others attain their highest potential.

With this in mind, he pursued a Doctor of Education Degree with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership at Pepperdine University, and has since dedicated his career to the fields of education and teaching.

For several years, Dr. Hall has been an esteemed and respected member of the Oxnard College faculty. After only two years at Oxnard College, Dr. Hall was recognized for his excellence in teaching when he was voted "Teacher of the Year" and delivered the commencement address in 1998.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Hall has also served as the Dean of Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Athletics, and Health Sciences at Oxnard Community College for six and a half years. Dr. Hall was the lead administrator responsible for starting an array of programs at Oxnard College that have immensely helped numerous students over the years. These programs have included the Oxnard College Dental Assistant Certificate Program, the "Proyecto Access" program, and the Oxnard College Marine Education Center. Dr. Hall has diligently worked alongside fellow faculty, staff, and community partners to make these milestones for Oxnard College students a possibility.

In 2010, Dr. Hall began serving as the President and Chief Negotiator for the Ventura County Federation of College Teachers, AFT Local 1828. In this role, Dr. Hall worked in partnership with faculty and colleagues to secure a successful three year contract that provided stability for the teachers and students of the Ventura County Community College District.

In November 2012, Dr. Hall was elected by the communities of Oxnard, Camarillo, and Port Hueneme to the Oxnard Union High School District School Board. Following his election, Dr. Hall continued his steadfast and outspoken advocacy for teachers and students. He has worked diligently to raise awareness about the necessity in reducing class sizes, raising pay for teachers and staff, and reducing expulsions. Dr. Hall has truly been a champion for Ventura County's students and teachers.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID L.
MCKEEHAN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David L. McKeegan, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce (NCMCC). After 30 years of dedicated service, Dave will be retiring from the Chamber of Commerce on December 31, 2014.

Dave formed the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce by merging the Fitchburg and Leominster Chambers of Commerce, along with smaller business groups. Over the course of his tenure, he procured over \$4.5 million in private sector funding and over \$1 million in government grants for economic development programming in the re-

gion. Under his leadership, the Chamber of Commerce has grown a community of business memberships reaching over 1,000 member firms that employ upward of 25,000 individuals in the cities of Leominster and Fitchburg and surrounding towns. Dave was instrumental in the creation as well as saving of jobs within North Central Massachusetts during his years at the Chamber.

Dave is a true leader within the community and Chambers across the country. His hard work and dedication was recognized when he was awarded the "Service Above Self Award" by Mount Wachusett Community College for his contribution to the school as well as the 29 surrounding cities. Dave was also recognized by Fitchburg State University as being one of the "100 Most Influential People in the Last 100 Years." When David officially retires, the Chamber of Commerce will lose a remarkable president and asset to their organization.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating David McKeegan on his retirement and wishing him the very best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH
BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM B. WILKINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor Mr. William B. Wilkins on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

Mr. Wilkins was born October 31, 1919 in Anniston, Alabama and was married to Ms. Eunice B. Wilkins for 72 years. He served in the United States Air Force for two years spending 18 months in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Wilkins resides at Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home and enjoys spending time with his fellow Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Wilkins for his selfless service to our country and celebrating his 95th birthday today.

RECOGNIZING PENNY MOORE AS
THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Penny Moore as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Moore was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

The never-ending yearning to help others is the foundation on which Ms. Moore has built her success as an educator. Prior to moving to Northwest Florida, Ms. Moore worked as a special needs teacher inspiring students at Churchill Academy in Montgomery, Alabama. She has since spent the last decade of her professional career teaching at Avalon Middle School in Milton, Florida. Her willingness and constant ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs of her students is a challenge that Ms. Moore embraces and is furthermore evidence of her passion to mold and enlighten the minds of our Nation's youth.

While she holds high expectations for her students and works diligently with them to master theory and practice, she also inspires and motivates her students to rise to the occasion and put theory into practice. Under her leadership and guidance as the school's science, technology, engineering, activity and math (STEAM) team, nearly 100 students from all grade levels have competed in boosting engineering, science, and technology (BEST) robotics competitions and the Science Olympiad and have represented Northwest Florida at state and national competitions. Furthermore, Ms. Moore recognizes the importance for her students to experience science and technology outside of the classroom and affords them the unique opportunity to visit the Flight Adventure Deck and the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, where students complete preparatory lessons and apply their knowledge of what they have learned through hands-on activities at the Adventure Deck.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Moore on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Moore all the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 15, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 497.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 74TH ANNUAL ANNANDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS BANQUET AND INSTALLATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department and to congratulate the 2014 award recipients and incoming 2015 officers and board members.

The Annandale Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is one of 12 volunteer fire departments in Fairfax County, and since its founding in 1940, it has provided lifesaving, fire suppression/prevention, and emergency medical/rescue services to the residents of the Annandale area and the surrounding community. The AVFD owns two stations, Station 8 on Columbia Pike and Station 23 on Little River Turnpike, and its front line fleet includes two ambulances, a medic, two engines, and one canteen unit. The Department also provides opportunities for professional growth and development of the membership.

The most valuable assets of the AVFD are the volunteers who donate their time and resources in service to our community. Last year alone, these highly skilled and committed volunteers contributed in excess of 15,000 hours responding to emergency incidents, attending training, and fundraising. Each year the AVFD recognizes those volunteers who have excelled in service and commitment, and it is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Annandale Volunteer Fire Department award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Outstanding Service Award (4 recipients): Kathleen Hinman, Richard Mitchell, Jason Pavelko, William 'Bill' Richmond.

Highest Administrative Hours Award: Shirley Binsky.

Admin Member of the Year: Walter Ferrebee and Diana Phan.

Rookie Members of the Year (two recipients): Nicole Dellinger and Kelly Kardos.

Most Training Hours: Yuan Yao.

Most Riding Hours: Chessy Dintruff.

Support Member of the Year: Fran Carfaro.

President's Award: Anthony 'Tony' Ruth.

Chief's Award: Laura Dye.

EMS Provider of the Year: Sean Bhatti and James Tuttle.

Firefighter of the Year: Robert Melgar.

Additionally, I wish to congratulate and thank the following men and women who have agreed to assume additional responsibilities as officers and board members for 2015:

Chief: Roger Waller.

President: Gary Moore.

Vice President: Sean Bhatti.

Treasurer: Ronald Waller.

Secretary: Diana Phan.

Directors: Shirley Binsky, Michael Hassan, and Peter Snitzer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 award recipients and in commending the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department for 74 years of service. I thank the brave volunteers whose dedication to public safety is deserving of our highest praise, and to each of these men and women I say: "Stay safe."

HONORING CONSTABLE MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Constable Martin Rodri-

guez. Constable Rodriguez has faithfully served the people of South Texas in many capacities, and he honorably served his country in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

Martiniano Rodriguez was born in San Antonio, Texas on December 8, 1944. The second of eight children, Martin graduated from C.W. Fox High School in 1965. Upon graduating from high school, Martin joined the Navy and served two tours of duty in the waters of Vietnam. After completing his Navy service, Martin started work at Kelly Air Force base, where he worked in the civil service for 18 years. He concurrently took classes at San Antonio College and graduated in 1977. In 1985, Martin decided to change careers, and began work at the Bexar County Constable's Department as an investigator. In 1993, Martin began working for the Wilson County Sheriff's Department and retired in 2006. Then in 2009, Martin ran for the office of Wilson County Constable, and has served in this role to this day.

In addition to a lifelong career of service to his country and his community, Constable Rodriguez will celebrate his 50th anniversary with his wife Belinda this coming January. Together, they have four children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Further, Constable Rodriguez has been a member and Officer of the Board of both the San Antonio and Wilson County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), served as a life member of the Wilson County Housing Foundation, and served as a member of the Knights of Columbus of Wilson County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Constable Martin Rodriguez for a lifetime of service to his family, his community, and his country.

HONORING THE CITY OF CAMARILLO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of Camarillo as it celebrates 50 years as a thriving and prosperous community in the heart of Ventura County, California. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the City of Camarillo, along with its residents, on this historic milestone.

The City of Camarillo was incorporated on October 22, 1964, and was named after Adolfo and Juan Camarillo, the proprietors of Rancho Calleguas. At the time of the city's incorporation, a population of approximately 10,500 residents covered the 5.2 square miles of the municipality. Today, Camarillo boasts an appealing mixture of rural and suburban lifestyles to its over 66,000 residents covering a region that spans an estimated 19.5 square miles.

Located in the Pleasant Valley at the eastern end of the Oxnard Plain, Camarillo has developed into a flourishing community since its incorporation. The city has become known for its outstanding high-tech retail stores, specialty businesses, and modern buildings. Additionally, Camarillo has been ranked as one of the safest communities in Ventura County, an

ideal and premiere city to raise a family, live, and work.

Furthermore, the City of Camarillo is home to an exceptional educated workforce, with a premiere four-year public university. California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) was established in 2002 and has been a phenomenal addition to the fabric of the city and surrounding community.

Throughout the years, Camarillo has maintained a balance between modernity and history. While providing modern amenities to its residents, the city is peppered with significant cultural and historic landmarks, such as the Camarillo Ranch House, the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum, and Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church.

Since 1964, the City of Camarillo has defined itself as a distinguished community, with a wealth of history, culture, and innovation. Camarillo takes pride in its unparalleled quality of life and the many attributes of the community that have lasted throughout the years. For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the City of Camarillo on their 50th Anniversary.

CONGRESSWOMAN HONORS MS. LAURA LAWTON-FORSYTH, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 NAOMI BERBER MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth of Spokane, Washington for receiving the Printing Industries of America's 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I am pleased to recognize her contributions as a business leader who works diligently to support Eastern Washington's economy as well as providing employment opportunities for citizens in Eastern Washington.

Founded in 1940 by Frank A. and Frank H. Lawton, Laura's grandfather and great-grandfather, Lawton Printing Inc. has remained a family business for more than seven decades. Through the years, Lawton Printing Inc. has been dedicated to serving the needs of its clients, enabling them to grow and diversify their business offerings.

Joining the company in 1991, Ms. Lawton-Forsyth held a variety of positions before being named president in October of 2001—the fourth generation of her family to hold that position. In 2012, Laura served as Chair of the Board of the Printing Industries of America, overseeing the direction and activities of the world's largest graphic arts trade association, representing an industry of more than 900,000 employees. As such, she became the second woman to be elected to the position since its founding in 1887. Leadership on a national level runs in the Lawton family. Her father, Ray, was also Chair of the Printing Industries of America, making the Lawtons the only father-daughter pair to serve in that role.

In presenting the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award to Ms. Lawton-Forsyth, the Printing Industries of America honors this outstanding woman in the graphic communications industry for her exceptional record of accomplishments, contributions to the development of the graphic communications industry and for furthering the industry's interests. She has served on their Executive Committee since 2004 and on numerous other committees, including Research and Development, Finance, Marketing, and Government Affairs.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Ms. Laura Lawton-Forsyth for her years of dedication and hard work. I also want to congratulate her, as leader of Lawton Printing Inc. and File-Ez Folder Inc., for receiving the 2014 Naomi Berber Memorial Award. I applaud her dedication to the printing industry and her contributions to the success of the economy in Eastern Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIA
BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Julia Bancroft Elementary School.

Julia Bancroft Elementary School, located in Auburn, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Julia Bancroft prides itself on the ability to prepare its students to succeed in a dynamic and fast-paced world. With a student body of approximately 285 third through fifth graders, Julia Bancroft Elementary focuses on its students at an individual level. Under the leadership of Principal Susan M. Lopez, teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to create a rigorous yet inviting environment where students are valued and differences are celebrated. The Julia Bancroft pledge, "I believe, I will achieve, and I will succeed," encompasses Julia Bancroft Elementary School's tenets to help each student reach their potential.

To encourage students to become leaders and give back to their community, Julia Bancroft Elementary promotes numerous Community Service Learning Projects. Through fundraising, volunteer work, and reading programs, these projects have instilled in the students the importance of "giving back." Other programs that contribute to student development while simultaneously benefiting the community include the Inventors' Fair, Turkey Trot, C.A.R.E. program, Literacy Night, Math Night, annual Community Reading Day, the Festival of the Arts, and various food drives.

Additionally, Julia Bancroft Elementary has strived to close academic gaps between students. Through the implementation of planned Intervention Blocks, Professional Learning Community discussions, and consistent differentiated instruction, teachers have targeted high-achievers and developed specific targeted instruction. This has resulted in the closing

of gaps in the low income and special needs subgroups.

None of this would be possible without the talented educators and staff members of Julia Bancroft Elementary School. Principal Susan M. Lopez has demonstrated a deep passion for the success of her students, as well as a commitment to creating a warm and welcoming learning environment. The tireless efforts of educators and staff at Julia Bancroft Elementary School have earned them the "Level I School" status for the past two years.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of Julia Bancroft Elementary School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating Julia Bancroft Elementary School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING SARAH MASON AS
THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2014

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Sarah Mason as the Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014. Ms. Mason was among three educators selected throughout Northwest Florida for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Though Ms. Mason has been teaching for ten years, she was keenly aware of her passion for putting others before herself long before she stepped foot in a classroom as an educator. Her teaching aspirations took flight in high school, when she joined the Gold Seal Quality Care program her junior year, which afforded her the opportunity to inspire the young minds of local elementary school students. Ms. Mason built on this positive experience and pursued a Bachelor of Education at the University of West Florida. She has spent the last seven years of her decade of teaching at Blue Angels Elementary School in Pensacola, Florida.

Ms. Mason credits her family for igniting in her curiosity and passion for science, which indirectly led to the chemical reaction rocket experiments in her backyard as a child that have helped her cultivate tomorrow's scientists and engineers as an adult. She brings science to life in her classroom through hands-on activities, like the pegboard "engineering wall" that allows students to engineer their own creations using pegs, rubber bands, and pipes and the building and analyzing of marble roller coasters to understand mathematical, scientific and engineering concepts through real world applications.

Ms. Mason also welcomes the latest technology in her classroom, including iPads load-

ed with STEM applications that stimulate student interest in outer space through the engineering of models of irregular galaxies and discovering the complex motions of the planets of our solar system, as well as constructing motors. In addition, Northwest Florida is home to some of the world's finest engineers, and Ms. Mason has partnered with Gulf Power Company making it possible for her students to engage its engineers in the developing of their classroom robots.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Mason on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School and the esteemed Overall Teacher of the Year for 2014 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Mason all the best for continued success.

HONORING NATIVE HERITAGE
MONTH AND SACRIFICES MADE
BY NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Trickster Art Gallery for its presentation of Native American Veteran artwork in honor of Native Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

During the month of November, we celebrate the ancestry and time-honored traditions of Native Americans, as their contributions have been and continue to be instrumental in the development of our great Nation. Native Americans have helped shape American conservation policy, enriched American culture and have fought gallantly for our country.

From the Revolutionary War to current combat missions, American Indians have played a vital role in the United States Military. In World War II, for example, over 375 Navajo Marines were trained as Code Talkers and famously saved countless lives with their unbreakable codes.

Native Americans continue to serve honorably on behalf of our Nation. According to the Department of Defense, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a greater proportion of Veterans than the general United States population. As a Veteran myself, I understand the great sacrifice and courage of the Native American Veteran community.

I am proud to represent the Eighth Congressional District where the diverse cultures of our great Nation are celebrated.

COMMENDING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ON ITS NEW JEAN R. PACKARD CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Regional Park

Authority on the ground breaking for the new Jean R. Packard Occoquan Center. Work on this multi-purpose facility will kick-off of a major rejuvenation effort throughout Occoquan Regional Park, which sits in Fairfax County just across the Occoquan River from the Town of Occoquan in Prince William County.

The 400 acre park is popular with families, boaters, and fisherman with its easy access to the river, athletic fields, picnic areas, and connections to multiple regional trails, including the Gerald E. Connolly Cross County Trail and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The modernization of this regional park will feature a new entrance with greater roadside visibility, a loop trail traversing the entire park, a landscaped waterfront plaza, and other infrastructure improvements.

A new focal point of the park will be the Jean R. Packard Center, named in honor of my good friend and mentor. Jean recently retired from the Regional Park Board after 24 years of dedicated service. It is difficult to overstate the tremendous environmental legacy Jean has cultivated here in Northern Virginia. A veteran of the Women's Army Corps during World War II, Jean moved to Fairfax in 1951 and got her start in public service much the same way I did as president of her neighborhood civic association. Thus began five decades of civic engagement, particularly focused on environmental stewardship and protection.

She was the first woman elected as chairman the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1972 and was an unabashed environmentalist before it became trendy. During my 14 years on the County Board starting in 1995, Jean was a member of my trusted kitchen cabinet and helped shape our award-winning environmental agenda. After her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Jean became the first woman elected to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Though not continuous, she has served on the Board multiple times over the past 40 years, and she is in the midst of her most recent term at the age of 91!

She was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, which recently renamed its lifetime achievement award in Jean's honor, and she has served on the national board of the Sierra Club. She has been recognized as Fairfax County's Citizen of the Year and Fairfax County Conservationist of the Year. I was proud to present Jean with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, which is named in memory of our dear friend and fellow community leader.

Fittingly, the new center that will bear Jean's name will include a robust educational component on our local history and the environment. It will tie in with the nearby Suffragist memorial within the park, and it will feature an interpretive collection showcasing the native flora and fauna of Northern Virginia at the time of John Smith's historic expedition in 1608. From its perch overlooking the river, the Jean R. Packard Center will put on full display the beauty of our local parks and demonstrate the value of protecting environmental treasures like the Occoquan for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Regional

Park Authority for undertaking this grand park renewal and for its stewardship of its many other properties throughout the region, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the immeasurable contributions of Jean Packard a true environmental champion, who has dedicated her life to protecting and improving the natural resources that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

TRIBUTE TO JIM XINIS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize Jim Xinis and his twenty-five years at the helm of Calvert Memorial Hospital. Jim has been a tireless fighter to ensure the best service for the people of Calvert County and throughout southern Maryland.

Jim is an honest, confident, creative, and inspiring leader. He's been an effective manager and a visionary. His twenty-five years leading Calvert Memorial Hospital have been a period of growth and change that have increased quality, efficiency, and innovation for the benefit of patients and their families.

I will never forget how, in the summer of 2009, when the nation was engaged in a heated debate over passage of the Affordable Care Act, I asked Jim to facilitate a town hall meeting at North Point High School so I could hear from residents of the Fifth Congressional District on this important issue. It was quite a meeting with over 1,500 in attendance—and Jim displayed such grace and tact in keeping the meeting focused over several hours on the issues at hand and making sure everyone had a chance to weigh in. It was no easy task.

But Jim has never been one for easy tasks. Recognizing the challenge of rising health care costs and affordability, Jim created Calvert Healthcare Solutions, which serves the uninsured throughout the county. And under his leadership, Calvert Memorial Hospital has been the lowest cost hospital in Maryland for twenty consecutive years, with a reputation for providing a full range of services at a very high quality of care. At the same time, he has worked to preserve its warm community spirit, where patients can feel comfortable, cared for, and empowered. Jim's good humor and positive attitude have surely contributed to his effective leadership and his reputation for excellence.

I wish him well in retirement and thank him for his extraordinary service to Calvert County, to Maryland, and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING STAYUNITED

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize StayUNITED, a nonprofit organization based in Rockland County, New York, and its founders, Mark and Ismini Svensson.

StayUNITED is devoted to improving the quality of life for children and youth across the country and throughout the world. Their recent initiative, "50 Acts of Giving Back," promotes volunteerism while highlighting the power of social media to promote good causes. Mark and Ismini Svensson, both constituents of the New York 17th District, are traveling across the country, visiting all 50 states, to perform 50 acts of kindness. At the same time, they are using social media platforms to inspire others to become active members of their communities by performing their own acts of kindness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mark and Ismini Svensson for their hard work and devotion to improving the lives of children across the globe. Their charitable journey is an inspiration for others and, through their hard work and kindness, has made the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF COLONEL JUSTIN MCCARTHY "MAC" MILLER, USMC (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Greatest Generation, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller, United States Marine Corps Retired, upon the occasion of his 100th birthday. Colonel Miller has dedicated his life to service to his community, his family, and to our great Nation, and I am humbled to honor him and his remarkable achievements today.

Born in 1914, aviation has always been a stronghold in Colonel Miller's life. As a young man, he admired the pursuit pilots, or fighter pilots, of the Allied Forces. From his early encounters with comic books and magazine covers depicting the Lafayette Escadrille, to his application to the United States Naval Academy, Colonel Miller knew his life's destiny was to become a fighter pilot.

While at the Naval Academy, he resigned as a midshipman and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an aviation cadet in 1940 before receiving his wings in 1941. His first assignment was as an Instructor Pilot in Pensacola, Florida, where he would return later in life. He then was assigned to Staff and Command school at United States Marine Corps Base, Quantico. Though these two assignments were perhaps not the most ideal for someone just pinning on wings eager to enter theater, shortly after the beginning of World War II, not only would Colonel Miller be presented with the opportunity to fly in combat, but he would be assigned as the Commanding Officer and take on the role of Executive Officer of the newly-established fighter squadron VMF 217, training in the F4F Wildcat. In 1943, the squadron embarked on the USS *Barnes* (CVE-20) deployed to the South Pacific, transitioned aircraft to the F4U Corsair, and flew combat missions over the Solomon Islands. In 1944, the squad embarked on the USS *Santee* (CVE-29) and deployed to

Guam, where they commenced strikes against the island of Rota. In October 1944, Colonel Miller took Command of VMF-321 until 1945, when the squadron returned to the United States. Throughout his tour in the Pacific Theater, Colonel Miller commanded two fighter squadrons. He then joined the Reserves in 1948 after the end of the war, where he continued his career in flight while also proving to be a successful businessman, as evidenced by his ownership of many radio stations, including WCOA Pensacola.

Amongst his vast array of accolades and contributions lay a century's worth of anecdotes, including being taught to fly his favorite aircraft, the F4U Corsair, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh himself. Amazingly, throughout his remarkable career, Colonel Miller flew 140 combat missions in 31 different aircraft, and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, and four Battle Stars, amidst an interminable list of decorations, honors, and awards for his distinguished service in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Justin McCarthy "Mac" Miller is a valued member of our community and national history. He is a true "American Patriot" and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of being a part of his exemplary life. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday as he turns 100 years young, and we wish him and his entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED STATES NAVY SEAL LIEUTENANT MICHAEL MURPHY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a fallen American hero, United States Navy SEAL Lieutenant Michael Murphy with a tribute to his most heroic life. On October 22, 2007 The Medal of Honor was presented to his family by President George W. Bush at The White House. This Veterans Day let us remember all of the Fallen like Lt. Murphy who have given That Last Full Measure to protect us. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

BUT, WHERE OUR HONOR LIES

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

All . . .
All in our darkest days of night!
As all around us the most wicked of evil
casts its light!
When before us death so lies!
While, all out there on that road of life!
When, all in the throes war realized!
All in those moments of truth comprised!
Are but all of those defining moments of
light!
Which shine so very bright!
Are but a true reflection of one's soul and
might!
Which shines like gold this sight!
Comes the most precious of all things!
Above all else which surely rings!
As lies the proof of ones most inner being!
Is But, Where Our Honor Lies!
When all between life and death comprised
. . .

When one's courage comes to rise!
All in those moments when who lives or dies!
So all depends on you comprised!
But comes only America's Best!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies this test!
When, uncommon valor is extolled!
And with clenched fist we see the greatest of
all virtues, behold!
Coming from all within one's soul!
To our world as now exposed!
Is But Where Our Honor Lies!
As we lose so lose our breath!
As we so reflect upon all of this and those
. . .

Most Christian acts as so!
Now carried deep in our souls!
All in hearts to have and hold!
Could we but live by such an honor code?
Would we ever see such light as have all of
those?
With such Uncommon Valor who into that
darkness did go!

What all their fine hearts emote!
To win that day and night!
All in those darkest of all fights!
All in this brilliance,
As when one's soul ignites!
Shinning All In The Brilliance of Honor's
Light!

Now In Hearts To Hold!
Of which all our children must be told!
Will we so be the ones?
With such uncommon courage,
And grace as you Murph on earth as it is in
heave they will be done!
And shine as bright as the midday sun!
While all in the face of evil,
For your Brothers In Arms to death look
upon . . .

To Follow!
To Lead!
To help them succeed!
But, Where Our Honor Lies!
To evil to erase!
As with your fine heart they could not keep
pace!

Out On Point!
All In Your Strength In Honor!
No one could take your place!
As you heard death's haunting call!
And the face of death Michael you saw!
And yet you did not hesitate!
Standing Strong and Standing Tall!
As our Lord and his Angel's watched you fall
. . .

With tears upon their face!
How proud of you they must have been that
day!

Watching you all in Honor's way!
Standing back all in such awe . . .
As your fine soul up to Heaven would ascend
. . .

With you new life as an Angel to begin . . .
In The Army of Our Lord,
to watch over us and defend!
This Congressional Man our Nation has so
blessed!

For Heaven could not wait for one of its best!
As we lower you fine body down to rest!
With but tears upon our face,
as Michael you showed us how to behave!
As these word in our hearts At East we
made!

But Michael,
we will hear you in the night!
Upon gentle breezes so slight . . .
And we see will see your face and realize . . .
You are an angel to watch over us both day
and night . . .

In life,
moments are all that we so have!
As our time begins To Make A Difference to
grab!
To Crush Hearts!

To But Find Where Our Honor Lies!
SEAL . . . ED WITH A KISS,
AS MURPH WE SAY GOODBYE!
On this day knowing . . .
But Where Our Honor Lies!

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. SONNY HASHMI IN ADVANCING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE CITIZEN SERVICES, SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS, AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES ACROSS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Mr. Sonny Hashmi of Oakton, Virginia for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the management excellence category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Mr. Hashmi serves as the Chief Information Officer for the United States General Services Administration, or GSA. In this role, Mr. Hashmi is responsible for managing GSA's \$600 million information technology budget and ensuring that GSA's IT initiatives effectively align with the agency's strategic goals and government-wide leadership responsibilities in key areas, such as information security and enterprise architecture efforts.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Mr. Hashmi was instrumental in launching GSA's groundbreaking "Drive to the Cloud" initiative. This program enabled GSA to lead by example in becoming the first agency to transition its email services to a cloud-based platform, along with its collaboration and documents management tools. It is projected that these two migrations from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms will result in \$15 million in savings for the agency by 2016.

Under Mr. Hashmi's visionary leadership, GSA has also worked to ensure its lesson learned and best practices permeate across the Federal Government, and it is a testament to Mr. Hashmi's success that each year, additional agencies follow GSA's blueprint and guidance in moving to embrace shared services and innovative cloud-based solutions.

Mr. Hashmi represents precisely the type of Federal Chief Information Officer our government desperately needs more of. I fully concur with GSA Administrator Daniel Tangherlini's recent observation that, "Sonny not only fixes

problems, but also provides newer and better solutions. He is a leader in the best sense. He is all about the outcome and builds a team that shares that desire."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Mr. Sonny Hashmi for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal. Mr. Hashmi and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Mr. Hashmi and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. Each one deserves our gratitude and respect.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE SISTERS OF
MERCY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 120 years of service the Sisters of Mercy have graciously provided the City of Laredo, Texas. For over a century, these Sisters have faithfully contributed to the health and well-being of the residents within my hometown.

Three Sisters arrived in Laredo in 1894 with the mission of building the city's first hospital. They came from Dublin, Ireland, and less than one month after their arrival, they accomplished their goal and opened a medical facility with six rooms and twelve beds. Though they were not formally trained in nursing, they committed to learning in order to serve the needy of Laredo. As the population and health care needs grew, Sisters of Mercy expanded to new buildings to care for as many Laredoans as possible.

Over the last 120 years, nearly 120 Sisters have faithfully served in Laredo, many of whom served for decades at a time. There are presently five sisters who serve the Laredo community: Sister Maria Luisa Vera, who recently celebrated her 50th jubilee and is President of Mercy Ministries; Sister Rosemary Welsh, who has served Laredo for 22 years and is the Executive Director at Casa de Misericordia and the Director of Outreach Services at Mercy Clinic; Sister Olivia Obregon, who has served for a total of 33 years in various nursing supervisory positions; Sister Kathleen Tinnel, who has served Laredo for 12 years both as a pediatric nurse and a minister; and the newest Sister—Sister Beth Yoest—who is on the faculty at St. Peter Memorial School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for commendably caring for the citizens of Laredo throughout the past 120 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council and recognize its significant impact and contributions to Northwest Florida.

The West Florida Regional Planning Council was established in 1964 as the Pensacola-Escambia County Regional Council when the need of transportation planning and coordination was recognized. As the third regional planning council to have been formed in the State of Florida, it has since grown to also include Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties and their municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, the Council today provides a forum to engage its members in regional planning, comprehensive economic development strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, environmental planning and education, and intergovernmental review. Furthermore, the Council provides assistance in grant-writing, project management, technical planning, and data analysis.

Due to its collaborative nature, the Council naturally recognizes the importance of an all-of-community and region approach. To that end, it welcomes and encourages citizens throughout the Gulf Coast to become engaged in the process to actively address and solve problems of the growing region.

Over the past five decades, the Council has dedicated their efforts to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Florida. Their contributions have helped ensure that the Emerald Coast remains a top tourist destination and a place where thousands live like millions wish they could.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the West Florida Regional Planning Council. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of its members for their devotion to service and wishing them and the Council all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD
FRAZIER MACIVER, JR., CHAM-
PION OF LGBT VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Donald Frazier MacIver, Jr., who has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his fellow military service members and veterans. Donald's service began as a Senior Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Army's elite 5th Special Forces Group. In Vietnam, Donald

showed the depth of his commitment to service by participating in extraordinarily hazardous missions behind enemy lines as a member of the covert Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal.

In the last fifty years, Donald has worked tirelessly to advance the dignity and equal treatment of GLB service members and veterans. In 1993, Donald was arrested at the White House for his nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of the implementation of the U.S. military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Donald has also served as a volunteer consultant on proper treatment and dignity for those living with HIV and AIDS. His contributions to the HIV/AIDS community include time as the Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the New York University Medical School, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Bellevue Hospital Center HIV/Hepatitis/Infectious Diseases Research Networks, and volunteer consultancy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health. In 2011, Donald was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the VA Office of Public Health/Clinical Public Health for his "dedicated service and commitment to improving the care provided to our nation's veterans."

As president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual (GLB) Veterans of Greater New York, Donald's leadership inspired GLB veterans who were discharged from the military for "homosexual conduct" to demand the respect and honor due for their faithful service. When unforeseen circumstances forced the closing of the GLB Veterans' office in January 2014, Donald went once again to action. Concerned that decades of activism and records of the discriminatory treatment of GLB veterans would be lost to history, Donald selflessly volunteered hours of his expertise to a coalition dedicated to preserving the GLB Veterans' archives. In March 2014, Donald singlehandedly organized, securely packaged, and transported sixteen boxes of archived records to a secure storage site in Bronx, New York. His continued stewardship of the records protects the memory of military veterans who faithfully served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere. It is impossible to calculate the value of Donald's contributions to GLB veterans' recognition and equality in New York City and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS AND CAREER ACHIEVE-
MENTS OF DR. SCOTT GERALD
BORG, WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVEL-
OPING AMERICA'S ANTARCTIC
RESEARCH PROGRAM INTO ONE
OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND
ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WORLD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Dr.

Scott Gerald Borg of Fairfax Virginia, for being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the career achievement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Dr. Borg serves as the Head of the Section for Antarctic Sciences within the National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs. According to the Partnership for Public Service, under Dr. Borg's direction, the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research program has become one of the most esteemed and comprehensive on the continent. Today, Dr. Borg plays a critical role in guiding the U.S. Antarctic science program that supports cutting-edge research across a range of topics, including climate change, the origins and nature of the universe, and the discovery of new species of extinct dinosaurs.

The work being facilitated by Dr. Borg and his colleagues is truly groundbreaking research. For example, Dr. Borg's leadership is credited with overcoming numerous technical and logistical challenges that enabled the National Science Foundation to complete the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project, which extracted ice core that dates back 68,000 years and represents the highest-resolution record of climate obtained to date. Further, Dr. Borg also oversaw the development of clean drilling technology that retrieved the first-ever pure water samples from an Antarctic lake a half mile below the surface of ice sheet. These samples are estimated to have been sealed under the ice for approximately 15 million years, and may enable researchers to understand what types of life can survive on other worlds.

Being named a finalist by the Partnership for Public Service is just the latest honor in Dr. Borg's outstanding and celebrated career that has made tremendous contributions to the global research community and elevated the prestige of Federal scientific research over the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Dr. Scott Gerald Borg for being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal. Dr. Borg and his fellow nominees all boast impressive accomplishments, from working to eradicate polio in India to landing an exploratory vehicle on Mars to saving the Air Force more than \$1 billion in 2012 by reducing energy consumption. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Dr. Borg and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our thanks and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND HONORABLE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN ROBERT "BOB" RASMUSSEN, USN (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize retired Navy Captain Robert "Bob" Rasmussen for his lifetime of honorable service and dedication to our great Nation on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A native of Sacramento, California, Bob was born on May 26, 1930, and entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1951. He excelled in flight training school at NAS Whiting Field and NAS Pensacola, both located in Northwest Florida, and was assigned to a fighter squadron in San Diego, California, where he deployed on multiple occasions to the Western Pacific aboard the carrier USS *Philippine Sea*. In 1956, he was selected to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels. For three years, he awed and inspired millions of Americans flying flight demonstrations as the right wing pilot and number four slot. Bob continued his tours at sea in Fighter Squadron 33 aboard the USS *Intrepid* and as a Flag Lieutenant to Deputy Commander Atlantic Fleet before completing the Navy Postgraduate School program in Monterey, California. In 1966, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 111 aboard the USS *Oriskany*, where he completed two combat tours in Vietnam and served as first Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer. Before returning to combat in Vietnam as the prospective Air Wing SIXTEEN Commander, subsequently selected for Captain and assigned as Chief of Staff and Operations Officer of Carrier Division SEVEN and then as Commanding Officer of the ammunition ship USS *Mount Hood*, Bob completed a tour in our Nation's capital region.

After the end of the war, he served as Commanding Officer of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico before later returning to Washington to command the Aviation Officer Distribution Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. Following three decades of service as one of the finest Naval aviators in history, recording 650 carrier traps and with more than 5,000 flight hours logged, as many servicemembers do, Bob found his way back to Pensacola where he completed his Naval service in 1983 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Aviation Schools Command. Throughout his prestigious career, he received many awards, including three Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

Bob's love for aviation, however, remained, and his artistic prowess proved too strong, as he went on to serve as the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Director of Development for four years before becoming Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum in 1987. During his tenure there, he produced hundreds of naval aviation watercolor pieces and several bronze sculpture works for the Museum, the

Foundation, and several other historic venues, earning him the R.G. Smith Award for excellence in naval aviation art. As a direct result of his efforts, the Naval Aviation Museum more than tripled in size and remains the most successful Naval museum in the country as close to one million people visit and enjoy the museum each year.

My wife Vicki and I join Northwest Florida—and a grateful Nation—in thanking Captain Bob Rasmussen for his more than six decades of admirable military and public service and wish him all the best as he takes off in his retirement alongside his wife, Phyllis; their children, Kathryn and Eric; and grandchildren, Christopher, Ashton, Emily Page, Madison, Avery, and Jack.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST.
BERNADETTE SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of the St. Bernadette School.

St. Bernadette School, located in Northborough, Massachusetts, was recently named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Deeply rooted in Catholic ideals, St. Bernadette School strives to encourage intellectual curiosity, spiritual inspiration, and a high moral compass. Its rigorous academic program, commitment to Catholic values, and diverse student body has led the School to be called the 'Flagship of the Diocese' by the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester.

Since its founding in 1997, St. Bernadette School's enrollment has grown exponentially. The School's current body of approximately 500 students enables it to give students individual attention while holding them to high academic standards.

Through new initiatives, St. Bernadette School has incorporated technology into the learning process. Recently, the School has built a computer lab, a mobile Macintosh lab, and installed interactive whiteboards in every class room. An iPad program was also started in the 2012–2013 academic year, providing every student with additional learning opportunities. Foreign language programs are required at every grade level, in addition to pre-algebra and project-based learning initiatives. This diverse curriculum has resulted in many middle school students at St. Bernadette being selected to the Junior Honor Society, an organization that recognizes achievement in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and citizenship.

St. Bernadette also fosters community through its extra-curricular programs, hosting a variety of family-oriented events and fundraisers throughout the year. The Parent Guild hosts events such as Spree Day, Family Picnic, Walkathon, and more. The parents of St. Bernadette students also coach the school's

sports teams, which include basketball, cross country, golf, ski, and track. In addition, students from grades 6–8 are divided into Houses, where they practice leadership and responsibility while planning communal outreach programs.

None of this would be possible without the work of the talented educators and staff members of St. Bernadette School. Principal Deborah C. O'Neil has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the success of her students. Time and time again, this has been exemplified through the School's consistent growth rate and track record of achievements.

I'm so proud to represent the faculty, students, and staff of St. Bernadette School, and I cannot wait to hear about their future successes. I ask you to join me in congratulating St. Bernadette School for being selected as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. ALICE LIPPERT IN DEVELOPING A CRITICAL INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM TO COORDINATE THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND POWER COMPANIES FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent, Ms. Alice Lippert of Fairfax, Virginia, on being selected as a 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal finalist in the homeland security and law enforcement category.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presents the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals annually to pay tribute to America's dedicated civil servants. These prestigious medals honor and celebrate an esteemed group of Federal employees that have achieved significant accomplishments in the course of serving their country. Honorees are public servants who represent a broad and diverse array of disciplines and career fields. All nominees exemplify the ideal Federal employee with respect to their strong commitment to mission, and the creativity and spirit of innovation each brings to his or her respective agency.

Ms. Lippert is one of three United States Department of Energy officials who are being recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the groundbreaking data visual platform, known as EAGLE-I. EAGLE-I is our Nation's first-ever system that can gather and share real-time emergency situation information on power and natural gas infrastructure. As one disaster program manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noted, before EAGLE-I, "It was difficult to get a clear picture of what was going on. Now we rely on the DOE as the authoritative source."

According to the Partnership for Public Service, Ms. Lippert, a senior technical advisor in the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, was in-

strumental in recognizing that our country's inability to collect and access real-time data on energy infrastructure during an emergency represented a critical vulnerability that hampered the Federal Government's ability to effectively coordinate the response to major natural disasters, such as the destructive Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Ms. Lippert was not satisfied with the status quo emergency response system, which was antiquated and cumbersome in requiring Department personnel to directly contact energy companies to obtain data that would have to be manually entered into a data base. This process could take hours and did not provide Federal, State, and local first-responders with the real-time data they needed to gain situational awareness of a locality's battered power and natural gas infrastructure.

Ms. Lippert took the initiative by contacting two colleagues with subject matter expertise in advanced grid modeling and computer programming. Together, these civil servants worked in-house to build EAGLE-I, which now covers 75 percent of all U.S. electricity customers. However, it was not until October 2012 that EAGLE-I was put to the test, and the true value of Ms. Lippert's leadership and hard work was realized.

In the aftermath of the damaging Hurricane Sandy, our Nation's first-responders and emergency managers had access to regular updates on the grid status in the hard hit areas, enabling decisions to be guided by accurate and up-to-date data and information. As the Department's Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability noted, "These reports were critical to decisions by federal, state and local officials in responding to and recovering from the catastrophe. The power outage reports gave insight to senior DOE leadership and responders that allowed them to make informed decisions, reducing both the human and economic impacts associated with the storm."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Ms. Alice Lippert on being selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Medal. It has been my great privilege and honor to represent Ms. Lippert and the tens of thousands of exceptional Federal workers who hail from Virginia's 11th Congressional District. They all deserve our deep gratitude and respect.

MARKING THE PASSING OF JAMES BRADY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of James Scott Brady, a courageous champion in the fight against gun violence and the legacy of lifesaving leadership he leaves behind. Through triumph and tragedy, Jim Brady remained an insistent and impassioned voice of clarity and consequence in our national effort to strengthen our gun laws. His death at age 73 concludes a life defined

by public service and personal bravery—and renews the call to action that he made so well for so long.

Jim Brady, a proud alumnus of the flagship institution in his home state, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discovered a life-long passion for public policy after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.

After graduating, Brady worked with some of the leading American political figures of the late 20th century. As an aide to then-State Senator Everett Dirksen—who would later serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and as the U.S. Senate Minority Leader—Brady deepened an abiding belief in the power of public service to build a better world.

As an advisor to top-level public officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense and the U.S. Senate, Brady became an indispensable counselor and trusted friend to many. He was tapped to serve as Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Reagan-Bush Committee and, following the election, as Spokesperson for the Office of the President-Elect and White House Press Secretary.

On a fateful March in 1981, Jim Brady suffered a gunshot wound to the head during the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life. The road to recovery would be hard, but Jim and his wife, Sarah Brady, would inspire the nation with their resolve.

Strengthened by their own struggle, Jim and Sarah vowed to take a stand on behalf of all victims of gun violence. This couple's heroic leadership challenged our nation to act, and because they did, millions of Americans are safer and many of our communities are more secure.

It took the Bradys six years, seven votes, three administrations, endless strength and boundless courage to enact the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act. But, thanks to their dedication, the Brady bill became the law of the land.

By 2010, the Brady law had blocked felons trying to buy guns more than a million times—an average of 171 felons denied applications to buy firearms a day. Almost 300,000 domestic violence offenders were prevented from buying guns. Thanks to Jim and Sarah Brady, countless families have been spared the tragedy of gun violence.

In recognition of this leadership, Jim Brady was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Today, the White House press secretary addresses the media—and the nation—from the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

Every day, the Bradys' legacy is felt in lives saved by the law that bears his name. Jim Brady's perseverance challenges all of us to never stop fighting for the common sense gun violence reduction measures our nation needs. Jim Brady was a man of extraordinary wit, charm and courage, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

I hope that it is a comfort to Jim's wife, Sarah, his children and all of his loved ones that so many people across the country share their grief and mourn the loss of such a valiant and dedicated man.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. KENT HILL, DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONSUMMATE DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kansas City VA Director Kent Hill, a transformational leader with an open door policy that is known for the unselfish public service that he has provided to our veterans, their families, his staff, and to me in my capacity as United States Representative for the Fifth District of Missouri. I think it is important to recognize the accomplishments of those who professionally serve with distinction. Director Hill has done so modestly without bringing attention on himself.

The scope of his work since 2002 at the Kansas City VA Medical Center included an operating budget of approximately \$260,000,000, approximately 1,500 employees and providing healthcare services to more than 45,000 veterans. He had the added responsibility of opening and overseeing clinical programs, including five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and the new Honor Annex. In addition, the Kansas City VA Medical Center has a vibrant research and outreach program.

When Kent Hill took over as Director for the Kansas City VA Medical Center, he came in as a veteran who had attended the Air Force Academy and has spent 40 years in Federal service. During his career, he cultivated a successful management style, centered on personal involvement and respect for his staff and the veterans and their families that he served. He was an advocate of the methodology outlined in the book, "The Servant Leader". His staff worked within a management style that delegates power, believes in a team approach, motivation, recognition, and at the core; an understanding for the veterans and their issues. He has been a strong advocate for continuing professional growth through education and initiated a mentoring program.

Under Kent Hill's direction, the hospital has undergone a complete floor to floor update and expanded to include: new surgical suites, Women's Clinic, Chiropractic care, state of the art Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Hospice Unit, Blind Rehab Center, Cochlear implant program, Sleep Lab, New Ambulatory Surgery Unit, an OIF/OEF Case Management Program and a new Dialysis Unit.

Access to VA healthcare and services have long been a priority for Director Hill. His management and oversight of veteran access included weekly meetings with clinical leaders to review capacity for appointments and wait times as well as decisions on adding staff and new services. To facilitate easy access for veterans to the programs and services of the Kansas City VA Medical Center, Director Hill originated a Greeter program, a Vet 4 Vet navigator program and shuttle service to and from the parking lots; and a successful and

long awaited Veterans Transportation Service became operational. He tackled telephone access and electronic messaging to providers. Director Hill did not stop with services and programs at the main hospital—but placed emphasis on taking VA healthcare outside the parent facility and into the surrounding communities. He activated a Mobile Medical Unit, opened Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and built a community-based Radiation Therapy Building. One of his more noteworthy achievements was the opening of a large outpatient building—the Honor Annex—that houses mental health services, primary care and a women's clinic.

One of the compliments that I have heard often is regarding cleanliness and modernization of the hospital. An example of his receptiveness and desire for a more accessible environment can best be illustrated with the Director's directive to remove glass partitions that had created barriers between staff and veterans. This important move coincided with many communication and outreach initiatives.

During my time in office, I have watched the Kansas City VA gear up for returning veterans from current conflicts while maintaining services to all of our existing veterans. An example of Director Hill's proactive style became evident as the current conflicts brought new mental health problems and illnesses, he called for focused education for his staff on how to identify and help veterans coming home from combat. With the continual evolution of hidden wounds from war, he ensured the staff was trained to identify signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and possible suicide. Expanding of mental health services included veterans having access to Veterans Court as well as a multitude of homeless programs and initiatives. An example of the influence and impact of Director Hill's leadership is the widespread participation of the KCVA staff in the spring and fall community Heart of America Stand Down for homeless veterans. Director Hill can be seen every year personally distributing boots to homeless veterans. Since arriving in Kansas City, Director Hill has championed inner city and rural outreach programs to ensure veterans are aware of their many benefits. His outreach efforts have touched veterans in many different locations throughout the Heartland. In 2013, Kansas City VA staff hosted and/or participated in more than 40 veteran-focused events. Director Hill can be seen at many different events always supporting causes and programs for our veterans. He has a strong dedication and commitment to the veterans he serves. One of the most compelling stories about Director Hill is when he attended the funeral of a civil war veteran, whose family had long-awaited formal burial. These are only a few of the many examples of how Kent Hill has torn down barriers and gained the respect of our veterans.

Perhaps the most gratifying praise one can receive is to have the respect and appreciation from those they serve. Among the veterans of Missouri's Fifth District, Director Hill is regarded as a listener who takes their concerns seriously and will take the time to discuss solutions, explains his position with diplomacy and compassion. In an effort to have a closer relationship with our veterans, he meets

periodically with the Veterans Focus Liaison Committee. This committee concept was presented to Director Hill by a group of veterans who received services at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. The idea was readily accepted and this grassroots committee took shape. The members talk to their peers and relay their concerns to the Director. He has been receptive to their suggestions and always willing to investigate their grievances. This partnership has resulted in more honest communication and better relations between staff and the veterans they serve. Veterans have commented that when meeting with Director Hill, he already was aware of the issue and had been working on solutions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Mr. Kent Hill, Director of the Kansas City VA Medical Center upon his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While he embraces this next phase of life with his wife, Anita; children, Blake, Kirk, Keith and Stephen; and grandchildren, he leaves with the respect and admiration of those who have had the pleasure of working with him. I wish to personally thank him for his tireless service to our country and his unquestionable dedication to our veterans. His imprint will long be felt by future generations at the Kansas City VA Medical Center and in our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAY PEANUT FESTIVAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Jay Peanut Festival and recognize its founders, Gene and Brenda Gabbert and the community of Jay, Florida.

The Town of Jay, situated in northern Santa Rosa County, Florida near the Florida/Alabama line, is home to over 500 residents and the annual Jay Peanut Festival.

A quarter of a century ago, Gene and Brenda Gabbert founded the festival in honor of their daughter Melissa, who had lost her battle with cancer at the young age of 19. Melissa found great joy in frequenting agricultural festivals throughout the Gulf Coast and the special sense of community that festivals often bring to life. After her passing, the Gabberts started the Jay Peanut Festival to keep Melissa's memory alive and bring together the entire Northwest Florida community in celebration of the area's deep agricultural history.

In the 25 years since, the festival has flourished. While the pig chase has remained a highlight, what began in 1990 as a one-day event with 30–40 vendors is now a two-day event with 230 booths, live entertainment, carnival rides, 5k run, and a parade. The staple of the festival—the peanut—may attract the tens of thousands of visitors from all over; however, to the Town of Jay, the festival is much more than that. It's also a celebration of community, that Melissa was so fond of, and its members who have helped carry on this proud tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 25-year history of the Jay Peanut Festival. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing the Gabberts and the Town of Jay all the best for continued success.

**HONORING ATASCOSA COUNTY
JUDGE DIANA BAUTISTA**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Atascosa County Judge Diana Bautista. Judge Bautista has served the people of South Texas since she was elected in 2002.

Prior to becoming County Judge, Diana Bautista worked for the county as a clerk, as a Secretary for the jail Administrator, and then became a Pleasanton police officer and Atascosa County Sheriffs Deputy. During her time with public service offices such as these, Judge Bautista learned how she could best serve the people of Atascosa County. Taking her oath in 2003, Judge Bautista has served admirably for over a decade, boldly advocating for the citizens and employees of the county. In addition to her exemplary career, Judge Bautista is a committed wife and mother and a cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Diana Bautista. Her dedication to the citizens of Atascosa County has truly made her community a better place to live and work.

**RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING
FOUNDATION**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past quarter century, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation was established in 1989 when the need for housing for the mentally ill became apparent. The first group home, "Shepherd House I," opened in 1989 with a \$1,500 donation from co-founders, Horace and Virginia Baker. As the parents of an adult child with mental health issues, the Bakers knew firsthand the challenges in finding safe housing options that would allow their son to live as independently as possible while receiving the care he needed. Mr. and Mrs. Baker, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, worked closely with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

Since its inception, Good Shepherd Housing Foundation has grown substantially in both cli-

entele and breadth of mission. Now in 25th year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 77 single adults and 45 families in 70 households throughout Prince William. Assistance is extended to those with chronic low income and mental or physical disabilities. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses, and churches, and it receives assistance from local, state, and federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally-ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II, and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. The Foundation also provides eight apartments, one townhouse, and one affordable rental house maintained by the Foundation offering the mentally ill, some of whom are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Over the years, the Foundation has expanded its mission providing a broader scope of resources to the community to aid in providing housing to individuals and families who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The Foundation offers a holistic program approach aimed not only at providing housing but also teaching program participants the importance of education and financial management. Programs and services include the Affordable Rentals Program, Shepherd Homes, Shepherd Leasing, and a two-year Transitional Housing Partnership. Tutoring and child-care services are also available for the children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the work of Good Shepherd Housing Foundation in Prince William and in congratulating it on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The Foundation exists thanks to the dedication and generosity of its board, staff, volunteers, and many community supporters, and it is another example of what makes Prince William such a wonderful place to live.

**RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S
DEBORAH "DEE"
COPELAND**

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Deborah "Dee" Copeland upon the occasion of her retirement. For 42 years, Ms. Copeland has dedicated her career to educating our Nation's youth and serving the Gulf Coast community.

A graduate of Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, Ms. Copeland began teaching at Mowat Junior High School in Panama City, Florida, in 1972. Eight years later, she joined the faculty at King Middle School in Milton, Florida, where she has established herself as a leader amongst the great educators in Northwest Florida and where she teaches today, chairs the History/Civics Department, and is the Student Government Association Advisor.

For over four decades, Ms. Copeland has inspired the minds of our Nation's youth, and her innovative techniques have brought unique learning opportunities and experiences to her students. Whether organizing an annual visit to Tallahassee, the state capital, to engage her students in the legislative process, sponsoring an annual Veteran's Day program to honor area veterans and first responders and educate her students on the contributions and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, or building pyramids and volcanoes, Ms. Copeland's passion for teaching is demonstrated through each of her tireless efforts in making learning enjoyable and bringing it to life.

Her dedication and service, however, is not confined to her classroom at King Middle School. Ms. Copeland teaches hospital homebound students in the evenings as well as Sunday School at her local church. She has also organized and sponsored countless events, including the Ronald McDonald House Easter Basket to benefit Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Florida; a Thanksgiving food basket drive to provide for the needy; a blanket giveaway for our area's homeless and to support low-income families; and Meet-the-Candidate breakfasts during election years to afford an additional opportunity to her students and the local community to participate in the democratic process.

Her involvement in the classroom and throughout the community has not gone unnoticed. As a result of her commitment to excellence and service, Ms. Copeland has received myriad awards, including the Alpha Delta Kappa Educator of the Year in 2012, the Governor's Award in Education, the International Award ISTE Ana Mackay-Gutierrez Award for Community Giving, the Santa Rosa County Volunteer of the Year in 2006, the Veteran's State Teacher of the Year in 2007, and the King Middle School "Teacher of the Year" award three times throughout her tenure.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Deborah "Dee" Copeland for her lifetime of achievements and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Copeland all the best for continued success in her well-earned retirement and thanking her for her service.

**RECOGNIZING THE STROKE COMEBACK
CENTER'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stroke Comeback Center on the occasion of its 10th anniversary and the critical health care services that it provides to stroke survivors and their families in our community.

The SCC is a non-profit founded by Darlene Williamson and John Phillips in 2004 to create a community in which stroke survivors and their families could receive proper long-term treatment. Meaningful care for stroke survivors is limited in the United States, and the SCC is

one of less than ten such facilities. The mission of the SCC has been to pick up where traditional health care coverage misguidedly leaves off by providing affordable speech and language services to stroke survivors in a supportive and participating environment. No patient is ever turned away because they can't afford the cost.

The current situation of stroke coverage and care is in desperate need of reform. It is common misconception that recovery is quick and easy when in reality stroke survivors require comprehensive rehabilitation for a protracted period of time to fully regenerate their cognitive and physical abilities. Yes insurance coverage for such care, if provided at all, runs out within 3–12 months, and the Medicare therapy cap for speech and physical therapy falls well short of covering the true costs. There is an estimated direct and indirect cost of about \$73.7 billion. However, it is impossible to measure the emotional, physical, and financial burden a stroke puts on a survivor and their family.

Today, the SCC operates with about 100 individuals served in 40 groups weekly, growing from just five groups in 2005. More than a dozen committed volunteers contribute more than 3,000 hours annually. The SCC works closely with national, state, and local stroke-related organizations and receives referrals from all of the major hospital centers in the metropolitan area. Ninety-three percent of survivors report improvement in one or more areas of speaking, listening, writing or reading. On average, survivors report that they are now three times more confident in their social interactions allowing them to reestablish their role in their family and the community. The success of the SCC is due in part to their undiminished and comprehensive programs. Its life participation, group-based approach helps patients achieve their maximum potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions and achievements of the Stroke Comeback Center and its dedicated staff and volunteers over the past 10 years. The services and programs offered by the SCC fill a void in the rehabilitation process and significantly improve the quality of lives of stroke survivors and their families.

IRON BILL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2013, Houston Fire Department suffered its most tragic event in its history. Four of Houston's bravest firefighters died in the line of duty, fighting a 5-alarm blaze at a hotel in southwest Houston:

Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, 35, of Station 51;

Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, 41, of Station 51;

Firefighter EMT Robert Garner, 29, of Station 68;

Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan, 24, of Station 68.

They were the best we had in Houston, and we are still saddened that they are gone.

The hotel's hellish inferno claimed the lives of these four firefighters and injured fourteen other firefighters when the roof collapsed—some critically. One of the brave who survived was Captain William Dowling, also known as “Iron Bill.”

Iron Bill was injured serving Houston, the community in which he was raised. A graduate of Klein Oak High School, Captain Dowling left Texas to serve his nation as an enlistee with the United States Marine Corps. In 1993, on leave from Marine boot camp training, he married his high school sweetheart—Jacki. As a Marine, Iron Bill served 4 years, including a deployment to Somalia with I Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Restore Hope, 1995. He returned home to Texas and to Jacki to begin his career and to start a family. Twenty-one years later, Captain Dowling and Jacki have three children: Forrest, Faith and Foster.

Iron Bill's patriotic spirit and love of the community led him to join the Houston Fire Department. He graduated from the Houston Fire Department Academy in 2000 and steadily rose through the ranks. He worked at Stations 12, 19, and 48 before making Captain at Station 68 in January of 2013. Firehouse 68 is located at the corner of Bissonnet and South Gessner in the “heart of Southwest Houston”. In 2013, the fire apparatus of Firehouse 68 made 14,847 responses, making it the third busiest fire station in the City of Houston. There, at Firehouse 68, Captain Dowling became known as “Iron Bill,” a fitting nickname to describe a strong and courageous hero.

It was just five months after he arrived at Station 68 that Captain Dowling and fellow firefighters received an alarm call that would take them to the gates of hell.

On that fateful day, in the heat of the Texas noonday sun, Captain Dowling along with the four other firefighters rushed into the hotel to find potential trapped guests. While the firefighters were in the hotel, the roof collapsed, trapping and killing Garner and Sullivan from Station 68 and Bebee and Renaud from Station 51. Captain Dowling's legs were crushed and burned, but he remained calm, radioed for help and waited for his brothers to pull him from the flames.

The attending physician in the ambulance said that Captain Dowling, though severely injured, kept asking about the condition of his crew. He was more concerned for the safety of others than himself—the testament of a true hero. He told the doctor, on the way to the hospital, to tell his wife and children that he would fight for them. Hearing this comes as no surprise to Captain Dowling's family: they know him as a fighter.

Captain Dowling was seriously injured with burns over thirty percent of his body, and he was placed in a medically induced coma for months at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Medical Center. He subsequently had both legs amputated and suffered brain damage. A long road of recovery was ahead for Captain Dowling, but surrounded by a team of doctors, his family, firefighter family, friends, church and the entire city and state of Texas, Iron Bill was not alone. Deservingly, Captain Dowling became everyone's hero.

Finally, six months after the fire, Captain Dowling left the hospital and went home, riding in Station 68's newly dedicated fire truck. Of course, he sat in the Captain's Chair. Along the drive home, he was greeted by firefighters and members of the community, who lined the streets and highways from the Texas Medical Center to Tomball.

Since returning home, Jacki left her full time job at Frank Elementary to care for her husband full time. It's no surprise that as a Texas woman, she's strong and determined, but quite simply, the strength that she possesses is amazing. To keep the community updated on Iron Bill, she started blogging on a community Facebook page (entitled “Capt. William Dowling Iron Bill”). This blog allows the community to rally behind the Dowling family: cry with them, laugh with them, pray for them and see their hero survive.

In the last year, Captain Dowling has received a customized fire tank chair. It's an ATV-like wheelchair, and he loves driving it! At home, Houston Texans' JJ Watt visited Iron Bill and presented him with a Houston Texans' jersey with the #68 proudly displayed. Captain Dowling loves to sing and play guitar—from Bon Jovi to Third Day—and Texas Country music star, Cory Morrow, played for him when he was in the hospital. He was even able to travel to San Diego to see his son Private Forrest Dowling follow in his footsteps and graduate from the Marine Corps' Recruit Training. When Private Forrest Dowling held his newly earned Eagle, Globe and Anchor in the palm of his hand with pride after completing the Crucible, April 17, 2013, Forrest said that the main reason he decided to sign the dotted line and become a Marine, was because of his dad. He said my dad was a Marine and always wanted me to become a Marine as well, so it's what I set out to do. Despite his amazing progress, Captain Dowling has had his share of challenges. His pain is debilitating—so much so that Jacki cried out for help and prayers that he could be seen by a team of experts who had experience with traumatic amputations. She had heard of the work of the team at Brooke's Army Medical Center, which operates the only DOD Burn Center, at Fort Sam Houston and set out to work to get him admitted. The community rallied, launching a change.org petition, emailing and calling BAMC and reaching out to my office. It's rarely talked about, but most Congressional offices spend the majority of their time on “case-work,” offering constituents help with a federal department or agency.

Within a matter of hours, Brooke's Army Medical Center deemed Captain Dowling admissible, saying they are honored to receive him and that he would be embraced by fellow Marines. Once the appropriate medical records were transferred, an ambulance transported Iron Bill from St. Luke's Hospital to Brooke's Army Medical Center for further treatment.

As Iron Bill gets the medical care that he needs, I hope he knows the community of Tomball and the greater Houston area and, of course, Texas' Second District eagerly awaits his return home. When that happens, I hope we line the streets and cheer for him once again. For our community will always be grateful for his service and sacrifices. Once a hero, always a hero.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's beloved George H. Whitehurst who passed away on October 19, 2014. Throughout his long and distinguished career as a mayor and businessman, Mr. Whitehurst served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence and leadership mourn the loss of a great man and esteemed public servant.

Mayor Whitehurst was born in Greenwood, Florida on July 28, 1926 to George and Ethel Whitehurst. Upon graduating from Greenwood High School, he enrolled in Florida State University where he was a part of the Flying High Circus and performed on the flying trapeze. From 1943 to 1945, Mayor Whitehurst honorably served our Nation in the United States Navy as a hospital corpsman, as well as an operating room technician. Following his military service, he continued his education and graduated from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1950. In 1955, Mayor Whitehurst settled in Crestview, Florida, where he and his wife, Annelle, opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the public service arena where he would use his great business sense to lead the Crestview community as mayor for more than two decades.

As Crestview's longest serving mayor, Mayor Whitehurst tirelessly worked to better the city he loved. He successfully advocated for increased public safety and economic development, which resulted in the establishment of two police substations and the Crestview Public Safety Building, development of an emergency transportation corridor, restoration of a cemetery, construction of the Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial, conversion of the former Yellow River Railroad bed into Industrial Drive, and a revitalized downtown, among other efforts.

Mayor Whitehurst was a man of conviction and was widely respected by those who knew him. The community's immense appreciation was well evidenced when he received the Mae Reatha Coleman Citizen of the Year Award in August 2013 for his outstanding service. Mayor Whitehurst, fondly known as "Mr. Crestview," will be remembered for his exceptional leadership and contributions to the Gulf Coast community, and his legacy will not be forgotten. To his family and friends, he will be remembered most as a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of George H. Whitehurst. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and prayers to his wife, Annelle; daughters, Angela and Ann; grandchildren; great-grandchildren;

and the entire Whitehurst family. He will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING NETKAL AND KOREAN AMERICAN SERVICE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to applaud the efforts of a group of Korean-American leaders in the United States as they successfully launched the first Korean-American Service Day, ("KA Service Day") on Saturday, November 8, 2014, with hundreds of volunteers participating in various events held in New York, Atlanta, Washington DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

KA Service Day was conceived by the Network of Korean-American Leaders (NetKAL), a leadership program organized by the Center for Asian-Pacific Leadership at the University of Southern California for the purpose of incubating the next generation of Korean-American leaders. In 2014, the eighth class of leadership fellows convened in New York City over the course of six months and, as in years past, was challenged to come up with a community service project with far-reaching impact. The creation of "Korean-American Service Day" was an idea put forth by the 2014 class of NetKAL fellows.

The five-city service day aimed to encourage Korean-Americans across the nation to give back to their local communities. Some of the volunteer opportunities ranged from food pantries and meal programs to outdoor restoration projects. They partnered with non-profit organizations, such as City Harvest to distribute fresh produce in the South Bronx neighborhood of my congressional district in New York City. From sorting donations to the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles and planting trees in a community greenspace in Atlanta, volunteers on KA Service Day demonstrated their collective will and power to become positive agents of change in our society. I hope that the huge success of the inaugural KA Service Day will inspire thousands of dedicated volunteers to help grow it into one of the largest days of service in America.

As a Korean War veteran, I have been proud to witness the Korean community flourish across our nation. Since 1903, when they first came to America, Korean immigrants have played a vital role in shaping our society through their strong family ties and hard work. They have inspired us with their entrepreneurialism and perseverance toward building success and wealth for their families and communities. As a Congressman representing the communities in the New York metropolitan area I have been greatly impressed by the tremendous contributions made by half-a-million Korean Americans and 1,000 professional, educational, religious, and trade organizations, as they play a vital role in the Great City of New York. I am grateful to them and the members of NetKAL for their leadership in making a positive impact on our society.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF LITERACY VOLUNTEERS—PRINCE WILLIAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 23rd Anniversary of Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William.

Founded in 1991 by local librarian Dona Swanson to help teach a library patron to read, Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William has maintained its direct service approach, by providing individualized adult literacy tutoring based on the personal needs and goals of adult learners. LVA-PW understands that literacy is a critical skill which can open the doors to educational and employment opportunities. As a literature major in college, I cannot agree more.

LVA-PW's programs are well-researched and constantly tracked and evaluated by staff to ensure their effectiveness. This has proven to be a highly successful model: in 2014, LVA-PW served 667 adult learners who received a total of 14,000 hours of instruction from 212 trained volunteer tutors. Many of these participants learned to read and write thereby enabling them to become full participants in our communities and, in many cases, to earn their GEDs and achieve employment.

Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William has established itself as an institution in the community, fostering local partnerships to strengthen both their own services and those of other community groups, including the Prince William County Library System, the Virginia Employment Center, Northern Virginia Community College, the Prince William County Adult Education Program, and local businesses through workplace literacy programs. LVA-PW has been recognized as Community Service Organization of the Year by the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer Organization of the Quarter by Prince William County, and Friday's Hero by the local Channel 9 News. Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William is a model to be emulated.

Each year the Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William recognizes individuals for their commitment as students, tutors, or volunteers. I am pleased to enter the following names of the 2014 honorees into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Students of the Year—Rut Amdemskal and Iftikhar Haq

Tutors of the Year—Davine Irving and Linda Mazzucchi

Volunteer of the Year—Ernestine Jenkins

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Literacy Volunteers of America—Prince William on the occasion of its 23rd Anniversary and in thanking the volunteers, sponsors, staff, and community partners for their efforts in support of this worthwhile organization. I also commend Vicki Gross for her many contributions to LVA-PW while serving as Executive Director.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY JUDGE
MARVIN QUINNEY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Wilson County Judge Marvin Quinney. As a veteran of our nation's armed services, a dedicated officer of the State of Texas, and as a man of God, Judge Quinney has and continues to faithfully serve the people of his county to the best of his ability.

Marvin Quinney's lifetime of public service began in 1965 when he joined the United States Army to assist military efforts in Vietnam. After two years in the Army, future Judge Quinney spent a year working in a Texas oilfield—a period he cites for shaping his strong work ethic. He returned to public service in 1968 as a Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper from 1968 until 1995. He later served as a Federal Court Security Officer in San Antonio for three years. It was after this period that Judge Quinney announced his bid for the office of Wilson County Judge, promising to serve the County with responsibility, integrity, and confidence. Since his election in 1998, Judge Quinney has stayed true to his word. Among his many achievements in office are the protection of Wilson County's water rights, the continuation of low tax rates and the organization of a successful Sesquicentennial celebration. Currently, he is focused on overseeing the restoration of Wilson County's beautiful, historic Courthouse. When he retires on December 31, 2014, Judge Quinney will have served four terms in office and will leave an honorable legacy in his stead.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Judge Marvin Quinney. His dedication to his nation, the state of Texas, and especially to the citizens of Wilson County is truly admirable.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 14

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Ukraine's pivotal parliamentary poll, focusing on the conduct and results of the elections, as well as the potential for the newly elected parliament to confront the coming challenge of forging a democratic, secure, independent future for their strategically important country.

SD-608

NOVEMBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight

To hold hearings to examine tax relief after a disaster, focusing on how individuals, small businesses, and communities recover.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management

SD-342

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive closed briefings on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Housing Finance Agency, focusing on balancing stability, growth, and affordability in the mortgage market.

SD-538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act", H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the nominations of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine preparedness and response to public health threats, focusing on how ready we are.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' mental health and suicide.

SR-418

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the link between security and good governance, including a need to build effective institutions and the important role played by civil society in combating corruption.

SVC-203-202

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the private industry's role in stemming the tide of phone scams.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine protecting our children's mental health, focusing on preventing and addressing childhood trauma in Indian country.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Sec-

retary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, David J. Berteau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral

Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 13, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am here to join the distinguished delegation from Illinois, especially Congresswoman BUSTOS, who represents a district in Congress that was once magnificently also represented by Congressman Lane Evans. So it is with great sadness that I come to the floor to join his colleagues, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, who served with him, Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ, and others who will be here.

Thank you, Congresswoman BUSTOS, for bringing us together to honor the life and service and leadership of Lane Evans, who passed away this month at the age of 63, my colleagues.

He was the ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and served our veterans so well. He served our country in uniform. He served our country in the Congress. He served our country in the community. He was just a great person. We were honored to call him colleague, many of us privileged to call him friend.

The son of a firefighter and a nurse, Lane Evans was born and raised in the district he represented here for 24 years. From his service in the Marines—and he was proud of that—to his work as an attorney with the Western Illinois University Legal Assistance Fund, to his time in the House, Lane spent his life fighting for those who could not fight for themselves.

Each and every day, Lane Evans fought to strengthen the middle class and to expand the ladders of opportunity that define the American Dream. He stood strong and resolute against efforts to privatize Social Security. That was one of his fights here.

As a Vietnam-era veteran who served on Okinawa, Lane took the struggles of our military families personally. It is especially fitting that we honor Lane today and this week as we observe Veterans Day, for he was one of the House's most dedicated legislators of those who served our country in uniform and, as I say, a leader in the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

From that position as ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Lane worked relentlessly to ensure that veterans of all generations would receive the support and benefits they deserve. He championed veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. He was instrumental in passing legislation to assist veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

But on the subject of posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, Lane had whatever symptoms he had of his service to our country.

As the ranking member, he traveled the country. I had the privilege on a number of occasions to welcome him at Fort Miley, our veterans hospital in San Francisco. The way he connected with the veterans, because he understood, he shared their pain—literally, shared their pain—he fought for all kinds of research, whether it was the hidden injuries of war that we now know so much more about. But there in that hospital we had not only met the needs of our veterans, but we had tremendous research, whether it was about Parkinson's or other traumatic brain injury.

He was a champion for our veterans and military families, hardworking people across America. Many of us who had been invited by—he was so proud of his district, and many of us had the privilege of being invited there to join his constituents in honoring him. It was just an all-American experience to see people from all walks of life hon-

oring this great man and, of course, his colleagues from the military being a very important part of it.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1995, Congressman Evans continued to serve the people in his district for almost another 12 years. He was determined to make a difference and help create a better world for the next generation. He surely has left our country stronger for having served it. He was a pioneer in terms of the hidden wounds of war for our soldiers.

Today we remember his courage, his commitment, his vision, his beautiful smile, his lovely personality, his gracious being, his strong commitment to our vets. We hope it is a comfort to his brothers and loved ones that so many here in this body and around the world mourn their loss, pray for them, but we feel very strengthened as a country because of the blessing of Lane Evans' life to us.

So again I thank Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS for bringing us together to honor this great man. It is my privilege to join the members of the Illinois delegation and other Members who will be on the floor to honor Lane.

He was a proud son of Illinois, that is for sure. I remember seeing him in Moline just so proud, so proud of his district, of his constituents, and they were all, in turn, as we are, proud of him.

Thank you, Congresswoman BUSTOS.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Clement Alexander Price, a shining figure in New Jersey society and culture, a respected professor and historian, and a beloved family member and friend, who died last week and leaves behind an extraordinarily distinguished record of public service.

Dr. Price was a true ambassador for his beloved Newark, our State's largest city. He was a widely respected public intellectual whose eloquence and wisdom helped heal a city at a crossroads, educate the next generation of civic leaders, and shape the decisions that have advanced New Jersey.

A native of the then-segregated Washington, D.C., Dr. Price rose to receive degrees from the University of Bridgeport and from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and spent his

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

life in helping to transform America to a brighter, fairer, integrated society.

As a Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor at Rutgers Newark, Dr. Price's gifts as a teacher were valued by hundreds of students who sought him out as a mentor and by faculty and administration who respected his expertise and energy.

Dr. Price was an accomplished author and the State's foremost authority on African American history.

He wrote "Freedom Not Far Distant, A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey," and other works that explored the history of race and culture in Newark and in New Jersey. He most recently coauthored "Slave Culture: A Documentary Collection of the Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project."

Dr. Price was also a major presence on the civic stage. President Obama appointed him as chair of his transition team for the National Endowment for the Humanities and as vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He was Newark's official historian. He chaired the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He was a trustee of the Fund for New Jersey, the Newark Public Library, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Newark Education Trust, and the Save Ellis Island Foundation.

He was chief historical consultant for the Jewish Museum's Exhibition, "Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews." He cofounded the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, the oldest, largest, and most prestigious Black History Month event in the State. He was a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, which is currently being built here on The Mall in Washington.

Dr. Price is survived by his wife, Mary Sue Sweeney Price, who is widely respected for her outstanding leadership for almost a generation as director and CEO of the Newark Museum, our State's greatest museum.

My wife, Heidi, and I are grateful to have known Clement Price. We and the people of our State mourn his untimely passing. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Sue and to his legions of friends and admirers in Newark, in New Jersey, and across the United States.

When he last visited me on Capitol Hill several months ago, he was, as usual, filled with optimism and good cheer. On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I celebrate the distinguished life of Dr. Clement Alexander Price in service to the Nation.

WAITING FOR CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, we have not been back in D.C. for a full 24 hours and the immigration shenanigans have already begun.

Republicans, even a few unhelpful Democrats, have been saying the President should not take executive action on immigration and should not act yet, as if his intention to use his executive power under existing law is a surprise.

David Axelrod, safe in the confines of the University of Chicago, has no sense of urgency because none of his family members or neighbors are facing deportation. But it is a little different on my side of Chicago, where people live in nearly constant fear that a loved one or a friend will be detained and then strapped into an airplane for deportation.

My Chicagoans have been waiting for the Congress to act and take action for over a decade. Polish, Ukrainian, Irish, and Mexican have been waiting, Jamaicans and Filipinos. They have been waiting for family members to get visas in backlogs that stretch to 20 years because Congress refuses to act. They have been heartbroken by laws that say, on the other hand, they can apply for a green card because they are married to a U.S. citizen, but, on the other hand, they must wait in exile outside the country, away from their husband or wife, their loved one, for 10 years in order to get that green card.

Two hundred thousand, 300,000, 400,000 deportations a year. These statistics represent people, people disappearing from their churches, from their kitchen tables, from parent-teacher conferences. Why? Because Congress is doing nothing to make it stop or make any progress towards an immigration system based in reality and common sense, where people come legally with visas rather than smugglers.

Now the GOP Conference in the House is saying, after a decade of delay, a decade of defying the American people, and a decade of demonizing immigrants, that they are so anxious to work on immigration reform. But there is just one thing stopping them: the President. The one thing preventing Republicans from taking action, they say, is that the President may also take action to keep families together and address the destructive nature of the deportation.

But here is how one commentator in Atlantic magazine described it: "Boehner's effort to hold congressional immigration reform hostage if Obama acts unilaterally is so absurd. Boehner killed the hostage long ago. Now he's hoping that if he pretends it's still alive no one will notice the corpse lying on the floor."

To put it another way, it is a little late for the mayor of Chernobyl to say he is worried about someone poisoning the well.

The President stood right there and said that if this Congress failed to act

on important national priorities, he will use his pen and phone within current law to do so. Republicans heard him just as well as I did. Republicans had more than 2 years to address the bill and a year to schedule a vote on the Senate bill. I do not see one scheduled today, tomorrow, or next week. I doubt before this Congress expires will we see a bill scheduled.

□ 1015

Let's just look at the record. Republicans said we can't do immigration unless it is done piecemeal; we can't do immigration unless people are denied citizenship; or, we need more border security spending; we need a parole officer assigned to each immigrant who gets to stay and work. And every Democrat, from the President of the United States on down, all the way to me, said, "Yes, yes, and yes. Compromise and progress are more important than gridlock and making every Democratic constituency happy."

Governing means when Democrats say "yes" to Republican demands, Republicans actually move forward and we work together. But none of that happened, despite the door being open, the table being set, and Democrats saying, in effect, Republicans can order anything off the menu. And yet here we are with no action, no vote, and the Republicans threatening to double down on no action if the President, acting within the letter and spirit of the laws passed by this Congress, takes action to help the Nation.

The President will act as he should—boldly, broadly, and soon—to help people. And when he acts, tens of millions of our fellow American citizens will support him. Why? Because they care more about justice and practicality than they do about partisan politics and the blame game. Because a policy based on driving out 10 million immigrants is neither a sensible one nor one that we should be spending billions of dollars on.

The President will act because Presidents before him have acted to solve immigration problems when Congress acted too slowly. The President will act because he believes, as the American people do, that families are more important and children should be raised without the government coming along and ripping their mommy and daddy away from them.

I am tired of the manufactured excuses for inaction. The U.S. Congress can still debate, vote, and pass an immigration law if it wants to, and the best way to get it done will be if leaders on both sides of the aisle work together. If you don't like it, then do something. There is nothing in your way but yourselves.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JORDAN CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when you are provided the privilege and honor of representing people from home and you come to Washington, the very first decision you make is probably one of the most important decisions, and that is who your chief of staff will be. Today, I am blessed to stand here to recognize a man who I think is among the best of the chiefs who has served any Member of Congress.

I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Jordan Clark, who has served as my chief of staff and is retiring from the House this month. Jordan is a man with a deep love of politics, public policy, and people, including his family and most especially his wife, Mary Therese, and their seven children.

A one-of-a-kind personality and wit as sharp as his record of public service is long, Jordan will be dearly missed by friends and colleagues from Capitol Hill and beyond. It is these qualities, combined with a distinct sense of humor and an unmatched work ethic, that took a young boy from Pittston, Pennsylvania, to the halls of power in Washington. But it wasn't power that Jordan sought. It was public service.

Before beginning his career in Washington, Jordan served in the United States Army. He served his commission after completing Infantry Officer Candidate School. Shortly following this, he was assigned to the Kennedy Center for Military Assistance at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served in special warfare and psychological operations.

After completing Active Duty, he served for 3 years as a captain and company commander in the Maryland National Guard.

Following Jordan's service in uniform, he began a career in Washington with the United States Department of Labor, creating employment opportunities for veterans. Because of his efforts, he was assigned to the President's veterans commission to coordinate job programs between Federal agencies and the private sector, and was chosen by the Secretary of Labor to participate in the Department's career management program.

Jordan later was hired as chief of staff to former United States Congressman Joseph McDade, at the time Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District Representative and also a senior member of the House Committee on Appropriations. In the House, he also served as a staff member on the Government Operations and Small Business Committees, where he played an integral role in establishing the first White House Conference on Small Business.

Following the OPEC oil embargoes, Jordan accepted a position in the Office of the Secretary of Energy and was

responsible for the administration of the country's conservation and renewable energy programs. During this time, he helped develop the Department's Technology Transfer Program, promoting the sharing of research and information between the Federal Government, private sector institutions, and corporations. He was also the first Department of Energy official to visit Brazil to evaluate its ethanol programs and production.

Following his time in the Energy Department, Jordan served as CEO of communitypath.com, a homeowner advocacy group and successor to the non-profit United Homeowners Association, which he founded. Before founding the UHA, he was director of operations and assistant vice president for congressional relations for the 180,000-member National Association of Home Builders, where he created the Congressional Contact Program, an industry model for grassroots advocacy.

Upon his return to Capitol Hill, Jordan served as chief of staff to Representative John E. Peterson, my predecessor, until Mr. Peterson's retirement in 2008. At the time, he also served as senior staff member on the House Appropriations Committee, during which he initiated and coordinated efforts to eliminate the 24-year-old congressional moratoria on oil and gas production in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

In 2009, I was first elected to represent Pennsylvania's Fifth District. Having worked with Jordan in various capacities over the years, I have come to respect his judgement and his work ethic. He is a man who is acutely aware of the needs and challenges facing our men and women in uniform. He is an expert in energy policy, which is fundamental to the history and economy of Pennsylvania's Fifth District, the birthplace of the oil industry in 1859 and today home to the emergent Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Play. He is someone with insight and understanding of the Fifth District, with its diverse geography, residents, and economy.

Mr. Speaker, I could not have made a better choice for chief of staff. I know I speak for generations of close friends and colleagues when I say: Thank you, Jordan Clark, for decades of committed public service in pursuit of a stronger Nation. We wish you, Mary Therese, and your family the very best on the road ahead.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there were many close elections across America last week, but there was one clear winner: ending our failed prohibi-

tion on marijuana and instead legalizing, regulating, and taxing adult use.

Alaska and the District of Columbia voters joined Colorado and Washington from 2 years earlier with strong votes to legalize. Nowhere was that more emphatic than in my home State of Oregon. Marijuana legislation passed in Oregon by a greater margin than it did in Washington and Colorado. It got more votes than United States Senator JEFF MERKLEY, who was overwhelmingly reelected. And this was in a low-turnout, non-Presidential year, which experts predicted would depress the "yes" vote.

In a few minutes, I will be joined in a press conference with ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, whose constituents resoundingly approved legalization, and will make the case that Congress needs to stay out of the way of its implementation. JARED POLIS, who has been my partner on efforts at modernizing and reforming marijuana laws, will give a snapshot on the progress in Colorado 2 years after legalization. Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER from southern California, the first State to legalize medical marijuana 18 years ago, has been a tireless champion of the Federal Government not interfering with decisions of local voters to modernize and reform local marijuana laws. He has helped dozens of his Republican colleagues understand and support marijuana and hemp reform.

Perhaps just as important as those votes that passed was one that failed: the vote to legalize medical marijuana that failed in Florida. But it should be noted that it garnered 57 percent of statewide voters, again, in a low-turnout, non-Presidential election where many of the people, polls show, who were supporters did not bother to vote. It got more votes than any statewide candidate in Florida on the ballot this year. Because it was a constitutional amendment that requires a 60 percent voter approval level, it was not approved at this time. But there is no question that medical marijuana is in the immediate future for Floridians. If it were back on the ballot in a Presidential year, it would exceed the 60 percent threshold.

In the meantime, we are going to work hard to implement the Oregon law and take advantage of the next 2 years to learn from the experience of others and refine our approach. We will raise new revenues to help education, addiction treatment, and law enforcement. And most important, we have already stopped prosecuting people for items that will be legal under the law, and we will be better able to protect our kids than the current vast underground black market.

Now Congress needs to do its part. We need to act now in Congress to solve two serious problems, not just for those States that have legalized adult use but the 23 States and counting that have legalized medical marijuana.

A narrow reading of Federal banking regulations requires that these perfectly legal marijuana businesses be on an all-cash basis. Restricting them from having bank accounts is absolutely insane, unfair, and unwise if you care about money laundering, tax evasion, or theft.

Additionally, I have legislation that will permit legal marijuana businesses to be able to deduct their business expenses from their income tax. Because of the quirk in the law—the 280E provision—small and emerging businesses face punitive Federal taxation that is unfair, unwise, and certainly unjustified. Regardless of how people feel about legalizing marijuana, these businesses are here—and here to stay.

Passing H.R. 2240 and H.R. 2652 will help treat this emerging sector of the economy fairly and further protect the public. I am hopeful that as the reality of these elections and future changes set in, we will be able to do a better job of permitting them to operate and allow this rapidly emerging area of commerce to serve the public and thrive.

OBAMACARE ARCHITECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the disturbing remarks that have recently surfaced from one of the key architects of ObamaCare.

It is no secret that the ObamaCare was built on broken promise after broken promise. Millions of Americans' insurance plans have been canceled; they have lost access to their doctors and hospitals; and instead of reducing premiums by \$2,500, like the President promised, premiums are skyrocketing across our Nation. And now we have seen one of the key designers of the Affordable Care Act candidly discuss the smoke and mirrors that went into getting this disastrous law passed in the first place.

Indeed, Mr. Gruber bragged about the lack of transparency involved in the process of passing this 2,000-page bill, even gaming the bill language so that it could not be scored properly by the Congressional Budget Office. Mr. Gruber refers to the "stupidity of the American voter" as a necessary component to getting ObamaCare passed and signed into law. This is outrageous. On behalf of my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth District and Americans across this country, I reject this assertion from one of ObamaCare's key architects.

The American people are much wiser than this. After all, at no point in time has ObamaCare been popular with the public. Before it was even passed, the American people did everything they could to stop it, even electing a Repub-

lican senator in the blue State of Massachusetts to be the deciding vote against it. But the Democrat majority maneuvered their way around the will of the people, passing it anyway. And despite the underhanded efforts of this law's designer, it was still unpopular with the American voters when it passed. The law has remained unpopular to this day, and dozens upon dozens of Democrat lawmakers who were responsible for its passage have lost their jobs since its passage.

American voters aren't stupid, as ObamaCare's designer says. To the contrary, they have repeatedly raised their objections to this government takeover of our health care system. In fact, a majority of Americans still say they wish ObamaCare had never passed. And that is why as recently as last week they sent majorities in both Chambers of Congress to Washington to dismantle this maliciously conceived boondoggle.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is arguably the worst piece of legislation to be passed in a generation. The law is such a mess that it may collapse under a review by the Supreme Court next year. The American people get this even if the law's designers do not. That is why they continue to send my colleagues and I to Washington to fight to protect them from this disastrous law.

□ 1030

HONORING THE LEGACY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the legacy of former Congressman Lane Evans who passed away just this past week.

Lane Evans served the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, the district I now have the privilege of serving myself, and he served it with honor, dignity, humility, and hard work for more than two decades.

A Marine Corps veteran himself, Lane Evans was a steadfast champion for our men and women in uniform. A veteran of the Vietnam war era, he served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee from the time he arrived in Washington, to rise to the position of ranking Democratic member, a post that he held for a decade.

Lane Evans' record on behalf of veterans earned him praise and respect from veterans service organizations and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of former Congressman Lane Evans by designating the Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located in my congressional dis-

trict in Galesburg, Illinois, the Lane A. Evans Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

I first got to know Lane when I was a young newspaper reporter covering our region. Lane was always warm, friendly, and accessible, and as a rookie reporter, I always appreciated that.

I interviewed him many times about a variety of topics, and while he was young and with his trademark boyish haircut, his quiet courage and drive made him seem older than his age.

Through my interactions with him over the years and with those who worked with him and those who he touched through service, I learned a lot about the man and what he stood for.

A proud native of Rock Island, the son of a firefighter and a nurse, and an Alleman High School and Augustana College graduate, Lane truly represented everything that is right about public service. He will be sorely missed by all those he touched, but his legacy of service will never be forgotten.

The dedication of a veterans facility in the heart of the district he represented is a fitting tribute and acknowledgment of his career-long fight to ensure all veterans get the care and the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this bipartisan legislation to honor the memory of Lane Evans.

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we are now just 11 days away from the November 24 deadline for the Iran nuclear negotiations.

President Obama and the P5+1 have fallen for Rouhani's stall tactics, despite having every reason to suspect that Iran was never serious about a deal, and that is precisely why it is imperative that Congress use the mechanisms at our disposal to prevent the administration from making any nuclear agreement with Iran that seeks to go against our national security interests.

The administration and the P5+1 started with a weak hand, and that has only gotten weaker. That is precisely why the Iranian regime feels emboldened to make proclamations that it will never agree to stop its enrichment and why it insists that it has a right to enrich and that it must be part of the final agreement.

In just the past few days, the IAEA, the U.N. agency that is tasked with monitoring Iran's nuclear program and ensuring its compliance with the joint plan of action, has said that Iran refuses to answer questions about its nuclear program and that it is impeding

its investigation into the possible military dimensions of the program. This is amazing.

A former IAEA chief inspector said recently that he believes that Iran lied about the number of advanced centrifuges that it possesses. Iran itself has confirmed that it has tested a new centrifuge that could speed up its enrichment process even further; yet the administration is so desperate to get us to a “yes” that it will overlook these very serious and dangerous transgressions.

The President has also failed to include in the negotiations Tehran’s ballistic missile program, its support for terror worldwide, and its abysmal human rights record. The Supreme Leader right now is calling to arm Gaza and the West Bank to fight against Israel, and it calls for the democratic Jewish state to be eliminated.

Had the administration come to Congress before it mistakenly entered into these discussions and asked us what we needed to see for an acceptable deal, we would have said keep the sanctions against the Iranian regime. Keep the sanctions, and threaten to even expand them.

We would have kept the only leverage we had against the regime until it agreed to abandon its enrichment and other illicit activities, but the President opted to not do that and, instead, mistakenly eased the sanctions, injecting money into the Iranian economy and giving away our leverage, and he still doesn’t look to us for any input.

Mr. Speaker, the administration’s idea of consultation is a one-way street. It comes to brief us and our staff on the Iran nuclear deal, but it isn’t interested in hearing our input and having that reflected in its approach to the negotiations with Iran.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must not allow this administration to continue to circumvent us and ignore our concerns about this weak negotiating position. We have been saying from day one that this approach was a mistake and that the joint plan of action was a signal that the administration has conceded on the enrichment aspect of the Iran nuclear program.

Iran has already emerged as the clear winner in this whole charade, and the P5+1 nations, especially the United States, look more foolish, more pathetic, and weaker than we did when the North Korean regime implemented the same tactics.

If the President continues to ignore our warnings on signing a nuclear deal that we believe goes against U.S. national security interests, then it is incumbent upon us in Congress to take firm action.

Simply put, we must take action and get serious about preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and that means ensuring that Iran cannot en-

rich any uranium at all and that it must dismantle its nuclear infrastructure.

We must start right now by sending an unambiguous message to the administration that we will not accept any deal that leaves Iran with even the slightest capability of producing a nuclear weapon.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LANE A. EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in 1982, in the State of Illinois, a 31-year-old man announced his candidacy for United States Congress from the 17th Congressional District. His name was Lane Evans. He was a Marine veteran and a young legal aid attorney helping poor people in his home community.

It was viewed initially as kind of a suicide mission that he was not going to be able to win, but some of us decided that we were going to get involved in that campaign even though we weren’t necessarily from his district and, gathering with people who supported him from his area, ran a campaign that elected the first Democrat since the Civil War from that area, a young man who impressed the people of his district with his incredible modesty, but also clarity.

Lane Evans was so clear that his mission was to represent the ordinary people of that section of western Illinois, to represent unions and veterans and poor people, and to be their voice in the United States Congress. It turned out to be one of the most important elections in my view, in history, certainly in the history of the State of Illinois.

Lane served for 25 years in the Congress. Again, this was a district that was considered kind of a swing district, but year after year, election after election, Lane Evans would be elected with very wide margins.

Lane Evans was fearless. He would stand up for what was right even when some of us would say, “Lane, are you sure? This may not go over so great in your district. What do you think?”

He would look at us and say, “Absolutely. This is the right thing to do. I don’t have any qualms about it.” He would vote his conscience, and people respected that, whether they totally agreed with every vote or not.

Lane Evans was the first member—or maybe DANNY DAVIS—the second—in our delegation to endorse for Senator a young Barack Obama. Lane proudly brought him to western Illinois and was always a great supporter.

When Barack Obama won his election for President in 2008, he sat next to Lane Evans, who was already somewhat debilitated by Parkinson’s dis-

ease, a disease that finally took his life after two decades, holding his hand and telling him that, if it weren’t for Lane Evans, that Barack Obama wouldn’t be President of the United States of America.

He was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease almost two decades ago. Lane Evans lived so modestly. I think some people have impressions of Members of Congress as having drivers and black limousines or something. Lane Evans lived exactly like the ordinary person in his district.

As his funeral procession led through the Quad Cities, we went down, in Rock Island, Lane Evans Way. It was a neighborhood of very modest, middle class—I would even say working class—homes. That is where Lane Evans grew up, and that is where his heart and his mind always were.

Lane Evans was honored by the Marines as he was leaving Congress with the tattoo that they do, an amazing performance and then an honor for Lane.

Lane, as a Vietnam era veteran, was the first really to talk about agent orange and the impact that it had on the long-term health of many of our Vietnam veterans and, finally, to get care for our veterans for agent orange.

He was one of the early people to understand the unseen injuries of PTSD and to call attention to that as ranking member on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

He was such an inspiring person, such a fearless fighter for the middle class, for veterans; and it is apt that we now name the VA clinic in Galesburg, Illinois, in the 17th Congressional District, for Congressman Lane Evans. It is part of his legacy, but only part of his legacy.

For many of us, we will always believe that, because of Lane Evans, it is good politics as well as good policy to stand up for the principles that you believe in for a just society, for an equal society. And I am sure DANNY DAVIS will talk about that.

Before I was elected to anything, we went to El Salvador, so Lane Evans’ sense of justice extended beyond the borders of the United States of America to major conflicts in Central America.

Lane Evans will be sorely missed but ever remembered.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to former Congressman Lane Evans, to convey condolences to his family and friends, and to urge the naming of a VA outpatient clinic in Galesburg, Illinois, in his name and in his honor.

I had come to know and revere Representative Lane Evans long before I became a Member of Congress. As a matter of fact, he was known not only in the area that he represented, but throughout Illinois and especially among individuals who considered themselves to be political progressives.

As a matter of fact, I had the good fortune to travel with Lane and a group to El Salvador under his leadership and under the sponsorship of a group at the time known as People to People.

□ 1045

As a matter of fact, in that same group was Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and that is where I felt that I really got to know JAN and her husband, Bob.

Lane Evans spent most of his adult life in public service except for the time he was in college or law school. Not only did he enlist in the Marines during the Vietnam era and comported himself extremely well during his tenure, but Lane also was a legal aid attorney. That is an attorney who works specifically to represent those who otherwise would not have had any legal representation. After being elected to Congress in 1982, he established himself as a strong voice for veterans and championed other progressive causes. During his entire time in Congress, he served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and rose to the commission of ranking member.

Lane gave us his physical and mental capabilities until he could actually give no more. That is, he would often come to work barely able to sit, sometimes barely able to walk in, at the time when others would have just given up and said, "I can't do this anymore."

Lane did us proud. Therefore, I am proud to join in this tribute, and I am proud to support the naming of the VA medical facility in Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. Lane is absolutely deserving of this honor. I have never, ever known anyone who worked as long and as hard as Lane did with his illness, and he simply worked, as they sometimes say in Christian churches, until his days were done.

Lane, I am proud to have known you, proud to have served with you, and proud to call you my friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Imam Hamad Chebli, Islamic Society of Central Jersey, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you. Assalaamu'alaykum. In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful. Praise be to Allah, the cherisher, the sustainer of the worlds, the most gracious, the most merciful master of the day of judgment. Thee do we worship and Thine aid we seek. Guide us to the straight path.

The God of all the prophets and the messengers says in the Koran, He does not place a responsibility on you greater than you can bear. Everyone will receive the good they have earned and vice versa.

Let us pray:

O God, bless us as we begin a new day. Bless this assembly, bless the people and Nation it represents. O God, at this time in our history, the challenges for our Nation and the world are many. O God, grant these men and women the wisdom, the guidance, and the strength to pursue compassion, justice, and sound judgment. O God, in Your wisdom, You have placed upon them great responsibility and honor. O God, please help them with Your guidance and Your light. O God, grant them the will and the means to improve the well-being of all inhabitants of this great Nation and beyond.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING IMAM HAMAD CHEBLI

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Imam Hamad Ahmad Chebli, the Imam of the Islamic Society of Central Jersey in South Brunswick, New Jersey. Imam Chebli has been both a friend and an ambassador of Islam to me and many others in New Jersey, and we are all honored that his prayer has opened this session of Congress.

Imam Chebli is a native of Lebanon and attended one of the most prestigious Islamic institutions in the world, Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, where he received his master's in Islamic Canonical Law. He has been the religious leader of ISCIJ since 1986, where he makes Muslims and non-Muslims feel welcome.

The depth of his faith and scholarship, his commanding dignity, and the warmth of his personality make him the most prominent and attractive figure of Islam in our region. In a period where the public understanding of Islam has grown greatly, we are fortunate to have Imam Chebli in our community.

He has worked hard to build interfaith dialogue and public understanding, serving as a member of the North and South Brunswick Diversity Committee and of the regional clergy association. Most recently, New Jersey's Governor appointed Imam Chebli to the Governor's Leadership Summit on Diversity.

He and I have a friendship and association that has lasted many years, especially since September 2001, and I greatly value our friendship.

Imam Chebli is the proud husband of Mona Rich, and he is the loving father of their six children; Ahmad, Muhammad, Maryam, Mahmood, Khalid, and Marwa; and the loving grandfather to seven grandchildren.

Through his inspiring prayer this morning, we can all gain wisdom and guidance.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ROSE MOUNTAIN BUTCHER SHOPPE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, during a recent visit to Lansing, North Carolina, I stopped in Rose Mountain Butcher Shoppe and met its proprietor, Ann Rose. Ann is a pioneer in the region's local foods movement, delivering meat and organic produce from small farms in Ashe, Alleghany, and Watauga Counties to her community.

In addition to running her farm and butcher shop, Ann graciously shares her extensive knowledge with other local farmers. A former nurse, Ann is a strong believer in the importance of an active lifestyle and homegrown diet. She is on a mission to see her neighbors embrace the healthy foods grown in the region.

If she didn't have enough on her plate already, Ann is also helping coordinate the creation of a 66-acre park in Lansing so local residents have access to a community garden and green space for recreation.

Ann is doing tremendous work in her community, and I look forward to seeing her efforts on behalf of the people of Lansing continue to grow and flourish.

PANCREATIC CANCER

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on World Pancreatic Cancer Day in solidarity with those who have been affected by this deadly disease. I join Members of Congress, my staff, and many others walking the Halls of Congress today wearing Purple for a Purpose to convince my colleagues that we must increase funding for pancreatic cancer research.

Too often a pancreatic cancer diagnosis is a death sentence. We can change that. Fifty years ago, breast cancer was also killing women at an alarming rate, and women are now fighting and beating breast cancer because well-funded scientific research has vastly improved screening and treatment.

I am thinking today of my friend Larry Clark, a former Rancho Palos Verdes mayor, who has found the strength to fight pancreatic cancer and advocate for others. Let us answer their call today. Let us wage hope, and let us try to double the pancreatic cancer survival rate by 2020.

JONATHAN GRUBER

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, "Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever." That was ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber speaking last year at the University of Pennsylvania.

The broken ObamaCare promises are now legendary: "If you like your health plan, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep them. The law will save American families money."

Don't tell that to the 16th District business owners like Nelson Sensenig

and Ron Fritz, who both recently contacted me to talk about their struggle to continue affording coverage for their employees. Both of them used to cover 100 percent of their employees' coverage. Now they can't afford to do so.

Gruber, the MIT professor consultant, can jet around the country bragging about pulling one over on the American people—again, his quote: "The stupidity of the American voters." What liberal arrogance.

What he and the President did with ObamaCare has done tremendous harm to Americans struggling to provide for themselves and their families. That is why we must continue to fight for real health care reform.

SIX YEARS AGO TODAY: THE ECONOMY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago this week, the economic situation of this country was so perilous, we announced that the TARP program was going to be expanded to cover auto loans and credit cards. The housing bubble had burst, household wealth was slashed by over \$16 trillion, banks tottered, lending was frozen, the Dow was about to plunge to 7,000, the GDP was sinking at a rate of 6.3 percent.

Today much has changed. The TARP has been repaid, the Dow has climbed 10,000 points, businesses are growing, unemployment has fallen to 5.8 percent, GDP is expanding at a rate of 3.5 percent.

As this Congress considers how to move forward, it would be beneficial and helpful if we would always remember to look back at what worked and what didn't. Let's do more of what works.

With 56 months of private sector job growth—not enough, but the best record that we have ever had in history—we must build on this progress by investing in infrastructure, raising wages for middle class workers, committing to make it in America, and making sure our schools are preparing for the next generation.

PANCREATIC CANCER

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the first ever World Pancreatic Cancer Day in an effort to shed a light on this disease as well as the determination to eradicate it.

Pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer that still has a 5-year survival rate in the single digits, at just 6 percent. That is in stark contrast to the overall survival rate for cancer, which is now 67 percent. Even more alarming,

pancreatic cancer is now estimated to become the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States by 2020.

While the threat of this disease is real, pancreatic cancer does not have to be a death sentence. But we need to act now. Working together, we can push back against this diagnosis. With the combined efforts of leaders on Capitol Hill, including the many physicians who serve in this body, medical professionals, community groups, survivors, and families, we can generate awareness and renewed focus on beating pancreatic cancer once and for all.

I urge my colleagues to reach across the aisle to support these goals through commonsense funding proposals and legislation that benefits all.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of a pivotal event in history. Twenty-five years ago, November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, heralding the end of the Cold War. Today Germany is the vibrant financial, economic, and political heart of all of Europe. Germany is an important ally of the United States and central to European integration and a unified Atlantic community.

Today a large segment of the Berlin Wall, accepted by former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and James Baker, as well as Atlantic Council's Fred Kempe, will be unveiled at the German Embassy until a permanent location for the public is found here in Washington. It is signed by the statesmen and activists whose vision in leadership made this possible and led to the fall of the Berlin Wall. It will serve as a very important reminder of the diplomatic ties between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to continue working with my colleagues to ensure that our two countries continue to strengthen our diplomatic, economic, and strategic partnership into the 21st century.

□ 1215

THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring American energy to Americans. The Keystone pipeline is the answer.

For over 6 years, the administration has been saying no to energy independence. Six years. That is longer than it took us to win World War II.

Oil is the most reliable and cost-effective source of energy the United States has. The Keystone pipeline, from Canada to Texas, will bring as much crude oil as we get from Saudi Arabia. It will begin energy security and national security. It will bring jobs.

The pipeline will make Middle Eastern politics and energy irrelevant. It won't cost the taxpayers any money.

I have previously introduced the KFAST bill which will directly and immediately approve the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Instead of leaving Americans at the mercy and the questionable loyalties of unstable Middle Eastern countries, we should take care of ourselves.

If the administration continues to be obstinate and politically stonewall the pipeline, the Canadians will simply sell it to someone else, like China. Now, isn't that lovely?

Build the pipeline. It is the right thing to do.

And that is just the way it is.

THE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES EPA REGULATION

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, for months I have said how detrimental the new Waters of the United States EPA regulation would be to the people of my district. We have long protected some of the most beautiful waterways in the world, but once again, bureaucrats think that they know better.

I have many questions about the regulation, but when the Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on this rule back in June, the Federal agencies did not even show up. How can we trust them to work with landowners if the rule is implemented?

Earlier this year, the House passed a bill to protect Americans from the huge regulatory burden, but like so many others, it is stuck in the Senate. Luckily, there is still time to do something to stop this disastrous power grab.

The EPA is accepting comments on the proposed Waters of the United States rule until Friday, November 14, so join me in telling the EPA how terrible this ill-considered regulation would be for Missouri and the United States.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1224

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ALASKA NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5167) to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5167

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE FEDERAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and after completion of the appraisal described in this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the Corporation by quitclaim deed for the consideration described in subsection (c), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property described in subsection (b).

(b) *LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.*—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) consists of approximately 1,518 acres and improvements comprising a former Distant Early Warning Line site in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska near Wainwright, Alaska, and described as United States Survey Number 5252 located within the Umat Meridian in—

(1) Sections 3 and 4 within Township 14 North, Range 31 West;

(2) Sections 17, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, and 35 within Township 15 North, Range 31 West; and

(3) Section 13 within Township 15 North; Range 32.

(c) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—

(1) *CONSIDERATION.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—As consideration for the conveyance of the property under subsection (a), the Corporation shall pay to the Secretary an amount not less than the fair market value of the conveyed property, to be determined as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) *APPRAISAL.*—The fair market value of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a)

shall be determined based on an appraisal that—

(i) is conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser that is approved by the Secretary and the Corporation;

(ii) is based on the highest and best use of the property;

(iii) is approved by the Secretary; and

(iv) is paid for by the Corporation.

(2) *PRE-CONVEYANCE ENTRY.*—The Secretary, on terms and conditions the Secretary determines to be appropriate, may authorize the Corporation to enter the property at no charge for pre-construction and construction activities.

(3) *ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—The Secretary may require additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) *EXEMPTION.*—Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) shall not apply to any conveyance of property under this section.

(e) *CORPORATION DEFINED.*—In this section, the term "Corporation" means the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Wainwright Short Range radar site is an old Distant Early Warning station, commonly referred to as the Wainwright DEW Line site.

Historically, the U.S. Air Force maintained a radar site on the property, but it is no longer operational. The Air Force is in the final stages of cleaning up the property, which is expected to be finished this summer, and the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation, is collaborating on the effort.

When it finishes the cleanup, the Air Force is set to relinquish its right to the property, which is owned by the Department of the Interior and managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Native corporation has been working with the Bureau to acquire the site which sits in the middle of land already owned by the Native corporation. However, language in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Act of 1976 prevents the Bureau from conveying this land.

H.R. 5167 directs the Secretary of the Interior to sell the site at fair market

value to the Native corporation. This will allow the Alaska Natives to incorporate the land into their existing land use management plan and policies, thus turning a potential abandoned and unused parcel into a useful property.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill as reported unanimously from the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5167 directs the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey 1,518 acres of Federal land in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation.

The parcel in question was previously used by the U.S. Air Force and is no longer needed by the Department of Defense. It contains a pipeline to the Chukchi Sea and would likely be used to support offshore energy extraction. It is surrounded by land already owned by the Olgoonik Corporation that was conveyed under the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act.

Transferring the isolated parcel would help simplify BLM management of the preserve and provide needed economic development for the Alaska Native Corporations.

While I have some concerns with this legislation, including an unrealistic 180-day timeframe for survey and conveyance of the parcel, the waiver of requirements to provide an environmental review according to NEPA, and the use of a non-Federal appraisal agent, we support the passage of H.R. 5167.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5167, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRINITY COUNTY LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3326) to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3326

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, TRINITY PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT, TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND THE FOREST SERVICE.

(a) LAND EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—If not later than three years after enactment of this Act, the Utilities District conveys to the Secretary of the Interior all right, title, and interest of the Utilities District in and to Parcel A, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior may require, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey Parcel B to the Utilities District, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture may require, including the reservation of easements for all roads and trails considered to be necessary for administrative purposes and to ensure public access to National Forest System lands.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—Maps are entitled "Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014 – Parcel A" and "Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014 – Parcel B", both dated March 24, 2014. The maps shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service and the appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management. With the agreement of the parties to the conveyances under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may make technical corrections to the maps and legal descriptions.

(c) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—

(1) LAND EXCHANGE PROCESS.—The land exchange under this section shall be an equal value exchange. Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out the land exchange in accordance with section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(2) APPRAISAL OF PARCELS.—The values of Parcel A and Parcel B shall be determined by appraisals performed by a qualified appraiser mutually agreed to by the parties to the conveyances under subsection (a). The appraisals shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and conducted in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land.

(3) CASH EQUALIZATION.—If the values of Parcel A and Parcel B are not equal, the values may be equalized through the use of a cash equalization payment, however, if the final appraised value of Parcel A exceeds the value of Parcel B, the surplus value of Parcel A shall be considered to be a donation by the Utilities District. Notwithstanding section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-

agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), a cash equalization payment may be made in excess of 25 percent of the appraised value of the Parcel B.

(d) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any cash equalization payment received by the United States under subsection (c) shall be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as the Sisk Act).

(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary of Agriculture, without further appropriation and until expended, for the improvement, maintenance, reconstruction, or construction of a facility or improvement for the National Forest System.

(e) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of Parcel A and Parcel B shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

(f) COSTS.—As a condition of the land exchange under subsection (a), the Utilities District shall pay the costs associated with—

(1) the surveys described in subsection (e);

(2) the appraisals described in subsection (c)(2); and

(3) any other reasonable administrative or remediation cost determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(g) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—Upon the acquisition of Parcel A, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Redding Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, shall administer Parcel A as public land in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and the laws and regulations applicable to public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, except that public recreation and public access to and for recreation shall be the highest and best use of Parcel A.

(h) COMPLETION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—Once the Utilities District offers to convey Parcel A to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete the conveyance of Parcel B not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) PARCEL A.—The term "Parcel A" means the approximately 47 acres of land, known as the "Sky Ranch parcel", adjacent to public land administered by the Redding Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as depicted on the map entitled "Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014 – Parcel A", dated March 24, 2014, more particularly described as a portion of Mineral Survey 178, south Highway 299, generally located in the S1/2 of the S1/2 of Section 7 and the N1/2 of the N1/2 of Section 8, Township 33 North, Range 10 West, Mount Diablo Meridian.

(2) PARCEL B.—The term "Parcel B" means the approximately 100 acres land in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in the State of California near the Weaverville Airport in Trinity County as depicted on the map entitled "Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014 – Parcel B" dated March 24, 2014, more particularly described as Lot 8, SW1/4 SE1/4, and S1/2 N1/2 SE, Section 31, Township 34 North, Range 9 West, Mount Diablo Meridian.

(3) UTILITIES DISTRICT.—The term "Utilities District" means the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

□ 1230

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time so the sponsor, the gentleman from California, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, may explain the bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Thank you, Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. YOUNG.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Trinity County Land Exchange Act of 2014.

This bill is a very straightforward, bipartisan bill. It simply facilitates a land exchange between the Trinity Public Utility District, the United States Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. I am grateful that my bill is cosponsored by my friend and district neighbor, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA, who represented Trinity County when he was in the State legislature.

Trinity County, located in northern California, is one of the poorest counties in the entire State; and although it is very large, much of it is rugged and remote, and more than 75 percent of the total land base is held by the Federal Government, which leaves very little land suitable for economic development.

This legislation before us today will help stimulate Trinity County's economy. The bill grants Trinity County a much-needed 100-acre parcel from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. It is accessible by the highway, uniquely suited for economic development; and in exchange, the county's public utility district will convey a 47-acre parcel west of Weaverville that will improve public access to the Trinity River, which is a Wild and Scenic River.

The bill guarantees a fair return for Federal taxpayers as the United States Forest Service will receive a cash equalization payment for the improvement, maintenance, reconstruction, or construction of a facility or an improvement for the National Forest System.

This is a win-win bill all the way around. Partnerships with land management agencies are really critical to Trinity County's economic development, and I am so glad that the county

has been able to develop this win-win partnership with the Federal agencies that meets everybody's needs. This land swap is a great example of bipartisan legislation that furthers our shared priorities of economic development and environmental protection in our Nation's rural communities.

Again, I especially want to thank Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and my neighbor, DOUG LAMALFA, for all of their assistance and collaboration and the many staff who have worked hard on this bill, especially my Sea Grant fellow, Zach Penney.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative JARED HUFFMAN of California, the sponsor of the bill, for the legislation and the hard work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support and congratulate Congressmen JARED HUFFMAN and DOUG LAMALFA. This is a good piece of legislation, and I have to go back through history a little bit.

Being originally from California 63 years ago, I remember Trinity County as one of the richer counties when we had a timber industry, and Weaverville was one of the largest timber cities in the country, but it is no longer. It is really a very poor county because of the management of Federal lands and how they do not manage them.

Again, I compliment the two Congressmen for working on this legislation, and I urge the passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3326, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4846) to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado is adjusted to incorporate the approximately 92.95 acres of land generally depicted as "The Wedge" on the map entitled "Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment" and dated November 6, 2013, and described as lots three, four, eight, and nine of section 13, Township 4 North, Range 76 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado. A lot described in this subsection may be included in the boundary adjustment only after the Secretary of Agriculture obtains written permission for such action from the lot owner or owners.

(b) BOWEN GULCH PROTECTION AREA.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include all Federal land within the boundary described in subsection (a) in the Bowen Gulch Protection Area established under section 6 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j).

(c) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–9), the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest, as modified under subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the Arapaho National Forest as in existence on January 1, 1965.

(d) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire only by donation or exchange non-Federal lands within the boundary described in subsection (a).

(e) PUBLIC MOTORIZED USE.—Nothing in this Act opens privately-owned lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) to public motorized use.

(f) ACCESS TO NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6(f) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 539j(f)) regarding motorized travel, the owners of any non-Federal lands within the boundary described in subsection (a) who historically have accessed their lands through lands now or hereafter owned by the United States within the boundary described in subsection (a) shall have the continued right of motorized access to their lands across the existing roadway.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014 would adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado to incorporate 92 additional acres. This land, if it is acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture, will become part of the Bowen Gulch Protection Area that was established by Congress in 1993.

At markup, the Natural Resources Committee amended the bill to require the written permission of the landowner before a parcel of private land could be included within the expanded boundary. The amendment also requires that any land acquisition in the added area would be achieved only by donation or exchange, and the motorized use provision was clarified to ensure that the bill does not open privately owned land to trespass. With these added property rights and fiscal responsibility provisions, the committee was able to report the bill by unanimous consent, and I support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado, Representative JARED POLIS, the sponsor of the legislation. I thank him for his hard work on this boundary adjustment, which reflects current management and authorizes the acquisition and protection of this pristine land.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Arizona and the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation that I was proud to author, the Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2014, H.R. 4846.

This legislation involves a parcel of 10 lots that we call the “wedge” in Grand County, Colorado, in the Second Congressional District. The wedge is located just north of the town of Grand Lake and west of the famous Rocky Mountain National Park. Come visit. It is called the “wedge” because it is actually a wedge of land which divides the Arapaho National Forest from the Rocky Mountain National Park. Although this parcel is integral to the successful management of these public lands, the wedge is currently outside of the national forest boundary.

I drafted this bill after receiving a lot of feedback and strong local support to incorporate the wedge into the Arapaho National Forest to make sure that this undeveloped land is enjoyed by the millions of visitors who travel west from the top of Rocky Mountain National Park on the Trail Ridge Road scenic byway.

The U.S. Forest Service already owns seven of the 10 parcels, which are already being managed as part of the Arapaho National Forest. There is a nonprofit, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, that owns one lot, and two lots are owned by private landowners. We have worked with the landowners and the other adjacent landowner, in order to craft this legislation, as well as local government. As a result, all interested parties have sent in letters of support.

The bill is simple. It incorporates the wedge into the Arapaho National Forest boundary; it adds the lots owned by the Forest Service to the adjacent

Bowen Gulch Protection Area; and it authorizes the Federal Government to purchase land in the designated area from willing sellers.

The bill is important because the development of the wedge parcel has an important impact on the scenic beauty of the Rocky Mountain National Park. It is also a key driver of our economy in northern Colorado, and it could negatively harm the adjoining Colorado River headwaters if we don't appropriately deal with the wedge parcel. As such, the surrounding communities and landowners all support this idea that preserves the scenic qualities that the wedge has for the area.

The bill is a community-driven effort. I received letters of support from the Grand County Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Grand Lake, the Headwaters Trails Alliance, Conservation Colorado, all three affected landowners, and, of course, many aspects of the tourism industry strongly support this bill as well.

I am very grateful that the House Natural Resources Committee quickly considered this legislation and unanimously passed this legislation on September 18. I urge my colleagues on the floor to similarly support this legislation here today.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4846, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRIBAL LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4867) to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4867

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **BANNING.**—The term “Banning” means the City of Banning, which is located in Riverside County, California adjacent to the Morongo Indian Reservation.

(2) **FIELDS.**—The term “Fields” means Lloyd L. Fields, the owner of record of Parcel A.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled ‘Morongo Indian Reservation, County of Riverside, State of California Land Exchange Map’, and dated May 22, 2014, which is on file in the Bureau of Land Management State Office in Sacramento, California.

(4) **PARCEL A.**—The term “Parcel A” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Fields lands”.

(5) **PARCEL B.**—The term “Parcel B” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Morongo lands”.

(6) **PARCEL C.**—The term “Parcel C” means the approximately 1.21 acres designated on the map as “Banning land”.

(7) **PARCEL D.**—The term “Parcel D” means the approximately 1.76 acres designated on the map as “Easement to Banning”.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF LANDS; TRUST LANDS, EASEMENT.

(a) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL A AND PARCEL B AND EASEMENT OVER PARCEL D.**—Subject to any valid existing rights of any third parties and to legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance and policies of title insurance, upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that Fields has duly executed and deposited with a mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder in California a deed conveying clear and unencumbered title to Parcel A to the United States in trust for the exclusive use and benefit of the Tribe, and upon receipt by Fields of confirmation that the Secretary has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder a patent conveying clear and unencumbered title in fee simple to Parcel B to Fields and has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder an easement to the City for a public right-of-way over Parcel D, the Secretary shall instruct the escrow holder to simultaneously cause—

(1) the patent to Parcel B to be recorded and issued to Fields;

(2) the easement over Parcel D to be recorded and issued to the City; and

(3) the deed to Parcel A to be delivered to the Secretary, who shall immediately cause said deed to be recorded and held in trust for the Tribe.

(b) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL C.**—After the simultaneous transfer of parcels A, B, and D under subsection (a), upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that the City has vacated its interest in Parcel C pursuant to all applicable State and local laws, the Secretary shall immediately cause Parcel C to be held in trust for the Tribe subject to—

(1) any valid existing rights of any third parties; and

(2) legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4867 authorizes an acre-for-acre land exchange between the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and a non-Indian landowner to resolve a land use and access dispute.

Under the exchange, the private landowner would transfer clear title to a 41-acre parcel of land he currently owns within the Morongo Reservation, which is located in the State of California, to the Secretary of the Interior, who would then hold the land in trust for the benefit of the tribe. The Secretary would simultaneously transfer to the private landowner clear title to a 41-acre parcel of the tribe's trust land on the edge of the reservation, affording reasonable access for his economic use of the property. The bill additionally authorizes conveyances of easements by the tribe and the city of Banning to address certain city and tribal needs.

The Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 4867, which was followed by Natural Resources Committee approval by unanimous consent. This legislation is noncontroversial, and I urge the House to pass this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend my colleague, Representative RUIZ of California, for sponsoring this legislation, for working so hard to bring all of the diverse interests to the table, and for coming up with a noncontroversial, bipartisan solution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) to speak on his legislation.

Mr. RUIZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act, which is a noncontroversial, bipartisan bill that passed unanimously out of the House Natural Resources Committee and is supported by the Department of the Interior.

The bill would aid economic development in the city of Banning, California, through a land swap, supported by all of the parties involved. Currently, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and a private landowner, Mr.

Lloyd Fields, would like to exchange two parcels of land which are nearly identical in size and value, but they are restrained from doing so because one of the parcels is currently held in trust by the United States on behalf of the tribe.

My bill facilitates an equitable land swap between the Morongo Tribe and the landowner to provide more consolidated reservation land for the tribe and commercial development opportunities for the landowner, the city of Banning and Riverside County.

The bill is consistent with the Department of the Interior's policy of promoting land consolidation within Indian country and facilitating economic development. We can all support this type of commonsense, bipartisan legislation for the simple reason that it benefits all parties involved and spurs job creation.

This bill serves as a model for how land use issues can be addressed by a community's coming together while upholding the sacred government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

I would like to thank Chairman Robert Martin of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians in the city of Banning for bringing this issue to my attention; my colleague, Representative PAUL COOK from California, for being an original cosponsor; and Senator BOXER from California for introducing the companion bill. I would also like to thank the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs' Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member HANABUSA for holding a hearing on this bill as well as to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for considering this bill in committee and for their help in bringing it to the floor today.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 4867, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4867, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1617

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5682, APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 748 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 748

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. POLIS, my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 6 years, President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State Kerry, and Senate Democrats have made sure that the American people would continue to wait for the Keystone pipeline.

The Keystone pipeline provides jobs, energy security, and perhaps most of all a closer and better relationship with our friends from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, quite honestly, the bottom line is we need to do business with our friends in Canada rather than friends in other places around the

world who may be using that money that they receive for reasons that are not in America's best interest. We trust the Canadians.

Today we have a bill on the floor because we believe that House Republicans, being led by Dr. BILL CASSIDY, can lead us to a way to construct the Keystone pipeline, provide us with a closer relationship with Canada, and make sure that the TransCanada application to construct the Keystone XL pipeline will be done. That is why we are here on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

With that said, I rise in support of not only this rule that will provide the context for the bill but also the legislation.

Let me be perfectly clear today: this bill to approve the Keystone pipeline is a jobs bill. Over the last few years, too many Americans have been out of work, not always in the right places where jobs were available, but too many Americans are out of work, and this is an area where people are out of work and need the work and can get it.

Wages have been stagnant, and median incomes for American families have fallen because this administration and the policies of the Democratic Party have led to a stagnation of the free enterprise system, and an opportunity in particular in the area of energy has been a political issue rather than a jobs issue for the American people.

The Keystone pipeline would support tens of thousands of great-paying jobs and help resolve some problems in this area and across a multistate area of the West. Yet President Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and Senate Democrats have stood constantly and consistently in the way of job-creating, shovel-ready projects.

For 6 years we have known that the impact of the Keystone pipeline would be positive on the American economy, with positive benefits that it would provide for the American people. For 6 years, we have known that the pipeline would add over a billion dollars of revenue to a tepid economy, a billion dollars in places where people are out of work, need work. And it can be done through efficiency and effectiveness of this pipeline.

Americans have been looking for leadership to secure energy independence, energy independence to where we no longer have to go across the oceans to receive the energy that we need. With this pipeline, it is an important step, I believe, in the right direction.

When completed, the Keystone pipeline will transport over 800,000 barrels of oil every single day. That is equivalent to half of our daily oil imports from the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, that is competition with the current system. That is how you get prices lower at the gas pump, by having competition, competition

with the Middle East for the oil that we will use in this country.

This will further help lower energy costs for American families while helping to bolster our national security by weaning us off oil from nations that sometimes do not have our best interests in their own mind.

Instead of partnering with countries in the Middle East, the Keystone pipeline lets us work together with our dear friends from Canada.

By approving the Keystone pipeline, the Federal Government will reduce our dependency overnight while creating much-needed jobs and providing billions of dollars in economic opportunity in the USA.

We all know that Keystone can accomplish what the American people want, and that is that we need to work together. Mr. Speaker, we need to work together.

Finally, what has happened is that the Senate Democrats are asking for this bill. Regardless of the reason, what we are doing here today is to work together on ideas that we have been trying to push for a long, long time.

In September of 2008, TransCanada submitted their application to the Department of State to construct the Keystone pipeline. Yet the Obama administration has blocked and delayed construction of the pipeline at every single turn. Excuse after excuse after excuse rather than getting it done.

The State Department, led by Secretary Hillary Clinton and Secretary Kerry, has stood firmly in the way of jobs created by this project. They have held dozens of meetings and issued study after study, each of which confirms what Republicans have said all along, and that is, the pipeline will create jobs and inject billions of dollars into the American economy while doing so in a safe and limited environmental impact way.

Beginning in 2011, with Republicans, as soon as they won this body and became the majority, we started passing laws to jump-start the pipeline. Time after time I have been on the floor of this body—and, Mr. Speaker, you have stood faithfully in your chair to listen to the debates. It is you, Mr. Speaker, who has been behind this idea to make sure that we would keep it as a part of our objective. An objective for the American people, opportunities for the American people, and a friendship with the Canadians. Sadly, Senate Democrats have refused to allow even a vote.

Yet just yesterday the Keystone pipeline suddenly became a hot topic on the Senate floor. A hot topic because they want to get it done now.

Well, so what has changed? Last week, after 6 long years, Members of the Senate finally decided to listen to the American people. The House has been listening and acting for 4 years now, but now that the Senate is pre-

pared to join us, we are here to work together.

The House is prepared to pass this bill from Dr. BILL CASSIDY, oh, yes, from an energy State called Louisiana. A dear friend of not only this body but a dear friend of consumers and families who understand that we need to reduce even further costs at the gas pump, that we need to be concerned about where we buy our oil and our energy and to make sure we are doing business with the friends and people we know.

So they can pass it and they can send it to the President's desk. We are going to send the same bill. Same bill they are doing in the Senate is the same one we are going to do here. We are going to get it to the President. No more delays, no more excuses. It is actually time to make the Keystone pipeline a reality.

Said another way, the election is over; let's get our work done.

I am proud that the House has led on this issue. I look forward to the Senate joining us. I hope the President will do the same thing. I hope we will sign another jobs bill that has been passed by the House of Representatives.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.

Last night, we got a notice that the Rules Committee was going to have an emergency hearing to expedite very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I was very excited. I thought we were going to deal with an emergency. Perhaps it was Ebola, perhaps it was dealing with the use of force overseas, or emergencies here at home like the thousands of families that are separated because of our broken immigration law or the emergency of balancing our budget before we leave the next generation with a burden of debt. I was really hopeful that the majority was ready to take on a pressing issue facing the country.

Sadly, I was too optimistic. I found out that the bill that was such an emergency, that was expeditiously brought before the Rules Committee and now to the floor is actually a bill that we have already voted on this Congress to bypass the administration's review policy and streamline the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Turned out last night's Rules Committee meeting was far from an emergency. The majority should not have waived clause 11 of rule XXI that normally requires 3 days to review legislation before we vote on it.

To be clear, we have not had 3 days to read this bill. Now, one could argue, since we have pretty much passed the darn thing before and it hasn't changed

much, maybe we didn't need the full 3 days, but why are we doing another bill?

□ 1630

I truly hope we are not setting the tone for the 114th where great Representatives, Democratic and Republican, come from all parts of the country to tackle the issues facing our great Nation, balancing the budget, fixing our broken immigration system, and getting our economy moving; and we vote on the same bill, in the case of repealing the Affordable Care Act, 53 times in the 113th Congress.

One time, I understand. The House wants to do it, that is what the people were elected to do, if they believe that, and that is what a majority says, then do it. But what are the other 52 times besides a waste of taxpayer money?

The Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act being revived today is nothing new. Again, it bypasses the pending review process and would immediately authorize the TransCanada Keystone pipeline company to build an 875-mile pipeline from Canada through the United States to the Gulf of Mexico for the exportation of oil.

This bill would expedite a tar sands project without requiring a Federal environmental or administrative review process basically saying that those are automatically concluded and/or sufficient.

I asked Chairman WHITFIELD in our Rules Committee what their discussion with the administration was on this. When did they last have testimony, formal or informal, from the administration? Where is the administration in this approval process?

Mr. WHITFIELD informed me that there had been no updates from the administration that they have requested for 6 months, so for all we know, the President might be ready to approve or not approve this project tomorrow, next week, next month—I don't know—but it seems like the two branches of government aren't talking to one another.

Normally, if Congress is interested in where a particular approval process is, we would hold hearings, and we would ask the relevant questions—what are the current sticking points, are there issues that are still pending—rather than bypass any legitimate issues that might still be there around the routing.

As many of you know, the routing has already been changed so as not to impact the Ogallala aquifer, and there could very well be other important issues that affect residents of the States through which the Keystone pipeline would pass.

Clearly, this project is a great favor to our friendly neighbors to the north, the great nation of Canada. The question that we need to figure out as a country is: Does it benefit America? Does it benefit Americans?

There are pros and cons. Obviously, if it goes in your neighborhood, it is not a particular benefit to you—or through your farm—and that was some of the issues that we heard from in the impact statements that are currently being reviewed by the administration.

There is a review process underway. We all wish that review process went faster. We all wish that NEPA would go faster. We all wish that a wide variety of review policies would go faster, but we don't know how that is going to be concluded, and I think it is important that, while they get through it as soon as possible, they are able to do so and take all factors into account.

If Congress wants to change the approval process for these kinds of projects, I think that is a legitimate discussion to have. If Congress determines it needs to reconfigure a review process for a project like this, maybe we would go into the statute and we alter the different agencies or we assign different responsibility or criteria.

That would be a relevant discussion to have, not bypassing something that Congress set up in statute. The President is doing what Congress told him to do in reviewing this process—not this Congress, but the underlying statute when it was passed.

Now, of course, there are a lot of issues around Keystone XL, and rather than interrupting the State Department's ongoing review process, Congress should allow all the relevant issues to be properly addressed around this issue.

I want to emphasize that the Republicans brought this tar sands bill forward just one day after China and the U.S. came to a landmark agreement to address climate change. Tar sands are a high-polluting fuel that, on a life-cycle basis, tar sands crude produces about 20 percent more carbon pollution than conventional crudes.

In addition, we have a study from Cornell University with regard to the effect of the XL pipeline on gasoline for American citizens, and top energy economists in this Cornell study said that if the XL pipeline is built, consumers in our country may end up paying 10 to 20 cents more per gallon for gas as a result of tar sands being diverted.

That is millions of dollars a year out of the pockets of Americans and perhaps into the pockets of wherever all this oil is going. But, again, of what benefit to America is this project?

There is also the simple matter of how a bill becomes a law, okay, so we have a House bill, a Senate bill, and let's take a wild presumption, maybe both Chambers will pass this bill. What happens next? It goes to the President. The President can sign a bill or veto a bill.

Essentially, the President can sign a bill approving the Keystone pipeline, which is something that he can do now

without this bill. He can approve the pipeline, and if Congress goes through all this deliberative effort at taxpayer expense, talk, and votes and all this stuff, the President still has a decision.

Now, again, obviously, if there are two-thirds in both Chambers, Congress can seize power on a particular issue and exert its own will, but that hasn't been the case on these Keystone pipeline votes, and I don't expect it to be the case on this one.

So it is just an exercise in senseless hot air being thrown around the Chamber where we can pass bills and the same situation prevails if it passes or not; namely, the President can decide whether they want this to go forward or not. If Congress wants to alter that approval process, let's look at the statutory rules around how projects are reviewed for future projects and see if we can reach a bipartisan consensus about that.

I wish that this had been an emergency piece of legislation. I wish that we were tackling a potential public health crisis. I wish that we were tackling terrorism. I wish we were tackling balancing the budget, and I wish we were tackling securing our borders. But we are not.

We are tackling something that isn't going anywhere and, even if passed, will give the President the same choice that he has today, much to do about nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, just so we really are a little bit clear, the President indicated last week what he might do on this exact issue of Keystone pipeline. He said that he would consider signing the bill if it creates jobs.

So, Mr. President, the study from your own State Department said that construction on Keystone would create over 42,000 jobs, so there is one answer to our President.

Another one, the President said he would consider signing the bill if it was good for the American people, good for their pocketbooks, if it were to reduce gas prices. Now, that is what the President said.

Once again, I have good news. Good news. Keystone pipeline will move up to 830,000 barrels of oil a day through an efficient process. Instead of it coming from halfway around the world, which adds cost to the transportation, it will come through a pipeline and be here real efficiently, so I think we are in good stead there to meet the test for the President.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to let you know that I have got five or six speakers that are here who are excited about this opportunity for jobs, a jobs bill that is on the floor today and the creation of legislation to have the XL pipeline.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Raleigh, North Carolina, Congressman HOLDING.

Mr. HOLDING. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of American jobs and increased and efficient energy production. For too long, approval of the Keystone pipeline has been delayed, delaying thousands of new jobs—42,000 new jobs—and our struggling economy a much-needed boost.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans, both Democrat and Republican alike, support building the Keystone pipeline. Why? Because it is common sense. But for 6 years, it has been delayed. The Keystone pipeline will create jobs, grow our economy, and help our Nation provide a secure source of energy that does not have to come from halfway around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am focused on building a stronger economy for American families, and job creation is a top priority to accomplish that. Approving the Keystone pipeline advances all of these goals. I urge my colleagues in the strongest terms to support this rule and support the underlying bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Mr. POLIS. I appreciate the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the passage of the rule and H.R. 5682, the underlying bill. You first have to consider the opinion of the world's undisputed foremost climatologist, former NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen, the guru on this subject, Betty Crocker, Good Housekeeping Seal, one of the first scientists to warn of the dangers of burning carbon fuel.

Dr. Hansen is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, and he has likened the building and the use of the Keystone XL pipeline to the lighting of "the fuse to the biggest carbon bomb on the planet" and nothing less.

"The fuse to the biggest carbon bomb on the planet," that is Dr. Hansen. Dr. Hansen has warned the completion of this pipeline will only reinforce our dependence on fossil fuels, not strengthen our Nation's energy independence, as has been argued by some of my friends on the other side.

When you brush aside the studies funded by TransCanada and other oil companies and you analyze the pure scientific studies that have no political motivation, every analysis clearly demonstrates that the Keystone XL pipeline poses major threats at every turn, in extraction, in transportation, in refining, and in consumption.

Nationwide, about 3.2 million gallons of oil spill from pipelines every year. Spills such as those pollute drinking water, ruin American farmland, potentially destroy sacred tribal grounds, and create an uninhabitable environment for our own homeowners.

In fact, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, there was a spill in 2010 of tar sands oil

that cost \$1.2 billion and years and years and years to clean up. That is where the permanent jobs are going to be created, in cleaning up the spillage, and that is not the kind of jobs the American people want.

Building the pipeline carries the dirtiest oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and is exactly the opposite of addressing climate change, which is what we should be doing today, and most of this oil will not go to America, but will go through America, endangering mid-America, and be exported overseas. There are no export restrictions on nondomestic crudes.

H.R. 5682 is a special interest earmark that will make the U.S. a permanent conduit to international markets for one of the dirtiest fuel sources on the planet.

My colleague and friend says that we are going to be helping our friend. Yes, Canada is our friend. We play hockey with them, basketball, whatever; but this oil is going to go to our other friend, China. This is about Canada shipping oil through America and endangering American lands to supply the Chinese with oil.

The Keystone XL proponents like to talk about these jobs it would create, but the vast majority are temporary. The permanent jobs measure but 35, and as I said, the permanent jobs will really be cleanup.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Tennessee has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 45 seconds.

Mr. COHEN. As was mentioned by Mr. POLIS, these jobs are important if they are in transportation infrastructure. That creates real jobs in this country, getting goods to market, and my friends on the other side have resisted transportation infrastructure jobs.

Clean energy is permanent jobs. Wind and solar are permanent jobs. The only permanent jobs are the cleanups. When the U.S. and China have come together in historic agreement is not the time to light the fuse to the biggest carbon bomb on the planet.

For these and other countless reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no." It is time to return our focus to an issue that centers on true energy independence through renewable sources and greener, domestic energy production.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I think we are seeing the same heresy take place here on the floor, and that is trying to scare people. It is Republicans who are trying to move a job bill, and jobs, the American people understand. Let's keep this thing right in the center of the table.

It is about jobs. It is about energy independence. It is about a working relationship with our friends. It is about lessening our dependence upon giving

people in other countries in foreign lands our money that they don't always use in our best interest. It is about national security, and it is about a lot of things that make common sense. What makes common sense is not to scare people, but give them the facts of the case.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota, KEVIN CRAMER. He served on the commission up in North Dakota before he came to Congress, and he is a great young man.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. It seems it should be so unnecessary to have something that makes so much common sense become so historic, and yet, here, we find ourselves at a historic moment.

After years of debate and accommodation, the most environmentally studied and accommodated pipeline in the history of the world has been stranded on the President's desk, held hostage by Hollywood advisers and liberals, donors to politicians who either don't understand the issue or don't care.

□ 1645

But as signals of a possible vote in the United States Senate are being transmitted, the American people ought to find comfort in the fact that politics works, that when the American people speak, even the United States Senate listens.

So I am grateful that Congressman CASSIDY has brought this bill to the people's House, a bill that originated with my Senator, Senator HOEVEN in the Senate, so that we can tee it up for them this week so that next week they can do what they should have done a long time ago and pass this bill.

You know, I am a big part of the Keystone pipeline. When I was on the North Dakota Public Service Commission years ago, I carried the pipeline portfolio. I happened to oversee the siting of the original Keystone pipeline that goes through North Dakota and goes down to Cushing, Oklahoma. It crosses the border in North Dakota. It crosses eight counties in my State, 600 landowners' land. It crosses farms of farmers who know how to work the land and know the value of the topsoil and understand the value of the minerals underneath it. It crosses two scenic rivers and includes five pumping stations and runs 217 miles through my State.

I am proud to say that while not universally loved, not one inch of that pipeline through North Dakota required condemnation proceedings, not because I am a great regulator, but because North Dakotans understand value—the value of domestic energy, the value it has to job creation. And I want to talk about jobs in a little bit.

As vast reserves of oil are discovered and new technologies unlocked, energy security is within our reach this decade. The amount of oil that would flow

to U.S. refineries in the Keystone XL represents 36 percent of what we import today from the Persian Gulf alone. The fact of the matter is that, today, over 71 percent of the Bakken shale crude that is produced in North Dakota is shipped by rail. Now, I have nothing against trains—I thank God that we have a robust rail system—but railing oil costs more. It is a little more dangerous. It is not as efficient as pipelines. It also requires trucks to get the oil to the rail facilities. Again, trucks are good—they are not bad at all—but they are not as safe or as efficient as pipelines, and they take a toll on our highway infrastructure.

According to the director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, Lynn Helms, approval of the Keystone XL will cause two things to happen, and listen carefully: 300 to 500 truckloads per day will be taken off of North Dakota highways, and there will be 10 fewer trains every week leaving the State. He also calculates that greenhouse gas emissions from rail are 1.8 times that of a pipeline and 2.9 times the emissions from pipeline transportation, and spills from truck transportation occurs at three to four times the rate of spills from pipelines. So yes, sometimes accidents happen, but they happen far more frequently with trucks.

Approval of the XL will result in 450,000 to 950,000 kilograms per day less greenhouse gas emissions in North Dakota alone, as well as significant decreases in dust and 60 to 80 fewer spills per year.

America's national security, Mr. Speaker, and America's economic security are tied directly to America's energy security. We can do a lot better, and we need to.

Now, the environmental safeguards in the Keystone pipeline—I said it is the most studied pipeline in the history of the world—they are rigorous and they are appropriate. They have been tested and they work. I can attest to that. I toured the Keystone during construction, and I met many of the men and women who worked on the line. Those, Mr. Speaker, are real jobs. Those pipe layers are real workers doing real jobs. The restaurant owners, the hotel owners, the retailers, the subcontractors, those are real jobs, and they should not be diminished by considering them something other than real jobs. We have the lowest workforce participation rate since 1978 in this country. Let's put people back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to stand here and support this rule and ask my colleagues to do the same. Support final passage. Put people back to work and make America more energy secure and keep the prices low for the American consumer.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

So again, I was excited that perhaps the Rules Committee was going to con-

sider emergency legislation on public health or Ebola or the war with ISIS or our budget. How about a deficit of half a trillion dollars, I call that an emergency. Instead, here we are dealing with a bill, something that Congress already passed that even if they passed again would make the decisionmaker exactly the same decisionmaker we have today, namely, the President of the United States.

Rather than considering the Keystone pipeline bill—and if we weren't going to deal with one of the real emergencies—why not at least bring up bills that create new green energy jobs in our innovation and energy sector like the bipartisan Public Lands Renewable Energy Act that I offered along with Representatives GOSAR, THOMPSON, and HECK? The Public Lands Renewable Energy Act would expand renewable energy development and create jobs while protecting our Nation's public health and environmental resources. It would provide the framework for a competitive leasing system for wind and energy, solar energy, on public lands. The innovative leasing process would help move our Nation forward with clean energy development while providing funding for conservation, States, and localities. How about that? Let's use some of our great public lands that have good solar or wind characteristics for solar and wind. I think that would be a great bipartisan bill to bring up here today.

Another example of a bill that we could consider today that would create jobs and move to a renewable energy future is the Renewable Electricity Standard Act, H.R. 3654, which I co-introduced in order to boost renewable energy markets across the country. The bill would make sure that utilities generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable energies like wind, solar, and biomass by 2025. It is a goal, and my great State of Colorado already has a 30 percent renewable energy standard. That legislation would build on the success of over 30 State-based renewable energy standards, including the standard in the great State of Colorado by creating a true national market for renewable energy. It would create jobs and save consumers money on utility bills, help keep gas cheap at the pump, and provide billions in local tax revenues for small towns while cutting carbon pollution. That, to me, sounds like a better idea than spending our time debating a bill that, even if passed, will leave the project that it is talking about in the same situation it is before the bill is discussed.

Instead, Republicans are moving forward on a bill that clings on to Big Oil interests and does nothing to make energy more affordable for American consumers, does nothing to move forward to a clean energy future, and does nothing at all because, even if it passes, it has to go to the President to

sign, who is currently the person reviewing the applications as we speak.

The emergency Rules Committee meeting and closed rule today does not allow me to bring forward the Public Lands Renewable Energy Act as an amendment. It doesn't allow me to bring forward the Renewable Electricity Standard Act as an amendment. In fact, the closed rule today ensures that no Member, Republican or Democratic, of this great body can offer an amendment to improve this bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues to set the tone for the next Congress by rejecting this rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, and I will tell you, we are trying to keep the stage set that we in the Republican majority are leading for jobs for America. We are leading to help gas at the pump be less than what it has been. It doubled under President Obama's watch because they have not done the things that would allow more energy to be gotten. Sure, it is being gotten now on private lands, but on Federal lands, we need to do the same.

Once again, the same old worn-out rhetoric standing in the way of jobs in this country. That is why Republicans are now here on the floor again today. Our last bill is about jobs, too, before we leave.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Gainesville, Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), a member on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee.

I rise in strong support of this rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 5682, to authorize the construction of the Keystone pipeline. You know, it is not every day that I come back—and we have been gone for awhile from debating while we have been out actually campaigning and listening to the American people, and the American people spoke rather loudly last week, and it is good to come back and begin to put into practice what they have said. In fact, it is amazing to me how debates that went on so far here and coming to the floor—in fact, from people that normally we never disagree on—I am actually bringing to the floor a little bit of bipartisanship here.

In fact, I know that some will think there is no better argument for the pipeline—in fact, there is no better one that I have heard than one that I read in the paper today from a distinguished colleague in the other Chamber just across the way who does not share the Republican point of view. He said in regards to the Keystone pipeline:

It would be a tremendous windfall for all of us. It is something we can count on. I can't for the life of me understand why we haven't, to date, been able to move this piece of legislation forward.

Well, good grief, neither do I. In fact, if I was to spend the rest of my 5 minutes just trying to understand why the Senate can't move bills, we would be here all night, Mr. Speaker. The gentleman from the other side, the other body, the Senate, summed it up clearly. He said: I don't understand why we can't move stuff.

What I have also missed, Mr. Speaker, coming back to the floor of the House, is things that I have never heard before, I mean, not at least in north Georgia where I am from. When we talk about jobs—and I have heard it talked about here on the floor of the House this afternoon; in fact, it was said that this is a waste of taxpayer money. To bring bills like this up, that it is a waste of taxpayer money. What is a waste of taxpayer money is the House Republicans passing jobs bills for Americans regardless of their party, jobs for them, and having them sit in a Senate that never woke up. That is a waste of taxpayer money. Where do I go to get my money back from that side of the aisle?

You know what is another thing that is amazing to me today, I actually heard something, Mr. Speaker, and you may have to help me with this because I don't understand because it was just said here on the floor of the House that this bill was a special interest earmark. I have never heard jobs described as a special interest earmark. Are you telling me that the Congress, in looking to give people jobs, is a special interest earmark? I think that is exactly what we are supposed to be doing. Are you kidding? This is exactly what the election was about just a couple of days ago. It is exactly what the American people spoke of. It is exactly what they are tired of—of government standing in the way of jobs.

Emergency legislation, an "emergency rule," another term I have just heard on the House floor just a few minutes ago, that we were coming to the floor with an emergency rule and that we were going to do something special. Undoubtedly, they have never met somebody who does not have a job. I have been without a job. And if you were to tell me that I could get a job when I was looking for a job, that is emergency legislation. It is whatever it is, and I am looking for a job, and there are millions of families looking for jobs. Special interests it is not; it is the work of this body. And to say it is a waste of time, have we lost that much of our vision of what the American people sent us here to do?

Are there things that we could bring up? I appreciate my friend from Colorado. Are there a multitude of bills we could bring up? Yes. But as my parents once told me, they said: DOUG, that is the supper you are getting tonight. You either eat it or go to bed hungry.

The bill we have before us is a jobs bill—42,000 jobs—puts millions of peo-

ple in jobs and the economy back together again in a way that helps our economy and helps the world, but yet all we are worried about is what could be. Well, what could be is not good enough for somebody who can't pay their house payment, who can't send their kids to school. It is bad.

If you are watching and if you want to think about this right now, there is a clear difference. And the clear difference is that the Republicans have listened to the folks at the ball fields, have listened to the folks at the churches and the synagogues, who have heard "I need a job."

I want to work together for good jobs, and we will get to better jobs; but what is before us right now, Mr. Speaker, is this bill. This is the bill that is before us, and there is bipartisan support for this. And we can claim what is not in it. We can claim what it is. But I would never ever want to come to this podium, Mr. Speaker, and ever say that a jobs bill is an earmark, that a jobs bill is something that we shouldn't be taking up or that it is a waste of time, because when we say that bills like this are a waste of time, then we might as well say to people on the unemployment line, "You are a waste of time," and this Republican will never do that because the American people expect better from us. That is why this rule needs to pass; that is why this bill needs to pass; and that is why this Republican majority will do what it is sent here to do—govern.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the other side here is arguing like somehow passing this bill would lead to this pipeline being built. That simply isn't the case. The current review process, the decision lies with the President and the Secretary of State. If this bill, in identical form, were to pass both Chambers, the President of the United States will have a choice—approve it or not approve it—the same choice he has now.

□ 1700

So in no way would this Republican bill that we are considering here today make a decision for the President. The President is elected by the people in the country. Congress itself gave the President the authority to review this bill. It only becomes law if he chooses to sign it.

I should point out that this bill exempts TransCanada from multiple environmental laws like the National Environmental Policy Act or the Endangered Species Act. If the President were to approve the Keystone project, it probably wouldn't even be by signing this bill. He would probably approve it without waiving those laws or perhaps different areas, or perhaps there are other issues that this body doesn't know about because Mr. WHITFIELD hasn't consulted the President on what the pending issues are in 6 months.

So again, as a Member of this body who is not on the committee of jurisdiction, I can't say that I have been briefed by the administration on what the pending issues are. Apparently, Mr. WHITFIELD hasn't either. So let's find out what they are and are there additional areas that have to be rerouted, are there precautions that have to be made because of the high temperature of the tar sands as they race across our country.

Approving this Keystone XL pipeline, which this bill, again, would not do—it would simply go to the President who could choose whether he wants to move forward or not, just as he can now—but it would simply benefit foreign oil interests. The real issue is where are the benefits for the American people—the health and safety of the American people, the integrity of agriculture-based economies in the areas that would be affected. Does Congress really want to give TransCanada special benefits and exemptions or should they be held to the same standard as other important energy projects?

We need to help America grow renewable energy to wean ourselves off of our reliance on fossil fuels. If Congress wants to weigh in on how large energy projects should be approved, by all means, let's do it. But, quite frankly, you don't do it by presenting a bill to the President which gives him the exact same options that he has today. It doesn't move the ball down the road one way or the other.

I share the desire that my colleagues have that hopefully the process is nearing its completion. Whether that is a week or a month or 6 months, I don't know. Apparently, the committee doesn't know either, because they haven't asked the Executive. But I do trust that they are taking the factors that Congress wrote into law into consideration and, hopefully, will come to the conclusion one way or the other regardless of whether this bill is passed or not.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ennis, Texas (Mr. BARTON). As the former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he knows about as much as anybody in the United States Congress about not just the needs of jobs and energy in this country, but, as the distinguished former chairman of the committee, he led this fight for many, many years.

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee.

First of all, let's try to define what this bill actually does. We have had a lot of rhetoric on the House floor the last 30 minutes or so. It is a pretty simple bill. It removes the President from

the decisionmaking authority. He can sign the bill and it would become law; he cannot sign it after so many days and it can become law; or he can veto it—but he doesn't have to make the decision whether to build the pipeline or not. That is the first thing. It takes the President out of the decisionmaking loop, except for the fact that he has the option as the President of the United States to sign the bill into law, veto it, or to let it become law without his signature.

Secondly, it says that if the bill does become law and the environmental groups still want to contest it, you get expedited judicial review so that we immediately get a decision. That is what the bill does. It is a simple bill.

A lot of the Keystone pipeline has already been built. From some of the rhetoric on the floor, you would think that it hadn't even been started yet. The reason the State Department and the President are even in the loop is because it is an international pipeline. Having said that, the international part of it has been built. The connection between Canada and the United States has been built and is operational. The part that is in question is within the interior of the United States of America.

If you were building a pipeline that wasn't connected to the Keystone pipeline as it exists, you wouldn't have to have the State Department review it and you wouldn't have to have the President make a decision. But because it is the continuation or in addition to an existing international pipeline, the State Department has to make a decision and, in this case, the President right now has to make a decision.

It is an 800,000-barrel-a-day pipeline if we make it operational. That brings oil from Canada into the United States where it can go to any number of domestic refineries, or it could actually, as has been said, it could be exported potentially. But in all probability, they will get a better market price in the United States down on the Gulf Coast and they would prefer to sell it here. But the market would make that decision, Mr. Speaker.

So, if at first you don't succeed, try, try, and try again. The House leadership, on a bipartisan basis, is going to send another bill on the Keystone pipeline to the other body. My understanding is that they are going to vote on it next week if it passes the House tomorrow, and then we will send it to the President. This would be a great Thanksgiving present for the American people, as has been pointed out: more job creation, more options for domestic refineries, potentially lower gasoline prices than they even are today for motorists and our consumers. It is a win-win-win.

There is no group in America that opposes it. Republicans support it; Democrats support it; labor unions

support it. The only group is the radical environmentalists that probably make up 2 or 3 percent of the population. I just don't understand it.

I want to thank the committee of jurisdiction for bringing the bill to the floor, for the Rules Committee reporting out the rule. I urge a strong "yes" vote on the rule, and tomorrow I urge a strong "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

What we have here is Congress trying to interfere with a highly technical review process that has already resulted in the rerouting of the proposed pipeline to ensure that the integrity of the Ogallala aquifer is preserved and that there are potentially other important issues to Americans that live in the affected areas where the pipeline would be built. Instead of hearing what those issues are or talking to the administration about what pending issues remain or are standing in the way of approval, Congress is seeking to shortcut that process, exempt the XL pipeline from the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act to immediately order it to be built regardless of the legitimate issues that should be waived.

When my colleague says, oh, somehow it is only 2 percent of the American people that oppose it, that is not the discussion we are having here today. It is not about who supports it or who opposes it. There needs to be the studies that are done to make sure that the routing of it maintains the health and safety of the American people, doesn't jeopardize the economy in the affected areas. Those are the issues that have already resulted in several changes of the plan and could result in additional changes to the plan of where and how the pipeline could be built. For Congress to somehow say we are just tired of dealing with the technical issues and we just want it done puts American lives at risk, puts America's health at risk.

We all wish that this process could have been completed 6 months ago, 3 months ago. We hope it is completed a month from now, 6 months from now. But giving the President the same choice he has today by passing this bill doesn't move the process forward. We should be taking advantage of our last few precious weeks before the end of the year to address some of the important pieces of legislation that the Senate has sent over, but somehow what we are debating, repealing the Affordable Care Act for the 53rd time or the Keystone pipeline again and again, somehow this body hasn't had time to even consider or debate or allow a vote on important pieces of legislation like the bipartisan immigration reform package that received more than two-thirds support in the United States Senate. There is a companion bill that is bipartisan that has been introduced

in the House. There is a discharge petition at the desk for Members to sign to demand a simple up-or-down vote to fix our broken immigration system, secure our borders, reduce our budget deficit by over \$200 billion.

There is a discussion of jobs with the Keystone project. Well, let me tell you, this bill on immigration reform that if this body allows a vote on would create over 250,000 jobs for American citizens.

Or how about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act? The Senate has acted on a bill that would prevent an employer from firing somebody just because they are gay or lesbian. It shouldn't be any of your boss' business who you date or who you love after work. The Senate passed that. More than three-quarters of the American people support it. We filed a discharge petition on that bill. We would love to be acting on that bill here today instead of yet again shortcutting the process with regard to an oil project.

This Congress has been a frustrating Congress. Unfortunately, here in our final weeks, I hope we are not setting the tone for an equally ineffective and inefficient 114th Congress. The American people deserve better. It is time to move forward with the renewable energy agenda, with balancing our budget, with fixing our broken immigration system, with making college more affordable, rather than talking in circles about projects that are already under review and won't be any more or less under review if the bill passes because it requires the signature of the same President who is currently charged with making this decision under current law in statutes passed by the United States Congress. Let's not waste our limited time on bills that won't go anywhere and won't do anything.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 15, comprehensive immigration reform, to the floor of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas yield for that purpose?

Mr. SESSIONS. I object.

Mr. POLIS. Well, unfortunately, yet again, we have been stymied in our efforts to address a critical issue facing the American people with a bill that would create over 250,000 jobs for American citizens, would secure our border, restore the rule of law, and unite American families. That is what the work of Congress should be; that is what the American people want Congress to do. If the 113th Congress can't do it, I sure hope that the President moves forward with the powers that have been granted to him by Congress and that the 114th Congress proves to be better than this Congress is in its waning days.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we heard our friends on the Democrat side talk about special interest money. They were talking about green energy: \$18 billion a year is spent, money that would be spent like what was spent on Solyndra, sole-source contracts to companies that have gone belly up. Those are the ideas of the Democrat Party and the ideas of this President. The ideas of this President are they have taken over 6 years—2,246 days—the President of the United States, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State Kerry, an administration that stands in the way of the operation of getting people jobs, of doing the things that the American people want and need. That is why what happened this first Tuesday in November, the American people said: We have had enough.

□ 1715

I, as a Republican, don't take it that we are just outstanding and they elected us. What they said is: We are sick and tired of the direction we're headed. We want serious things to happen.

We have a brand new Governor in Maryland and a brand new Governor in Illinois. There is a lot of information that is out there, ready for us. We Republicans came right back to work. The Senate is doing the same. They are trying to pass this. We are trying to take the exact same bill that we were asked to do, with the expectation and understanding it can pass this body.

It is a well-understood bill. It hasn't taken us 6 years—2,246 days—to figure it out. If this administration can't figure the dang thing out, they need to admit they do not know how to read or lead. And I don't know which one it is, but either they can't read or they cannot lead. They need to know that the American people expect us to go get the work done. That is what you heard Mr. COLLINS say. The Republican Party is up to the task. The Republican Party, through the leadership of JOHN A. BOEHNER and the leadership of what will be MITCH MCCONNELL, the Senate majority leader, is going to do exactly that.

We are going to take all the issues, including the one the gentleman talks about all day and every day—and that is immigration—and we are going to have an immigration bill. And we are going to do the right thing.

But today we are talking about jobs: jobs and opportunities for people that need them. We need competition for the price of energy. We need to make sure we don't depend as much on the

Middle East and that we work with our friends from Canada. And it does not take the Republican Party 6 years, or 2,246 days, to try and make a decision. The Republican Party is here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 233, nays 185, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

YEAS—233

Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	McAllister
Amash	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (CA)
Amodei	Gardner	McCaul
Bachmann	Garrett	McClintock
Bachus	Gerlach	McHenry
Barr	Gibbs	McIntyre
Barton	Gibson	McKinley
Benishek	Gingrey (GA)	McMorris
Bentivolio	Gohmert	Rodgers
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	Meadows
Bishop (UT)	Gosar	Meehan
Black	Gowdy	Messer
Blackburn	Granger	Mica
Boustany	Graves (GA)	Miller (FL)
Brady (TX)	Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)
Brat	Green, Gene	Mullin
Bridenstine	Griffin (AR)	Mulvaney
Brooks (AL)	Griffith (VA)	Murphy (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Grimm	Murphy (PA)
Broun (GA)	Guthrie	Neugebauer
Buchanan	Hanna	Noem
Bucshon	Harper	Nugent
Burgess	Harris	Nunes
Byrne	Hartzler	Nunnelee
Calvert	Hastings (WA)	Olson
Camp	Heck (NV)	Owens
Capito	Hensarling	Palazzo
Carter	Herrera Beutler	Paulsen
Cassidy	Holding	Pearce
Chabot	Hudson	Peterson
Chaffetz	Huelskamp	Petri
Clawson (FL)	Huizenga (MI)	Pittenger
Coble	Hultgren	Pitts
Coffman	Hunter	Poe (TX)
Cole	Hurt	Pompeo
Collins (GA)	Jenkins	Posey
Collins (NY)	Johnson (OH)	Price (GA)
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Rahall
Cook	Jolly	Reed
Cotton	Jones	Reichert
Cramer	Jordan	Renacci
Crawford	Joyce	Ribble
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Rice (SC)
Culberson	King (IA)	Rigell
Daines	King (NY)	Roby
Davis, Rodney	Kingston	Roe (TN)
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Dent	Kline	Rogers (KY)
DeSantis	Labrador	Rogers (MI)
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Rohrabacher
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rokita
Duffy	Lance	Rooney
Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Ros-Lehtinen
Duncan (TN)	Latham	Roskam
Ellmers	Latta	Ross
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Rothfus
Fincher	Long	Royce
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Ryan (WI)
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Fleming	Lummis	Sanford
Flores	Marchant	Scalise
Forbes	Marino	Schock
Fortenberry	Massie	Schweikert
Fox	Matheson	Scott, Austin

Scott, David	Stutzman
Sensenbrenner	Terry
Sessions	Thompson (PA)
Shimkus	Thornberry
Shuster	Tiberi
Simpson	Tipton
Smith (MO)	Turner
Smith (NE)	Upton
Smith (NJ)	Valadao
Smith (TX)	Wagner
Southerland	Walberg
Stewart	Walden
Stivers	Walorski
Stockman	Weber (TX)

NAYS—185

Adams	Grayson	Norcross
Barber	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Barrow (GA)	Grijalva	Pallone
Bass	Gutiérrez	Pascarella
Beatty	Hahn	Pastor (AZ)
Becerra	Hanabusa	Payne
Bera (CA)	Hastings (FL)	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Heck (WA)	Perlmutter
Bishop (NY)	Higgins	Peters (CA)
Bonamici	Himes	Peters (MI)
Brady (PA)	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Braley (IA)	Honda	Pocan
Brown (FL)	Horsford	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Bustos	Huffman	Quigley
Butterfield	Israel	Rangel
Capps	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Capuano	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Carney	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Rush
Cartwright	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	T.
Chu	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kind	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Clay	Kuster	Schneider
Cleaver	Langevin	Schrader
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Serrano
Conyers	Levin	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lewis	Shea-Porter
Courtney	Lipinski	Sherman
Crowley	Loeb sack	Sinema
Cuellar	Lofgren	Sires
Cummings	Lowenthal	Slaughter
Davis (CA)	Lowey	Speier
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham	Swalwell (CA)
DeFazio	(NM)	Takano
DeGette	Lujan, Ben Ray	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Lynch	Tierney
DelBene	Maffei	Titus
Deutch	Maloney,	Tonko
Dingell	Carolyn	Tsongas
Doggett	Maloney, Sean	Van Hollen
Doyle	Matsui	Vargas
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Veasey
Ellison	McCollum	Vela
Engel	McDermott	Velázquez
Eshoo	McGovern	Visclosky
Esty	McNerney	Walz
Farr	Meeks	Wasserman
Fattah	Meng	Schultz
Foster	Michaud	Waters
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Waxman
Fudge	Moore	Welch
Gabbard	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Neal	
Garcia	Nolan	

NOT VOTING—16

Barletta	Hall	Negrete McLeod
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Perry
Campbell	Issa	Runyan
Costa	McKeon	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	Miller, Gary	
Enyart	Moran	

□ 1745

Ms. CASTOR of Florida changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 517, I was detained en route from National Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2141) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2141

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sunscreen Innovation Act".

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF NONPRESCRIPTION SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subchapter I—Nonprescription Sunscreen and Other Active Ingredients

"SEC. 586. DEFINITIONS.

"In this subchapter—

"(1) the term 'Advisory Committee' means the Nonprescription Drug Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration or any successor to such Committee;

"(2) the term 'final sunscreen order' means an order published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information stating that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

"(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order; or

"(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded;

"(3) the term 'GRASE' means generally recognized, among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs, as safe and effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling of a drug as described in section 201(p);

"(4) the term 'GRASE determination' means, with respect to a nonprescription active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription active ingredients, a determination of whether such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE;

"(5) the term 'nonprescription' means not subject to section 503(b)(1);

"(6) the term 'pending request' means each request with respect to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient submitted under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enact-

ment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act) for consideration for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system—

"(A) that was determined to be eligible for such review by publication of a notice of eligibility in the Federal Register prior to the date of enactment of such Act; and

"(B) for which safety and effectiveness data have been submitted to the Secretary prior to such date of enactment;

"(7) the term 'proposed sunscreen order' means an order containing a tentative determination published by the Secretary in the Federal Register containing information proposing that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients—

"(A) is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order;

"(B) is not GRASE and is misbranded; or

"(C) is not GRASE and is misbranded because the data are insufficient to classify such ingredient or combination of ingredients as GRASE and not misbranded and additional information is necessary to allow the Secretary to determine otherwise;

"(8) the term 'sponsor' means the person that submitted—

"(A) a request under section 586A;

"(B) a pending request; or

"(C) any other application subject to this subchapter;

"(9) the term 'sunscreen' means a drug containing one or more sunscreen active ingredients; and

"(10) the term 'sunscreen active ingredient' means an active ingredient that is intended for application to the skin of humans for purposes of absorbing, reflecting, or scattering ultraviolet radiation.

"SEC. 586A. SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS.

"Any person may submit a request to the Secretary for a determination of whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or a combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof (including dosage form, dosage strength, and route of administration) is GRASE and should be included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen.

"SEC. 586B. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS; DATA SUBMISSION; FILING.

"(a) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of receipt of a request under section 586A, the Secretary shall—

"(A) determine, in accordance with paragraph (2), whether the request is eligible for further review under subsection (b) and section 586C;

"(B) notify the sponsor of the determination of the Secretary; and

"(C) make such determination publicly available in accordance with paragraph (3) and subsection (b)(1).

"(2) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for review under subsection (b) and section 586C, a request shall be for a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, for use under specified conditions, to be prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof, that—

"(i) is not included in part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen; and

"(ii) has been used to a material extent and for a material time under such conditions, as described in section 201(p)(2).

"(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIME AND EXTENT.—A sponsor shall include in a request under section 586A the information required under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) to meet the standard described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

"(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

"(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—If a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is determined under paragraph (1)(A) to be eligible for further review, the Secretary shall make the request publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

"(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—At the time that a request is made under section 586A, the sponsor of such request shall identify any information that such sponsor considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

"(C) CONFIDENTIALITY DURING ELIGIBILITY REVIEW.—The information contained in a request under section 586A shall remain confidential during the Secretary's consideration under this section of whether the request is eligible for further review consistent with section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

"(b) DATA SUBMISSION AND FILING OF REQUESTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a request under section 586A that is determined to be eligible under subsection (a) for further review under this section and section 586C, the Secretary shall, in notifying the public under subsection (a)(1)(C) of such eligibility determination, post the eligibility determination on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration, invite the sponsor of such request and any other interested party to submit comments, and provide a period of not less than 45 calendar days for comments in support of or otherwise relating to a GRASE determination, including published and unpublished data and other information related to the safety and efficacy of such request.

"(2) FILING DETERMINATION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, the Secretary shall determine whether the data and other information submitted by the sponsor under this section are sufficiently complete, including being formatted in a manner that enables the Secretary to determine the completeness of such data and information, to enable the Secretary to conduct a substantive review under section 586C with respect to such request. Not later than 60 calendar days after the submission of data and other information described in paragraph (1) by the sponsor, if the Secretary determines—

"(A) that such data and other information are sufficiently complete, the Secretary shall—

"(i) issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to file such request, and make such notification publicly available; and

"(ii) file such request made under section 586A; or

"(B) that such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, the Secretary

shall issue a written notification to the sponsor of the determination to refuse to file the request, which shall include the reasons for the refusal, including why such data and other information are not sufficiently complete, and make such notification publicly available.

“(3) REFUSAL TO FILE A REQUEST.—

“(A) REQUEST FOR MEETINGS; SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—If the Secretary refuses to file a request made under section 586A, the sponsor may—

“(i) within 30 calendar days of receipt of written notification of such refusal, request, in writing, a meeting with the Secretary regarding the filing determination; and

“(ii) submit additional data or other information.

“(B) MEETINGS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a sponsor seeks a meeting under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall convene the meeting within 30 calendar days of the request for such meeting.

“(ii) ACTIONS AFTER MEETING.—Following any meeting held under clause (i)—

“(I) the Secretary may file the request within 60 calendar days;

“(II) the sponsor may submit additional data or other information; or

“(III) if the sponsor elects, within 120 calendar days, to have the Secretary file the request (with or without amendments to correct any purported deficiencies to the request)—

“(aa) the Secretary shall file the request over protest, not later than 30 calendar days after the sponsor makes such election;

“(bb) at the time of filing, the Secretary shall provide written notification of such filing to the sponsor; and

“(cc) the Secretary shall make such notification publicly available.

“(iii) REQUESTS FILED OVER PROTEST.—The Secretary shall not require the sponsor to resubmit a copy of the request for purposes of filing a request filed over protest, as described in clause (ii)(III).

“(C) SUBMISSIONS OF ADDITIONAL DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION.—Within 60 calendar days of any submission of additional data or other information under subparagraph (A)(ii) or (B)(ii)(II), the Secretary shall reconsider the previous determination made under paragraph (2) with respect to the applicable request and make a new determination in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

“(A) REDACTIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—After the period of confidentiality described in subsection (a)(3)(C), the Secretary shall make data and other information submitted in connection with a request under section 586A publicly available, with redactions for information that is treated as confidential under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or section 301(j) of this Act.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY SPONSOR.—A person submitting information under this section shall identify at the time of such submission the portions of such information that the person considers to be confidential information described in subparagraph (A).

“SEC. 586C. GRASE DETERMINATION.

“(a) REVIEW OF NEW REQUEST.—

“(1) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a request under section 586A, not later than 300 calendar days after the date on which such request is filed under subsection (b)(2)(A) or (b)(3)(B)(ii)(III) of section 586B, the Secretary—

“(A) may convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee to review such request; and

“(B) shall complete the review of such request and issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

“(2) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) within such 300-day period, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. If such sponsor so notifies the Office of the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

“(3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (1)(B) or (2) with respect to a request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

“(4) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection and described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 586(7), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after such request for a meeting.

“(5) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—With respect to a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)—

“(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order—

“(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (3); or

“(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order; or

“(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90- or 210-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

“(6) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (5)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

“(b) REVIEW OF PENDING REQUESTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The review of a pending request shall be carried out by the Secretary in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF SECTIONS 586A AND 586B.—Sections 586A and 586B shall not apply with respect to any pending request.

“(3) FEEDBACK LETTERS AS PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 586(7), a letter issued pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, with respect to a pending request, shall be deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order and displayed on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration. Notification of the availability of such letter shall be published in the Federal Register not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act.

“(4) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a pending request for which the Sec-

retary has not issued a letter pursuant to section 330.14(g) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations before the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall complete review of such request and, not later than 90 calendar days after the date of enactment of such Act, issue a proposed sunscreen order with respect to such request.

“(5) PROPOSED SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—If the Secretary does not issue a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (4), or the Secretary does not publish a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner of such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall, not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under this paragraph, issue a proposed order with respect to such request.

“(6) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—A proposed sunscreen order issued under paragraph (4) or (5), or a notification of the availability of a letter under paragraph (3), with respect to a pending request shall provide for a period of 45 calendar days for public comment.

“(7) MEETING.—A sponsor may request, in writing, a meeting with respect to a proposed sunscreen order issued under this subsection, including a letter deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary issues such order or the date upon which such feedback letter is deemed to be a proposed sunscreen order, as applicable. The Secretary shall convene a meeting with such sponsor not later than 45 calendar days after the date of such request for a meeting.

“(8) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5), an Advisory Committee meeting may be convened for the purpose of reviewing and providing recommendations regarding the pending request.

“(9) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—In the case of a proposed sunscreen order under paragraph (3), (4), or (5)—

“(A) the Secretary shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to the request—

“(i) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 586(7), not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the public comment period under paragraph (6); or

“(ii) in the case of a proposed sunscreen order described in subparagraph (C) of section 586(7)—

“(I) if the Advisory Committee is not convened under paragraph (8), not later than 210 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits the additional information requested pursuant to such proposed sunscreen order, which shall include a rationale for not convening such Advisory Committee; or

“(II) if the Advisory Committee is convened under paragraph (8), not later than 270 calendar days after the date on which the sponsor submits such additional information; or

“(B) if the Secretary does not issue such final sunscreen order within such 90-, 210-, or 270-calendar-day period, as applicable, the sponsor of such request may notify the Office of the Commissioner about such request and request review by the Office of the Commissioner.

“(10) FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER BY COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall issue a final sunscreen order with respect to a proposed sunscreen order subject to paragraph (9)(B) not later than 60 calendar days after the date of notification under such paragraph.

“(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall not be required to—

“(1) convene the Advisory Committee—

“(A) more than once with respect to any request under section 586A or any pending request; or

“(B) more than twice in any calendar year with respect to the review under this section; or

“(2) submit more than a total of 3 requests under section 586A or pending requests to the Advisory Committee per meeting.

“(d) NO DELEGATION.—Any responsibility vested in the Commissioner by subsection (a)(2), (a)(6), (b)(5), or (b)(10) shall not be delegated.

“(e) EFFECT OF FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED NOT TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall be permitted to be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, in accordance with all requirements applicable to drugs not subject to section 503(b)(1), for so long as such final sunscreen order remains in effect.

“(B) SUNSCREEN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS DETERMINED NOT TO BE GRASE.—Upon issuance of a final sunscreen order determining that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded, a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients shall not be introduced or delivered into interstate commerce, for use under the conditions described in such final sunscreen order, unless an application is approved pursuant to section 505 with respect to a sunscreen containing such ingredient or combination of ingredients, or unless conditions are later established under which such ingredient or combination of ingredients is later determined to be GRASE and not misbranded under the over-the-counter drug monograph system.

“(2) AMENDMENTS TO FINAL SUNSCREEN ORDERS.—

“(A) AMENDMENTS AT INITIATIVE OF SECRETARY.—In the event that information relevant to a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients becomes available to the Secretary after issuance of a final sunscreen order, the Secretary may amend such final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

“(B) PETITION TO AMEND FINAL ORDER.—Any interested person may petition the Secretary to amend a final sunscreen order under section 10.30, title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations). If the Secretary grants any petition under such section, the Secretary shall initiate the process for amending a final sunscreen order by issuing a new proposed sunscreen order under subsection (a)(1) and following the procedures set forth in this section.

“(C) APPLICABILITY OF FINAL ORDERS.—Once the Secretary issues a new proposed sunscreen order to amend a final sunscreen order under subparagraph (A) or (B), such final sunscreen order shall remain in effect and paragraph (3) shall not apply to such final sunscreen order until the Secretary has

issued a new final sunscreen order or has determined not to amend the final sunscreen order.

“(3) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS THAT ARE SUBJECTS OF FINAL ORDERS IN THE SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.—

“(A) AMENDING REGULATIONS.—

“(i) REQUIREMENT.—At any time that the Secretary proposes to amend part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) concerning nonprescription sunscreen, including pursuant to section 586E, except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall include in such part 352 (or any successor regulations) any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that is the subject of an effective final sunscreen order of the type described in section 586(2)(A) and issued since the time that the Secretary last amended such regulations. Such regulation shall set forth conditions of use under which each such ingredient or combination of ingredients is GRASE and not misbranded. If these conditions differ from, or are in addition to, those previously set forth in the applicable final sunscreen order, the Secretary shall provide notice and opportunity for comment on such conditions in the rulemaking, and the applicable final sunscreen order shall continue in effect until the effective date of a final regulation, as set forth in clause (iii).

“(ii) INCLUSION OF ORDERS.—In proposing to amend the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary shall include in the proposed regulations a list of final sunscreen orders that shall cease to be effective on the effective date of a resulting final regulation. Such list shall include all final sunscreen orders of the type described in section 586(2)(A) that are in effect on the date that such regulations are proposed, with the exception that such list shall not include any final sunscreen orders that, on the date that the regulations are proposed, the Secretary is in the process of amending under paragraph (2).

“(iii) ORDERS NO LONGER EFFECTIVE.—Any final sunscreen order included by the Secretary in a list described in clause (ii) and in a list included in resulting final regulations shall cease to be effective on the date that such final regulations including such order in such list become effective.

“(iv) INGREDIENTS NOT GRASE.—If, notwithstanding a final sunscreen order stating that a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded if marketed in accordance with such order, while amending the regulations as described in clause (i), the Secretary concludes that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen, the Secretary shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, either initiate the process for amending the final sunscreen order set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection or include in a proposed regulation an explanation and information supporting the determination of the Secretary that such ingredient or combination of ingredients is no longer GRASE for use in nonprescription sunscreen.

“(B) PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING REGULATIONS.—After the Secretary amends and finalizes the regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations under section 586E and such regulations become effective, the Secretary may use direct final rulemaking to include in such regulations any nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are the subject of effective final sunscreen orders.

“SEC. 586D. GUIDANCE; OTHER PROVISIONS.

“(a) GUIDANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DRAFT GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue draft guidance on the implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements with respect to sunscreen under this subchapter, including guidance on—

“(i) the format and content of information submitted by a sponsor in support of a request under section 586A or a pending request;

“(ii) the data required to meet the safety and efficacy standard for determining whether a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

“(iii) the process by which a request under section 586A or a pending request is withdrawn; and

“(iv) the process by which the Secretary will carry out section 586C(c), including with respect to how the Secretary will address the total number of requests received under section 586A and pending requests.

“(B) FINAL GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall finalize the guidance described in subparagraph (A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

“(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code shall not apply to collections of information made for purposes of guidance under this subsection.

“(2) SUBMISSIONS PENDING ISSUANCE OF FINAL GUIDANCE.—Irrespective of whether final guidance under paragraph (1) has been issued—

“(A) persons may, beginning on the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, make submissions under this subchapter; and

“(B) the Secretary shall review and act upon such submissions in accordance with this subchapter.

“(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) CURRENTLY MARKETED SUNSCREENS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the marketing of sunscreens that are marketed in interstate commerce on or before the date of enactment of this subchapter, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter.

“(2) ENSURING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to alter the authority of the Secretary with respect to prohibiting the marketing of a sunscreen that is not safe and effective or is misbranded, or with respect to imposing restrictions on the marketing of a sunscreen to ensure safety and effectiveness, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, including section 586C(e).

“(3) OTHER DRUGS.—Except as otherwise provided in section 586F, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary under this Act or the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) with respect to a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen.

“(4) EFFECT ON DRUGS OTHERWISE APPROVED.—Nothing in this subchapter shall affect the marketing of a drug approved under section 505 of this Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.

“(c) TIMELINES.—The timelines for the processes and procedures under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (6) of section 586C(a) shall not apply to any requests submitted to the Secretary under section 586A after the date that

is 6 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.

“SEC. 586E. SUNSCREEN MONOGRAPH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall amend and finalize regulations under part 352 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations concerning nonprescription sunscreen that are effective not later than 5 years after such date of enactment. The Secretary shall publish such regulations not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of such regulations.

“(b) REPORTS.—If the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) do not include provisions related to the effectiveness of various sun protection factor levels, and do not address all dosage forms known to the Secretary to be used in sunscreens marketed in the United States without a new drug approval under section 505, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the rationale for such provisions not being included in such regulations, and a plan and timeline to compile any information necessary to address such provisions through final regulations.”.

(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)) to request that the Secretary of Health and Human Services convene an advisory committee; or

(2) limit the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to meet with a sponsor (as defined in section 586(8) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 3. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 586F. NON-SUNSCREEN TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.

“(a) PENDING TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REQUEST FOR FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEW.—If, prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, an application was submitted pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations for a GRASE determination for a drug other than a nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and such drug was found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, the sponsor of such application may request that the Secretary provide a framework under paragraph (2) for the review of such application.

“(B) REQUEST REQUIREMENTS.—A request for a framework for review of an application made under subparagraph (A) shall be made within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act and shall include the preference of such sponsor as to whether such application is reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with—

“(i) the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be deter-

mined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section;

“(ii) the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

“(iii) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth for pending requests under section 586C(b), except that specific timelines shall be determined in accordance with other applicable requirements under this section; or

“(iv) an initial filing determination under the processes and procedures described in section 586B(b) and the processes and procedures set forth under part 330 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

“(C) NO REQUEST.—If a sponsor described in subparagraph (A) does not make such request within 180 calendar days of the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

“(2) FRAMEWORK.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall provide, in writing, a framework to each sponsor that submitted a request under paragraph (1). Such framework shall set forth the various timelines, in calendar days, with respect to the processes and procedures for review under clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) and—

“(A) such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5); and

“(B) the timelines for the various processes and procedures shall not be shorter than the timelines set forth for pending requests under sections 586B(b) and 586C(b), as applicable.

“(3) GOVERNING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW.—

“(A) ELECTION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the Secretary provides a framework to a sponsor under paragraph (2), such sponsor may provide an election to the Secretary regarding the processes and procedures for review under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B). If such sponsor makes such election, the Secretary shall review the application that is the subject of such election pursuant to the processes and procedures elected by such sponsor and the applicable timelines in calendar days set forth under such framework, which the Secretary shall confirm in writing to the sponsor not later than the date upon which the Secretary provides a report under paragraph (4). If such sponsor does not make such election, such application shall be reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with the timelines of the applicable regulations when such regulations are finalized under subsection (b).

“(B) DIFFERENT PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES.—At any time during review of an application, the Secretary may review such application under different processes and procedures under clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) than the processes and procedures the sponsor elected in accordance with subparagraph (A), so long as the Secretary proposes, in writing, the change and the sponsor agrees, in writing, to such change.

“(C) INCLUSION OF INGREDIENTS IN MONOGRAPHS.—If the sponsor elects to use the processes and procedures for review in accordance with clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may incorporate any re-

sulting final order into a regulation addressing the conditions under which other drugs in the same therapeutic category are GRASE and not misbranded, including through direct final rulemaking, and the final order so incorporated shall cease to be effective on the effective date of the final regulation that addresses such drug.

“(4) LETTER REGARDING PENDING APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, in writing, regarding all pending applications subject to paragraph (1). In such letter, the Secretary shall provide a report on the review of such applications, including the timelines, in calendar days, for the review and GRASE determination for each application. Such timelines shall account for the considerations under paragraph (5).

“(5) TIMELINES.—The timelines in calendar days established by the Secretary pursuant to this subsection—

“(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

“(B) shall—

“(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

“(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2); and

“(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

“(b) NEW TIME AND EXTENT APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed regulations establishing timelines for the review of applications for GRASE determinations for drugs other than nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients or combinations of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients that are submitted to the Secretary after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and that are found to be eligible to be considered for inclusion in the over-the-counter drug monograph system pursuant to section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), or that are subject to this subsection pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a), as applicable, providing—

“(A) timely and efficient completion of evaluations of applications under section 330.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations) for drugs other than sunscreens; and

“(B) timely and efficient completion of the review of the safety and effectiveness submissions pursuant to such applications, including establishing—

“(i) reasonable timelines, in calendar days, for the applicable proposed and final regulations for applications of various content, complexity, and format, and timelines for internal procedures related to such processes; and

“(ii) measurable metrics for tracking the extent to which the timelines set forth in the regulations are met.

“(2) **TIMELINES.**—The timelines in calendar days established in the regulations under paragraph (1)—

“(A) may vary based on the content, complexity, and format of the application submitted to the Secretary; and

“(B) shall—

“(i) reflect the public health priorities of the Food and Drug Administration, including the potential public health benefits posed by the inclusion of additional drugs in the over-the-counter drug monograph system;

“(ii) take into consideration the resources available to the Secretary for carrying out such priorities and the processes and procedures described in paragraph (1); and

“(iii) be reasonable, taking into consideration the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii).

“(3) **PROCEDURE.**—In promulgating regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking that includes a copy of the proposed regulation, provide a period of not less than 60 calendar days for comments on the proposed regulation, and publish the final regulation not less than 30 calendar days before the effective date of the regulation.

“(4) **RESTRICTIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations implementing this section only as described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

“(5) **FINAL REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall finalize the regulations under this section not later than 27 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act.”

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) **INITIAL GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)), including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) the progress made in completing the review of requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests, and the feasibility of the timelines associated with such subchapter;

(2) the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in issuing determinations with respect to requests reviewed under such subchapter, including the number of requests transferred to the Office of the Commissioner under section 586C of such Act;

(3) the extent to which advisory committees were convened by the Secretary regarding requests under subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including pending requests; and

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review of time and extent applications.

(b) **SUBSEQUENT GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 5½ years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of

the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the overall progress of the Secretary of Health and Human Services in carrying out subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (as added by section 2 and amended by section 3 and subsection (c)) and the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including findings on and recommendations with respect to—

(1) updates on the matters reported on by the Comptroller General under subsection (a);

(2) significant factors impacting the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to fulfill the mission of the agency with regard to the regulation of over-the-counter drug products, including finalizing outstanding monographs and responding to emerging and novel safety issues;

(3) the performance of the Secretary in carrying out section 586E of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

(4) the types of metrics that have been, or should be, established for the review and regulation of over-the-counter drug products; and

(5) timeliness, efficiency, and accountability in reviewing time and extent applications and safety and effectiveness reviews for over-the-counter drug products.

(c) **FDA REPORT.**—Subchapter I of chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 586G. REPORT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act, and on the dates that are 2 and 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives describing actions taken under this subchapter.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—The reports under this subsection shall include—

“(A) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for pending requests, including the number of pending requests—

“(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request, measured from the date of the original request for an eligibility determination submitted by the sponsor;

“(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is GRASE and is not misbranded;

“(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient or combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

“(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

“(B) a review of the progress made in issuing GRASE determinations for requests not included in the reporting under subparagraph (A), including the number of such requests—

“(i) reviewed and the decision times for each request;

“(ii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient,

combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is GRASE and is not misbranded;

“(iii) resulting in a determination that the nonprescription sunscreen active ingredient, combination of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients, or other ingredient is not GRASE and is misbranded and the reasons for such determinations; and

“(iv) for which a determination has not been made, and an explanation for the delay, a description of the current status of each such request, and the length of time each such request has been pending, measured from the date of original request for an eligibility determination by the sponsor;

“(C) an annual accounting (including information from years prior to the date of enactment of the Sunscreen Innovation Act where such information is available) of the total number of requests submitted, pending, or completed under this subchapter, including whether such requests were the subject of an advisory committee convened by the Secretary;

“(D) a description of the staffing and resources relating to the costs associated with the review and decisionmaking pertaining to requests under this subchapter;

“(E) a review of the progress made in meeting the deadlines with respect to processing requests under this subchapter; and

“(F) to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate, recommendations for process improvements in the handling of requests under this subchapter, including the advisory committee review process.

“(b) **METHOD.**—The Secretary shall publish the reports under subsection (a) in the manner the Secretary determines to be the most effective for efficiently disseminating the report, including publication of the report on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration.”

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2539) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2539

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. CDC PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) **PREVENTION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.**—Section 393B(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1c(b)(3)) is

amended by striking “2010, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2010” and inserting “2020, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2020”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 394A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-3) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “For the purpose” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 394A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose”;

(2) by striking the second period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—To carry out sections 393B and 393C, there are authorized to be appropriated \$6,564,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.”.

SEC. 3. STATE GRANTS FOR PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Section 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-52) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.”;

(2) in paragraphs (1)(A)(i) and (3)(E) of subsection (f), by striking “brain injury” and inserting “traumatic brain injury”;

(3) in subsection (h), by striking “under this section, and section 1253 including” and inserting “under this section and section 1253, including”;

(4) in subsection (j), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012” and inserting “\$5,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019”.

SEC. 4. STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.

Section 1253 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-53) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this section as the ‘Administrator’)”;

(2) in subsections (c), (d)(1), (e)(1), (e)(4), (g), (h), and (j)(1), by striking “Administrator” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”;

(3) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting “**REPORTING**”;

(B) by striking “Each protection and advocacy system” and inserting the following:

“(1) REPORTS BY SYSTEMS.—Each protection and advocacy system”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the services and activities carried out under this section during the period for which the report is being prepared.”;

(4) in subsection (i), by striking “The Administrator of the Health Resources” and all that follows through “regarding” and inserting “The Secretary shall facilitate agreements to coordinate the collection of data by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services regarding”;

(5) in subsection (k), by striking “subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000” and inserting “subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)”;

(6) in subsection (l), by striking “\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be

necessary for each the fiscal years 2009 through 2012” and inserting “\$3,100,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019”; and

(7) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6042 et seq.)” and inserting “subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6042 et seq.)” and inserting “subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.)”.

SEC. 5. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY COORDINATION PLAN.

(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop a plan for improved coordination of Federal activities with respect to traumatic brain injury. Such plan shall—

(1) review existing interagency coordination efforts with respect to Federal activities related to traumatic brain injury, including services for individuals with traumatic brain injury;

(2) identify areas for improved coordination between relevant Federal agencies and programs, including agencies and programs with a focus on serving individuals with disabilities;

(3) identify each recommendation in the report required by section 393C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1d(b)) that has been adopted and each such recommendation that has not been adopted, and describe any planned activities to address each such recommendation that has not been adopted; and

(4) incorporate, as appropriate, stakeholder feedback, including feedback from individuals with traumatic brain injury and their caregivers.

(b) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit the plan developed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. REVIEW OF BRAIN INJURY MANAGEMENT IN CHILDREN.

The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall conduct a review of the scientific evidence related to brain injury management in children, such as the restriction or prohibition of children from attending school or participating in athletic activities following a head injury, and identify ongoing and potential further opportunities for research. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives the results of such review.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENHANCE LABELING, ACCESSING, AND BRANDING OF ELECTRONIC LICENSES ACT OF 2014

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2583) to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014” or the “E-LABEL Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Federal Communications Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) first standardized physical labels for licensed products such as computers, phones, and other electronic devices in 1973, and the Commission has continually refined physical label requirements over time.

(2) As devices become smaller, compliance with physical label requirements can become more difficult and costly.

(3) Many manufacturers and consumers of licensed devices in the United States would prefer to have the option to provide or receive important Commission labeling information digitally on the screen of the device, at the discretion of the user.

(4) An electronic labeling option would give flexibility to manufacturers in meeting labeling requirements.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC LABELING.

Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 720. OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC LABELING OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘electronic labeling’ means displaying required labeling and regulatory information electronically; and

“(2) the term ‘radiofrequency device with display’ means any equipment or device that—

“(A) is required under regulations of the Commission to be authorized by the Commission before the equipment or device may be marketed or sold within the United States; and

“(B) has the capability to digitally display required labeling and regulatory information.

“(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRONIC LABELING.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014, the Commission shall promulgate regulations or take other appropriate action, as necessary, to allow manufacturers of radiofrequency devices with display the option to use electronic labeling for the equipment in place of affixing physical labels to the equipment.”.

SEC. 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The amendment made by section 3 shall not be construed to affect the authority of the Federal Communications Commission under section 302 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 302a) to provide for electronic labeling of devices.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5682.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 748, I call up the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 748, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5682

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. KEYSTONE XL APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. may construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State (including any subsequent revision to the pipeline route within the State of Nebraska required or authorized by the State of Nebraska).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Secretary of State in January 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), and the environmental analysis, consultation, and review described in that document (including appendices) shall be considered to fully satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review (including the consultation or review required under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a))) with respect to the pipeline and facilities referred to in subsection (a).

(c) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities referred to in subsection (a) shall remain in effect.

(d) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any legal challenge to a Federal agency action regarding the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this Act, and any permit, right-of-

way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(e) PRIVATE PROPERTY SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State, or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5682, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Pipelines are the energy lifelines that power nearly all of our daily activities. Pipelines are a very safe and cost-effective means to transport the products that fuel our economy. In fact, pipelines today supply more than two-thirds of the energy used in the United States. The Keystone XL project will be a critical addition to this extensive network, increasing our Nation's supply of oil and, thus, helping to reduce the cost of oil.

H.R. 5682 closely follows H.R. 3 that this House passed last year. Since the passage of H.R. 3, the State Department completed its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on January 31 of 2014. However, there has still been no action by the administration on the pipeline. There have been excuses, the most recent of which is pending litigation in the State of Nebraska. However, H.R. 5682 takes that into account and allows for the re-routing in that State. There is simply no further reason to delay this important project, especially given the numerous benefits it will provide our Nation.

This pipeline will be a boon to economic development. Of particular interest to taxpayers, this pipeline doesn't require one Federal dollar to build. Further, the very nature of infrastructure creates jobs, and the Keystone XL is no exception. The U.S. State Department reconfirmed all of this last January. The State estimated that the Keystone XL will produce 42,000 jobs and \$2 billion in employee earnings. This project will have a significant positive economic impact, in-

cluding an estimated \$3.1 billion in construction contracts, materials, and support services. Furthermore, the State confirmed that the estimated total property taxes for the project will be over \$55 million spread across 27 counties. The State Department called this impact "substantial for many counties."

The Keystone XL pipeline is the most extensively studied and vetted pipeline project in the history of this country. The project will include 95 special mitigation measures, including 59 recommended by PHMSA, to prevent spills and to make this the safest pipeline ever built. In fact, I would argue that we are facing a manufactured stalemate, one that could be described as "paralysis by analysis."

The majority of Americans knows this is the right thing to do, so the Congress, through this bill, will lead where the President has refused. This project will create jobs, improve the Nation's economy, strengthen our transportation system, and help improve the Nation's economic security.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman mentioned taxpayers. I think taxpayers might be concerned that this foreign entity which will ship our oil over 1,700 miles across America will be exempt from a fee that all of the American companies and others using our current pipelines have to pay because of a bizarre ruling from the IRS, which often makes bizarre rulings. Tar sands oil will not be required to contribute toward the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

I think U.S. taxpayers might be concerned that a foreign entity which is going to ship tar sands oil 1,700 miles through the United States to an export zone, in all probability to be processed and exported in a tax-exempt area, won't be paying much, if any, taxes in the U.S. except some property taxes, and it won't have to contribute toward this trust fund. In case there is a spill with this line, the U.S. taxpayers and other entities in the U.S.—mostly U.S. companies—will be liable to pay for their mess. So I have a concern about taxpayers.

Another part of this is three citizens of the State of Nebraska brought litigation because this bill would give a foreign entity the right to take their private property in the United States of America—in Nebraska—by eminent domain. I don't know. I am not aware of any other time we have given a foreign entity the right to take the private property of U.S. citizens. These same citizens won a case in district court, and this bill would essentially nullify the ruling that they won, which is still under appeal to the Supreme Court in that State.

So here we have a foreign entity that won't pay taxes that other oil companies and others who ship by pipelines will be required to pay, a foreign entity that will be given the right to take the private property of U.S. taxpayers and residents—and for what? Yes, there will be construction jobs, and jobs are good, but those are fairly ephemeral, and there is a lot of other construction going on, particularly in the fracking area and with some proposed liquid natural gas export facilities that will help provide employment in the construction trades. In this case, there will be 35 permanent jobs for this tax-exempt sludge that will be shipped to a zone in Texas where it is most likely to be exported.

□ 1800

Do we need to export more oil, gas, and diesel from the United States of America? Is that going to help lower the price at the pump for Americans? I don't think so.

And, in fact, we are today exporting 422,000 barrels of gasoline a day, 1.3 million barrels of diesel every day, and yet truckers are still being pretty well extorted at the pump. That is 54.6 million gallons of diesel, and yet our truckers are still being gouged at the pump because there is a diesel shortage.

Well, wait a minute. We are exporting that, and now we are going to take this tar sand goop, process it in the U.S., and export it. That is not going to help the truckers. It is not going to help the American consumers.

And then there are some minor environmental issues. You know, tar sands do create 81 percent more greenhouse gas than most other forms of fossil fuel extraction. They are going to destroy forever large portions of boreal forest. Now, sure, that is a Canadian issue. If I lived in Canada, I would be protesting this. I don't. But we don't need to facilitate it in the United States of America by building a pipeline there.

They will use precious water resources, create huge waste pits that will be polluted with the extract, except for the part which is shipped south to be processed and shipped overseas.

So I really don't see this as something where we should preempt the laws of the United States. There were 2.5 million comments. Apparently the Republicans don't care much about the public comments. There are 2.5 million comments that are still being meaningfully evaluated that are raising concerns about various aspects of this project.

But here I will say, bad legislation; good politics. We are trying to help someone get elected to the Senate who is currently a Member of the House. The Senate is moving potentially ahead with this bill. So the House, with very little notice, decided they would bring up this bill which we have passed

in one version or another eight previous times. So this is nothing but bare, naked politics and the use of the House to promote someone's candidacy to the United States Senate, which I think is really a disgrace to this institution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Mr. DENHAM. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as was duly noted, this bill is about jobs. This will create jobs, tens of thousands of American jobs, which are long overdue, to enhance our energy independence and strengthen our national security.

However, today I want to simply talk about the safety of this pipeline. As the chairman noted, TransCanada has agreed to a number of additional mitigation measures to make the Keystone XL pipeline the safest ever built. These 59 special conditions were recommended by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and go above and beyond current regulations.

Several conditions will help ensure the use of high-quality steel welds, both of which will reduce the chance of a pipeline release. The pipeline will also include automatic shutoff valves and increase the depth of coverage.

In many places, the pipeline will be buried a foot deeper than the regulations require. Furthermore, TransCanada will provide enhanced right-of-way inspections and greater transparency.

I believe in an all-of-the-above energy solution which includes this important pipeline that will not only create jobs but will help us to be energy independent. This project will create private sector jobs while being the safest pipeline ever built.

This project, again, has been bipartisan. It passed out of three committees with bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation at a very important time, when we need those American jobs.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, would you tell me the time remaining, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. I thank my friend from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. We have heard about the nature of this very dirty material that is dug, rather than pumped, and the fact that it will go through America, not to America.

Now, we might ask, on a day when U.S. oil production was announced to reach a 30-year high of more than 9 million barrels, why we would be even considering this. Well, it is not because this fits into our energy picture.

We will risk oil spills that are a mess to clean up. And we hear, oh, but oil spills won't occur. Well, the TransCanada pipeline, also known as Keystone, had 12 separate oil spills in its first year of operation, tens of thousands of gallons. It is hard to clean up. And, as you have also heard from my friend, this doesn't count as petroleum, and, therefore, they don't pay into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. So taxpayers are on the hook for this difficult cleanup.

But the real problem is none of these points. It is that it is taking us down the road where we should not be going. This is the most carbon-intensive liquid fuel—if you want to call it liquid—that we could possibly use. It is changing our very climate in ways that are deadly and costly. We shouldn't be going in this direction. It is that simple.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is baffling to me that after 6 years, the Keystone pipeline debate is still going on.

We have an opportunity to provide jobs, reduce our dependency on overseas oil, and spur real economic development, yet many would rather play political gamesmanship.

I am especially frustrated because I see the benefits the southern leg has already had on my district, and I know this approval will enhance those effects. This pipeline would provide high-paying jobs that are well above minimum wage—exactly the types of jobs this body likes to talk about. Yet despite the economic benefits this pipeline would provide, there has been zero action by this President and his administration.

So today I stand in support of H.R. 5682 as a call to this President and the Senate that it is time to approve the Keystone pipeline. If they truly want to help the American people, they will join us in moving this legislation forward.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. I thank the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering today yet another bill to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline outside of the regular order required for all other international energy infrastructure projects.

This is a very early Christmas present from the United States Congress to one specific Canadian company. The vote effectively exempts TransCanada from the rigorous analysis and the permitting standards that

all American companies are held to. Worse yet, TransCanada will be exempt from paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that all conventional crude companies are supposed to pay into. So merry Christmas, TransCanada.

And what gift can we expect in return? Well, carbon pollution and heavy crude shipped through our country to export terminals and higher gas prices. Let's remember: TransCanada is on record saying that the Keystone XL pipeline would increase the price of oil in the United States.

So instead of rigorous, deliberative process, the GOP majority is rushing to raise gas prices in this country. This Christmas present to TransCanada is actually like a lump of coal for U.S. consumers at the pump. It is certainly a lump of coal for communities who are sure to be impacted by this pipeline when something goes wrong. And it is absolutely a huge lump of coal for our global climate.

Congress should reject this massive corporate giveaway. We still have another 41 shopping days until Christmas. There is no need for us to play Santa for TransCanada today.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from western Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this is a jobs bill. It is a jobs bill not only in the House of Representatives, but it is a job bill in the Senate.

Now, in the House of Representatives, Dr. CASSIDY's bill is about creating tens of thousands of jobs for hardworking Americans. It is about an \$8 billion private investment that will not cost the American taxpayer one cent. It is about energy independence, and it is about America taking the lead in energy.

For 6 years, this House has passed pieces of legislation that would have created the Keystone pipeline. Every one of those pieces of legislation died in the Senate. Now, miraculously—and I will call it a job bill—the Senate now is entertaining this because of one job.

The tens of thousands of jobs of all these Americans, who you turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to, are now being answered by the Senate because of one job, one Senator who has the possibility of losing her seat because of the Keystone pipeline not being able to go through the Senate.

Isn't it ironic that we sit here today and we try to spin this into something it is not? It is truly a jobs bill. It is an American bill. It is a bill that is going to create billions of dollars in revenue.

And I would just ask my friends on the other side: Please look no further than last Tuesday. Last Tuesday's vote was a referendum on incompetency, not on incumbents.

I would like you to please open your eyes and your ears to the American

people and let them rise. Let us create jobs. Let us reach the energy independence that we need to succeed in the global economy.

This is tomfoolery, what is going on tonight. Is it really about one job in the Senate or is it about thousands of Americans who have been held hostage by an administration that refuses to move forward a jobs bill in a time when they said we have created thousands or saved jobs?

The one job they are trying to save right now is in the Senate, ladies and gentlemen. It has nothing to do with policy. It is all politics.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. McALLISTER).

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 6 years since the application was filed for the Keystone pipeline.

This is my background. This is where I made my living to come up. Despite the opposition from environmental groups, the benefits of the pipeline will far outweigh any potential negative impacts. Approval of this should be a no-brainer.

Construction will lead to thousands of jobs, well paying jobs at a time when Americans are struggling to find work. Importing an efficient, reliable source of energy has the potential to decrease gas prices in the future, expand oil refineries along the gulf coast, and lessens our dependence on foreign energy sources.

In addition to the economic upsurge, this pipeline signifies a secure source of energy for our country, if needed. It is not merely an economic issue but a security issue as well. And each day that it is delayed is another day thousands of Americans are out of work.

I challenge you, Mr. Speaker: for those that say these are temporary jobs, talk to the men and women where I come from who have bought cars, bought houses, put children through college with these temporary jobs, as you call them. What, are they temporary legacies? Are they temporary retirements? Because that is what our community is built on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. McALLISTER. I commend the gentleman from Louisiana, Congressman CASSIDY, for introducing this bill, which not only fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 but also protects the rights of private property owners should they be affected by the pipeline route.

With my past experience in pipeline construction, I can say that this project is no different from the thou-

sands of other pipelines we lay each year—with one exception: it crosses national borders, giving President Obama the ability to delay it. The President is making political promises when it should be deemed practical.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, let's just sum up.

We have the most carbon-intensive way of creating ultimately diesel and gasoline by extracting these tar sands. They contribute 81 percent more greenhouse gases. Of course many on the other side believe that greenhouse gases are potentially beneficial or aren't a problem.

We have a foreign entity here that will be exempt from paying taxes, like U.S. entities do, into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. And U.S. taxpayers will be stuck with the bill should a spill occur.

We have a foreign entity—granted, they are our friends and neighbors in Canada—but still, a foreign private corporation being given the right of eminent domain over citizens of the State of Nebraska.

□ 1815

We have, in fact, this company saying that it is likely, if this pipeline is completed, that gasoline prices will go up in Midwestern areas of the United States and their production will be exported from the United States; so it is not going to be a direct benefit to Americans or deal with energy independence, which we heard earlier.

Of course, we are cutting short the evaluation process that every other energy-producing entity in America has to go through in terms of environmental reviews, and of course, we are cutting off any meaningful consideration of the 2.5 million comments that have been received by the State Department.

But, hey, it could help a House Member beat a Senate Member and get elected to the Senate, so I guess it is a bad bill whose time has come.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate the numerous benefits this project will bring to our country, including jobs, energy security, safety, efficiency, and I would argue that more supplies of oil generally drive prices down, not up.

First, this pipeline safety, it is officially moved through this country safely. It is the safest way to move these products. There have been numerous additional mitigation measures. The State Department said it will reduce the risk of release.

Second, the State Department has explained this project will create over 40,000 jobs, over \$3 billion in construction contracts.

Finally, as I said, from sourcing more crude oil from our friendly neighbor in the north, it will reduce our reliance

and most likely reduce the cost of energy to the American people.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of our Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. BILL CASSIDY, the author of this bill, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a real leader in trying to bring about energy independence in America.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, it has been over 6 years since backers of the Keystone XL pipeline first submitted an application to the U.S. State Department, on September 19, 2008, to build this energy infrastructure project and bring jobs and greater energy security to America.

Now, building the Keystone XL pipeline would create more than 40,000 average annual jobs over a 1- to 2-year construction period, putting \$2 billion into workers' and their families' pockets and giving a much-needed boost to the American construction sector.

In addition, tens of thousands of jobs would be supported throughout the supply chain, jobs for manufacturers that make the steel pipe, the thousands of fittings, valves, pumps, control, and safety devices required for a major pipeline.

In addition to my home State of Louisiana, manufacturers in Georgia, West Virginia, and throughout the country would benefit from the construction of this infrastructure project.

Now, economists have found that the pipeline would create 20,000 manufacturing jobs, an additional 118,000 spin-off jobs, including jobs within the U.S. refinery and petrochemical facilities. This would employ and improve the jobs for Americans who right now are struggling.

Refiners in Louisiana and along the gulf coast would benefit from a reliable supply of heavy crude transported through the Keystone XL pipeline. These petrochemical plants employing the families that right now are having the hardest time in this economy, this gives them those better jobs.

The final State Department review found the pipeline would create over 40,000 jobs without significant environmental impact.

Now, note, Canada's oil sands are going to be developed with or without this pipeline. The Canadian Government is already on record stating that oil sands derived from crude oil will be exported to overseas markets like China. It will be shipped on rail and in oil tankers, which may actually increase greenhouse gas emissions versus transportation to the U.S. by pipeline.

Now, the case for proving the Keystone XL pipeline is clear and obvious, so why hasn't the President approved it? And, up to this point, why hasn't

Senator REID allowed a vote on approving Keystone? If there was ever legislation that should not be difficult to get through the Senate, it is the Keystone XL pipeline.

By the way, Pew Research reports that over 60 percent of Americans support it, as do major labor unions, every State along the pipeline's route, and a majority of the House of Representatives on eight separate occasions voting on similar bills in the affirmative.

So here we are on the ninth attempt. It has been 539 days, about a year and a half, since the House first sent a Keystone approval bill to the Senate in this Congress. That legislation could have been considered, amended, passed, or completely replaced; yet the bill has collected dust on Senator REID's desk. The bill considered today that I introduced is the language asked for by the Senate.

So we are going to make it as easy as possible for the Senate to finally get a bill to the President's desk that approves this long overdue Keystone XL pipeline.

Thanks to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Natural Resources Committee, the Rules Committee, and House leadership for working with me to clear a path for this expedited consideration.

Upon passage of this bill in the House, it will go to the Senate for approval, then to the President, where I hope he signs H.R. 5682 into law.

I want to thank Chairmen UPTON, WHITFIELD, SHUSTER, SESSIONS, and HASTINGS for their work on this important legislation.

I particularly want to thank the American people for sending a signal in this last election that they want us in Washington, D.C., to work together to accomplish commonsense legislation that will create jobs for families which are struggling now, but because of legislation like this, we will have more opportunity and a better future. This is a perfect example of what the American people have asked us to do.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in approving the Keystone XL pipeline to finally provide 40,000 promised jobs to the American people.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are voting once again to grant special treatment to TransCanada's Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. This is the third time this Congress and the eighth time since Republicans took control of the House.

Instead of helping families deal with pressing problems, we are helping Canadian tar sands producers and pipeline builders. We are spending our time trying to exempt a foreign company from the rules that every other company in America has to follow.

This bill is not an energy policy. It is about a single pipeline that will allow

Canadian tar sands to flow across our country for export to other countries. That is oil going through the United States but not to the United States.

We don't need this oil. We have our own sources of oil, and we are using less oil because of our efficiency in new cars getting better mileage.

This bill will not lower gasoline prices by a single penny. It may even raise them in some places. It will, at most, create just a few dozen permanent jobs. There will be some temporary jobs for construction. Once they are gone, they are gone.

This bill is a regulatory earmark. It will waive applicable environmental review requirements and risk our farmlands and our water supplies. In fact, it even exempts the Keystone pipeline from paying into the oil spill fund that other oil companies have to contribute to.

That means if there is a problem with that pipeline, well, there is no payment by Keystone XL to that fund to make those who are hurt whole. That means that if there is a spill, there won't be the money to clean it up.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is a terrible deal for America. We get all the risks while the oil companies reap the rewards. But even if you support it, this bill is a harmful and unnecessary piece of legislation.

The State Department is carrying out their review of this highly controversial project. They have got millions of comments, and the Federal agencies are reviewing these comments.

H.R. 5682 would approve the pipeline by fiat, lock out the public, eliminate the President's authority to balance competing interests, and stop Federal agencies from ensuring that if the project does go forward, we do it as safely as possible.

Forget about those comments. We will just pass a bill and make it happen rather than consider all the other issues that would be appropriate to look at in approving or disproving this pipeline.

I oppose this legislation for all these reasons. There is one more important reason why I oppose the bill. The tar sands pipeline will worsen climate change. Keystone XL would create a dependence on tar sands crude, reversing the carbon pollution reductions we have been working so hard to accomplish.

According to some experts, building the Keystone XL pipeline will triple production of the tar sands. That is totally inconsistent with any future scenario for avoiding catastrophic climate.

Just this week, the United States and China agreed to mutual pledges to fight climate change, and I commend President Obama and President Xi for that accomplishment.

This is a really important development. For the last two decades, antagonisms between the United States and China have stymied efforts to reach a global climate agreement. Those days, we hope, are finally over. The U.S. and China are now both pledging strong joint action. The world has been waiting decades for the U.S. and China to reach an understanding on climate.

Now that moment has finally arrived; yet instead of working on a real energy policy, one that would move us toward a new, low carbon energy future, instead of working on a clean energy future that would create lots of new jobs, real jobs, permanent jobs, and keep pace with China's clean energy investments, instead of trying to protect our irreplaceable environment and our drinking water supplies, Republicans have set their sights on passing a special law for a special interest.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished majority whip and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a strong leader for energy independence for America.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WHITFIELD for yielding, and I especially want to thank my colleague from Louisiana, Congressman CASSIDY, for the leadership that he had in fighting hard to get this bill brought to the floor so we can finally get the Keystone pipeline built.

If you look at this issue, this is all about jobs, and it is all about American energy security, Mr. Speaker. What does the Keystone pipeline mean for America? According to the Obama administration, 40,000 jobs will be created here in America, good jobs that our economy needs.

In fact, this is not a partisan issue; this is a very bipartisan issue. Republicans and Democrats alike have come together and said, "Build the Keystone pipeline." Even the labor unions have said, "Build the Keystone pipeline."

Unfortunately, just a small group of radical environmental extremists have held this project hostage, and President Obama has hidden behind studies and subterfuge to say, "Don't do it."

Now, Congress can come together in a bipartisan way and say, "Let's get this thing done." Let's actually work with Canada, who is a friend, Mr. Speaker, and bring almost a million barrels a day of oil from Canada that we will no longer need to get from countries who don't like us. This isn't about a million new barrels coming into America; it is about deciding who we are going to do business with.

When we trade with Canada, we get about 80 cents on the dollar back. When we send billions of dollars to Middle Eastern countries, sometimes

that money is used against us, against our troops, and we get less than 50 cents on the dollar back.

Everything about this says do it, says "yes." Stop staying "no" to American jobs. Stop saying "no" to American energy security.

□ 1830

This is an issue that brings people together, and there was a message that the American people sent last week. They don't want a go-alone President. They want a Washington that can work for them. This is a classic example of how Republicans and Democrats can come together and say "yes" to a project that creates good jobs for our country and creates American energy security for our Nation.

The time for studies is over. This has been studied to death for 6 years. Everybody that looks at this says, "You have got to do it." All we are saying is let the United States agree with Canada to cross the border. They still have to get the permits from each State that this pipeline would go through and all those great jobs that would come with that pipeline and the billions of dollars of private investment.

The time for studying is over, Mr. Speaker. It is time for action. It is time for those great American jobs. It is time to say "yes" to the Keystone pipeline. I urge approval from my colleagues for this bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the last gentleman that spoke said everybody is for this.

Well, everybody in Louisiana is clearly for it. The Senator from Louisiana has been a strong supporter of it, and the would-be replacement Senator is strongly for it. The Republican whip from Louisiana is strongly for it. The oil companies are strongly for it.

But to say that those who oppose it are radical environmental extremists seems to me quite a stretch. There are a lot of very responsible people against this legislation, even some who support the pipeline, because they would argue this is not the way to make a decision: put a bill on the floor, to ignore all the comments, all the evaluations, all the considerations.

The people in Nebraska are not going to be happy about that. Maybe in Louisiana, they will be, but other places would like to know that pipelines are safe and their aquifers for drinking water are not going to be jeopardized.

At this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), a distinguished member of our committee who is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to begin by thanking the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. WAXMAN, for his outstanding leadership on this and other matters that have come before the Energy and Commerce

Committee. I want to say to him that his leadership has been inspiring on so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly disagree with the process that the majority's side has undertaken in order to hastily bring H.R. 5682 to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the Keystone pipeline is not key to America's energy future. If we just disregard the merits or the lack thereof of the Keystone pipeline itself, the majority just recently in the past couple of weeks has made promises to the American people that it will return to regular order for bills to be brought to the floor of this Congress. Mr. Speaker, here we are once again: promises made, promises broken. This bill was brought to this floor after 1 hour—1 measly hour—of debate and without the ability for the minority side to bring forth any amendments. Not one amendment can we bring to this bill. Where is the promise of bipartisanship of the other side on this particular matter regarding this bill?

Promises made to the American people equals promises broken by the majority.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will automatically approve the Keystone XL pipeline even though this pipeline has no legal route through the State of Nebraska, where there is a case pending in a court before a local judge regarding some of the siting issues that surround this illegal pipeline. Why can't the people of Nebraska, the citizens of Nebraska, have the time and the consideration just to make sure that this pipeline is safe for them and their aquifers and also for their environment? There are other States that this pipeline is going to be traveling through.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, as President Obama pointed out, there is an independent process taking place, and this bill shortcuts the approval process and would allow, Mr. Speaker, this bill would allow a foreign company to preemptively seize property from American people, from the landowners, particularly those in Nebraska.

Additionally, this bill seeks to usurp the President's ability and authority to ultimately approve or reject the project and instead uses this pipeline as a political football to score some elective advantages.

Mr. Speaker, eight times we have brought this bill or a version of this bill to the floor. Eight times. Don't we get it. As the popular TV series used to pronounce to us all, "eight is enough." Eight is enough.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House will pass a bill to complete the Keystone pipeline system. The first pipeline in the system is known only as Keystone. That pipeline has been sending 600,000 barrels a day from Canada to Patoka, Illinois. It has been 4 years and counting, and the water in Nebraska is still clean.

The second pipeline in this system is called the Keystone XL. It sends the same oil into America as the Keystone does but on a slightly longer and different route.

Secretary Clinton twice has approved Keystone XL. Secretary Kerry has approved it once. And yet the Politician in Chief has threatened to veto the Keystone XL pipeline.

Canada will export their oil. Either it comes to America or it goes to China. President Obama has a simple choice: oil for America or oil for China. Oil for America or oil for China.

Please join Congress in choosing America.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time we have on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Kentucky has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WAXMAN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WHITFIELD.

Mr. Speaker, for years I and Members of this body have come to the floor in support of the Keystone pipeline project, asking for the Senate and the White House to put politics aside in favor of this critical project.

With bipartisan support, the House has passed eight separate pieces of legislation to clear the way for the approval of the most studied pipeline in American history. Yet each time these measures were blocked in the Senate and condemned by a President crippled by indecision on a project that would put tens of thousands of Americans to work. So once again I rise in support of the Keystone XL pipeline, joining my colleagues in both parties in backing H.R. 5682, which would immediately certify the Secretary of State's final environmental impact statement from nearly a year ago and truly put our Nation on a course toward American energy independence.

Sadly, while the House has continued to take definitive bipartisan action to advance this critical goal, it appears the Senate has waited only until it is politically advantageous to do so, even as it enjoys majority support in that Chamber.

While I am pleased about the Senate's newfound interest in the wide-ranging benefits of this commonsense

project which will grow our economy and strengthen our national security, it is a shame that it took election-year politics and not the best interests of American workers and the families that they represent for Senate leaders to act.

This pipeline is a vital piece of a plan that creates better jobs and more opportunity. I encourage the Senate and President to deliver on the promise of embracing an all-of-the-above energy strategy that works for the American people.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for so much, including his voice and his leadership on this issue.

There are three numbers that we all ought to know as we consider this bill approving the Keystone XL:

2 degrees Celsius—the amount the Earth can warm before climate change becomes truly catastrophic and irreversible;

565 gigatons—the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted before we reach irreversible global warming;

240 gigatons—the amount of carbon that would be emitted if the Alberta tar sands are fully developed, nearly half of all the carbon the world can burn.

Keystone XL is the fastest and perhaps the only way to fully develop the Alberta tar sands.

Keystone XL would move almost 1 million barrels per day of the dirtiest oil on Earth directly through the middle of our country. It would pass through some of our Nation's most important land and water sources, including the Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies 30 percent of the United States' irrigation and drinking water to millions of Americans.

And those who claim there is no serious risk of a spill have a very short memory. There were 12 spills in the first year of operation of the original Keystone pipeline, and there have been 30 spills in just over 4 years.

So what I am saying today is that this is dangerous, and it is also not the best way to create jobs. Three times as many jobs are created for every dollar invested in renewable energies over the pipeline. And so if we want jobs, if we want clean energy, we want a good environment, we should vote down this legislation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers and I think I have the right to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member.

This legislation is very likely going to be approved, and that is sad for a number of reasons.

□ 1845

Let me just declare here what I declare in my district and anywhere else. I believe in earmarks because I think it is constitutional. I think it is almost politically obscene to give what the Constitution says is our responsibility to the White House no matter who is there. That is why I have some serious concerns about this special interest earmark that will make the U.S. a permanent conduit to international markets for one of the dirtiest fuel sources on the planet.

This is an earmark for TransCanada. Maybe the worst abuse in this legislation is that it exempts TransCanada from all Federal permitting requirements and other Federal environmental laws. Other U.S. companies will have to abide by laws that we will exempt for TransCanada. It exempts TransCanada from paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which helps the government respond to oil spills.

Now, this particular company already has had major oil spills. We will have oil spills. So what we are saying when we approve this legislation are these things:

One, we are going to give an earmark to TransCanada. It is okay give it an earmark, special interest earmark, but we just can't do it here in the United States;

Number two, we are saying that TransCanada will have the ability to bypass environmental laws that Americans cannot bypass;

And number three, we are saying that this company does not have to pay one penny into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which means that the people who are watching this debate tonight will pay when an oil spill occurs, and I think that is obscene.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how many minutes I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to, first of all, thank Mr. WAXMAN of California for the many contributions that he has made while a Member of the House of Representatives. I have had the opportunity to serve with him on the Energy and Commerce Committee for many years. He has very strong beliefs; he is committed; and I just want to wish him the very best in his future endeavors. I know that he won't be retiring. He'll be very active in some worthwhile cause, and I just want to tell him how much we admire and respect the work that he did. Although I personally didn't agree philosophically with some of it, as I am sure you do not agree with many of mine, I do wish you the very

best, Mr. WAXMAN, as you move forward.

In conclusion, on this important debate, I would like to say this is not a new piece of legislation. It has passed the House of Representatives on eight separate occasions, and we really did not plan to bring it up in this lame-duck session except that Senator REID, the leader of the Senate, the Democratic leader of the Senate, changed his mind and decided to bring it up on the Senate side. So when we found out about that, Mr. CASSIDY introduced this legislation, which mirrors the bill on the Senate side, and we are thrilled that we have an opportunity to pass this legislation, and I expect that we will pass it.

I might add that it has been studied for over 6 years. There have been four complete environmental studies completed. The Secretary of State's office on more than one occasion—two occasions, three occasions—has said it would have a negligible environmental impact. In fact, in one place they said they would be better off to build this pipeline than not to build it because the environmental degree of moving it by pipeline would be better than the alternative in which it is being moved today. So I think it is a win-win-win situation for America.

Many people have said, well, they are simply bringing this oil through the United States and then it is going to be exported. We have had many hearings. Some of it will be exported, but some of it will be refined right here in the U.S. It will be 850,000 barrels of oil a day, which is about half of what we are importing from the Middle East. It will make us less dependent. Some labor unions support this legislation. The Governor of Nebraska supports this legislation. So I think it is a win-win-win for everyone.

There are additional safety requirements on this pipeline that are not required on other pipelines. I think there are going to be adequate safeguards. We have had so many hearings on this. I would urge the body, the House of Representatives, to pass this legislation and give us the opportunity to send it down to the White House for the President's consideration.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to today's legislation to grant automatic approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, bypassing the legal review process.

Today's bill grants immediate authority to Canadian company TransCanada to "construct, connect, operate, and maintain" the pipeline as described in their 2012 application to the State Department. However, as the bill itself acknowledges, there are still outstanding issues with that application. Notably, there is no legal route through Nebraska due to an ongoing court case over private property rights and eminent domain. This bill does nothing to resolve that case. It gives blanket approval

without knowing what the pipeline route will look like in Nebraska.

I am also deeply concerned that tar sands oil, which would be transported in the pipeline, is exempt from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that is used to respond to leaks and accidents. If there is an accident along this pipeline, taxpayers will be on the hook for cleanup. We need to close that loophole and ensure that the American public is not bearing the risks for TransCanada's pipeline.

The State Department continues to review the 2.5 million comments it has received on this project and is awaiting a final route from Nebraska to make its determination on whether this project is in the best interest of the American people. We should allow that process to continue.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5682, a bill to approve the northern portion of Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill because I support North American energy development.

But I also rise in support of the bill because the Keystone XL pipeline has become an obstacle created by indecision and inaction.

Keystone XL is not the first cross-border pipeline project built in North America.

But if some opponents had their way, Keystone XL pipeline would be the last pipeline we built in North America.

Today, the United States, Canada and Mexico are revolutionizing the world and the world of energy.

These three North American partners are reshaping the geo-political balance of the entire world.

Between the three countries, we can satisfy our own energy needs for the first time in memory.

But to accomplish this feat, we must be able to move products to market.

My colleagues who oppose Keystone XL have forgotten that just because there isn't a pipeline doesn't mean the products aren't moving.

In fact, they are moving just as rapidly as ever.

Unfortunately, the products are moving to market at the expense of other commodities and even at the expense of people's schedules.

Opponents cannot deny that pipelines are the safest, most effective way to move products to market.

Opponents cannot say the State Department has failed to consider the environmental consequences of the pipeline.

Opponents cannot say this project hasn't been reviewed by the proper authorities.

If they do, they are incorrect.

The Keystone XL pipeline is the most scrutinized project in as long as I can remember.

If we built railroads, the way we built KXL, we wouldn't have a rail system.

If we built roads, the way we built KXL, we wouldn't have a highway system.

As we face the 114th Congress, we have real problems we need to address.

Keystone XL pipeline is good for the United States, it's good for North America and we should support this bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 2011, I stood on the House floor in support of

legislation to expedite approval of the landmark Keystone XL pipeline. We passed that bill by a strong bipartisan vote of 279 to 147. But despite the overwhelming support, the White House issued a veto threat, declaring the bill was unnecessary given that the administration was committed to reaching a decision on the project by the end of the year.

Fast forward to today, and it's déjà vu all over again. More than three years after we passed that initial bill, we still don't have a decision from the president on this critical jobs project despite widespread support from Democrats and Republicans, laborers, and job creators.

President Obama famously proclaimed in January 2013 that he would do "whatever it takes" to create jobs and 2014 was renamed the president's so-called "Year of Action." But when the chips are down, President Obama is incapable of saying "yes" to a project that would create tens of thousands of American jobs and advance our energy security. But despite the president's excuses, we haven't given up on finding a bipartisan solution.

We have now voted a total of eight times in the House to move this landmark project forward. And now we are standing up for jobs and energy once again. We are going to keep fighting for Keystone until we get the job done.

There is now no question that Keystone is in America's best interest. Keystone has been exhaustively studied more than any other pipeline in our nation's history and the facts are clear. Keystone will deliver nearly a million barrels of safe and secure North American oil, and President Obama's own State Department has confirmed that it will support over 42,000 jobs without significantly increasing emissions. It's also expected to be one of the safest pipelines ever built, adhering to the new pipeline standards we passed into law with additional safety requirements.

Hopefully, this ninth vote is the charm, and the Senate and President will finally agree, that after six years, it's time to finally say yes to energy and yes to jobs.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5682, a bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline by circumventing the ongoing regulatory process. Rather than building infrastructure to transport dirty fossil fuels, we should be creating new jobs for our constituents by modernizing our transportation system and upgrading failing infrastructure.

Despite some recent gains, our economic recovery is not yet reaching all of our constituents. I agree with supporters of this bill from both sides of the aisle that we must not delay consideration of legislation putting our constituents back to work. House leadership should allow us to vote on and pass a long-term transportation bill, for example. The proposal before us will result in short term job gains in some areas, but the tradeoff is a continued reliance on an outdated, dirty energy source.

There is a long list of important legislation awaiting consideration by this Congress that will support new jobs, including the National Infrastructure Development Bank Act, the Bring Jobs Home Act, the Make it in America Manufacturing Act, and legislation to extend tax provisions that lead to the construction of

clean energy projects. I have no doubt we can find consensus on these and other policies that will increase American competitiveness and put our constituents back to work, but the bill I opposed today is not the approach we should be taking.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill so we can work together to create new economic opportunities for our constituents.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is the eighth time that the House has voted to approve Keystone and short circuit the review process, and I have opposed it each time. Continuing this pattern is not helpful or a good use of our time.

My position has long been clear: there is a legal and regulatory process that the Administration is currently following to determine if this pipeline is in the interest of the American people.

It is important to consider the environmental impact that this pipeline may have, including a potential direct increase in the energy-intensive extraction of tar sands oil. It is also important to consider the impacts to local communities where this pipeline would be built as well as threats to the water supply. Oil from the tar sands continues to reach American refineries.

We should do the analysis of this pipeline right, and wait for it to finish. Most importantly, we should focus on long-term, sustainable solutions to meet our nation's future energy needs, lower our carbon emissions and make our communities more resilient to a changing climate.

If I had been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 748, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. CAPPS. Yes, I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Capps moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5682 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT TRANSCANADA KEYSTONE PIPELINE, L.P. PAY FOR ANY OIL SPILL CLEANUP ON AMERICAN SOIL.

In the approval process authorized under this Act, TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. shall certify to the President that diluted bitumen and other materials derived from tar sands or oil sands that are transported through the Keystone XL pipeline will be treated as crude oil for the purposes of determining contributions that fund the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

Mr. WHITFIELD (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against this motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the final—and only—amendment to this bill. Passage of this amendment will not prevent the passage of the underlying bill. If it is adopted, my amendment will simply be incorporated into the bill and the bill will be immediately voted upon.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that we are still primarily dependent on oil and other fossil fuels for our energy needs. This dependence does have the effect of polluting our planet, harming public health, and threatening our national security. Recent advances in clean, renewable energy technologies have demonstrated that it doesn't have to be this way. But rather than pursuing this sustainable energy future we know we need, H.R. 5682 and the Keystone pipeline double down on fossil fuels and push us further down this destructive path.

No matter if you support or oppose Keystone XL, we can all agree that drilling and transporting oil has serious risks. It only takes one small crack, one small mistake, to cause a major oil spill and catastrophic, irreparable harm to the surrounding communities.

In 1969, my home district experienced one of the worst oil spills in U.S. history. I saw firsthand the devastating damage to our local economy, to human health, property, and natural resources. We have seen this happen far too many times since then in communities around the country. The Deepwater Horizon disaster cost 11 lives, billions of dollars in economic damages, and untold devastation to the delicate ecosystem of the gulf.

That very same year, we saw a terrible spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This spill was particularly noteworthy because it involved tar sands oil, which is the same type of oil that would flow through the Keystone pipeline. Tar sands is much harder to clean up than standard crude, which is one of the reasons that spill took nearly \$1 billion and several years to fully clean up.

Mr. Speaker, history has shown us that there is simply no such thing as a spill-proof well or pipeline. Accidents do happen. In fact, accidents have already happened 14 times on the existing Keystone pipeline. Despite numerous assurances that Keystone XL will be safer and that spill risks will be minimal, safer simply does not equate to safe.

That is why we have the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which is funded by

an 8-cents-per-barrel excise fee on crude oil and petroleum products. This fund ensures that the oil companies that create these messes also pay to clean them up. But TransCanada is currently exempt from contributing to the trust fund for Keystone because tar sands oil is not considered crude oil for purposes of the program.

If Keystone XL is approved, the pipeline's tar sands oil will literally get a free ride through the United States. If there is a spill, taxpayers and local communities—not those responsible—could be stuck with the cleanup bill. This makes no sense. TransCanada and all tar sands oil companies should have to pay into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund just like every other oil company.

That is why I am offering this very straightforward amendment. My amendment would simply require TransCanada to certify that it will pay the same per-barrel fee for its tar sands oil as it does for its regular crude. It would ensure that TransCanada—and not our taxpayers—would pay to clean up its own mess in the event of a spill.

Mr. Speaker, if we as a Nation—and these are our natural resources as taxpayers—if we as a Nation are going to bear 100 percent of the spill risk, the least we can do is to ensure that those responsible pay to clean it up. This is a commonsense idea that should have bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment to protect American taxpayers and ensure that oil companies pay what is only their fair share, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the gentlewoman that President Obama, through a regulation, decided that diluted bitumen is not crude oil for the purposes of the trust fund tax, so the problem was created by President Obama and the IRS.

We are in the process of trying to address that issue. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee. In their tax reform package, that is an issue that they are looking at. But if we try to change that now in this bill, we would be treating TransCanada differently than all other pipelines are being treated bringing bitumen into the United States.

I would also point out this pipeline's greater safety characteristics. It has more safety characteristics than any other pipeline built. We would think

you would want to incentivize its use and not punish it with further taxation.

So, in my opinion, while I have great respect for the gentlewoman from California, this is simply a ruse to kill the bill.

I would respectfully ask our Members to oppose this motion to recommit and pass H.R. 5682. The Senate has said—Senator REID has said—that they will take it up in the Senate. That is precisely what we would like to see.

I urge defeat of the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5682 is postponed.

D.C. ASKS CONGRESS TO RESPECT THEIR LOCAL MARIJUANA INITIATIVE

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, thank you to the two Democratic Representatives, BLUMENAUER and POLIS, and Republican Representative ROHRBACHER who stood with the District of Columbia for letting our marijuana reform bill stand today.

Although Blacks and Whites smoke pot at the same rate, the majority of those convicted of possession of small amounts in the District of Columbia and nationwide are Black. Your State may not be counted among the 58 percent of Americans who want cannabis legalized. D.C. doesn't ask you to support marijuana. D.C. asks only that the Congress respect our local marijuana initiative, which is every bit as much a local control matter as the decision made by four other States on this very same issue.

□ 1900

THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise on Veterans Day Week to pay tribute to our dear friend and longtime former colleague, Congressman Lane Evans.

An honorable man and Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, Lane was elected in November 1982, and sworn in January 1983 as a member of a large freshman class that comprised the 98th Congress. He hailed from a working-class district and was a son of the working class. So few Members are grounded in that heritage. He was intelligent, committed, a true gentleman, and a patriot.

The economy and social benefit programs consumed the attention of that Congress. Very high unemployment levels hung over our Nation, mired in the aftermath of a very deep recession following the first Arab oil embargo and economic policies of the Reagan administration that did not relieve the dire circumstances of unemployed workers. Extending unemployment benefits occupied that Congress as a lifeline to millions of workers that saw their livelihoods evaporate almost instantaneously. In the spring of 1983, Congress passed the historic refinancing of the Social Security program to assure the system would be sound for generations to come. Lane had fought to be a Member to fight for that, and he was a "yes" vote on that historic measure.

During the first decade of Lane's service, we served together on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. After an extended fight, legislation was passed to allow Agent Orange-affected Vietnam veterans to receive benefits as a moral obligation to these veterans who had served. Today, Lane's legacy lives on as we continue to build on the foundation he laid.

During his distinguished career, Mr. Evans led the effort to fight for veterans returning home with PTSD and TBI. His efforts in Congress laid the groundwork for a new chapter in the way American cares for those suffering from mental illness and the stress-related conditions of battle.

Mr. Evans was taken from us far too soon. He was only 63 when he passed away last week after a very long, courageous, and difficult battle with Parkinson's. He will be dearly missed.

Always true to the Marine Corps motto, Lane was "always faithful." May God bless him. May he be elevated to a very high position in heaven. I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with him as a Member of the 98th Congress and those that followed.

HONORING THE LIVES OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVES PHIL CRANE AND LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McALLISTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Ohio mentioning Lane Evans. The point of this time is to recognize two of our colleagues who have passed. We want to remember them. I appreciate Marcy for those kind words about Lane Evans.

I am going to manage this hour. So with respect to my colleagues who are down here, I would like to yield to Congressman HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. I want to thank my good friend, Congressman SHIMKUS, for

this time and for this important time to honor these wonderful colleagues.

Before I get started, I will enter into the RECORD an article titled: "Philip M. Crane: Teacher, Lecturer, Author, Congressman and Friend," written by Ed Feulner, former president of the Heritage Foundation.

PHILIP M. CRANE: TEACHER, LECTURER, AUTHOR, CONGRESSMAN AND FRIEND

(By Ed Feulner, Former President of the Heritage Foundation)

Former Rep. Phil Crane, R-Ill., died Nov. 7 after a struggle with lung cancer.

His passing reminded all of us who knew Phil what a unique contribution to the modern conservative movement he had made.

On some days he was giving his famous lecture, "The Blessings of Liberty," to audiences around the nation. For many months he was stumping for Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, fellow congressional candidates and many other conservatives running for office at every level in our nation.

After his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, he played a key role advising and leading conservatives both inside and outside of the Capitol on legislative tactics and institution building always based on principles of our Founding Fathers.

I met Phil when he was a lecturer for the Intercollegiate Studies Institute in the early 1960s. He was teaching history at Bradley University, in Peoria, Ill., before founding a private school in the Chicago suburbs.

Phil's reputation was that of an emerging leader: a great speaker, a motivator of the grassroots and an original thinker.

Most significantly to me, Phil was a man who understood the power of ideas. After all, he had attended Hillsdale College (and served on its board of trustees for many decades), and then earned his Ph.D. in history from Indiana University, where "his academic record had never been exceeded." Phil was the author of an important early book on the philosophical issues that defined the difference between conservatives and the reigning progressive orthodoxy, "The Democrats Dilemma" (Regnery, 1964).

His vision for the future, based on the underlying principles of America's Founders' commitment to liberty, was an inspiration to all of us who knew him and who worked for him and with him.

Phil was elected to succeed Don Rumsfeld in the Congress in a special election in 1969, against a field of seven other candidates. Many of us were rooting for him as the principled conservative in this large and complex field, but we weren't certain that he could really do it. Phil was a principled conservative—a tea partier long before there was a tea party. But throughout the primary process, his message of principled conservatism rang true to his constituents-to-be. He won that special election, then won 17 more times.

He stuck to his guns, whether he was in the minority or in the majority, throughout his 35-year tenure in Washington.

When Phil was sworn in as the newest member of the U.S. House of Representatives, he was a representative of a minority (committed conservatives) in the minority party (the Republicans). When he left the Congress in 2004, he had helped make conservatism the mainstream of the Republican Party and of the entire U.S. political arena.

In his early Washington years, when I had the great privilege of serving as Phil's legislative director (1970-71) and then as his chief

of staff (1971–74), he was the leading light of elected conservatives in Washington.

It was Phil Crane who passionately argued that private American citizens should be permitted to own gold. It was Phil who argued as a matter of principle that federal taxpayer funds be used for subsidies for urban mass transit systems—even in his home city of Chicago—was not an appropriate use of federal taxpayer funds. Big arguments over foreign policy and domestic issues involved Phil as a leading conservative figure in Washington and around the nation.

Battles like these—some won, others lost—may be forgotten, as the media focus on Phil's battle to preserve the Panama Canal as an integral part of the United States. Of course, on the Panama Canal he fought side-by-side with the former governor of California, Ronald Reagan.

For those of us who worked for Phil, we remember the late-night meetings of conservative congressmen, staffers and activists, who looked to Phil Crane for leadership on policy issues.

It was during these legislative battles that Phil formed the idea of a coordinated effort among House conservatives. These conceptual discussions resulted in Crane's vision for the Republican Study Committee to counter the long-established Democrat Study Group of liberal House members. Today, the RSC is the largest faction within the membership of the House Republicans, and it exists because Phil Crane envisioned its potential.

But my fondest memories of Phil will be of long discussions about conservative ideas and how they best can be advanced in the political milieu of Washington.

We talked about how conservatives can communicate more effectively with grassroots leaders around the nation. And we discussed how to build a conservative infrastructure to counter the establishment interests of Washington.

We decided that America needed a number of new institutions, including a new form of a policy research and communicating organization. From these discussions, Phil became an early advocate of that new conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation. And for that, all conservatives should be grateful.

And speaking very personally, a picture of Phil holding our month-old son, flanked by Linda and me, has a special place of honor in our living room. That son is now 43 years old, by the way.

Rest in the peace of the Lord, which you have so eminently earned, my friend.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and respect to former Congressman Phil Crane, who we lost this week.

As a fellow committed conservative Representative of the west and northwest suburbs of Chicago, I have always had a special connection to Congressman Crane. For 35 years, he represented sizable portions of what is now the 14th Congressional District, the district I represent in Congress. When Illinois was redistricted following the 1990 Census, Phil Crane was willing to give the McHenry County portion of his old district to the newer 16th District in order to present the Republican nominee, Don Manzullo, with a better chance of recapturing the district for the GOP. And he did this, arguably, to the detriment of his own reelection prospects down the road.

Twenty years later, most of McHenry County is in the 14th Congressional District, and I am proud to represent his former constituents, who were stalwart supporters of his.

When he left office in 2004, he was at the time the longest-serving House Republican. In his book: "The Sum of Good Government," Crane wrote:

Once people are willing to admit the possibility of alternatives, the battle is more than half won and the time for refinements of a "conservative reform platform will be at hand."

Phil pursued that platform as a leader of the conservative movement both in and outside of Congress. He served as chairman of the American Conservative Union, a prominent think tank and advocacy organization. In 1973, he founded the preeminent conservative organization in the House, the Republican Study Committee, of which I am a proud member. Today, the RSC is the largest Member organization of House Republicans and drives much of the conservative agenda.

Congressman Crane spent most of his career pursuing that agenda on the Ways and Means Committee. There, he championed many of the ideals I and many of our shared constituents subscribe to. These include lowering taxes on everyone, simplifying the Tax Code so that it is fair and transparent, defending free market economics, and promoting free trade with other nations.

His work propelled him to become the ranking member and eventually chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee. While there, he led the effort to pass numerous free trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, which opened up economic opportunities with our northern and southern neighbors. He also was very active in efforts to reduce or limit government spending and authored and supported hundreds of bills and amendments to bring overspending under control.

In addition, Phil had a passion for and deep knowledge of American history. Citing historical events in the Constitution to make one's case during floor debate and public speeches is not a recent phenomenon. Congressman Crane did this regularly when fighting for his principles and policies.

Every day, he looked for opportunities to demonstrate his love for robust discussions on conservative ideals. But he didn't let his firm positions on issues drive a wedge between him and other Members of Congress. He built relationships with those with whom he disagreed, and was well-liked on both sides of the aisle, handwriting letters to colleagues, especially thoughtful notes to those who were going through tough times or had lost a relative or loved one.

Most importantly, he wrote letters to, and spent time with, his constitu-

ents whom he represented. To him, they were his most important relationship. They were his boss, as they are to all who are privileged to enter Congress on their behalf.

Every day, I strive to represent my district with the same commitment and dedication as Congressman Phil Crane did, and to stand up for the principles that make this country great.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague. It is great that you took the time out to come. A lot of our colleagues want to come down but are caught up with time issues.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. As I said, Mr. Speaker, we want to recognize two colleagues whom I served with. Congressman HULTGREN mentioned Phil Crane and Congresswoman KAPTUR mentioned Lane Evans. Both were colleagues of mine that I was fortunate to serve with, so I am going to talk about both of those at this time.

Lane was born in Rock Island, Illinois. On August 4, 1951, he joined the Marines at the age of 17. He had orders for Vietnam, but he served in Okinawa, Japan, as a security guard because his older brother was already deployed in the war.

In 1982, Lane was first elected from his western Illinois district and served for an additional 12 terms. He worked for more than a decade after his Parkinson's diagnosis, but announced in 2006 that he wouldn't seek reelection because of his deteriorating health.

As a Congressman, he fought for the rights of veterans and became the senior Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He pushed legislation to help those exposed to agent orange and to give former servicemembers' rights to judicial review in pursuing their benefits. He also campaigned for veterans grappling with post-traumatic stress disorders and other health problems.

As I know Lane, he was very adamant and focused on serving the veterans. He also was one of the first to start talking about the concerns of veterans in finding jobs after their service. President Obama credited Lane Evans with aiding his own political rise, saying once that he wouldn't have made it to the U.S. Senate without early support from his fellow Illinoisan.

Lane is survived by his three brothers.

Lane and I bordered each other in our congressional districts. We split the community of Adams County and a little bit of a town called Quincy. When

you share congressional border lines with a colleague, you do numerous events together. And when they are of different parties, they are even more important because there are so many things that unite us. A lot of times there is a view that there is always division here, but back home when we are working on issues like infrastructure, roads, bridges, and veterans' benefits, it really is a chance for the public to see Members working together.

So I relished my time meeting and serving with Congressman Evans as we shared a congressional boundary line. He gave his all to his country. He gave his all to this country through his service as a Member of Congress, and he fought a very tough fight against Parkinson's. He would still be here today had he not had this debilitating disease that forced him to leave public service.

I will remember Lane well. I wish God's blessing to his family.

We also want to take this time to remember Congressman Phil Crane.

Congressman Crane was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 3, 1930. He received his undergraduate degree from Hillsdale College in 1952, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in history from Indiana University in 1963. He also served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956.

In 1969, Phil Crane won a special election race triggered by the appointment of then-Illinois Congressman Donald Rumsfeld to the Nixon administration. He served in that seat from 1969 until his defeat in 2004.

In the 1970s, Congressman Crane was instrumental in founding, as was mentioned by my colleague, Congressman HULTGREN, the Republican Study Committee, the Heritage Foundation, and the American Conservative Union, stalwarts of the view of conservatism who lead the way in the debate of conservatism in this country.

So I reached out to friends of mine this afternoon, Don and Wanda Weder, who reside in Highland, Illinois, because they were very close to Congressman Crane, and I would like to read from some remembrances that were put down on my behalf to submit for the Record:

We met Phil in 1964 when my father arranged for Barry Goldwater, Jr., and Phil to speak at the Highland High School auditorium concerning the Presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater. Phil and Barry, Jr., delivered excellent speeches. My father, Wanda, and I were amazed at Phil's intellect and the fact that he spoke eloquently, including detailed budget numbers and cogent economic theory, all without notes.

Let me interject here, for those of us who served with Phil, that was true then and it was true when he served here in Washington.

□ 1915

At that time, Phil was a professor of history at Bradley University. In 1966, I transferred from the University of Illinois to

Bradley, at my father's suggestion, to enable attending Phil's classes and those of Professor Nicholas Nyaradi, the former Minister of Hungary prior to and during World War II. The first of Phil's classes I attended was a lecture series with about 300 students.

Phil typically arrives in the auditorium about 5 minutes after his aides had imposed order on the students. He entered impressively, at a brisk pace, and with the Chicago Tribune and other papers under his arm.

Placing the papers on the podium, he greeted the class and began a wonderful lecture, citing facts, dates, describing personalities, and humorous anecdotes, all with no reference to notes. His most memorable lectures were those on the Spanish American War and Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

His lecture on TR was so memorable that I could recite most of it today: TR commanding two leaky boats to transport the Rough Riders to Cuba; TR being down to his last pair of glasses at the time of the charge up San Juan Hill; the deficiencies of the Rough Riders' lever-action Craig rifles being outranged by the Spanish 1898 Mausers; and the real hero at the Battle of San Juan Hill, a young second lieutenant recently graduated from West Point and leading a platoon equipped with Gatling guns.

In 1969, Donald Rumsfeld was appointed by President Nixon to head the Office of Economic Opportunity, and Phil decided to run for the congressional seat vacated, the 13th Illinois District.

I graduated from Bradley that spring and spent a good deal of my time attempting to be of some service to Phil in his campaign. He referred to his philosophy as conservatism, an approach I thought daring at the time. He attended many "teas" throughout the district and was always received, especially by the lady voters who were the primary attendees.

In subsequent campaigns, I had the privilege of flying Phil around Illinois. Phil frequently introduced me generously as his best student and a Bradley summa cum laude.

I recall him sitting next to me in a single-engine Cessna on a trip from Springfield to Vandalia when I asked him what he intended to say to the group of voters in Vandalia. Phil commented, "I have no idea. I will have to think fast."

On another occasion, I asked him if his exceptional speaking skills came to him naturally. He said, "No. I developed them by forcing myself to speak publicly and turn the cobwebs in my brain into high voltage electrical cables."

Phil was not only exceptional mentally. Hunting rabbits and quail with my father and me, he demonstrated considerable skill with a shotgun. His endurance was phenomenal.

In 1980, Phil ran in the primaries against Ronald Reagan, John Connolly, and others. Phil campaigned on an intellectual plane. He was obviously the most capable and sincere candidate.

Had Phil been elected, he would have made his best efforts to move the country to smaller government, greater personal liberties, and a more nearly free market economy. Phil enjoyed the New Hampshire debates and commented that Reagan was well-received, primarily as a result of the old B movie lines he used.

During President Reagan's second term, I commented to Phil that the President had not actually made any real progress in reducing the size of government and establishing a free market economy. He invited my father and 11 other people to meet about twice monthly in Washington to advise him.

My father was hospitalized prior to an early meeting of this group, and Phil asked me to attend. Thereafter, the group asked me to be the 13th member of group. Phil's campaign accountant left the campaign. We could not find the financial records. His political adviser had not had a bad day. He also left the campaign.

His lead staff person left the campaign and joined the Reagan campaign, later to receive an appointment under the Reagan administration. Phil wound down the campaign and stumped for Reagan.

A few months later, he commented to me, "I have not had a bad day since the campaign ended." In 1987, Phil told me that President Reagan always treated him courteously but seldom sought his input. He believed that the First Lady was adverse to him because he sought the nomination in 1980.

Phil and Barry Goldwater, Jr., delivered eulogies at the funeral of my father and mother in 1987 and 2005. Both recalled many years of happy times and were most touching.

You know better than I Phil's legislative contributions. Two major successes in which he played a significant part were the bill that legalized ownership of gold by private citizens and the Freedom of Information legislation.

Phil was an inspiration to his students, his constituents, and the many advocates of personal liberty who heard him speak or read his literary works. His passing represents an irreplaceable loss of knowledge, capability, and spirit to our society and all who pursue the ideal of liberty.

So I couldn't put into words any better than what my good friends Don and Wanda Weder did in a short time in doing remembrance of someone they knew very well.

I know I have other colleagues coming down to make sure they make their voices heard. I was fortunate to serve with Phil. I was fortunate to go sit in his office in the Cannon Building, around with colleagues talking about public policy issues of the day. It will be times that I fondly remember.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to celebrate the life and achievements of our late former colleague and friend, Congressman Phil Crane of Illinois. My memories of Phil are twofold.

First, I will remember Phil's kindness to me as a junior Member of Congress doing my best to earn a seat on the Ways and Means Committee. As a much more senior Member, Phil was incredibly busy with his many responsibilities but he made time to talk to me, advise me and help me in any way he could so that I could join him on the committee. I have never forgotten the example he set for me during that exciting time and in turn, I have tried to do the same for our junior colleagues who talk to me about their interest in joining the committee.

And of course, I remember and respect the strong intellectual legacy he leaves behind as an early leader of our conservative movement in the United States. It was his well-informed and carefully thought out philosophy that shaped his career as an academic, elected official and presidential candidate. Near and

dear to his heart was the principle of free trade which he embraced with great enthusiasm.

As a champion of free enterprise, Phil Crane understood the link between trade and open markets in advancing free institutions. In his farewell speech to this Body, he noted how trade offers the opportunity for personal contact between peoples that nurtures democratic values, and presents people in all countries with an opportunity to build a better life. He devoted himself to advancing this notion of the power of the marketplace as a catalyst for change around the globe and worked tirelessly to create opportunities for U.S. growth and high paying export-oriented jobs for U.S. workers.

During his tenure in the House, Phil was Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee for a number of years before becoming Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee in 1995. His leadership was formative in trade legislation enacted over two decades.

In his position on the Ways and Means Committee, he led the effort to pass the legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 to foster the integration of the U.S., Canadian and Mexican economies to promote growth in each member country and enhance overall North American competitiveness in the global market.

Phil Crane then led the effort in 1994 to pass the implementing legislation for the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which established the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the global legal framework we know today that governs multilateral trade and effective trade dispute resolution.

For many years, he championed legislation to promote growth and combat narcotics trafficking through the Caribbean Basin Economic Recover Act and the Andean Trade Preferences Act. He also advanced legislation renewing the Generalized System of Preferences, which promotes development through trade-led economic growth in developing countries around the world. Phil Crane understood the way these preferential trade programs advanced a more open economic environment where U.S. firms could compete, while creating legitimate economic opportunities for people in nations struggling to overcome poverty and abject circumstances.

Later, as Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, Phil Crane was successful in the passage of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, which contained several significant component parts. Among them were the African Growth and Opportunity Act, legislation Phil authored to open a meaningful framework and dialogue for trade relations with sub-Saharan African countries; and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, which he sponsored to grant Caribbean countries NAFTA parity treatment in the U.S. market to avoid an unintended consequence of Mexico's preferential access under NAFTA.

As Trade Subcommittee Chairman, Phil Crane also led the effort to Normalize trade relations with China, which established a predictable framework for trade relations between our countries through China's membership in the World Trade Organization. He also cham-

pioned the Normalization of trade relations with numerous former Communist countries following the fall of the Soviet Union, including the opening of trade relations with Vietnam for the first time after the war, to help lock in market reforms in these countries.

Phil Crane was also influential in advancing the Trade Act of 2002, which authorized the negotiation of the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), as well as the U.S. free trade agreements now in effect with Colombia, Peru, Singapore and South Korea. The final negotiation and implementation of these landmark agreements after his departure from the House stand as a lasting testament to the path that Phil Crane forged for U.S. trade relations in the world.

A champion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and its predecessor the U.S. Customs Service, Phil Crane understood not only the agency's law enforcement and security mandate, but also the important role the agency plays in supporting our economy through trade facilitation. He was a proponent throughout his tenure as Trade Subcommittee Chairman of funding customs modernization efforts, such as the Automated Commercial Environment (known as ACE), which is now operational. Throughout all of these efforts, Phil worked tirelessly to advance opportunities for U.S. growth and high paying export-oriented jobs for U.S. workers. In this process, he also spearheaded legislation for hundreds of miscellaneous tariff bills designed to further the competitiveness of U.S. firms in the global market by eliminating import duties on products used as inputs in U.S. manufacturing that could not be acquired from U.S. sources. Through such legislation and other bills which facilitated the opening of overseas markets to U.S. exports, Phil promoted U.S. workers and their ability to compete in markets around the world.

Fundamentally, Phil Crane understood the importance of trade to the U.S. economy and U.S. jobs. He also saw the economy as an important force for change in our world in advancing democratic institutions and economic freedoms overseas, while promoting high-paying export-oriented jobs here at home. His legacy on trade is with us today and will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friend and former colleague, Phil Crane.

Phil was one of the first members I met when I came up here.

Later on, I had the great honor and pleasure to serve with Phil on the Ways and Means Committee.

As a fellow conservative on the Committee, I had the good fortune to work with Phil—from fighting to provide tax relief to making health care more affordable for Americans.

As someone who got to know him well, I can say that he was more than just a great public servant.

He was a great conservative leader. Phil passionately believed in freedom and free-enterprise.

Back in 1973, he helped create a group for House conservatives known as the Republican Study Committee. In fact, he served as the group's first Chairman.

Years later, I was proud to follow in his footsteps by helping to bring House conservatives

together again through the Conservative Action Team, the forerunner to today's Republican Study Committee.

I am forever grateful for Phil's longstanding fight for conservative principles. And I am forever blessed by his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, above all Phil was a great American.

While he will be greatly missed, his legacy to make this country a better place lives on.

May God bless Phil and his family.

HONORING THE LIVES OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVES PHIL CRANE AND LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is great to follow my colleague, but we have some other colleagues here tonight that I want to make sure that they get an opportunity to talk about their experience with the two Members that we are here to honor tonight, Congressman Phil Crane and Congressman Lane Evans.

For that reason, I yield to my colleague from the great State of Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Illinois yielding to me.

If Phil Crane were sitting here on the front row tonight, he wouldn't have any idea who I am, but when you do great things, you don't ever know who those efforts, who that toiling, that sweating, that genuine effort that goes into what you do, you never know who that is going to affect.

You have heard it here tonight. It was 1973. Folks were talking about how it is that we could bring conservatism to the United States Congress. It is Paul Weyrich, it is Phil Crane, and the RSC, the Republican Study Committee, is born.

At that time, they thought the Republican leadership was a little too liberal in the House. They thought we needed another voice to kind of balance that leadership out. Imagine that, the audacity that a young Congressman—he had been on the Hill about 4 years at that time, won in a special election in 1969—the audacity that Phil Crane had, as a young Congressman, was to say, “Maybe we need some balance in the discussion. Maybe we need a place to debate.”

Now, that is 1973. Fast forward, it is 2014, and if you go and visit with colleagues today who are members of that Republican Study Committee that has survived and grown under Phil Crane's leadership and others, they will tell you that when it comes to healthy debate, that may be the single best location in the entire United States House of Representatives. I want you to think about that.

Again, if Phil Crane were sitting here on the front row, he would not remember the times that we have met because I was a minor blip on his radar, but what he dreamed has become the single largest and most productive forum for the discussion of ideas that exists in the people's House in the United States of America.

I always wonder about the dreams that we don't hear about, those dreams that had they materialized would have affected dozens of lives, hundreds of lives, thousands of lives, but because the dreamer did not press on and the dream was never materialized, we will never know.

Phil Crane was not just a dreamer. Phil Crane was a doer, and because of the work, the sweat, the toil that he invested, not dozens, not hundreds, but thousands of Members of Congress who have followed have had an opportunity to be among their colleagues and grapple with the pathway forward.

So much of what we do here on the House floor seems so scripted today. What Phil Crane wanted was an opportunity for us to discuss, an opportunity for us to challenge one another, an opportunity for us to make each other better.

For all the things that Phil accomplished, for all the impact he had on his family and his friends, this may seem minor, but if you are a young Member in the U.S. House of Representatives, the legacy that Phil Crane left behind isn't something; in many cases, it is everything.

I cannot imagine what this institution would be today without the groundwork that he laid those many years ago and continued groundwork he continued to lay until the day he left this institution. It is a proud legacy from the great State of Illinois, and I am grateful to my friend for allowing me to come down and talk about that tonight.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia. The gentleman from Georgia mentioned the great legacy that Phil Crane left, and it was a great legacy that not only former Congressman Phil Crane left for those of us who follow him in Illinois, it is a great legacy for former Congressman Lane Evans that he left too.

My colleague from Georgia also mentioned what would a young Member of Congress say if Phil Crane were here today and the inspiration that he gave to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague and my good friend from the great State of Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK), one of the youngest Members of Congress to offer his remarks.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Illinois for yielding the time.

I also want to thank my colleague from Illinois, the distinguished dean of

the Illinois Republican delegation for organizing the tribute to the late Phil Crane.

The history of American conservatism, I believe, cannot be written without mentioning Phil Crane. Phil was born into a large family, to stalwart Republican parents. Crane's bedtime stories may well have been the Federalist Papers or the collected works of Edmund Burke.

After completing his Ph.D. in history at Indiana University, Phil moved to my hometown of Peoria, Illinois, and he began teaching history, philosophy, and economics at my alma mater, Bradley University. For years, Crane filled his classes with students captivated by his engaging lectures, and he inspired them by his commitment to America's founding principles.

All the while, he worked to build conservative youth movements from the ground up, creating leading groups like the Young America's Foundation and the American Conservative Union. Together with the pantheon of American conservatism, William F. Buckley, Ed Feulner, Stan Evans, Phyllis Schlafly, Barry Goldwater, and even Ronald Reagan, Crane helped lead the Republican Party out of the wilderness.

I don't think it is an overstatement to suggest that a governing Republican majority would never have been possible without the gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable Phil Crane.

He was willing to enter the arena, to confront the ideologies of socialism, communism, and Big Government liberalism head on. He armed conservatives with the intellectual firepower they needed to assault the bulwark of Big Government, and he lived long enough to see the New Right emerge strong and resilient.

In Congress, he was a fierce advocate for free trade and pro-growth economic reforms, and he was a champion of commonsense pension reforms that were needed to help the middle class.

A few years ago, Phil was honored at a dinner here in Washington for his contributions to the conservative movement. That night, surrounded by the men and women he had worked alongside for more than three decades, he reflected on his earliest memories growing up as a conservative in Illinois.

He told the crowd that night how every time when he was a young boy going to visit his grandfather, that his father would make him shake his grandfather's hand, and he would say, "Son, remember shaking that hand. That hand has shaken the hand of Abraham Lincoln."

Phil Crane grew up with a deep sense that he had a responsibility and a calling to keep the party of Lincoln tied forever to the principles of free enterprise, individual liberty, and peace through strength.

Through his entire public service, Phil Crane fought hard for the things

he believed in, and along the way, he managed to mentor and train an army of young conservatives to join him.

There is something poignant about the fact that Phil Crane lived long enough to see the largest Republican majority in the House of Representatives in his lifetime. He even got to see his home State of Illinois elect a Republican Governor, the first time since 1892 that a sitting President's home State Governor switched parties.

In his eight decades, Phil labored to build the conservative movement. In his final days, he surely sensed that his labors were not in vain.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to my good friend from Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I would remiss if I wasn't able to offer my prepared remarks on Congressman Crane and also Congressman Evans before we recognize some of our other friends who are here tonight.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to say it is a privilege for me to be able to stand on the floor of this House to recognize the life and accomplishments of two great leaders from the State of Illinois.

Congressman Phil Crane was first elected in the 13th District of Illinois to represent the northwest Chicago suburbs in 1969, and he held that office for nearly 40 years. At the end of his career, he was the longest-serving Republican Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Crane was, in a word, a legend. He was one of those larger-than-life politicians that we often talk about or read about in history books but who rarely exists today.

We also take the time today to mourn the loss of former Congressman Lane Evans. Last week, former Congressman Lane Evans passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Mr. Evans, a former marine, was elected in 1982, at the age of 31, and served the people of the 17th District for parts of three decades. In fact, over the course of his tenure, Mr. Evans served the many parts of Illinois that I am now lucky and proud enough to represent. During his 24 years in the House, he was a staunch advocate for our Nation's veterans and for America's working men and women, and his service to his constituents was second to none. He will be remembered as a fighter both for the people he represented and against the disease that eventually took his life.

It is fitting today that Republicans and Democrats together have come to the floor to honor the lives of two great public servants from Illinois and to thank them for their service to our country. We send our thoughts and prayers to the families of Congressman Evans and Congressman Crane during this very difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned Republicans and Democrats coming to the floor of the House to honor these two great men, and it gives me great privilege to yield to my good friend and colleague from the great State of Illinois, Mr. DAN LIPINSKI.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Thank you, Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two of our former colleagues, Phil Crane and Lane Evans.

First, I didn't have the opportunity to serve with Mr. Crane, but Phil Crane was certainly a giant, as some of our previous speakers have said—a giant of the conservative movement. He certainly served here in this institution but also just in the wider circles, especially in the eighties. He ran for President in 1980 but lost to Ronald Reagan. Yet many of those things that Ronald Reagan brought forward and saw through were things that Phil Crane stood for. While I may not agree with everything that Phil Crane did, there is really no denying the fact that he stood up for what he believed in. He fought very hard for what he believed in, and he was a great American patriot. I really, truly believe that.

I also want to honor our former colleague and a friend and a mentor of mine, Lane Evans.

From his time in the Marine Corps to nearly a quarter century in this House, Lane always put his country first. He bravely served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam war. His experience in the military and his firsthand knowledge of veterans' issues led him to become a leading advocate for veterans during his time in Congress. Certainly, many would say he was the leading advocate on issues critical to veterans, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, the effects of Agent Orange, and homelessness. He was consistently a leader in crafting real policy solutions. In addition to the great work on veterans' issues, Lane always dutifully served his constituents in the State of Illinois. He was a strong advocate for working people, and he was one of the first to see the need for renewable energies.

Personally, my own experience in Congress began about 30 years ago when I interned for Lane Evans. During my time in his office, he certainly showed me how to be a truly compassionate and effective leader in the House. Lane really cared about people, and that showed through in everything that he did. He was very passionate in all that he did. During his final years, he again showed his courage and strength in his fight with Parkinson's disease. If this terrible disease had not afflicted Lane, I am sure he would still be here today, fighting for his constituents, for hardworking families, and for all of our veterans, especially those who are coming home today.

I send out my prayers to Lane and his family. We truly miss him. I had

the opportunity to serve 4 years with Lane before he had to retire because of Parkinson's, but I really miss having Lane around. I think the example that he gave is truly something that we can look up to and emulate in what he did for the State of Illinois, along with what Phil Crane did for the State.

We had two men who were very passionate. They had very different ideas, but they were very passionate about what they believed in. They fought hard for those things, and that certainly deserves our great respect. Our prayers go out to their families on this loss.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to my good friend from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), who had the opportunity to get to know Lane Evans not only as an intern but also as a colleague.

I never had that opportunity to serve with either Mr. Crane or Mr. Evans, but I had the opportunity to be able to work for the dean of our Republican Illinois delegation, Mr. SHIMKUS, who was here earlier tonight, and I got to meet both of these men during my time in working for Mr. SHIMKUS in the late nineties and throughout the last decade. I can tell you that both gentlemen were pillars of public service for very different reasons. They both served their State well. They served their districts well, and they served their constituents well.

As a matter of fact, I had the opportunity—and it might have been during one of the times that Mr. SHIMKUS mentioned. It was a flight that Mr. Crane was taking through Springfield that ended up in Vandalia, where Mr. Crane appeared at an event on behalf of Mr. SHIMKUS, and I got a chance to hear him speak personally. His passion for free markets, his passion for economic development and economic growth, and his passion for free trade was evident during his discussion. That was one of the few times I got the chance to actually experience what many, when I was growing up, experienced when watching Phil Crane, in person, run for the Presidency in 1980.

Let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that, in 1980, we had many Illinoisans vying to send to the Presidency; not only President Reagan, who was born in Illinois—in Dixon, Illinois—but we also had Mr. Crane, Congressman Phil Crane, and also John Anderson, Congressman John Anderson. It looks like Illinois was the center point of the Presidential election in 1980, and Illinois still, obviously, plays a great role in the White House today. This is an opportunity that we have to stand here to talk about bipartisanship in Washington, D.C., something that, when many people turn their TVs on, they don't see. They don't see the bipartisanship that we are seeing here tonight.

That chance to see Congressman Crane in action helped inspire me to

want to become a Member of this institution. He served the 13th District that I am now blessed enough to represent—that district starting with Marguerite Church and Donald Rumsfeld and then Phil Crane. Then we had Robert McClory and John Erlenborn, Harris Fawell, and Judy Biggert, who served the 13th District of Illinois before I did. Now I get the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of people like Phil Crane and those aforementioned Members of this great institution, and it humbles me every day to know that I get the chance to follow in their footsteps.

With Congressman Lane Evans, I got a chance to know him and his successor, Congressman Phil Hare, who was once a fellow staffer for Lane Evans. We sat next to each other in Hillsboro, Illinois, talking about how Republicans and Democrats can work together to make sure that water infrastructure needs and sewer infrastructure needs are addressed in Montgomery County, Illinois. I now get a chance to serve Montgomery County, Illinois. I think back to that time when Lane Evans never thought he would leave the Rock Island area and the Adams County area and represent places like Montgomery County, Illinois, but he did, and he did it well. We got a chance to work together as fellow staffers—Phil Hare and I and Jerry Lack, who was another one of his economic development coordinators in the district that I worked so closely with. Opportunities like that to see leadership in action and bipartisanship in action is another reason I wanted to be a Member of this great institution.

Lane Evans never thought that he would come down and represent areas like Pana, Illinois, and my home county, Christian County, Illinois. With Lane Evans, I remember the first time he was in Pana and actually called it "Pannah." Do you know what? Lane Evans was the type of guy who could laugh at himself. If you make a mistake in this business, sometimes that mistake is turned into a 30-second ad, but Lane Evans was able to take that mistake and turn it into humor and to represent Pana, Illinois, extremely well.

Mr. Speaker, I learned a lot about constituent service from my former boss, JOHN SHIMKUS, but I also learned a lot about constituent service from Lane Evans. Lane Evans taught many of us that it is the most important part of our job to make sure you answer every phone call, that you answer every time a constituent writes you a letter—or, in today's day and age, an email—and that you make sure you respond to their requests because members of our communities—the citizens of the 13th District of Illinois—don't call us at the beginning of their problems. They call us to help break through the bureaucracy of Washington, D.C., when they are at the end

of their ropes, when they have already called the Federal agencies, when they have already not gotten the answers that they needed or deserved. What JOHN SHIMKUS and Lane Evans taught me while seeing them in action was that responding to our constituents' needs is what matters most, and it is a part of our job that I appreciate the most.

Now, I mentioned Lane Evans came down to central Illinois in a new district that included a county that I now am blessed enough to represent. It is Macoupin County, Illinois. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity in this time that we are honoring the service of Congressman Phil Crane and honoring the service of Congressman Lane Evans to honor another gentleman, another public servant from Macoupin County, Illinois, who also passed away unexpectedly at the age of 50 this week. His name is Brad Demuzio. Brad was the son of longtime State Senator—an institution in central Illinois—Vince Demuzio.

I got to know Brad when I got the chance to meet his dad, Vince, and Vince was a powerhouse in Illinois politics. We didn't share the same partisan affiliation, but what we shared was friendship and opportunities to serve central Illinois together. Vince passed away from colon cancer a few years back, and he was succeeded in the Illinois State Senate by his wife, Deanna, who happens to currently be the mayor of Carlinville, Illinois, and somebody I am blessed enough to be able to work with today. Before her, Brad Demuzio served Macoupin County and Carlinville as mayor for multiple terms. Brad was also the director of the Illinois Secretary of State Police. Brad served in that position until he passed away unexpectedly last week. Brad was a public servant, true and true, for his community and for our communities.

There was a time in the Illinois State Capitol when we had somebody who was mentally ill walk in with a loaded gun and fire a shot that killed a friend of mine, Bill Wozniak, who was guarding the door. Brad Demuzio helped lead the charge to make sure that we created an Illinois State Capitol Police force that secured the Illinois State Capitol to ensure that Bill Wozniak was the last person to be killed in the line of duty, guarding the Illinois State Capitol. Brad Demuzio worked with our secretary of state, Jesse White, to make sure that this police force was put into action.

That is true leadership. That is public service. That is why I stand here, on the floor of the House today, to also honor my friend who died way too young, at age 50—former mayor, former director of the Illinois Secretary of State Police, and my friend, Brad Demuzio.

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So it gives me great pleasure tonight to honor these three great men because they are inspirations to me, and they are going to be inspirations to future generations of central Illinois' public servants.

Thank you, Phil Crane, for your service to this country and to our great State. Thank you, Lane Evans, for your service to this great institution. And thank you, Brad Demuzio, for your service to the great State of Illinois and Macoupin County.

And with that, I see no other Members down here to recognize the service of these great men, so, Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity to yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 14, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7675. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Fiscal Year 2015 Budget amendments to fund Overseas Contingency Operations; (H. Doc. No. 113-173); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7676. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's "Major" final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards [Regulation WW; Docket No.: R-1466] (RIN: 7100 AE-03) received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7677. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards [Docket ID: OCC-2013-0016] (RIN: 1577-AD74) received October 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7678. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Credit Risk Retention [Release No.: 34-73407; File No. S7-14-11] (RIN: 3235-AK96) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7679. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Centerville, Texas) Station KKEE, Centerville, Texas [MB Docket No.: 14-56] [RM-11718] [File No.: BMPH-20140324ADD] received October 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7680. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-099, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7681. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-111, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7682. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-084, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7683. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-085, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7684. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-074, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7685. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-098, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7686. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-060, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7687. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-077, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7688. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-097, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7689. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-118, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7690. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-453, "Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7691. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-458, "Protecting Pregnant Workers Fairness Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7692. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-452, "Georgia Avenue Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Area Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7693. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-451, "Rent Control Hardship Petition Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7694. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Copayments for Medications in 2015 (RIN: 2900-AP15) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7695. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Quality Incentive Program, and Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies [CMS-1614-F] (RIN: 0938-AS13) received October 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7696. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2015 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements; and Survey and Enforcement Requirements for Home Health Agencies [CMS-1611-F] (RIN: 0938-AS14) received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7697. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Physician-Owned Hospitals: Data Sources for Expansion Exception; Physician Certification of Inpatient Hospital Services; Medicare Advantage Organizations and Part D Sponsors: CMS-Identified Overpayments Associated with Submitted Payment Data [CMS-1613-FC] (RIN: 0938-AS15) received October 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7698. A letter from the Deputy Director — ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule, Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, Access to Identifiable Data for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Models and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2015 [CMS-1612-FC] (RIN: 0938-AS12) received October 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. PELOSI):

H.R. 5696. A bill to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 5697. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retire-

ment of public servants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5698. A bill to create an independent advisory panel to comprehensively assess the leadership structure, protocols, training, tools, and capabilities of the United States Secret Service and make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 5699. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ENYART, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 5700. A bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 5701. A bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of federally recognized tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5702. A bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Ebenezer D. Bassett, the first African-American diplomat; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 5703. A bill to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk of destruction due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 5704. A bill to amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Master Teacher Corp program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 5705. A bill to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LANCE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5706. A bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals

whose citizenship has been revoked or renounced on the basis of their participation in Nazi persecution; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 5707. A bill to direct the President to take action to protect against the transmission of Ebola virus from individuals traveling to the United States from abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 5697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises * * *

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 5699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 5700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rule and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 5703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 5704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, cl. 3

The Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the states, and with Indian Tribes,

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5706.

Congress has the power to enact the legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the Power to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 171: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 303: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 318: Mr. PITTS and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 477: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 640: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 725: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 786: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 975: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1015: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1070: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. RIBBLE, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1074: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1078: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 1146: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1150: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1179: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 1250: Mr. BARTON.
H.R. 1257: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1274: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1286: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1324: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1339: Mr. NEAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 1507: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1563: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1737: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1761: Mr. HIMES, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 1981: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2003: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2028: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 2073: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2313: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2355: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 2452: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2529: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2536: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HOLT, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 2591: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2607: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 2772: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2851: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2921: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 2955: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3116: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 3172: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3279: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3322: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 3367: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3426: Mr. TONKO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 3465: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3471: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3662: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3708: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 3712: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 3836: Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KIND, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FARR, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. COOK, Mr. SALMON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3850: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3852: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 3877: Mr. TERRY, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 4145: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 4172: Mr. KIND, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4221: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4240: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4347: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4351: Mr. SESSIONS and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4418: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 4504: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4551: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 4567: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4634: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 4664: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 4693: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. WALZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4748: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 4790: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 4793: Mr. BARBER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KIND, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SIREN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VALADAO, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 4815: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 4837: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARINO, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4879: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4885: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4886: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4887: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4905: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4977: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 4991: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4998: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5014: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 5052: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 5063: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 5126: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 5133: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5182: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 5212: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 5213: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 5217: Ms. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS.
H.R. 5242: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 5262: Mr. HANNA and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 5271: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 5277: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5285: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 5287: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5288: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5336: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 5354: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5369: Mr. COOK, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5380: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 5403: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 5441: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 5450: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 5459: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 5475: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 5478: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FARR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5480: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 5484: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 5494: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5544: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 5551: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 5559: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 5580: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5611: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 5617: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5644: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 5646: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 5650: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5656: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5665: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 5680: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 5682: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 72: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 109: Mr. KENNEDY and Mrs. CAPPS.
H. Res. 147: Mr. BYRNE.

H. Res. 319: Mr. LEVIN.	H. Res. 711: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr.	TINGS of Florida, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DELBENE,
H. Res. 456: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr.	MARINO, Ms. WATERS, Ms. LEE of California,	Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. MENG.
DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. GUTHRIE.	Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr.	H. Res. 728: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HANNA, Mr.
H. Res. 584: Mr. COURTNEY.	GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. CASTOR of	SCHRADER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KING of
H. Res. 667: Mr. GRIJALVA.	Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HAS-	Iowa.

SENATE—Thursday, November 13, 2014

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. George S. Dillard III, pastor of Peachtree City Christian Church of Peachtree City, GA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, You are the maker of us all. You are sovereign over every nation. You are the giver of wisdom, and Your wisdom teaches all of us and most certainly our leaders in this Senate, whom I lead in prayer today.

I ask You to help them to heed Your wisdom which teaches all of us to be humble, to help them seek humility, to be honest with themselves first, then each other and then us, to be just and seek justice for all. Teach them to hunger and thirst for righteousness and not self-righteousness, to embrace repentance when they fall. Most of all, teach them to walk in integrity and not to fear accountability and most of all to seek unity and not position. Have mercy on us. Give us grace. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth, in this Nation, and in this Senate, as it is in Heaven.

Through Jesus, I lift this prayer to You, O God.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. It is my understanding the Senator from Louisiana has a unanimous consent request.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent to have up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I note that we are going to have some discussions between the leaders about the agenda coming up. I would like to take a few minutes to make it perfectly clear that I think one of the first

steps we need to take to assure voters that we have heard the message and that I myself have heard that message is to get our work done on the floor of the Senate.

I am a centrist. I am a proud centrist. The record expresses that I am a centrist. As I have said a thousand times on the floor and 10,000 times at home, I have been part of the coalition that has helped make this place work when it did, and I have been part of the coalition that has tried to make this place work even when it didn't. The record is clear. I don't have to say more about that.

But yesterday when I arrived in Washington thinking that it would be a very good time to begin our work and came to the Senate floor, I was actually very surprised that neither leader on either side—neither HARRY REID nor MITCH MCCONNELL—was prepared to move us to a vote that is so obvious that we should do and has been obvious for a long time, and that vote is on the Keystone Pipeline.

As chair of the energy committee, I moved this out of my committee months ago—I said I would, and I did—and worked every day that I could to get this vote up on the Senate floor.

I wish to submit for the RECORD and talk for a few minutes about it because I came here at 2:00 yesterday—it has been 24 hours. What a difference 24 hours can make when a Senator is willing to stand up and speak and lead. My leadership didn't give me permission to do this. Nobody asked me to do it. And I waited for MITCH MCCONNELL and JOHN CORNYN to call for a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, and neither one of them did.

I would like to read what Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday because at 4:00 he is going to come to the floor and try to convince us he said something else. But the reporters have the RECORD, I have the transcript, and I am going to take just a minute to read it now.

I am going to get to that in just 1 second because I have it, but I am going to paraphrase it now while the staff brings it to me.

MITCH MCCONNELL came to the floor—and I was here when he spoke, so I know it pretty well—he came to the floor, and then he took a few bows for the win, and then he said there is some work we need to do in this lameduck session. He did not mention the Keystone Pipeline. It is not in the transcript. He said three things: He said something about the budget, he said something about retroactive taxes, and he said a third thing. I will read the

transcript into the RECORD in just a minute.

So I waited patiently, hoping he would say something about the Keystone Pipeline since it was talked about a lot on the campaign trail last year, but he didn't. He said that he has his agenda and that it was clear there were a few things we had to do in the lameduck, but the Keystone Pipeline wasn't one of them. So I was disappointed.

I had to wait for the second leader on the Republican side, JOHN CORNYN, to speak. There is a likely transcript that he has—here it is. Here is the McConnell transcript. This is what Mr. MCCONNELL said yesterday. This is 24 hours later, after this Senator stood on the floor and made some pretty pointed remarks about the leadership on both sides here. This is 24 hours later. But this is what Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday:

In the weeks that remain in this Congress, we should work to accomplish the essential task of funding the Congress and preventing retroactive tax increases. We must address the expiring authority passed earlier this session for the Department of Defense to train and equip moderate, vetted Syrian opposition, and we must continue to support the efforts to address the Ebola crisis.

No mention of Keystone. Not one. If I were the leader of the majority party and came back and said there is some unfinished business, after talking incessantly about Keystone for the last 6 years, the first thing I would do is say—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent for 5 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We can have a short Thanksgiving break. We don't have to have a long break for Christmas. The problem is we haven't been working.

Here is my list. He mentioned three things; Keystone was not on them.

Then, to shorten this, JOHN CORNYN, the Senator from Texas, came to the floor and he gave a very long list. He did in fact mention Keystone, but it was in the context of, as soon as we convene again in January—a long list—we will vote on Keystone.

I came to the floor yesterday and said that was not good enough to the leader of my leadership and the leadership of the Republican Party and said: You know what, I would like to vote on Keystone now.

So yesterday, because I gave that speech and because the public wants us to do this—more than I, the public

wants a vote on Keystone and has wanted it for a long time. The House of Representatives took the bill that Senator HOEVEN and I had drafted, stripped the language of theirs, which would never have passed the Senate of the United States and would never have gotten to the President's desk, and put our language in—like I would be upset about that. I am not upset about that. I am happy about that. I am grateful that I was able yesterday, in 3 hours, to move the leadership of the Democrats in the Senate, the leadership of the Republicans in the Senate, the Republican leadership in the House to get a vote on Keystone on Tuesday.

So I am going to come back and say more about this, but for the reporters who are not used to people being as direct as I am being now, go read the transcript for yourselves so when they call press conferences later today and claim victory, please remember who was on this floor talking about it. MITCH MCCONNELL didn't mention it—the transcript is right here—did not mention the word "Keystone." JOHN CORNYN mentioned the word "amnesty" several times and "Keystone" once. I am the Senator who came to this floor as chair of the energy committee to say: Let's get our business done; let's start now. And that is what we are going to do. I am glad we are going to be voting very soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE GUEST

CHAPLAIN DR. GEORGE DILLARD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise today to welcome my friend and fellow Georgian, Dr. George Dillard—who is the senior minister at the Peachtree City Christian Church in Peachtree City, GA—as he prayed so eloquently, as is our tradition here in the Senate. I am very pleased Dr. Dillard had a chance to come join us today.

He and his wife Renee have been married for 26 years and have three children: Tiffany, Alexis, and Stewart. I appreciate them sharing him with us today.

George has been my dear friend for many years. I have had the opportunity to pray with him in public, pray with him in private, and hear him preach in his church. He is a very eloquent individual and such a great Christian public servant in that he is so active not just in the Peachtree City Christian Church but all over the community of Peachtree City. He has been the guest Chaplain across the Capitol with our neighbors, the House of Rep-

resentatives, on a couple of occasions. He regularly is the guest pastor in the Georgia Legislature under the gold dome in Atlanta. I am very pleased he is here today. I thank him for taking time to join us and for his well-spoken words getting us started in the Senate today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I wish to join the senior Senator from Georgia, who was kind enough to invite our guest Chaplain today.

George Dillard is a great chaplain in our State, a great civic leader, a great Christian leader, and a great leader in our State for many other things. He has been a dynamic chaplain in his church, a dynamic minister, and has his doctorate in biblical studies. We are delighted to welcome him to Washington, DC, where we need all the biblical help we can get. We appreciate George Dillard for his prayer, his devotion, and his faith.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent to speak immediately after the vote for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH D. MOSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOMINATION OF LEIGH MARTIN MAY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; and Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

VOTE ON MOSS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 2 minutes of debate equally divided before a vote on the Moss nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, we yield back the time on our side, and I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak on behalf of the Northern District of Georgia on the appointee, Leigh May.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object.

That is fine. Thank you.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, we yield back all time on this side.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—45

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

MAY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided before a vote on the May nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield my time to the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I thank Senator LEAHY for yielding time.

It is important that we work through the process so we can get several Georgia judges to the floor of the Senate for a vote. We have some emergency positions that need to be filled, and Senator LEAHY has been very cooperative in helping us do that. On behalf of my colleague Senator ISAKSON and myself, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the nomination of Leigh May to be a judge for the District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Ms. May is a graduate of our two flagship institutions—Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia Law School. She practiced law with the Butler Wooten firm for many years and has been involved in many high-profile cases. She brings intellect and integrity to the bench. She will be a great addition to the Northern District of Georgia, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this nominee.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield back.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baldwin	Graham	Murphy
Barrasso	Grassley	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson
Bennet	Harkin	Paul
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Pryor
Booker	Heitkamp	Reed
Boozman	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Coburn	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Lee	Toomey
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Cruz	Markey	Vitter
Donnelly	McCain	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Enzi	McConnell	Warren
Feinstein	Menendez	Whitehouse
Fischer	Merkley	Wicker
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, very quickly, I ask unanimous consent that the next vote be 10 minutes in duration, and it will be the last vote prior to a 5:30 p.m. vote on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted "no."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Cochran	Kirk	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Landrieu	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCain	Vitter
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Fischer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wicker
Franken	Moran	Wyden

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—3

Chambliss Coburn Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). On this vote the yeas are 96, the nays are 1. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014—Resumed

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to Amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to refer the House Message on the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3925, to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3926 (to the instructions) Amendment No. 3925), of a perfecting nature.

Reid Amendment No. 3927 (to Amendment No. 3926), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes; that following my remarks Senator WARREN be recognized for 2 minutes; that Senator LANDRIEU then be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN LANE
EVANS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in this week of Veterans Day, I would like to take a few moments to speak about a very brave marine who was a great friend of mine and a true champion of America's veterans. Congressman Lane Evans of Illinois passed away last Wednesday. He was only 63 years old. Lane had been battling Parkinson's disease for nearly 20 years. A few years ago, another illness, Lewy body disease, began attacking his memory. One cruel disease ravaged his body as the other assaulted his brain. But his spirit and his quiet courage remained unbroken to the end.

Lane Evans and I were both elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, two surprised Democrats who were elected in traditionally Republican, conservative, downstate congressional districts. We were both sons of blue-collar families. We both learned our values from our parents, our neighbors, the nuns and priests at school. We both learned from politicians who were leaders in our State, such as Senator Paul Simon.

Lane and I worked closely together in Congress. Parkinson's forced Lane Evans to retire from Congress in 2007, long before his time. We remained friends. I used to visit him. When I did, we would share our favorite stories about political adventures. Lane Evans was a kind and good person. He was funny, with a razor-sharp intellect, and he was courageous.

He joined the Marines 2 weeks after graduating from high school. It was 1969. Lane was 17 years old. Military service was a tradition in the Evans family. Lane's dad had served in the Navy. One of Lane's brothers was already serving in Vietnam so Lane was stationed stateside and then in Okinawa. After 2 years in the Marines, he came home and used the GI bill to earn a college degree, graduating magna cum laude from Augustana College in Rock Island. Then he earned a law degree from Georgetown. He came home again and started a successful law practice in Rock Island serving children, the poor, and working families.

In 1982, Lane Evans decided to make a run for Congress. He may have been the only person in the beginning who thought he had a prayer of winning. He had never run for office before. He was all of 31 years of age. He looked as though he was 21 on a good day. History was against him. Voters in that district had only elected a Democratic Congressman once in the previous century. That had been only for 2 years.

Lane Evans worked hard. He got lucky when the incumbent Congressman, a lifelong Republican and moderate, lost to a hard-right challenger. On election night in 1982, Lane Evans and I were both elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first

time. It was my third try to get elected. It was Lane's first. He never lost after that. He served 24 years in the House. His voting record was often to the left of many of his constituents, but he was unapologetic. Voters re-elected Lane over and over because they knew he was honest, forthright, and he cared about them. He was straightforward and sincere. People knew he was a man of principle who would always vote his conscience no matter what.

When it came to constituent service, Lane Evans set the standard. Lane and his staff were so good at cutting through bureaucratic redtape that the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee once joked that "two-thirds of the people in his district think that he signs their Social Security checks."

Lane's speeches were always packed and not because he was a great speaker. People came to Lane's speeches because of what happened after. He never left a speech until everyone in the audience who wanted to speak to him had their chance. Lane's dad was a firefighter, his mom a nurse.

In the blue-collar neighborhood where he grew up, their steady incomes made the Evans family better off than most of their neighbors. As a young lawyer and Member of Congress, Lane Evans fought for people such as the parents of his childhood friends who worked shifts in factories and fire houses. He was a champion of blue-collar workers and senior citizens.

Lane fought for fair trade, a fair minimum wage, and the right to collectively bargain. He worked for a cleaner environment and protection of family farmers. He fought to give students from working-class families the same chance he had to get a good college education. He was a giant on the House Armed Services Committee. He understood the Rock Island Arsenal was more than just an arsenal for our Nation's defense, it was a major, important employer in his district. Most of all—most of all—Lane Evans fought for veterans. This week of Veterans Day is a good time to remember how much Lane Evans of Illinois meant to America's veterans and their families. He made veterans's concerns the cornerstone of his congressional career. He was the first chairman of the Vietnam-era Veterans Congressional Caucus and the first Vietnam-era veteran to serve as ranking member of the House Veteran's Affairs Committee.

He was also the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. During his time in Congress, there was no Federal program for veterans that did not bear Lane Evans' mark. Veterans today enjoy increased education benefits, improved health care, strengthened home loans, judicial review of their benefits, additional opportunities for veteran-owned busi-

nesses, and a host of other improved benefits because of the leadership, determination, and heart of Lane Evans.

From his earliest days in Congress, Lane Evans pushed for action on issues helping Vietnam veterans. He was an outspoken advocate to address the problems and embarrassment of the homeless and substance abuse among Vietnam veterans. In his first term he led the effort to create a pilot program establishing community-based veterans centers to help with job and marriage counseling and post-traumatic stress syndrome long before it was a popular term.

The program has since grown to include veterans centers all across America. Lane Evans led the fight to give compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and for their kids born with spina bifida as a result of that exposure. It was not just his war that concerned him. He was one of the first Members of Congress to push for more information about the Gulf War Syndrome. He supported increased opportunities for women in the military, an early supporter for full civil rights for gays in the military.

Paul Rieckhoff, the CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, here is what he said about Lane:

In the early days of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Lane was one of the first members of Congress to take on issues like PTSD and TBI.

Traumatic brain injury.

He helped put our issues on the map.

Lane Evans worked to include Parkinson's research as part of funding for the VA, to make sure veterans suffering from this disease received the best possible care. He worked with Senator LEAHY, then-Senator Hagel, and the Vietnam Veterans of America to push for a U.S. and international ban on the production of antipersonnel landmines.

He was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1990. In 1994, the AMVETs gave him the Silver Helmet Award, known as the "Oscar" of veterans' honors.

This is how Lane explained his commitment to veterans. He said:

Our veterans—those returning from Iraq, those who scaled the cliffs above the beaches of Normandy, those who walked point in the jungles of Vietnam, those who survived the brutality of Korea and other battlefields, all who honorably served or who are now serving, have earned the assurance that VA—their system—will be there when they need it. "Just as we practice on the battlefield that we leave no one behind, we should not slam the door on any veteran who needs the VA system."

The best way we can honor Lane Evans' memory is by more than just a speech on the floor of the Senate, it is to continue his work on behalf of America's veterans, continue to work to make the VA responsive to the massive number of disability claims that

have been filed since Iraq and Afghanistan, and make sure every veteran receives respect, health care, job training, and the opportunities they have earned.

There is another way we can honor this champion of veterans; that is, by naming the year-old VA medical center in Galesburg, IL, the Lane A. Evans VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. This center is in the heart of what was Congressman Lane Evans' congressional district for so many years.

Nearly 4,000 veterans a year seek services there. I am honored it is a bipartisan effort to name this center after Congressman Evans, led in the House by Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS. Lane used to say he loved the Marines because the Marines salute their lowest members. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring one of the Marines' finest members by supporting this proposal to name the VA outpatient clinic in Galesburg, IL, in honor of Congressman Lane Evans.

Lane Evans was laid to rest at the Rock Island Arsenal on the date of the 239th anniversary of the Marine Corps. I remember so many years ago—18 years ago—when Lane and I were in a Labor Day parade in Galesburg, IL. I did not think much of it at the time. It was just another parade in another campaign. Lane told me later that he noticed something was wrong on that date. As he was waving his left hand, he realized it was numb and he had no feeling.

He continued to work even after he had been diagnosed with early Parkinson's. It made it difficult for him to stand without pain or to even smile easily. He never, ever complained. When his legs locked up when he was in terrible pain, he would tell his closest friends: I am so lucky. I couldn't carry mail, I couldn't be a meat cutter, but I can still do my job as a Congressman.

As we say in Illinois, thank heavens for Lane Evans, and I thank the good Lord he devoted so much of his life in Congress to the people he loved in his district and to the veterans of America.

I offer my condolences to Lane's family, especially his three brothers, to his brothers and sisters in arms, and to all of us who loved him and were touched by his gentle life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

REMEMBERING TOM MENINO

Ms. WARREN. I rise today to honor a departed friend and committed public servant, Tom Menino. He was a devoted husband to Angela, loving father to Susan and Tom Junior, and adoring grandfather to six grandchildren.

For 20 years Tom served as mayor of Boston and led the resurgence of our city. He believed in economic growth and building communities, fighting for hospitals, scientific research, and inno-

vation, while simultaneously strengthening our neighborhoods, expanding our parks, and knitting diversity into a community of equals.

Mayor Menino succeeded because he knew all along that our fortunes depend on our working together as one people, one community, one Boston, and he did everything he could to create that united Boston.

Reports are that Mayor Menino had personally met more than half the residents of Boston, and we believe it. In our happy moments—Red Sox championships—and in our darkest moments—when smoke arose at Copley Square—we knew we could always count on Tom Menino to be there.

Mayor Menino's Boston lived up to the vision of its founders: a city that all eyes can see is a model for the country and for the world.

On behalf of a grateful people, I urge my colleagues to come together to pass a resolution that was introduced only yesterday by Senator MARKEY and me celebrating the life of Mayor Tom Menino.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank my colleagues for allowing a 10-minute discussion today by unanimous consent on an important issue the Congress is taking up today.

On the House side, debate on the Keystone Pipeline is starting, and I understand there could potentially be a vote as early as tomorrow. I am so pleased to have been one of the spark plugs that helped to get us moving not in the next Congress but in this lame-duck session of this Congress.

The American people spoke loudly and clearly not only in my State of Louisiana but around the country, wanting us to work together to get the job done.

I was very pleased that the Republican leadership brought to the floor the early childhood education bill that Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER has been leading. It is a very important bill. I, frankly, don't think it is more important than the Keystone Pipeline, however. So I was pleased yesterday to come to the floor and offer, as chair of the energy committee, my own priority list of what I think is most important. I say that with sincerity because I actually support both very strongly.

I have several amendments to Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER's bill which have not been adopted and which I understand, unfortunately, will not be allowed for debate. So I don't know if I will be able to vote for cloture on his bill, although I strongly support it. My record is as strong as anyone's in this Chamber. So I will be interested to see if amendments to the Lamar Alexander bill will be allowed on the floor. I am hoping they will. If I can get at least a

vote on the amendments I have pending to that bill, I will absolutely—whether my amendments pass or fail—vote for it because it is the will of the body and we must do something. We must invest more money. We must have more quality programs for early childhood education. It is an absolute cornerstone of strengthening and building the middle class.

In my State, that is what we are focused on, and I can't go anywhere without people telling me: Senator, thank you for your fight for education. Senator, thank you for your fight for early childhood education. Senator, thank you for fighting to take student loans down from 11 percent—the rate on student loans—to 3 percent.

On almost every day of this last election cycle, that is what I was talking about at home, and I know Members who were in elections or even not in elections heard clearly from the American people, during the time we were home working, how much what we do in Congress can matter, can make a difference in their lives. They don't want government intrusion, but they do want government to function so they can get a good college education, so they can get good job training, so they can start businesses that can grow profits for themselves and their communities.

I look forward to that debate, and I am very happy the Republican leadership rushed to the floor to put down a bill on early childhood education because I think they heard from the American people that just talking about tax cuts for the wealthy, tax cuts for people making over \$1 million a year, and tax policy—yes, it is important, but what is very important is fighting for the middle class.

I say congratulations to Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee. That is the first bill the Republicans have put down in this lame-duck, and I look forward to working with him.

But the first bill that we put down and I put down as chair of the energy committee—unusual for Democrats because we don't have our whole caucus supporting it, but we have a good strong part of our caucus supporting it—is a bill that is going to actually create immediate high-impact jobs for this country today, soon, as it is being built. As soon as this bill passes and as soon as the President signs it into law, there will be an immediate, dramatic push from the oil and gas industry and from the energy industry broadly—alternative energies, wind, solar, coal, and clean coal technologies—because the vote on Keystone and the President's signature on Keystone is a signal, a strong signal, it is a green light that America is ready to go, that we are following the science, that we are following our process, that we are respecting private property rights. And, yes, we are respecting States in their

views of where these pipelines should be sited. No State—not Nebraska, not West Virginia, and not Louisiana—wants to be told by the Federal Government where pipelines are coming through on private property. No State. So Nebraska does have an issue that has to be resolved. They have an issue that has to be resolved about where that pipeline should be laid, and the Republican Party should most certainly respect States rights on where that pipeline should be laid.

The bill Senator HOEVEN and I have acknowledges that process. It also acknowledges private property rights, and it says it is time to build the Keystone Pipeline.

This was not a last-week election wake-up call; I have been working on passing the Keystone Pipeline before I was the chairman, all during my chairmanship, years ago, as a senior member of the committee, and now as chair. I have not stopped and came very close to getting a vote on this floor before the election. Frankly—and the reporters should know this—it was really held up by the politics of both sides. That is not what is said, but that is the actual truth—the politics of both sides. I see Senator MANCHIN on the floor, who is a strong supporter, and he might talk a little bit about that. Both sides have some blame as to why we couldn't get to a vote, but I will let the record speak for itself.

This is the pipeline. This is what has to be built. As you can see, it doesn't come into Louisiana, but it most certainly impacts my State. It impacts the entire country.

These are already pipelines that we have in America. This is just another important pipeline because it connects Canada—our greatest ally and our great economic partner—with the refining strength of America, which is not only in Louisiana and Texas but primarily in Louisiana and Texas. It begins to move a great product, produced with the highest environmental standards in the world, approved by this administration's environmental department saying it meets the environmental standards of transportation, et cetera, and it meets the standards of this administration's State Department when it comes to, is it in America's interests. They said yes, it is in America's interests. That standard has been met. So let's build the pipeline.

I came to the floor yesterday. The Republicans brought their early childhood education bill to the floor. I am so proud they did. I brought Keystone Pipeline. Because I did, it seemed to have moved lots of things, which I am pleased about, and I think the Senator from West Virginia may wish to comment. But it seemed to have shaken up a few things and moved a few things, and that is good because Senators who are energetic and motivated and can build coalitions—like Senator MANCHIN

and I do every day when we are here—can actually get things done.

Mr. MANCHIN. Will the Senator yield?

Ms. LANDRIEU. I yield to the Senator from West Virginia for a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Let me say to all of our colleagues and all of my friends on the Republican side and my friends on the Democratic side that this is the greatest opportunity we have had in the 4 years since I have been in the Senate to have truly a jobs bill, a quality jobs bill that pays high wages. Almost every State in the Nation benefits by the Keystone Pipeline.

If you want to take politics out of this, take all of our names off. Senator LANDRIEU says take her name off. Take my name off. Take everybody's name off, and let's find out who really rises to help Americans.

This is one bill that we have been trying to bring to the forefront. Senator LANDRIEU has brought it how many times? She was the first person—I said yesterday—who, 4 years ago when I came to the Senate, explained to me how important it was and how it interconnected all of us. I am very appreciative of that.

Now MARY is in the political fight of her life. I pray to the good Lord that the good people of Louisiana understand the fighter she is and what she produces for America every day.

With all that being said, she is willing to take her name off if this piece of legislation will move forward so that the Presiding Officer in Montana and I in West Virginia can get some high-quality jobs. We all benefit from this.

Next, it makes our Nation secure. If you want to protect your people, have a secure nation and don't go chasing energy all over the world. It takes us places we don't want to be and shouldn't be. This does all of that as far as securing our energy and making us energy independent.

But I just saw after the election—and we accept that. I am on the Democratic side. I heard loud and clear the people of West Virginia and the changes they want. What they really told us is: We want you all to do something. If you have a chance to help us with a good job, do it. Don't argue over your politics. It seems as if you are more concerned about your own status of being a politician or being an elected official than you are about mine, which is basically paying my bills, taking care of my family, and being able to be a good American.

What we are saying, we thought we heard that loud and clear. So I will say to all of my friends on the Republican side and all of us on the Democratic side, take a moment and listen to what was just told to us. What was told to us is to do our job—that is what Senator LANDRIEU was trying to do—move this

important piece of legislation forward and do the job we are supposed to.

The best politics is good government. If we do something good as a Republican and as a Democrat, we all get credit for it. We do something bad, and then we try to blame each other—who did it worse than the other. We all get blamed for it. This is the best thing we have had for the last 4 or 5 years. We have had a hard time getting to this point, to almost get a vote for it, and now they want to say: Well, one-upmanship—we will see if it can come over from the House side with a person who is involved in a race against Senator LANDRIEU. Forget about those people.

Forget about all of us who cosigned and cosponsored this bill, apparently.

Just pass it. Give us a vote and pass it. That is all we are asking for. I think if we do that, the people will say: I think they heard us, and I think they are starting to do something. That is why I am on the floor with Senator LANDRIEU and the people willing to fight for the jobs that Americans need—not just in Louisiana but in West Virginia, too, and also in Montana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 10 minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to close.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I think the Senator pointed out some key points—not only how important this pipeline is for the middle of America but for the economy of the whole country.

The pipeline and the supplies that are coming and the workers to build this pipeline come from all over the country. The businesses that supply the gadgets, the widgets, the steel, the trucks, the forklifts, the equipment, the cranes that come to build this pipeline come from all over the country.

But more important than the pipeline itself, which is going to move hundreds of thousands of barrels of crude oil from Canada—which we would much prefer to deal with and trade with, than, let's say, Venezuela or some other countries that don't share our values. More importantly than that, it is going to transport it in the safest way.

Without this pipeline, this oil will be produced. We cannot stop Canada from producing it. They are going to produce it, and it is going to be moved east and west by rail or moved south by truck. We cannot put any more trucks on our highways, and we can't crowd our rails.

I know there are people, like my good friend from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, who is going to surely speak against this pipeline and why, from his perspective, it is not the right thing to do. And I respect those views. I strongly disagree with him, but I respect him.

I strongly disagree with his arguments—and we will have this debate in the coming days—and I respect him.

But the point is this. Whether you support the Senator from Massachusetts' or you support the Senator from Louisiana's views, the point is we need to vote. That is the process. I believe we have the 60 votes on this floor to pass this bill. I believe we have always had the votes to pass this bill, if we can just get it to a vote.

Now, as is the process, the Senate has to pass the bill, it has to go to the House, and then it has to go to the President. He can sign it or he can veto it. I do not have at this date any indication that he will veto this bill. He could issue a veto warning on it in an hour, he could do it tomorrow, he could do it next week. That is not the point.

The point is the Senate must begin to be the Senate again. Let the President worry about being the President. Let the House worry about being the House. Let the Senate be the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Let the Senate be the Senate. That is what my voters said. I think that is what voters in Tennessee said. I think that is what voters in North Carolina said, and I think that is what the voters in Massachusetts said. Let the Senate be the Senate.

We are the greatest deliberative body in the world. Let's debate. Let's vote. Let's get the work done. Let the chips fall where they may. The public can accept that. They cannot accept—and they should not have to accept—gridlock, game playing, and raw politics on the great floor of this Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I respect the Senator from Louisiana, and there is no more fierce advocate for this pipeline in our country. She has been a relentless advocate for that pipeline. I am not going to speak on this issue today, but I look forward to a much more extensive debate that we will have next week. But there is no one more vulnerable than the Senator from Louisiana in her advocacy.

REMEMBERING TOM MENINO

I rise today to speak about Tom Menino, our great mayor from the city of Boston who just passed in the last month. He always looked out for the little guy. He always stayed true to the people who elected him, and he stuck by his principles.

In every neighborhood across the city, Boston mourns the loss of our

great mayor, Tom Menino. We mourn along with his wife Angela, his family, and everyone who ever was touched by Mayor Menino. But we will fill that void with the love and respect that we have for the life and the legacy of this extraordinary man.

Boston loves Tom Menino because Tom Menino loved Boston with all of his heart. Tom Menino wasn't satisfied with leading the best city in America. He wanted Boston to be the best city in the world. He was an urban architect without equal, attuned to every detail in every neighborhood. He forged a more inclusive Boston, where diversity is embraced. Tom Menino was everyone's mayor.

In a poll a few years back, half of all Bostonians in the poll said they had personally met Tom Menino. That really captures how Tom Menino approached his job, but we all know how he viewed those poll results—that his job was only half done.

Yet Mayor Menino's vision for Boston was global, and he pushed the city into a new era of innovation. He helped our shining city on a hill illuminate its light of innovation across the world, building a beacon of entrepreneurship and ingenuity. He laid the foundation for Boston's economic leadership in the 21st century, including spearheading Boston's Innovation District and developing the seaport area.

The Innovation District is supporting the companies and industries that are creating jobs today, and Mayor Menino has ensured that Boston will continue to be a national leader in biotechnology, clean energy, and health care for generations to come. He did all of this while keeping Boston's historic character alive. Tom knew what potholes needed filling, but he also knew when to leave the cobblestones alone.

So today, if you take a drive around Boston—or, as Tom would want you to do, take a bike ride—you would see there is no place in Boston that hasn't felt the caring imprint of Tom's hand: kids playing on new playgrounds in safer neighborhoods; poor communities with better access to life-saving health care; entrepreneurs and investors collaborating on the next big thing.

Boston will move into the future a stronger, brighter, safer, and healthier city because of Tom Menino. So today we honor his life and his legacy. Tom Menino is a man and a mayor for the ages.

Rest in peace, Mayor Tom Menino.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2650

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I will be asking a unanimous consent request to bring up S. 2650, the Corker-Graham-McCain-Ayotte-Rubio legislation. Senator MURPHY, I think, is going to speak here in a second, but if I may do two things: I wish to reserve 20 minutes of

time to be divided between myself, Senator CORKER, and Senator RUBIO to speak about the topic. But I would now like to make a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the two leaders, but no later than November 24, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2650, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate. Further, if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, just to make a few brief comments prior to my colleagues speaking on their request on the underlying bill, it is my understanding that the request is to bring a bill to the floor that would create an extraconstitutional process by which the House and the Senate would convene on a possible statement or resolution of disapproval on an agreement that has heretofore not been negotiated between the United States and our allies and Iran with respect to that country's nuclear program and nuclear ambitions.

I think we are all of one mind in that we are hopeful that these negotiations are concluded successfully, that we are able to stand together and say that we have used diplomacy rather than military might in order to dislodge from Iran any prospect of obtaining a nuclear weapon. But we are at an absolutely critical moment in these negotiations, and I believe the underlying bill which is being asked to be brought to the floor today would undermine those negotiations by sending a message that Congress does not stand with the President as he and his team negotiate these final agreements.

There is going to be a legitimate question as to what Congress's role is, but we won't know that until we see the agreement. We won't know whether it rises to the level of a treaty. We won't know whether we need to pass legislation to immediately repeal sanctions versus having them temporarily suspended. This bill has not gone through the committee process.

While it raises, I think, some legitimate questions of what Congress's role is going to be, if there is ultimately an agreement worked out between the P5+1 and Iran, it is premature at this point to set into law a process by which we would vote an agreement up or down until we understand what the agreement is in the first place.

That is my primary reason for standing here and ultimately registering an objection. I do worry as well that it would send a fairly chilling message to our negotiators and to those who are in the room if the signal is that the Congress is not giving the full authority to this President under the Constitution in order to negotiate an agreement which is ultimately going to be, we hope, to the benefit of the United States and global security.

I know my colleagues have time constraints and want to speak on this underlying bill. So, with that, I object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Objection is heard.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague very much for speaking in a way so we can all have time on the issue.

No. 1, about the chilling messages, this is a chilling message from the Supreme Leader of Iran about 3 days ago: Nine questions about the elimination of Israel. In this tweet—and I will read some of it later—the Ayatollah, the Supreme Leader in Iran, talks about how to annihilate the State of Israel during the negotiations.

Also, recently an IAEA inspector was talking about elements of the Iranian nuclear program that have been hidden that would make it larger than we all suspect.

What are we trying to do? I would like to bring the Iranian nuclear program to an end through peaceful means, and by an end, I mean the following: I would welcome a deal that would allow the Iranians to produce peaceful nuclear power but without the capability of turning that program into a weapons program.

I fear that we are on the road to a North Korean outcome, where the international community gave a rogue regime a small nuclear program to be monitored by the United Nations—and the rest is history regarding North Korea.

I have asked several times to the administration: Tell me the safeguards that exist in these negotiations with Iran that did not exist in North Korea, and I have yet to get an answer.

It is pretty openly known that the administration and the P5+1 have conceded a right to enrich uranium as part of any deal with Iran. To that I say: Of all the nations on Earth, given their behavior, name one country that you would put in the category ahead of Iran when it comes to denying them the ability to have a centrifuge that one day could be used to make a weapon. The idea of giving an enrichment capability to the Iranians, given 30 years of lying, deceit, American blood on their hands, and recent tweets about annihilating Israel to me is insane.

So all we are asking is that any deal negotiated between the P5+1 come to this body for a discussion and a vote.

Senator CORKER is the primary author of this legislation.

Here is what I can tell the world: Nobody wants any more war. But we do not want to allow the Iranians, given their behavior, the capability one day to develop a nuclear weapon, and that is exactly what they have been trying to do. They have lied about their program. They have been deceptive about their program. They have blood on their hands when it comes to killing Americans in Iraq. They are one of the largest state sponsors of terrorism in the world.

The idea that we would give them an enrichment capability just astounds me. We are telling our allies—South Korea, and the UAE: If you want a nuclear program, fine—don't enrich the uranium.

There are 15 nations in the world that have nuclear programs without an enrichment capability. To concede one to the Iranians is the ultimate act of throwing the Mideast into further chaos, because the Sunni Arabs, the mortal enemy of the Shia Persians, will want a capability of their own of like kind or greater. The worst possible outcome is to give a regime this dangerous the capability or the potential to one day make a bomb. One centrifuge in the hands of people with this mentality is one too many.

To the Iranian people, my beef is not with you. My beef is with your leaders who have taken the world down a dark path.

This legislation is pretty simple. Bring the deal to the Senate. We will have a right to file a motion of disapproval. We will have a vote, we will have a debate, and if it is a good deal, it will be approved. If it is a bad deal, we will stop it.

I cannot imagine the Senate and the House sitting on the sidelines and ignoring something this important.

To Senator CORKER, who will soon be the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, this was his original idea. We have tried to perfect it, but what I really believe is what he tried to do months ago to make sure the Congress would have a check and balance over any deal with the Iranians was smart. It would enhance the administration's hand when it comes to negotiating because they would have to tell the Iranians, it is not just us you have to please, you have to go before the representatives of the American people. That would lead to a better outcome. If it truly is a North Korea in the making, we will have a chance to stop it.

President Obama wants a deal too badly, in my view; but at the end of the day, let's wait and see what happens. I just want to let the Iranians and the administration know beforehand, we will not sit on the sidelines and watch you go it alone. This is one decision the President will make that the Congress has to be read in on and have a

say about. This is not the time to let President Obama go it alone. The stakes are too high for Israel, for the United States, for the world at large.

What do I fear the most? I fear that over time we will give the Iranian ayatollahs the capability to develop a nuclear weapon. Name one technology they developed that they haven't shared with terrorists. And it will surely come our way.

To our friends in Israel: No Israeli mother can ever go to sleep at night thinking her children are safe and the future of that country is secure if the Iranians have a nuclear capability. When the ayatollahs say openly they wish to destroy the State of Israel, to annihilate the State of Israel, I believe they mean it. When the Jewish people say never again, they speak based on past experience.

Of all the scenarios in the world that could throw this world into a chaotic situation beyond what you see today, it would be to allow the ayatollahs a nuclear weapon. The Sunni Arabs will have one of their own. Israel will never know a minute's peace, and I fear that it would come our way.

I would like to now yield to Senator CORKER who can explain the details of the legislation, why we are asking this to be taken up before the end of negotiations.

A week from Monday the deadline comes to an end. I want everybody at the negotiating table to know this deal is so important to the United States and the world that the Congress needs to have a say. Barack Obama should not be able to make any deal with the Iranians that is binding unless the Congress approves, and the Iranians should never be allowed to have a nuclear capability, period, that could be turned into a weapon.

With that, I yield to Senator CORKER.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Senator. I want to thank the Senator from South Carolina for his distinguished leadership on so many national security issues. I understand his frustration with our inability to actually take a vote on something that is such a commonsense measure. I also respect the committee process, as you could imagine, with the role I play and wished that our committee would actually take up this piece of legislation.

I actually tried to offer something very similar to this in committee, and I actually did offer it, and the bill that was being offered, too, was taken down and no votes taken, because, again, of not wanting to deal with this issue.

So I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for desiring to make something happen on this. As he mentioned, all of us want to ensure a successful negotiation. I cannot imagine there is a person in this body who doesn't want the negotiations between the P5+1 to end up with a good long-term conclusion. I agree based on the signals that

are being sent. There are a lot of bipartisan concerns that have been expressed on this floor by people of both sides of the aisle, because people understand that this body, along with working with the House, put in place the sanctions that have actually gotten us to the place where we are in the negotiations. The initial agreement that was put in place was so much weaker than even the U.N. security resolutions that passed over and over and over relative to Iran.

So I agree that by having us making the final say on this negotiation that it gives the administration some added strength that they were unable to show in the beginning. Obviously Iran is trying to tilt toward those within their own body, their own citizens, who certainly are concerned about negotiations and continue to bring that out throughout the negotiations. It seems to me that Congress would be an outstanding countervailing force. And obviously something of this magnitude—especially when Congress brought us to the table—this is the kind of thing that should be weighed upon.

What the bill would do is obviously give us the opportunity within a defined amount of time to vote up or down on whether we agree that this should be put in place. It also puts in place some enforcement mechanisms. Then it also puts a clock on the negotiations, so, again, we cannot have these continual extensions.

I recently read the newest book Henry Kissinger wrote. It was a great book to read, but it put in place one of the chapters that focused on these Iran negotiations and lays out the fact—and I know the distinguished Presiding Officer today knows this well because he focuses so much on nuclear issues and, like me, is very concerned about proliferation around the world. I have enjoyed working with him on the Foreign Relations Committee. Interestingly, one of the chapters lays out the progression that occurs. And Iran, just by stalling each time these negotiations take place, ends up in a better place. Again, I think all of us were very shocked with the interim agreement that was put in place first. I think this is a very commonsense piece of legislation.

Let me point out something my friend from South Carolina did not point out. Without this, this is what is going to possibly happen—I hope it doesn't, but possibly happen. The administration can enter into a deal. The way we have crafted the sanctions, no permanent—no permanent—arrangement can be made to undo the sanctions. Only Congress can do that. But the way the sanctions regime has been put in place, the President in many cases does have the ability on a temporary basis to do away with the sanctions. It is evident that the administration very much wants something to

happen. I want to see something happen, but the way this has gone, it appears they want something to happen that possibly will not stand the test of time.

Let's say they enter into an arrangement by November 24. They undo the sanctions temporarily. If that happens, basically the work that has been done around here for years is over. It is done because it will be impossible from a practical standpoint to ever get those sanctions back in place, especially sanctions with the many other countries that are involved.

So if the President enters into an agreement and temporarily does away with sanctions, I think everybody in this body understands it is going to be almost impossible for those to be put back in place. So the damage is already done. And that is why it is so important from my perspective, with Congress having played the role that Congress has played to help put us into this position, very important for Congress to have the opportunity to have the congressional review this bill lays out.

Look, I think it is pretty evident with the denying, if you will, of this bill coming to the floor, which was expected, I think it is very evident that Congress is not going to have the opportunity between now and the 24th to weigh in. It is my hope that somehow if these negotiations unfortunately end up putting us in a very bad place—I hope that doesn't happen. I hope the outcome is much better than what is anticipated. But if it ends up unfortunately being something that is not good for our country, I hope what will happen is the next time we ask to bring this bill up—because of time being of the essence, the next time it would be brought up, hopefully Members of this body would agree that Congress would weigh in in a rightful manner. Congress would weigh in to make sure we don't enter into a deal as a nation that puts us in a very bad place in the longer term relative to what Iran is doing.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak. I do not see Senator RUBIO here in the body.

I yield the floor. It is my sense that Senator RUBIO may come down and want to speak to this.

But I do want to say in closing, all of us here hope the administration puts our Nation and the world in a place to know that Iran will not have the capability of developing nuclear weapons. That is what this piece of legislation is about. Without it, I hope the administration still does that, obviously, and that we wake up on November 25 surprised—but happily surprised—that we ended up in a place that will stand the test of time.

I yield the floor and it has been a while, but I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded and that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as you know—and many know—I have come to the floor now on several occasions since we arrived back here at 2 p.m. yesterday to talk about an important piece of legislation I have cosponsored with Senator HOEVEN. I understand Senator HOEVEN is going to be speaking about the Keystone Pipeline in a few moments, and the Republicans have reserved some time to speak this afternoon. I will only take 5 minutes and will stay as the discussion on the Keystone Pipeline goes forward.

Yesterday at 2 o'clock I came to the floor of the Senate when the Senate opened to say how important I thought it was that we listen and hear what the voters said not only in my State but in Kentucky, Texas, South Dakota, North Dakota, and all over the country. Regardless of whether the people were Democrats, Republicans, left or right or center, they want us to get our job done.

I think one of the most important jobs we have as Senators is to vote, and I have been frustrated, along with many Members on both sides of the aisle, about why we have not been able to vote on some very important pieces of legislation.

This is one of the most important pieces of legislation, and that is why I came down at 2 o'clock to claim time at my seat. I have been here for 18 years. This is Louisiana's seat. One of the things we have to talk about right now—not next year or not next week—is the Keystone Pipeline.

I know the Presiding Officer and other Members of this body, mostly on the Democratic side, are not strong supporters and have expressed that view. I understand it, I respect it, but I don't agree with it. It is time for us to have a vote.

Because of the advocacy yesterday when the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from North Dakota, Senator HETKAMP—she has been a very strong and effective advocate. I wish to give a shout-out to both of my colleagues from West Virginia and North Dakota. They have been tireless in their effort to try and build a 60-vote margin.

In the old days we could pass bills with just 51 votes, and some people want to go back to that. I have mixed feelings about it, but it would be great if we could pass things by a simple majority. But the rules of the Senate which we operate under—and have not requested to change, and I don't believe

will change any time in the near future—requires us to have 60 votes.

We worked and worked and worked to try to get 60 votes. Since May, if we could just get this vote to the floor, I believe we have the 60 votes to pass it. It looks like that is going to happen, and I could not be happier. I could not be more grateful to the House of Representatives for taking up not their bill but Senator HOEVEN's bill and my bill. They are debating it right now, and I believe we will pass it.

I don't know how many Democrats will vote for that bill, but I think there will be some Members who will vote for that bill. I don't know how many, but I believe there are 60 votes in this Senate to pass the Keystone Pipeline bill and send it to the President's desk.

What President Obama does with it, I don't know. I am urging him to sign it. Seventy-five percent of the people in our country want this Keystone Pipeline built. There are jobs at stake. It is a signal that America is ready to be energy independent.

When I say "energy independent"—to my good friend, the Presiding Officer from Massachusetts—I, of course, mean more oil and gas. I am from an oil-and-gas State. We have coal States, but we also have States that have solar and wind and drop-in fuels and new technologies.

This pipeline is a symbol that America is ready to do what it takes to become energy independent and to use our resources so we can create jobs for the middle class.

I see the Republican leader, and I appreciate that signal. So I will just conclude with my statement, but I do wish to be a part of this colloquy today, if allowed, so I may continue to talk about the importance of this issue.

I am happy the House has taken up the Hoeven-Landrieu bill—the exact language of the bill. We can call it whatever they want. They can put any name they want on the bill as long as it gets passed because that is what we need to do for the American people.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 6 long years the Obama administration has been dragging its feet on the Keystone Pipeline. For as long as anyone can remember one Senator has worked harder than any other to ensure that those feet are always held to the fire; that is, our friend the senior Senator from North Dakota.

Senator HOEVEN has been a tireless advocate for the shovel-ready jobs project. The people of North Dakota are lucky to have him in their corner. Similar to the experts, Senator HOEVEN knows the Keystone Pipeline will create literally thousands of jobs, and similar to the experts, Senator HOEVEN knows the Keystone Pipeline would have almost zero net effect on our cli-

mate, and similar to the people we represent, he understands that the Keystone Pipeline is just common sense. He has done just about everything possible to make the administration come to grips with that obvious point.

Senator HOEVEN, along with leaders in the House, such as Congressman CASSIDY, succeeded in assembling and leading an impressive Keystone coalition that literally crossed party lines. That is why the opponents of Keystone have been so afraid to allow the Senate to take a free and open vote on it, because they feared Senator HOEVEN and Congressman CASSIDY were right; that there is overwhelming bipartisan support for ending the President's blockade of these very good jobs.

After so many years of obstruction, we finally get the vote. After 6 years, we finally get the vote. We can credit the people's choice of a new Senate majority for finally getting these gears turning. But we never would have gotten to this point without the tireless leadership of Senator HOEVEN in the Senate and Congressman CASSIDY over in the House.

I wish to thank Senator HOEVEN for all of his great work on this matter. We hope we can soon celebrate a well-deserved victory for the American people.

I understand we have colleagues on the floor as well, and I will be happy to yield at this time for any thoughts or questions they may have.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I have a question, if I could ask the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Does the Senator from North Dakota have a question? I believe I have the floor, and I believe Senator HOEVEN is going to ask a question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wish to thank the minority leader, but I ask him to repeat his question.

Mr. MCCONNELL. As the Senator from North Dakota was engaged in conversation, I was talking about his leadership role in this endeavor the last 6 years and the difficulty of getting action here in the Senate. It almost seems to me as if it took an election by the American people to choose a new majority for next year to begin to get the attention of the current majority to go forward on the issue that Senator HOEVEN has been talking to us about on a virtually daily basis here for 6 years.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wish to respond to the minority leader. That has been the case, that we have worked for some time to get a vote on this important issue. We actually had passed a measure back in 2012 attached to a payroll tax holiday. At that time the President turned down the Keystone XL Pipeline project on the basis of the route in Nebraska. So that work has been done. It has been rerouted.

Some time ago, we put together a bipartisan bill. It is a bill I drafted and wrote. Senator LANDRIEU from Louisiana agreed to cosponsor it. We have all 45 Republicans on the bill, and we have 11 Democrats. We have 56 cosponsors on the legislation, but we have not been able to bring the bill to the floor. So I really had anticipated that we would have to wait until the new Congress in order to get a vote on the bill, because as the minority leader said, the American voters spoke. And particularly with the new Members we have coming, we will have more than 60 Senators who support the legislation. So I had anticipated that we would have to go into the new Congress to get a vote on the bill.

However, the cosponsor on the bill, Senator LANDRIEU, yesterday requested that we call the bill up, and she worked on her side and we have worked on our side to get unanimous consent to get a vote on the bill. So we are certainly happy to vote on this important issue for the American people. We will have a vote in the House on the very same bill. They now have taken up the very same bill. I believe it will pass easily tomorrow in the House. And then on Tuesday, we will have a vote on our bill here, S. 2280. We will have 45 Republicans, and we hope to have 15 Democrats. And if we do, we will pass the bill and send it to the President for signature.

If we don't get to the 60 votes, I believe we will still be able to bring the bill back in the new Congress and have the 60 votes. So I believe we will now be able to advance this bill to the President. The question is, What will the President do? The indication was from one of his spokespersons traveling with him yesterday that he may well veto the legislation. If that happens, I still think, again, based on the fact that the American people overwhelmingly support this legislation, that we will be able to come back, work with our colleagues on a bipartisan basis and perhaps make this legislation part of a broader energy bill, or attach it to an appropriations measure. But I think we will be able to find other legislation that we can attach approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline—this bill—to. That makes it very likely that we could either override a veto or maybe the President wouldn't veto it. Because at the end of the day, what this is all about is more energy for this country, produced here and working with our closest friend and ally, Canada.

This is about jobs. By the State Department's own environmental impact statement, 42,000 jobs. So it is about energy. It is about jobs. It is about the infrastructure we need to build the right kind of energy plan for our country. Whether one comes from North Dakota or Kentucky or Texas or Louisiana or wherever, we have to have infrastructure as part of our energy plan.

It is also about national security. Americans do not want to have to depend on getting oil from the Middle East. They want to produce it here at home, and they want to work with our closest ally, Canada, and we want the jobs and the economic activity that come with it.

So that is where we are. That is the game plan, to get this important legislation passed, and that is what this is all about. This is about moving forward on approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. When asked, the American people in the polling showed anywhere from 65 up to about 75 percent overwhelmingly support it. So that is what this issue is all about.

Now is our chance to show that we can move forward, and in a bipartisan way, and get this done for the people of this great Nation. We are hopeful that we can get it in the lameduck. That is great. We have cleared the way to get a vote, and if we can't, then we will be right back to work on it in the new Congress.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if I could, it strikes me that there was some intervening event here between the difficulty of getting a vote over the past few years and the apparent ease of getting a vote now. It strikes me—and I would be interested in the observations of my colleague from North Dakota—it strikes me this intervening event was the election and it could be that the voices of the American people have already altered the agenda in the Senate even before the Senate officially changes hands in January. Maybe the voices of the American people have finally been heard on this important issue that the Senator from North Dakota has been speaking about week after week after week for a very long time.

I would say to the Senator from North Dakota, when there is a new majority here, if we come up short between now and the end of the year, we will be back and back and back, looking for ways to make sure that the voices of the American people are heard, and all of these new jobs are created.

So I hope—the Senator from North Dakota has indicated we will come to a favorable conclusion sooner, but I assure the Senator from North Dakota that we will come to a favorable conclusion later, if not sooner.

I see the Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. McCONNELL. I will, yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I agree with the Republican leader that our leader on this issue for years now in the Senate has been the Senator from North Dakota, and North Dakota is a big energy-producing State—second, I must point out, to my State of Texas,

but they are making some rapid developments in that area, and a lot of Texans have gone temporarily to North Dakota to help them with the technology, and they are doing a great job. Believe me, it is creating a lot of jobs. These aren't minimum wage jobs, these are high-paying jobs. As a matter of fact, there are labor shortages, and what we need to do is train more people to qualify for these good, high-paying jobs.

But I wonder whether the Republican leader—or really I would be interested in anybody's point of view—beyond the election, I think there are going to have to be some changes of heart on the other side of the aisle, because as the distinguished Senator from North Dakota pointed out, we have gotten close, but never quite achieved that 60-vote goal. So if we are going to vote on this now as a result of the intervening election, there are going to have to be some folks on the other side of the aisle who are going to have to have a change of heart and vote for the bill, which I hope they do.

But this has been the main impediment—no opportunity for a vote—because the majority leader, Senator REID, has refused to grant a vote up until this point. He has changed his mind. That represents progress. But I think we have two impediments. One is the need for additional Democratic votes to actually meet that threshold; and then, as the Senator from North Dakota points out, we don't know whether the President has been chastened or has learned anything from the election, or if he is going to be influenced at all in his decision.

I know the Senator from North Dakota has been a bulldog on this issue. He is not going to let this one get away from him, nor should he, for all the reasons mentioned earlier, including the 42,000 jobs. Also, a lot of this oil, if it doesn't come in this pipeline across from Canada to the United States, most of it is going to be refined in southeast Texas and turned into gasoline and jet fuel, which is going to help bring down prices, because we will see a glut of additional supply. But if we don't use it in the United States, this is going to be shipped to China or other places that are rapidly buying natural resources.

So I would be interested if the Republican leader has a view of how we get over those final hurdles of getting Democratic votes next Tuesday to get to that 60-vote threshold. Then, how do we get the President to sign this, for a President—at least so far—who has refused to listen to the American people?

Mr. McCONNELL. I would say to my friend, we were both in an election this year and there is no question that this jobless recovery is the biggest issue in the country. Here we have had a project which has cleared all of the environmental hurdles, it has been sit-

ting around for literally 6 years, and—I don't know what the latest estimate of job creation is. I would ask my friend from North Dakota, what is the latest estimate on that? How many new people would be put to work constructing this pipeline—ready to go to work?

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, there have been a whole range of numbers offered. But I think to cut through to a number that people should be able to accept and to agree on is to take the number the State Department has put forward in the environmental impact statement. As a matter of fact, I think there have been either four or five environmental impact statements done on this project over a 6-year period, going all the way back to starting in September 2008 when TransCanada initially applied for approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which is the sister pipeline to the Keystone Pipeline, which was already built—permitted in 2 years and built in 2 years—and that happened when I was Governor. I actually started working with this project when I was Governor and it continued when I came to the Senate. But TransCanada originally applied for their permit back in September of 2008. So for 6 years this has been going on, and in the final environmental impact statement, which stated the project will have no significant environmental impact—it stated that very clearly—they also said it will create about 42,000 jobs. And these are good-paying jobs, construction jobs and other types of jobs that are good-paying jobs.

So here is a project, when we include Canada, about \$7.9 billion. It is not going to cost the government one penny—not one penny. By the State Department's own admission, it will create 42,000 jobs. It will generate hundreds of millions in tax revenue to help the States and help with our deficit and debt, and it is to move oil not only from Canada, but from my State of North Dakota and Montana to refineries in Texas and Louisiana and other places that need the crude, and right now that crude is coming from places such as Venezuela or the Middle East.

It is a job creator, and there are all of these other benefits. Again, it is an excellent example of the kind of infrastructure we need to build the energy plan this country needs.

I ask the minority leader if I have answered his question adequately.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if I may, it strikes me what the administration is best at is either destroying jobs or preventing new jobs from being created. In my State, as a direct result of the Environmental Protection Agency, we have lost 7,000 coal-mining jobs during the Obama years. For every coal-mining job, we lose three more jobs. We have a literal depression in eastern Kentucky, largely caused by the Obama Environmental Protection

Agency. So you begin to get the picture.

Whether it is preventing 42,000 people from going to work or taking the employment away from up to 21,000 Kentuckians, what this administration seems to be best at is either destroying existing jobs or preventing new jobs from being created. I am happy there was an energy bill in Texas and an energy bill in North Dakota. I am pretty darn unhappy we don't have an energy bill in Kentucky. We have a depression again as a result of this administration and its Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, would the Senator yield for another question?

Mr. McCONNELL. Yes, I would be happy to yield.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask the Senator from Kentucky—I think you described how the administration appears to not just have a war on coal but a war on hydrocarbons, a war on anything other than wind turbines and solar panels.

The President said he is for all of the above. We are a big “all of the above” State. We have a lot of sunshine and wind. We actually produce more electricity from wind energy than any other State in the country, but it is hard to understand this ideological battle against coal and oil and gas from anywhere other than just an ideological perspective.

I think the Senators have pointed out well—both the Senator from North Dakota and the Senator from Kentucky—that these are good, high-paying jobs. One of the biggest problems we have had in the country for the last 30 years has been stagnant wages.

The middle-class wage earners are not seeing their wages go up. One of the surefire ways to make them go up is to develop more domestic energy, whether it is coal or whether it is oil or gas, because these are good, high-paying jobs.

I can tell you not just in North Dakota, where I am sure it is hard for restaurants to find people to work there because there is so much demand in the oil and gas business, but the Permian Basin, in the Midland Odessa area, where I know the Senator from Kentucky visited many times, there is a shortage of labor, and wages skyrocketed because of the demand as a result of taking advantage of this natural resource.

I would just ask—obviously the Members of the Senate who have been vitally interested in this issue under the leadership of our friend, the Senator from North Dakota—it has been acknowledged, but I think it is only fair, wouldn't the Senator say, to acknowledge the leadership in the House of Representatives of Congressman BILL CASSIDY. As a matter of fact, the bill

that the House will pass tomorrow and send over here is chiefly the work product of Congressman BILL CASSIDY.

Mr. McCONNELL. It certainly is. We commend him for his good work and that bill will be headed over this way. I would also make the observation with regard to the President's approach to energy, the announcement in China yesterday which, as I read it, gives the Chinese 16 years to do anything to reduce their carbon emissions while we are going full speed ahead here, visibly destroying American jobs or trying to prevent the creation of new jobs in North Dakota.

My goodness, as I said earlier, it seems to me what this administration is best at is either destroying existing jobs or preventing new jobs from being created because of this obsession, as the Senator from Texas pointed out, with hydrocarbons of any kind.

I see the Senator from South Dakota here as well and wonder if he may have a question.

Mr. THUNE. Yes. I would say to my colleague from Kentucky—and I appreciate the leadership of our colleague from North Dakota in constantly, persistently trying to get this in the Senate for a vote. My State of South Dakota, similar to so many others, stands to benefit enormously from this. We wish we had the direct energy production that the Senator of North Dakota has. We have a lot of indirect benefit from that. In fact, the State Department, the President's own State Department—not the oil companies—the State Department has said that in my State of South Dakota it would create 3,000 to 4,000 jobs, add \$100 million to the economy, and generate \$20 million in property tax revenue.

I happen to come from a county through which the pipeline would pass, a small rural county in South Dakota. My father still lives there. He is 94 years old. The school district there is very concerned about staying open. They know that when this pipeline is built, the easement they will have to get will generate property tax revenue that very well could keep the school district going. So many of the local governments out in my area in the State are very supportive of this important project.

I guess as I have looked at this—we have now had plenty of time to look at it since it has been kicking around here for about 6 years and five now environmental impact statements, all of which came back and said they have minimal impact on the environment.

If we are serious about job creation, and we have all talked on our side about the jobs this would create, the economic activities it would create, and the lessening of the dependence we have on foreign sources of energy—I have to say one other thing about my State; that is, we have a rail crisis. We have been battling now for a long time

with the limited capacity in rail and much of the oil moving out is going on rail.

That makes it harder for us to get our agricultural commodities to the marketplace, and so what is happening is that we are consistently stressed. The one thing the pipeline would do in addition to moving Canadian oil down is it would allow for about 100,000 barrels a day of that—what do you call it—sweet light crude—to be put on the pipeline and therefore not on the rail car. That saves about a unit train a day, which is significant.

I guess I would say to my colleague from Kentucky—and I appreciate the arguments he has made not just with respect to this specific issue but also with what the administration's policies are doing to energy production in this country and the cost of energy and what that means for middle-income families, what that means for businesses, and what that means for jobs. It is like an all-out assault.

The Keystone Pipeline is one example of many of policies where this administration is in a position to do something good for the economy, something good for jobs, and something good for energy development in this country, lessening the dangerous dependence we have on foreign oil sources of energy.

I would say to my friend from Kentucky and I would ask him in terms of—the Senator doesn't have the direct and indirect benefit we have in North and South Dakota, but I know he has an awful lot of energy development in his State—what these policies are doing to jobs in a State such as Kentucky.

I know the Senator hears every day from his constituents about this administration's assault on the industries that are so basic and so important to our economy, so important to jobs, and providing a better, stronger, if you will, future for middle-income families in this country.

I would be curious to know if the Senator from Kentucky shares the same concern about the jobs and economy and cost of energy and everything else that I do and that we do in the northern part of the country.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend from South Dakota. I think the energy revolution is wonderful and we ought to embrace it. As I was saying earlier, what has happened in my State as a result of the war on coal, 90 percent of our electricity in Kentucky comes from coal-fired generation. We have been among the top five of the lowest utility rates in the country in any given year for as long as anyone can remember.

The war on coal is not only a war on coal miners. It is a war on all of Kentucky because our utility rates are beginning to go up, which is going to make the energy less affordable for

people on fixed incomes in my State and make us less able to compete for other industries.

I repeat. I am thrilled at what is going on in North Dakota and what is going on in Texas. We would like to have some of that job growth ourselves and calling off this Environmental Protection Agency which seems to be just hell-bent to take coal out of the equation.

It is a heavy price to pay for this ideological crusade which the President seeks to lead on a worldwide basis and says to the Chinese they don't have to do anything for 16 years while we take away our own jobs and opportunity.

Mr. CORNYN. I wonder if the Senator would yield for one last question. I see the Senator from Alaska, and I hope she will join us in this discussion.

To follow up on a very important point made by the Senator from North Dakota that hadn't been explored a lot, he talked about the implications of more North American energy self-sufficiency and what that might mean in terms of geopolitics.

We know, for example, that Vladimir Putin used his energy as a weapon in Ukraine and Europe to try to intimidate people and to keep them from resisting his invasion of independent republics such as Ukraine.

I think it is significant because for so long we have been dependent on imported energy from the Middle East, which we know has been a real challenge because of the instability there, millennia old conflicts and sectarian strife.

I would be interested if the Senator from Kentucky or perhaps other Senators have observations about what this means in terms of the safety and the security of the United States as we become increasingly North American energy self-sufficient. We haven't even talked about New Mexico. They are just now beginning to open their domestic energy production to the kinds of things we are already seeing in North Dakota, Texas and Alaska and elsewhere.

It promises not only jobs but a great opportunity for us to become a safer and more stable source of this necessary energy supply.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, obviously what is happening is America is on its way to being energy independent in natural gas and oil. We have the ranking member of the energy committee on the floor as well. I wonder if she had a question.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, and to our leader on the floor and to the colleagues who have come together to talk about this important issue for us as a nation from an energy perspective—and we mentioned the jobs and the benefits that flow to our Nation's economy. When we talk about the issue of energy independence, there was a time when people would scoff at the no-

tion that as a nation we would ever have a level of independence. I guess I look at it and say energy independence to me is a place where we are no longer vulnerable for our energy sources from those who would wish us ill. What has happened to this Nation in the past half dozen years has been transformational.

We talk about the shale revolution. We talk about a renaissance. What this means to us is that we are truly approaching that point where we are more energy secure and from a national security perspective. The vulnerability we once had is greatly lessened because of our own ability to produce our own resources for our people.

It is not just within the continental United States. It is Alaska as we point out, but it is North America. We are talking about North American energy independence and what that entails and what that means. When we think about where we have come and the fact that next year we will be producing more oil than Saudi Arabia, who would have thought that the United States would be in this perspective. Who would have thought we would have a conversation about energy abundance rather than energy scarcity.

It hasn't happened because this oil has just suddenly migrated to North America. It has always been there. It has been our technology. It has been our ingenuity that allows us to access it. Think what we can do when we partner with our friends and neighbors whether it is Canada to the north or Mexico to the south. So when we talk about energy independence and energy security, the Keystone XL Pipeline is kind of that corridor that helps connect us as two nations. The benefits that derive to both of us are quite considerable.

We are talking about jobs for America and we should be. I think we also need to recognize that when we are talking about the Keystone XL Pipeline, it is about a trade relationship with our closest neighbor and truly our closest ally and the benefits that come to both of us because of this relationship.

There is a phrase that is used. We say the United States and Canada are joined at the well—literally joined at the well. This is something the Congressional Research Service actually says.

There are currently 19 cross-border oil pipelines that are already operating between the United States and Canada or Mexico. This is in addition to all of the dozens of natural gas, electric transmission lines. These are oil pipelines that are crossing the border with Canada into Montana and into North Dakota, into Michigan, into New York, into Washington, into Vermont.

One would think this Keystone XL was the first pipeline to ever cross the border from the north to the south. It

is some new precedent setting. There were 19 cross-border oil pipelines.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Back in 2009 this administration, this Obama administration, came to a decision about the Alberta Clipper project. This was yet another pipeline from Canada to the United States. There were arguments for and against. But ultimately Clipper was approved just as Keystone XL should be approved. So when we are talking about plowing new ground here, I think it is important for people to recognize there is no new ground that we are plowing here. This is just a reticence and a reluctance from an administration to do what I think people across the country believe is the right and the reasonable thing, not only from a jobs perspective, from an economic perspective, but from an energy security perspective as well as a relationship with our closest friend and ally.

I know my colleague from Kentucky had an opportunity to serve with our former colleague here, Senator Ted Kennedy. I am not going to ask the Senator whether he recalls the quote, but I think it is important to kind of put this in context. We have not as a nation always been opposed to importing this crude from Canada. As I mentioned, 19 cross-border agreements are in place today. But back in 1970 the Nixon administration announced they were going to place a quota on Canadian oil exports. This was when things around the country were getting dicey.

It was Senator Ted Kennedy who led the fight against this. He said—and this is a quote from a Senate hearing back in March of 1970. Senator Kennedy said:

The reason why Canadian oil has never been restricted in the past is obvious. Canadian oil is as militarily and politically secure as our own and thus there can be no national security justification for limiting its importation.

So not only is this an issue that has been going on for a long time, both sides of the aisle recognize that there is an imperative when you come together with your allies for a resource that we recognize is a benefit to all, creates jobs for all.

So I ask my colleague from Kentucky, because he has not only served in this body for considerable years, but he has been through these debates over the decades. The question is: Why is this Keystone XL Pipeline being held out to be such a groundbreaking initiative that this President would put a hold on it for 5 years?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would say to my friend from Alaska, I am as perplexed by that as she is. The Senator pointed out that having a cross-border pipeline is not exactly something new. As our chairman, Senator HOEVEN, has pointed out repeatedly, it has cleared every environmental test. We cannot figure out why this has happened other than some

misplaced ideological crusade the President wants to lead, not approved by Congress.

We all remember what it was like here in 2009 and 2010. Our friends on the other side had 60 votes. They could do whatever they wanted to. They could not pass cap-and-trade when they owned the place. They passed ObamaCare. They passed the stimulus. They passed Dodd-Frank. They couldn't pass cap-and-trade.

The President obviously feels so strongly about this, he is willing to give the Chinese a 16-year pass, ignore Congress and go full speed ahead. Part of that ideological rigidity is reflected in the challenge our friend from North Dakota has had here for a number of years in getting a decision made, which by any objective standard ought to be a no-brainer. My goodness, this is about as close to a no-brainer as you will ever run into.

I came out here for the specific purpose of praising the great work of the Senator from North Dakota. Without him we would not be where we are today on this issue.

I wonder if the Senator has any further question or observation to make?

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I would like to thank the minority leader. I would like to thank all the Members of our caucus for joining on this bipartisan legislation. You know, we are continuing to work across the aisle to get 60 votes. At the end of the day, you have got to go back to what this is all about. This is about building an "all of the above" energy plan for this Nation. You cannot build an "all of the above" energy plan for the Nation if you do not have the infrastructure to move that energy around the country. We are seeing what is happening. Because we have been blocked on building these pipelines, now we are not able to move our grain to market, because there are so many rail cars now trying to move crude oil—700,000 barrels a day out of our State alone, and it is growing.

Keystone alone will replace 1,400 rail cars a day that are now carrying oil. That is 10-unit trains. So, you see, this is about so many aspects of our economy, strengthening our economy and creating good-paying jobs that people want. That is why the American people—and that is who we work for, that is who we represent. That is what this is about. That is what we heard loud and clear in the election, is that the American people want us to work together. They want us to get jobs going, get this economy going, build the right kind of energy future, get our budget deficit under control.

That means we have to do the fundamentals. When we talk about building infrastructure, we are talking about the fundamentals. That is what is going on here. This has been 6 years. We need to get this economy going.

That starts with common sense. This is common sense. This is common sense because it is about energy, it is about jobs, it is about growing the economy, it is about national security, it is about not having to get oil from the Middle East, and it is about doing what the American people overwhelmingly time and again have told us they want us to do.

Again, I want to thank the minority leader. I will turn to him and again say: You know, I believe we can find a way, either in this lameduck or in the next Congress—and I would ask the leader—in the next Congress, and I believe it to be true, as the majority leader, he will make this a priority as part of an energy plan for this country.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me wrap it up by thanking again the Senator from North Dakota for his extraordinary leadership on this issue and assure the American people that we will be back. Hopefully it will be approved and signed by the President sooner. If not, he will have another opportunity later.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I most certainly have enjoyed this colloquy and have been down on the floor most of the day. I am extremely disappointed I could not get any Member of the other side to recognize me for questions. I see the minority leader leaving the floor now, although he knows I have many questions for him that he does not want to answer. But that is his prerogative. You know, I thought we came here to work together. I am standing here. I have worked with Senator HOEVEN on this bill. Before Senator HOEVEN leaves the floor or Senator BARRASSO or Senator MURKOWSKI, if they would stay, I would like to thank Senator HOEVEN for his extraordinary leadership on this bill.

Although the other side does not acknowledge any of the leaders over here, such as the Presiding Officer or Senator MANCHIN or Senator Baucus, who is no longer here but was a strong voice for Keystone many years ago, or some of the other Democratic Senators, I want to personally thank Senator HOEVEN for his leadership and thank Senator MURKOWSKI for her extraordinary leadership on this issue.

The Senator has been a real partner to me in the truest sense of the word and in the greatest spirit of bipartisanship. Of course, she had an experience that not many Senators have. She was defeated by her own party in her own State. They chose someone else and ran against the Senator, which is unusual, and did not support her in her reelection, even though the Senator and her father have chaired, on and off, the energy committee for years. I have been a strong partner not only with LISA, the Senator from Alaska, but with her father Frank.

But the Republican Party did not support the Senator in her last election. So the Senator had to sign in on an Independent ticket. I was one of the first people to call her and say: Go, girl. Let's get it done. She did. So I have the utmost respect for Senator MURKOWSKI. I have the utmost respect for the Senator's father. I have the utmost respect for Ted Stevens. I stood with Ted Stevens until the end, even though my party went against him. I would fight for him to this day if he were here, because some of us actually believe in bipartisanship. Lots of people around here talk about it, but that is really it.

The evidence I am going to give—I am sorry the Senator from Kentucky is not here to defend himself. I want the quote he wrote down. He might come back to the floor when he hears what I am going to say. I am going to speak for 1 hour.

The Senator from Kentucky, who will be the majority leader, has not left his partisanship in Kentucky because you just saw it on display here. He cannot help himself. He cannot speak for 3 minutes without mentioning the President. He had his back turned the whole time, would not even acknowledge anyone over here. So he does a lot of talking about bipartisanship. But his statement just yesterday was, "I am confident Dr. CASSIDY will use his position to succeed where Senator LANDRIEU failed."

I do not necessarily think this is failure to get a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. I think this is a great victory. I want to share this victory with Senator HOEVEN who is a leader. I also want to have printed in the RECORD—the Senator from Kentucky had a lot to say about everybody else not doing their job. I want to say that on at least one occasion, he did not do his either. On March 16, there were 15 Senators—March 16 of 2011, not 2012. I mean not 2014, not 2013, not 2012, but 2011. I think that was before the Presiding Officer was here. On March 16, 2011, when Secretary Clinton was still the Secretary of State, there were 16 Members of the Senate who signed a letter to her asking her to approve the Keystone Pipeline. I am going to read those names because I think it is important. My name is first, amazingly. I am very proud of that, didn't even remember it. MARY LANDRIEU. ORRIN HATCH circulated a letter with me. Max Baucus. Kay Bailey Hutchison, my dear friend from Texas. PAT ROBERTS from Kansas, another dear friend. MIKE ENZI from Wyoming. LISA MURKOWSKI—of course her name would be on here—from Alaska. Senator JOHN CORNYN from Texas. JOHN BARRASSO from Wyoming. MARK BEGICH from Alaska who just unfortunately lost his race because of several reasons, one of which is that people talk a lot about bipartisanship who do not really honor it. Nobody better than

MARK BEGICH has shown a willingness to work across party lines. He is no longer with us, but he signed this letter. ROY BLUNT from Missouri. JOHN HOEVEN from North Dakota, and RON JOHNSON.

But you know a signature that is not on this letter is MITCH MCCONNELL's. Maybe MITCH MCCONNELL was too busy to sign this letter. But his name is not on here. Now am I saying MITCH MCCONNELL has not been a supporter of the Keystone Pipeline? Absolutely not. Senator MCCONNELL has supported this project. But what I am saying is that Senator MCCONNELL has not been truthful with the American people about actually how this has always evolved. To support that claim, which is a strong one, on May 7, 2014, Senator REID offered a vote on the XL Pipeline. Senator MCCONNELL objected. On May 12, 2014, Senator REID offered a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. Senator MCCONNELL objected. On May 12, I offered a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. Senator FLAKE objected for Senator MCCONNELL. On June 24, Senator SHAHEEN offered a vote on the XL Pipeline. That, of course, I believe, was connected with the energy efficiency bill with Senator PORTMAN. Senator INHOFE objected. Senator MCCONNELL did nothing to help. Then on June 25, Senator REID offered a vote on the XL Pipeline. Senator MCCONNELL objected.

I want to underscore this. I am not saying Senator REID is a supporter of the pipeline. He has never been. He is not a supporter of the pipeline, but he has asked for a vote on Keystone a number of times and Senator MCCONNELL has objected.

Senator MCCONNELL will come to the floor and show a list such as this when he has asked for votes on the Keystone Pipeline and Senator REID has objected. That is the truth of the Congress. The saddest thing about this is I have believed for over 1 year that if we could actually get a vote, we have the 60 votes to pass it.

I have said that on any number of occasions. I believe we have the 60 votes to pass Keystone. I believe the coalition of oil and gas and energy and manufacturing companies that are very strong, with the coalition of the strongest labor unions and organizations that represent working people, and with the vote in this last election, and with the people of the United States—mostly because of the people of the United States asking us to do our jobs, I, on faith, and with strong evidence that I have—but on faith in what is right, what is true, and what is best—we have the 60 votes on this floor. That is why I came to the floor yesterday—on that faith.

I said that I believed that it was time to vote on the Keystone Pipeline now. The most important reason is to show the American people that we are willing to put partisanship aside. I called

Senator HOEVEN—the first thing I did. The Senator has left the floor because I am not really sure anyone wants to debate me on this. But that is OK. I am used to it. I don't have anybody to debate at home in my election because my opponent won't show up. So I am very used to debating all by myself. So they have all left the floor.

But when I arrived in Washington, the first thing I did was to call Senator HOEVEN. I spoke to him because I have done that on any number of occasions. I said to him: JOHN, I think this is a very good time, and there are several reasons why. I think the politics are cleared up. I think the people spoke—cleared up, not meaning me. It is not about my politics, but it is about the politics of some people who lost and won.

Some people who were opposing the vote have lost. Some people who supported having the vote are here. I have said it looks to me as if this is a perfect opportunity to do two things—to get done something that you and I have wanted to do now for over 1 year.

This letter most certainly suggests that there were a number of us—not many. There were only 15 of us who signed the letter to Secretary Clinton asking her to push forward on the pipeline. Other people were either too busy to sign it or didn't think—whatever—but it is a bipartisan letter and it was very good.

So I called the Senator, and he said that he didn't think that it would happen until the next Congress.

So I said: Well, let's try. Maybe we could get it done. He said that he would talk to his leadership, and that was the last conversation I have had with him.

I came down to the floor yesterday just thinking: Well, maybe I will just kick it up a little bit, and sure enough, I did. It got kicked up pretty high. I was actually here around 2 o'clock because I have been around here enough to know that if you show up early you actually might get something done. Don't show up late; don't be late. My dad taught me to be on time, so I was here at 2 o'clock.

I was very interested to see what Majority Leader REID would say and Minority Leader MCCONNELL would say, and the Senator from Texas, who is usually always with the Senator from Kentucky, what they would say about what we should do.

I sat here fully expecting the minority leader from Kentucky—soon to be the majority leader—to say OK, the people have spoken; let's get on with a bill that is very important. Everyone in the country—not everyone, but many people—many people in this country, in all regions, support the Keystone Pipeline—not everyone. There are strong feelings against it, but every poll I have seen shows people from many different areas of the coun-

try, many different political persuasions. This is not as if only Democrats are against it and only Republicans are for it. There are many Democrats in my State that have supported it—poor people, rich people, black people, white people—Democrats who support the Keystone Pipeline. I am certain that is true in the State of the Presiding Officer, North Dakota. I am sure that it is not even a party issue in the State of North Dakota. This is just a common-sense issue to get the Keystone Pipeline bill.

At approximately 2:15 yesterday I sat on the floor, ready to go. I had called my leader and JOHN HOEVEN. His name is first on this bill. I could have asked for my name to be first on the bill because I actually chair the committee, but I was trying to be bipartisan, gracious, and a team member. It hasn't gotten me very far, but I just used it as an example.

I said: JOHN, this means the world to you, although it means the world to me, put your name first. So it is called the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. I called him since it is his bill and asked him what he thought. He said he thought we could do it in the next Congress. I said, I actually think we can do it now. He said he didn't think so. So I just came to the floor.

I waited for MITCH MCCONNELL to say something. This is what he said:

Mr. President, last week the American people sent a strong message to Washington. They voted for a new direction. They called for a change in the way we do things in the Senate, and they sent a new team to Washington to carry their wishes forward, and we plan to do just that.

But several items remain for the outgoing Congress to consider and that is our immediate focus.

So I am sitting in my chair thinking OK, here we go. I am ready. I have been ready since we started, but definitely my staff can't find anything before that which I can show for any evidence, other than this letter. So I can just say I think I was for it since I heard about it. But since I can't prove it, let's go back to March 16, 2011, because my signature is the lead on this letter. So that is some indication that I have been leading at least since then.

I get a tremendous amount of credit, of course, from my own caucus because they understand that even though most of my caucus doesn't agree with me and thinks I have been—and I have really pushed them on this issue and will continue to, because that is what good Senators do. We don't represent our caucuses. We represent our States, and we fight hard for what we believe is right. I have, for the longest time, felt this was the right thing to do. So that was that letter.

I was sitting and thinking: Here we go. But this is what the minority leader went on to say:

In the weeks that remain in this Congress, we should work to accomplish the essential

task [not of building the Keystone Pipeline] of funding the Congress and preventing retroactive tax increases.

I thought he could say the essential task of funding Congress—which I will put first, although a lot of people don't think we should fund ourselves because we are not doing a very good job—but I will give him that.

The second I would put—and let's show the people that we mean business by passing a bipartisan bill, the Keystone Pipeline, and moving it to the President's desk. But he said:

... preventing retroactive tax increases. We must address the expiring authority passed earlier this session for the Department of Defense to train and equip a moderate, vetted Syrian opposition [I agree that is very important] and we must continue to support the efforts to address the Ebola crisis [equally important].

But then something interesting happened. They brought to the floor a childhood bill—the majority and minority together. The leadership brought a bill that has bipartisan support—but so does Keystone. But the majority leader and the minority leader didn't think Keystone could get votes or couldn't pass or maybe they didn't want to pass it.

But as long as I am a Senator—I hope to be for many years to come—I am going to continue to fight for what is right and do it in as gracious a manner as possible to give credit where credit is due, to honor the Members on the other side and on my side who work very hard and just don't talk about bipartisanship but actually work at it every day.

I am sorry that it doesn't seem possible for the minority leader—soon to be majority leader—to do that. When he finished speaking, I just sat here because I can't get leader time because I am not the leader of the caucus. Then I thought well, maybe Senator CORNYN will say something.

Senator CORNYN spoke at approximately 2:30, the record says. He spoke longer than the majority leader. He also talked about dysfunction, but he never called for a Keystone vote either. So I thought that was strange.

He said: "We will pass a budget next year—something our friends across the aisle have failed to do . . ."

He said: "I know Republicans and Democrats will continue to have policy disagreements."

He also said:

So last week's election will not change some of the fundamental policy differences we have between political parties on ObamaCare, on what we need to do to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare and the like . . . but it will give us a chance to make some steady incremental progress on issues where we do agree.

He talked about Ted Kennedy, the lion of the Senate. He talked about MIKE ENZI and how MIKE ENZI, who is a wonderful Senator—someone I have worked with very closely—said: Let's work on the 80-20 rule.

He said: What is that? He said: Let's work on the 80 percent that we can agree on and the 20 percent we cannot.

Then he went on to say:

That strikes me as eminently practical and a way for us to begin to get back to work again.

When I talk about the easy stuff we can do, I am referring to the bipartisan majority that supports things such as the Keystone XL Pipeline authorization . . .

I want to repeat that:

When I talk about the easy stuff we can do, I am referring to the bipartisan majority that supports things such as the Keystone XL Pipeline authorization . . .

So I thought he would call for us to see what we could do in this lame duck. We are going to vote on an early childhood education bill. Most certainly we would have the time to vote on a jobs bill.

Now I believe early childhood education in the long term is the best jobs bill we can do. I have said that over and over, and my life has been committed to early childhood education, good schools, excellence in education, and accountability. I am not saying this to diminish the bill the Senate is poised to pass, which is for early childhood education. But if we started today with 2 year olds, it will literally take us 20 years until they are 22, and the American people want jobs yesterday. They want jobs now. They don't want jobs in 22 years.

So I was hoping the majority would see that there is a clear path for the Keystone Pipeline to pass—a clear path. You can see it. You don't need a magnifying glass. You just need a brain in your head, an understanding of what happened in the election, and the votes that are here. It is—yes, what happened in the election, not only that the American people spoke, but that some Members who were opposed to it and who didn't want to vote have lost their elections.

The votes are here to pass this bill. It was clear to me; I thought it should be clear to the majority leader. So people are going to have to go ask the majority leader. He left the floor, and he will not answer this question, but I am going to continue to ask it until I get an answer from him because I think the people of the United States deserve it. Why didn't he? He has been talking about it incessantly every day, not only beating up on Democrats, even though about 15 of us—maybe more—will vote for it, but he has been beating up on the President incessantly, every day. And when he had the microphone, when he had the chance, when he was elected overwhelmingly in his State, he walked to the floor and didn't say a word about the Keystone Pipeline. Not a word. He didn't even refer to it.

Then the Senator from Texas, who I thought, well—because they do their scripts together, they coordinate them very well. I thought maybe the Senator

from Texas was going to give the signal. The Senator from Texas didn't give the signal, either.

So as all Senators here who are elected have the right to stand up at their desk and ask for recognition—it is about as simple as that. I didn't even have a script. I was just sort of thinking that they were going to do it. That is why I was here, because I thought at least I would like to say I agree with it, and I am prepared to do what I have done to rally our side to get the votes.

So neither one of them said anything. And we can read it for ourselves. It is very clear. The Senator from Texas said we should do easy stuff like the Keystone Pipeline. We will do that. Next time we will work on workforce training. He said: No. 4, we can work on infrastructure; No. 5, he said we should discourage abusive, costly litigation; No. 6, we are going to repeal ObamaCare, particularly restore the 40-hour workweek; repeal the medical device tax; and No. 8, we are going to abolish the Independent Payment Advisory Board under Medicare. Each of these things I have mentioned has bipartisan support. If we can pass these measures, we will send them to the President for his signature. So starting with the easy stuff we have already identified that has bipartisan support.

Well, I lead the bipartisan effort on the Democratic side, and I am proud to say that I lead it with the Senator from North Dakota who is presiding, who has been an equally ferocious and sometimes more effective, I will admit, champion than I have been, and the Senator from West Virginia, who has also been an absolute bulldog on the issue.

There are other Senators. Max Baucus was a strong supporter of Keystone. Senator TESTER. Is it impossible for Republicans to utter the words? Senator TESTER. Senator HEITKAMP. They don't have to say my name. I am clear about why they are not doing that, but they could at least be gracious enough to recognize the leadership of the other Senators here who have worked hard.

When we start this next Congress—and I am going to do everything I can to be a part of it—I really hope the reporters in this Chamber and people who are following this will start reporting what really happens here instead of what happens at press conferences, instead of what people say in press releases, instead of what people say when they buy staged television ads. If the reporters would actually just report what happened, I think that would be a good start.

Sometimes they are going to say: This is what Senator LANDRIEU did, and I disagree with her. This is what MITCH MCCONNELL did, and I disagree with him. But at least they would report what actually happens.

So when they finished speaking, I stood up and said I think the votes are

there. I have reason to believe they are. I worked for a couple of days last week just calling around because I am the chair of the committee, and my job is to pass legislation. I passed some significant pieces of legislation even before I was the chair of the energy committee, although you would not believe that listening to some people. We passed the RESTORE Act. I led the pushback against Biggert-Waters, although I didn't put my name on it because I knew if I did, it would never pass because they wouldn't have allowed it under any circumstance. So Senator MENENDEZ and Senator ISAKSON were gracious to step up, and they led the effort, and I just kind of organized behind the scenes—it is clear that happened—and we passed it. I am grateful to this day that I didn't put my name as the lead because they never would have passed it in an election year, and we would have had 5 million people in this country literally turning their homes back to the banks or telling their children: The home that I built and that we built together that has \$300,000 or \$400,000 of equity—I am just telling you we are bankrupt.

I am so glad that didn't happen. I am thrilled.

So we did that bill. We did the RESTORE Act. I passed early in my career a revenue-sharing bill that is going to serve the State of Louisiana and the gulf coast beautifully for years to come.

Harry Truman offered us a portion of offshore oil and gas revenues even before I was born. When I got through college and read about it, I thought: Geez, that was a good idea. I liked Harry Truman's idea, and so I filed a bill and passed it as a junior member of the committee—I remind people, over the objection of my own chairman, who was a Democrat at the time, the Senator from New Mexico, JEFF BINGAMAN, who was adamantly opposed, adamantly fought every day, not just voted against me but lobbied against me, fought against me, spoke against it—not me personally but the bill. He just didn't believe in it—not me personally but the bill. I passed it over his objection, which is a very hard thing, for a junior member of the committee to pass it over the objection of their own chairman. But the reason I did it is because I figured out the votes, and we drafted it in a way that could secure the votes and passed it. That is the truth.

So I am happy tonight. I am not sad. I am happy tonight that the House of Representatives is again—because this is like the third time this has happened in my career. It is a great honor for a House that I haven't spent 2 minutes on the floor of—I mean, I know my delegation, but I haven't spent any time in the House. I wasn't even a Member of the House. This is the third time in my career that the House of Represent-

atives has actually taken a Hoeven-Landrieu, Landrieu-Hoeven bill, stripped their bill—and I didn't even ask them to do it—and put my bill over there and passed it, and then they are going to move it over here. I could not be happier because we need to get the Keystone Pipeline done. They did sort of the same thing with revenue sharing, the RESTORE Act—well, four times—and the Biggert-Waters bill.

So I could not be happier that I was here at 2:00, that I listened to my father, who is listening now—he should be happy to say: Show up on time. You might not ever figure out what could happen if you aren't there on time.

So I was, thinking absolutely they wouldn't put the early childhood vote on the floor, they would put Keystone on the floor because they talked about it every single day—every single day in my State, in Alaska, in North Carolina, in Georgia, and in Kentucky. Every single day.

What was wrong with yesterday? What was wrong with yesterday? It was a good day. I am going to let that question sit because there are a lot of people around here who know the answer; I don't have to tell it to them. What was wrong with Tuesday? So when they didn't mention it, I thought that I would because, as is the truth, I have been leading it since 2011. I am not going to stop until we get a vote on the Senate floor, for as long as I am here as chair, as ranking member—which I will be, and not as happy as being chair but thrilled to be able to work with the Senator from Alaska. If I had to pick one person in this body on that side of the aisle to work with, it would be LISA MURKOWSKI without a doubt, not only because she is a woman but because she is an independent woman. She is strong. And since I was raised by one, I cotton to them.

So I am a happy camper. It does not bother me because, as I have said, I have now worked here long enough to have worked in the majority and in the minority. I have worked with Republicans. I have worked with Democrats. I have worked with three Presidents of different parties and six Governors. Why would I be sad? This is kind of like somebody said to me: This is the gig you signed up for. Yes, it is. It is strange to many people, and I don't blame our constituents for getting aggravated, but it is a gig I signed up for because my dad signed up for it, my brother signed up for it, and my sister signed up for it because it is what we do, and we do it well. And every single member of my family—and my husband signed up for it, and his mother signed up for it. I think it is worth signing up for, is why I am here.

Other people can have their opinions about the people who are here. I think they are some of the best people in the world. Maybe the institution is dysfunctional—it is. It is dysfunctional at

this moment, but the people are not. The individual people who are here on both sides are not dysfunctional individuals; they are some of the most extraordinary people on this planet. I know I am going to get criticized for that statement because people will say: There she goes, just talking about politicians. But I have served long enough to know there are really some extraordinary human beings who serve in this Senate—smart, capable, caring—on both sides of the aisle, and I am proud to be a part of it.

I was not proud of the minority leader from Kentucky on Tuesday. I was not proud of him today. I was not proud of the Senator from Texas today. I was very disappointed in the Senator from North Dakota. But they are my friends. We will get through it, and we will work forward together.

I am glad the House is debating and voting. I look forward to being back here on next Tuesday, where our vote will occur, and I am very hopeful we will have and I believe we will have not 60 but probably 61 votes for the Keystone Pipeline. What the President does is a different matter, and I would like to challenge the Senators on Tuesday to just focus on the Senate.

Let the Senate's will work. Let us pass this bill. We will then send it to the President, and under the Constitution—which is read to us on a frequent basis—the President has the right to sign it or to veto it. If he vetoes it, it is going to take 67 votes to override his veto. Mine will be one of them if he vetoes this bill. If I am here, my vote will be there to override his veto. I don't believe there are 67 other votes in the Senate to do that. There might be. I don't know what mindset people will have, but let's cross that bridge when we get there.

Stop talking about the White House and talk about the Senate. If the Senate can function, then maybe the House will do a little bit better, maybe the White House will do a little bit better. My mother taught me if you want to criticize others, start with yourself first. Get yourself straight before you start criticizing everybody else. All I hear around here is what this one didn't do and what that one didn't do and what the President didn't do. Let us work as a Senate. Let us show the American people how the Senate works.

The House is going to do their job on Keystone. We are going to do our job on Keystone, and that will break the gridlock, which we desperately need on a significant—not an easy bill, not an easy bill—but easier, such as early childhood education. Who could be opposed to that? But let's break the gridlock on a tough bill that is hard on our Members to vote on. There are Members here who think it is the worst thing in the world. I understand that. I think there are things that have passed

here that I thought were the worst things in the world and I didn't like them, but voting is important. Senator DURBIN has said this and others have said this over and over again; Senator LEAHY, who has been here a long time. Let us vote and let us stop criticizing everyone else, and do our job, and I am proud that I helped to get us moving in that direction.

I am going to ask—Senator CARPER is seeking to speak on another matter. I understand my hour of postcloture is about to expire. I don't need any additional time. I note that Senator CARPER is here, but before that, Senator HEITKAMP, I would respectfully say to the Chair, I think may have some comments she would like to make, and I yield the floor, but if Senator HEITKAMP could go now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). For the information of the Senate, cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer falls.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank my very good friend MARY LANDRIEU for everything she has done for our country, for her State, for her tenacity, and for her willingness to shepherd this through at a very critical time.

We talked yesterday on the floor about how important it is to send the right messages to the American public. A lot of people will say, well, they pick this agenda or this agenda. They just want us to start working together. And they want us to turn on the television and watch C-SPAN and say, there they are in the sandbox again, fighting about things that don't matter to the American public. You know, picking fights with each other, bad-mouthing each other, as opposed to working together.

It is a little tough right now, because I think that if we are going to set the tone today, yesterday, today and in the days that follow during this lameduck, the tone that will establish the relationships and the courtesies we are going to have going forward in the next Congress, we need to make sure we are communicating when the tone goes a little wrong.

To me, I have fought this issue. I have been in favor of the Keystone Pipeline ever since I looked, and I somewhat famously likened it to caring about a reality TV show that has nothing to do with people's lives, and wondering why we care so much about Keystone, because it doesn't have a whole lot to do with carbon. It doesn't. Keystone Pipeline is about transportation of oil. That oil is going to get transported, it is going to get produced, and it is going to move. It is going to move on rail or it is going to move on pipe someplace. When you look at all the studies that have been done, the environmental studies, you turn it around 100 different ways, you

come to the same conclusion, that the Keystone Pipeline makes an incredible amount of sense.

It is a job-ready project, shovel-ready project, with good trade union jobs. That is something you don't see every day in America. New things coming—it will help us transport 100,000 barrels of oil. That is less than 10 percent of what we produce every day but it will take, as my senior Senator said, a lot of unit trains off the rails so we can move grain, and it will be state of the art in terms of the quality of the pipeline. I have seen the pipeline. I have seen the oil sands. I have been there. We are headed for North American energy independence if we don't get in our own way.

Keystone has taken a role larger than life, and it has been this hot button issue that doesn't belong in this debate. It should have been approved, in my opinion, years ago, absolutely years ago. It has taken us longer to analyze Keystone than what it has taken us to beat Hitler—by far, almost 50 percent more time spent analyzing the Keystone Pipeline.

The people of the United States are tired of this issue. They are tired of our gridlock, and they are tired of the partisan bickering back and forth. So I would ask as a way to move forward on a lot of very difficult energy issues that we are going to have here, whether it is what I believe, we need to begin to lower the barriers and eliminate the barriers for exportation of crude oil. It has been something I have talked about a lot. I believe we need to export and to facilitate the exportation of natural gas. I believe we need to do everything we can to continue to develop our renewables. I believe we should have a renewable fuel standard that encourages—encourages—the development of renewable fuels. I believe a lot of things on energy, and we frequently hear in this body we are all of the above and people start talking and you know they are not. They are not all of the above. They are polarizing this issue.

At the heart of it, as I said yesterday, one of the reasons why the United States of America has not experienced an economic downturn or the slowdown that you see globally is because of this energy renaissance. This is what the American public has sent us to do, to set public policy, but more importantly, to get out of the way of private invention and entrepreneurship.

So I would respectfully, very respectfully, ask that when our colleagues from the other side come to the floor, think about how we can use language that brings us together, that doesn't tell the American public, there they go again. You know, here we are again in the sandbox trying to figure out who gets credit. You know what, when this place works, we will all get credit. And more importantly, when this place

works, the American public will have their faith in their government restored.

So let's be very careful with language. Let's recognize everyone for the commitment they have made, and for the leadership they provided. And I have said many times in my home State, Senator HOEVEN has led this effort. He talks about it. He has been a champion for the Keystone Pipeline. I hope I have been a champion. But I certainly have not done the time that he has done on this issue. Senator HOEVEN deserves an incredible amount of credit; but equally, MARY LANDRIEU deserves an incredible amount of credit for moving this issue right at this point of time and moving this issue forward. We who are working on this side to gather the number of votes that we know we are going to need to pass this—that is not easy work. Trust me, that is not easy work, but we are making tremendous progress. We are making tremendous progress.

Now what happens next week? We hope we pass it. And we will cross the bridge of a Presidential veto when we come to it and if we come to it. But let's not presuppose what people are going to do and let's not stand here at a time when the American public wants to see us all come together, let's not stand here and worry about who gets credit. Let's not stand here and call out people for what you consider past wrongs. Let's move forward on behalf of the American people.

I wanted to personally say thank you, Senator LANDRIEU, for your leadership, for your tenacity. And if I could add one point, and I will say this because I was with you every step of the way on flood insurance. Flood insurance would not have happened without MARY LANDRIEU. We had great support on the other side, great bipartisan effort, but she sounded the alarm before anyone knew we were going to have this problem and had already built that groundwork.

You know, I am sure there are a lot of things her opponents and her detractors can say about the positions she has taken over the years. Be honest about it. She has been a leader on Keystone. She has been a leader on oil and gas. She has been a leader on flood insurance. She has been a tenacious voice for all of those issues. And she has in her heart the best interests not just of the people in this country, but particularly the great people of the great State of Louisiana. So, thank you, MARY, for everything you do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I did not come to the floor to praise Senator LANDRIEU, but while I am at it, I would like to say a few words.

I have the privilege of chairing the committee on governmental affairs.

Senator LANDRIEU chairs the appropriations subcommittee that deals with Homeland Security. She is also a member of the authorizing committee. So she works both vineyards. She is as tenacious and tireless in her defense of our country against cyber attacks, against terrorist attacks, against all kinds of ills that would otherwise be visited on our country. She still finds time as chairman of the energy committee to focus not only on issues that are important to her State—and this is one of them—but also issues that are incredibly important to our country.

I said to my wife the other night—we were talking about Senator LANDRIEU and her tenacity. That word has been used tonight a couple times about her, as an unrelenting advocate for her State and the causes she believes in. Others have mentioned that she is a tireless advocate not only for Louisiana but for the causes that she sees that are just.

There is no quit in this one, as I said to my wife this week. She said, “How is Mary?” I would never want to run against this woman, and fortunately I would never have to. And for those who have to, good luck and God bless. But I am proud to be here with MARY, and with Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP as well.

The reason I come here tonight is to discuss a number of nominations that have been considered and approved by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that both Senator LANDRIEU and Senator HEITKAMP and I serve on. Senator COBURN, our colleague from Oklahoma, is the ranking Republican on that committee, and we have worked tirelessly ourselves for the better part of the last 2 years to try to make sure there is a full complement of leadership in the Department of Homeland Security to provide the leadership for one of the most important agencies in our government. I have spoken with people on this floor and wherever else I could find a venue about the large and very troubling backlog of nominations in this Senate. I call it executive branch Swiss cheese. Executive branch Swiss cheese.

There are a couple of ways you can cripple an administration. No. 1, you can refuse to provide appropriations and funding. Another way to cripple an administration is to not approve the nominations of people who fill key leadership positions. The most important ingredient I found in any organization—I don’t care if it is a legislative body such as this, a State such as Minnesota or Delaware or Louisiana or North Dakota—I don’t care if it is a college or a business, a church. The most critical factor in all of those is leadership.

When we deny a President or a Governor or a mayor, for that matter, the ability to put his or her leadership team together—even when they are nominating well-qualified, competent

people, people of integrity—we do not do just a disservice to that person who has been nominated and has gone through the process, but to the State or the county or the country in which they have been nominated to serve.

I think it is every Senator’s constitutional role to provide advice and consent on the President’s nominations in a thorough and timely manner as part of the Senate confirmation process. I have exercised that constitutional role and our right and our obligation. I think we do our country no service and do ourselves no honor when we leave critical agencies—and Homeland Security is certainly one of those—without proper leadership and leave honorable men and women who are willing to serve in the government twisting in the wind.

I am a big believer in the Golden Rule, as our Presiding Officer knows: treat other people the way we want to be treated. How would we like it if we were nominated, and we have a job—maybe it is an important job, maybe it is a job that pays a lot more than what they have been nominated to do in service to our country. All too often people are asked to put their lives and their family on hold. They don’t know if they are going to be uprooted from wherever they are in the country to come here and live or for their spouse or father or mother to work. It is not fair.

In some cases, it is just to put people before committees and berate them publicly for sins of omission or commission that may be fabricated. No wonder it is hard to get good people to serve.

In this case, I have several people that I will talk about tonight. These people deserve not just our consideration but our strong support.

During my 2 years as chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I have made it one of my top priorities to work closely with our ranking Republican, Dr. TOM COBURN, who is a physician and also a Senator, and to vet the President’s nominees that we have jurisdiction over and move them in a timely manner when they meet muster, scrub them good, make sure we have drilled down on what they believe in, their credentials and competency for serving, and when they do pass muster, try to move them along and bring them through our committee—almost every time—with a bipartisan vote and then bring the nomination to the floor.

TOM COBURN and I try to do that religiously with respect to our nominees. We try to do the same kind of bipartisan approach with our legislation. We have had a lot of success and we are grateful to our colleagues for supporting what we have done in our committee. We are grateful to Majority Leader REID and Senator MCCONNELL and their staffs. They have been valu-

able partners in this effort. Gary Myrick, who works on the floor for the Democratic side, and Laura Dove, who works on the Republican side for Senator MCCONNELL, have been terrific to work with, and we thank them for their stewardship.

Just yesterday our committee reported out three more outstanding nominees, one of them, Sarah Saldana, to be head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security. It is a big job, it is an important job, and it is a tough job. Russell Deyo has been nominated to be the top management official at the Department of Homeland Security. Mickey Barnett has been nominated by the President to serve another term on the Postal Services Board of Governors.

I believe Ms. Saldana and Mr. Deyo will almost certainly be confirmed in short order. I urge my colleagues to review their qualifications and work with Dr. COBURN and me to fill these two vacancies at the Department of Homeland Security in the coming days.

I wish to spend a few minutes of my time tonight discussing the nomination of Mickey Barnett, who is already serving on the Postal Board of Governors. He is a Republican and nominated again by the President. I will then talk about a couple of lower profile nominees that I think we urgently need to confirm as quickly as we can—certainly this year during this lame-duck session.

Mickey Barnett is among a group of five partisan nominees to the Postal Board of Governors. His nomination was submitted by a Democratic President. Two of the nominees are Republicans, and Mickey is one of those, and three of them are Democrats.

If we don’t confirm Mr. Barnett and his colleagues by December 8—a little more than 4 weeks from now—Mr. Barnett, who is currently the Board’s chair, will be forced to leave the Board. If that happens, the Postal Board of Governors will no longer have enough members to achieve a quorum and will not be able to conduct business.

At a time when the Postal Service is struggling to address a number of financial challenges and adapt to the digital age and the Internet world we live in, being unable to conduct business would not be good for the Postal Service. In fact, it would be very bad. We need to avoid that from happening. I think if it does happen, we will be inviting a disaster.

Today, because of our inability in Congress to come to a consensus on postal reform legislation—and they are actually creeping closer—the good work by Dr. COBURN and a number of other people to actually develop a bipartisan consensus around the legislation that was reported out of our committee—I believe in a 9-to-1 vote earlier this year—the Postal Service will continue to twist in the wind, able to

only do so much to address the financial challenges they face and to transfer themselves in a digital age. They need to figure out how to make themselves relevant—a 200-some-year-old establishment—in delivering that work that goes to every business and every residence in this country, for the most part, 6 days a week.

How do we enable the Postal Service to make money? They are figuring it out, and we can help them with our legislation.

Meanwhile, the customers of the Postal Service are left with uncertainty about what the future holds for the Postal Service. Are they going to be around? Are they going to be able to do the job? Are they ever going to modernize their fleet? Are they ever going to modernize their processing centers and the post offices themselves? We can answer that question and enable them to be financially viable once again. We would make that uncertainty that surrounds the Postal Service even worse if December 8 comes and goes and our five Postal Board nominees are still waiting for us to act.

The same goes for our nominees to fill vacancies, not on the Postal Board of Governors, but on something called the Postal Regulatory Commission. It is a five-member commission. It is the regulator, if you will, for the Postal Service. The two people who have been nominated by this President are Nanci Langley and Tony Hammond. They have been waiting since the spring of 2013 to be confirmed. As a result, the commission has been working with only three commissioners out of five. We need to do something about that as well, and waiting for another year—waiting for another month is foolhardy.

These people deserve a vote. We ought to vote them up or down. They have been unanimously approved and confirmed by our committee, and I think they need a vote. When they get a vote, I am sure they will be confirmed.

Also pending before the Senate are two nominations to the District of Columbia Superior Court, Judge William Nooter and Judge Steven Wellner. They are both well-qualified nominees who, like the Homeland Security and Postal nominees I have discussed, won bipartisan support in the committee and are needed to fill vacancies on the District of Columbia's very busy trial court.

Judge Nooter and Judge Wellner were reported out of our committee with unanimous bipartisan support months ago. In Judge Nooter's case, it was more than a year ago.

As I have discussed, these men are not alone in waiting so long for confirmation, but the problem is particularly unfair when it comes to the District of Columbia's court system. Earlier this fall during the Homeland Se-

curity and Governmental Affairs Committee Hearing on DC statehood, the current vacancies on the DC Superior Court were included as just one of many injustices the District faces simply because it serves our Nation's capital.

The District of Columbia already suffers from not having control over its laws or even its own local dollars. The citizens of this city should not have to face a compromised legal system as well. While we in Congress may not be able to fix everything, I do think this is one of the few issues we can and must address now.

The DC Circuit Court is a local court. It hears primarily local matters. Most nominees are entirely uncontroversial and used to go through the Senate without a recorded floor vote. But because these local judges go through Senate confirmation, they have been caught up in a broader political stalemate of the Senate floor. I hope that is going to come to an end.

Meanwhile, no other local or State jurisdiction must have its non-Federal judges approved by the Congress. If we are talking about Federal District judges or Circuit Court of Appeal judges or Supreme Court Justices, of course they should come through and be debated and approved here. These are local judges, and it is only by a quirk in the law that they have to come here for a confirmation at all. They are local judges in the District of Columbia.

How would we like it if we had been nominated and held up for over a year—particularly in courts where there are huge backlogs. We are talking about caseloads of tens of thousands of people, and they don't have a full complement of judges because of us. How fair is that? Well, it is not.

No other local or State jurisdiction must have its non-Federal judges approved by Congress, and no other State or locality is without a vote in the Senate to help push for action on nominations of concern to that community.

The DC Superior Court is operated by the Federal Government and its judges are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for 15-year terms. It is important to note that although this court is operated by the Federal Government, it is separate from the Federal Government. Instead, the Superior Court is the local trial court for the District of Columbia. It handles matters such as local crime and domestic and civil disputes.

Nevertheless, because this court is operated by the Federal Government, the President nominates candidates for judicial vacancies from a slate prepared by a nonpartisan nomination commission and the Senate must confirm the nominees.

Currently, there are four vacancies on the Superior Court. Due to planned retirement and medical leave, this

number will rise by the end of the year, and it is going to get worse. These vacancies hinder the Superior Court's ability to administer justice for DC residents. The Superior Court judges already carry, as I said earlier, enormous caseloads. The existing vacancies—the majority of which are in the family court division—threaten to undermine the judge's ability to give proper attention to each case, including those cases in family courts that affect the welfare of families, and particularly the welfare of children.

Recently the chief judge of the Superior Court and the Bar Association in the District of Columbia sent to both Senate leaders and Dr. COBURN and myself a letter raising these concerns and ultimately seeking a Senate vote on Judges Nooter and Wellner. They are preaching to the choir.

Judge Nooter is currently the presiding magistrate judge on the Superior Court and has served as a magistrate judge for the past 14 years. As presiding magistrate judge, he manages 23 fellow magistrate judges and serves on the leadership team of the chief judge of the Superior Court.

Meanwhile, Judge Wellner currently serves as an administrative law judge for the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings. Since 2011, he has led the unemployment insurance division, and by all accounts skillfully coordinates a team of 10 administrative law judges and support staff to adjudicate over 3,000 unemployment insurance cases per year.

Given the caliber of these nominees, the lack of controversy over their nomination, and the unanimous bipartisan support they have received from the committee of jurisdiction, I urge—and I am sure I urge with the full support of Dr. COBURN, our ranking Republican member of the committee—this body to move their confirmations forward as soon as possible. Justice delayed is still justice denied. It has been that way for centuries and these delays are insufferable.

I will close by saying that what we are doing is not just bad judgment, it is not just bad form, I think it is shameful, and we need to fix it.

With that, I am finished, and I am looking around to see if there is anybody else seeking recognition. I don't see anyone, so with that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, after the election, I have heard a number of my colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the Senate say they are going to come to the floor of the Senate and to the floor of the House and again try to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I said last night on the floor that it strikes me that during an election I would think Members of Congress would hear from their constituents, whether it is in Minnesota or Ohio—the Presiding Officer's State or mine, or around the country—and once we start talking to real people—not campaign rallies, not a country club dinner, not a fundraiser, but real people—about their lives, we would understand what the Affordable Care Act has meant to a whole lot of people.

In my State, there are a lot more than 500,000 people who have health insurance today who did not have it 1 year ago because of the Affordable Care Act. In addition, there are 97,000 and counting young people—18–20–25-years-olds—who are on their parents' health care plan who wouldn't have insurance without it. There are a million seniors in my State, from Gallipolis to Troy to Toledo to Zanesville, who have gotten free—meaning no copay, no deductibles—free cancer screenings, preventive care, diabetes checks—all of these kinds of preventive care, including when their doctor prescribes getting a physical for seniors that is free, all because of the Affordable Care Act. There are thousands and thousands of people in Ohio who have a child with diabetes or a son or a daughter with asthma, and that family has been denied coverage year after year, but now, because of the Affordable Care Act, they have coverage. So we know what this has meant.

I heard Pope Francis say a few months ago, speaking to his parish priests—he exhorted them to go out and listen to people and understand their lives, as should others, before they come to the floor and try to repeal the Affordable Care Act. There is something a bit untoward where people of privilege—we are Senators; we have great titles, we are paid good salaries, most of us dress well, most of us have nice haircuts—we come to the floor with government-paid insurance, and we say we are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and take insurance away from 500,000 Ohioans and tens of thousands of Minnesotans, and take away young people's and their parents' plan, and take away these benefits for seniors.

I came to the floor to share a handful of letters because I want to put a face on some of these, what this actually means, if we were to—if Congress, thinking that is what the voters want—come to this floor and say we are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Let's talk about what that means.

Connie from Hamilton County, in Cincinnati—the Presiding Officer has been in that city a couple of times—writes: As one of your constituents, I want you to know the deleterious impacts of the DC Circuit Court's ruling on my well-being. Because of a change in both my employment status and marital status, I have looked at the Affordable Care Act as a godsend. I worked full-time in a well-paying job for more than 35 years when I was organized out of a position at the worst time during the recession. I have been able to maintain limited and temporary part-time contract work since. But the income I net is substantially reduced from what it was.

She said she worked for 35 years, so I assume she is at least in her fifties.

As an older worker, I'm having a difficult time securing permanent employment. I believe strongly in the importance of health care. I have recently qualified for a catastrophic health plan with tax credits on healthcare.gov. Paying for it is a stretch, but I have willingly bit the bullet.

As you know, Ohio is one of those States that has opted out of establishing its own state plans. That wasn't a problem until recently. Now, facing a plan that may be ineligible for the Federal tax credit, I face a dire financial situation. If I were the only one caught in this Catch 22, I would not be writing. I understand there are approximately 5 million Americans in similar straits.

Living in a State where the Governor did not want to set up an exchange, and the Supreme Court—nine privileged men and women who are lawyers, who get government health insurance—may take these benefits away from these 5 million people. That was my editorial comment.

She writes:

Please, please, help find a way to ameliorate the impact of this circuit court ruling. Many of us are dependent upon it so we don't become burdens on the health care system.

So the question: Why do people who dress like this, who have titles such as "Congressman" and "Senator, who get health insurance paid by taxpayers, why do they want to take it away from so many other people? Why do they want to take these benefits away? Why do they want to cancel these consumer protections? So when they cast these votes on repeal of the Affordable Care Act, they should be thinking about the Connies of the world.

Sharon from Franklin County in the middle of State, Columbus, is a lupus patient. She writes:

I urge you to maintain the health care reform that helps us afford coverage. Before Congress starts gutting the health care reform, please visit a support group for any chronic illness, and listen to the stories of people struggling to pay their medical bills, about people being denied insurance due to preexisting conditions, cutting their meds in half to try to stretch them to the end of the month.

My wife was in a drugstore not too long ago. Right in front of her, somebody was trying to figure out: Can I

skip, take half this number of pills so they last twice as long? That happens all the time. If more of us would get out to a drugstore, if more of us would get out and talk to people, we would learn that.

Sharon writes:

I have got a good education, a good job, good insurance, but I know I could be wiped out in a matter of months if my job were outsourced or discontinued. Since I work at home and telecommute due to my illness, my chances at a new job and new health insurance are grim. The health care reform bill isn't perfect, but when it was passed, a collective sigh of relief went up for millions of Americans who are struggling to maintain their jobs, their families, and their lives while suffering with chronic illnesses like lupus. Please don't play politics with our lives. Please don't gut the health care bill.

Again the question is, Why do my colleagues—almost all of whom have health insurance provided by taxpayers—why do they want to take these benefits away from Sharon and Connie?

A couple more.

Rose from Hamilton County writes:

Senator Brown, please vote no to repeal the health care law. My family and friends appreciate the added benefits we are getting from the current health care law. My son's fiancée is currently finishing her graduate degree.

She is 25.

Thank God she is able to remain on her parents' insurance; otherwise she would not be able to afford the high cost of private insurance.

This is a young woman about whom Rose is writing. This is a young woman who wants to get more education, wants to do better in life, wants to further her career, but what will happen? If she cannot stay on her parents' plan, if my colleagues are successful in repealing the Affordable Care Act, what will happen to her? Why should we even be asking that question?

My niece graduated last year from college and has not been able to find a full-time teaching job.

She is doing what we need more of—good teachers in our country.

Fortunately, she too can now stay on her parents' insurance because of the health care law. In addition—

She has an illness—

the current health care law ensures that when it's time for her to get her own health insurance, she will not be discriminated against.

This woman, Rose's niece, is in this situation. She is right out of school. She wants to teach. She does not have a job yet. She is on her parents' health insurance plan. Then when she gets a job, if it were not for the Affordable Care Act, she probably would be denied coverage because she has a preexisting condition. So she is a perfect example of two things about this law that my colleagues for whatever reason want to take away.

I will close with this. Chris from Fairfield County—kind of southeast of Columbus—writes:

Senator, I just wanted to thank you for standing by the health care law. I now have insurance after 4 years without it. I am now receiving treatment for my knee after 3 years of pain and swelling. Turns out I have arthritis and I go to an orthopedic surgeon next week for further diagnosis and treatment. Without the insurance I purchased through the exchange, the x-ray that discovered the arthritis would have never been possible because I could not afford it.

So, again, why would my colleagues—almost all of whom have health insurance—why would they want to take those benefits away? Why would they say to this person in Fairfield County—why would they say to Chris: Well, sorry, you are not going to get that x ray.

In the end, what would happen? Chris would not get the x ray, would not know about the arthritis until it gets worse, and then it would cost the health insurance company more money.

Part of what the Affordable Care Act does—and the Presiding Officer played a role in writing many provisions of this law—part of what it does is it encourages and gives people incentives to get preventive care.

So if we repeal this law, if my colleagues—again, I know I said this over and over, but almost all of whom have health insurance provided to them by taxpayers—if they have their way, all of these people—Chris and Rose and Sharon and Connie—where do they turn? Where do they turn? Their lives end up worse. They end up being sicker. They possibly die younger. They end up costing the health care system more money. They are less productive as citizens. The niece and the son-in-law and the fiancée one of these ladies talked about would not be able to get an education, get ahead—all of the things we say we value in this country.

How can any anybody think in good conscience that repealing the Affordable Care Act makes sense for our families, makes sense for our communities, makes sense for the States of Minnesota and Ohio, makes sense for our country?

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 17, all postcloture time be considered expired with respect to the House message to accompany S. 1086; that the motion to concur with amendment No. 3923 be withdrawn; and the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086; that upon the disposi-

tion of the House message, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 856, Abrams; 857, Cohen; and 858, Ross; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, that on Tuesday, November 18, following the Senate's action with respect to S. 2280, as provided under a previous order, the Senate proceed to executive session, that all postcloture time be considered expired, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that upon disposition of the Ross nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the motion to proceed to S. 2685; that there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on the motion to proceed; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2685; further, that with any sequence of multiple votes there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; and, finally, that the time in opposition to S. 2280 be under the control of Senator BOXER or her designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as another polar vortex bears down on States across the country this week, we must consider how the dropping temperatures across the Nation will impact those who do not have refuge from the cold. The issue of homelessness is especially urgent in places like my home State of Vermont. For those of us lucky enough to have warm homes, winter brings a magical beauty. But for those without shelter, the cold nights can be deadly. Unfortunately, for homeless teens, winter can also mean even greater vulnerability to being victimized by human traffickers.

That is why we must pass the Leahy-Collins Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act today. This should be unanimous. We are talk-

ing about helping homeless children and victims of human trafficking. There is no good reason to oppose this measure.

The programs supported by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provide essential resources to homeless children who need our help. Amanda, for example, is an 18-year-old living in Bellows Falls, VT, and participating in the Transitional Living Program at the Youth Services of Windham County. Amanda's mother gave her and her four siblings up for adoption when she was 2. When she was 13, her adoptive mother died of a stroke. Amanda was devastated, suffered academically, and eventually dropped out of school, then struggled with substance abuse and became homeless.

Fortunately, Amanda was connected with the Youth Services of Windham County and has turned her life around. She is sober, she is on track to graduate from high school, and she has a job. Amanda says of her youth worker Danielle, "She is part of the reason why I try to keep doing so good . . . Without her, I wouldn't have what I have today." Funds authorized by this bill made Amanda's transformation possible. Once headed for a life of dependency, she is now poised to become a successful and contributing young adult.

There are currently 1.6 million homeless teens in this country like Amanda, and they need us to do our job and pass this bill. This bill reauthorizes critical outreach and emergency shelter services that have provided lifesaving support for the last 40 years. It takes historic steps to address the growing population of homeless LGBT youth by ensuring that no young person is denied services based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It also addresses new dangers that our young people face, like sexual exploitation and human trafficking, which urgently require our attention.

Human trafficking is a growing problem in the United States, and traffickers prey upon our weakest young people, especially those in need of money or shelter. Too often, homeless children become trapped in devastating cycles of abuse and exploitation.

Runaway and homeless youth service providers are our first line of defense. This bill makes sure they are trained to identify victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, so they can help victims become survivors.

After this bill was first introduced in July, it was considered by the Judiciary Committee and was voted out in September with strong bipartisan support. We had bipartisan input on the legislation, including from Senator CORNYN, who offered an amendment that included nearly every provision of his Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This amendment gives law enforcement new tools to combat human

trafficking and provides expanded support for victims of sexual exploitation.

Working across the aisle to enhance this bill and get it passed reminds me of the way both Houses of Congress came together to pass the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act just last year. Domestic violence, like youth homelessness, is not new. However, the challenges faced by victims are constantly changing, and we must be responsive to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. We cannot become complacent in the face of suffering. We need to pass this bill.

I thank Senator COLLINS for working with me on this legislation and for joining me as an original cosponsor. I ask for the support of every Senator to pass the Leahy-Collins Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. The American people expect it, and our humanity demands it.

RECOGNIZING MIKE HALEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of Sheriff Mike Haley, who has served as the Washoe County sheriff since January 2, 2007.

For more than 30 years, Mike Haley has been dedicated to protecting the people of Washoe County. He started his career in 1980 as a deputy sheriff and proceeded to work and supervise in every division within the Sheriff's Office. When he was elected sheriff, his vast experience and understanding of the community he served enhanced Washoe County. Sheriff Haley spearheaded groundbreaking projects, such as the Northern Nevada Counter-Terrorism and Cyber Center and the Area Crime Evaluation System, and used these technological advances to make the Washoe County Sheriff's Office more efficient. Under his leadership in an extremely poor economic situation, county law enforcement overcame budgetary challenges and continued his efforts to make Washoe County safer.

Mike Haley has helped Nevada immensely beyond his role as sheriff. He serves as vice-chair for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security and is chairman of the Nevada High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program. In previous years, he was the president of the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association. These notable positions only begin to demonstrate Sheriff Haley's dedication to the community, and the constructive impact he has had on the Silver State.

Prior to his career in law enforcement, Mike Haley served our Nation as a first sergeant in the U.S. Army. He graduated with honors from Northeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice. His commitment to extending his education and training is evident in all he has done. Mike Haley graduated from the FBI National Academy, the Secret Service Executive Academy, Senior

Management Institute for Police Executives at Harvard University, Southwest Command College for Law Enforcement Executives, and the Drug Enforcement Academy.

Throughout his prolific career and his exemplary life, Sheriff Mike Haley has been a great boon to the State of Nevada. I congratulate him on his many successes while serving as the Washoe County sheriff and appreciate his dedication to public service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE D. EDWARDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life's work to education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Dr. George D. Edwards is the founding president and CEO of Big Sandy Community and Technical College, BSCTC, and he will step down from that position in January of 2015.

Although Dr. Edwards is originally from Virginia, it is fair to consider him an adopted son of the Bluegrass State. He first came to Kentucky in 1970 to attend Berea College, and upon finishing his undergraduate studies, he decided he wasn't in a hurry to leave. Dr. Edwards went to Murray State University to earn his master of business administration and master of economics, and despite some absences from the Commonwealth in the interim—including when he earned his doctor of education from the University of Southern Mississippi—he returned to Paintsville where he has lived for the last 14 years.

When Dr. Edwards first moved to eastern Kentucky in 2000, he became the third president of Prestonsburg Community College and the first CEO for the Big Sandy Community and Technical College District. When the colleges merged in 2003 to become Big Sandy Community and Technical College, he became the institution's first president and CEO.

In this capacity Dr. Edwards has worked tirelessly to strengthen Big Sandy's commitment to its students. He has cultivated ties with the area's business community through his work with the local chambers of commerce, he has instituted an honors program for students, a Leadership Institute for faculty and staff, and created a music and drama program for students and the community. He has also overseen over \$23 million in infrastructure projects on campus.

Although Dr. Edwards and his wife, Dr. Joyce Edwards, plan to move to Verona, VA, in their retirement, their impact on the State and the region will undoubtedly remain. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary educator, Dr. George D. Edwards, and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. President, the Big Sandy Community and Technical College recently

published an article on their Web site detailing the life and career of Dr. George D. Edwards. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[Aug. 5, 2014]

FOUNDING PRESIDENT/CEO OF BSCTC ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

After 14 years, Dr. George D. Edwards, founding president and CEO of Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC), will step down as college president and CEO on January 5, 2015. He will work on a special assignment through June 30, 2015.

"This is a bittersweet day for our family," said Dr. Edwards. "I have had the honor of working with a dedicated board of directors, foundation board, a great leadership team, and a group of passionate faculty and staff who are committed to our mission. Together, we have made great strides in providing the people of the Big Sandy region a comprehensive community and technical college that is devoted to student success, access and transfer."

Dr. Michael B. McCall, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), issued the following statement on Dr. Edwards' retirement: "Dr. Edwards' outstanding leadership during the past 14 years has enabled BSCTC to provide the local community with educational programs in high-wage, high-demand fields, designed to enhance the eastern Kentucky economy. We are currently working with Dr. Edwards to ensure a seamless transition plan is in place as we move forward in our mission to provide Kentuckians with a quality postsecondary education that is both accessible and affordable."

Dr. Edwards and his wife, Dr. Joyce Edwards, plan to relocate to Verona, Va. upon his retirement.

"This will allow us to be within two hours of all of our children and grandchildren," he said. "Family is very important to Joyce and me, and we look forward to spending time with them, traveling and volunteering in the community."

Dr. Edwards became the third president of Prestonsburg Community College and the founding president of the Big Sandy Community and Technical College in November 2000, shortly after the passage of House Bill 1 which created KCTCS. Under his leadership, Prestonsburg Community College and Mayo Technical College together formed Big Sandy Community and Technical College in 2003.

Student success has been the cornerstone of Dr. Edwards' administration. Since 2008, the college has increased credentials awarded to students by 140 percent and graduates earning associate degrees by 64 percent.

Dr. Edwards has overseen more than \$23 million in building projects during his tenure. BSCTC opened the Student Center in 2002 and the Postsecondary Education Building and East Kentucky Science Center and Planetarium in 2004. The Mayo campus benefited from a more than \$7.5-million renovation in 2002. Additionally, more than \$4 million have been spent on infrastructure upgrades in the areas of technology and sustainability.

Dr. Edwards' strong and compassionate leadership has led to many accomplishments, including: the creation of the Floyd County and Johnson County Early College Academies; a highly responsive Workforce

Solutions program; the creation of the Big Sandy Singers, Big Sandy Idol and Fine Arts department; the Honors Scholarship program; leadership development for employees; and the continued growth of the Big Sandy College Educational Foundation, Inc.

"I'm most proud of the students we've helped," said Dr. Edwards. "It's rewarding to be in a position and represent an institution that has unwavering commitment to students. It's also been rewarding to watch our employees grow and develop over the years. I hope that my efforts have made a difference."

Karen Sellers, chair of the BSCTC board of directors, said Dr. Edwards transformed an already well respected community college into a remarkable place to work and study.

"As a result of his strategic leadership, BSCTC has seen significant growth in student enrollment, faculty achievement and campus improvements," she said. "Dr. Edwards has done a terrific job of reaching out to the business community, fundraising and recruiting talented students, faculty and staff. Every step of the way, he has reminded this community of the vital importance of Big Sandy Community and Technical College."

Charles "Rusty" Justice, vice chair of the BSCTC board of directors, said: "I would like to thank Dr. Edwards for his leadership of this wonderful institution over the last 14 years. Under his guidance he has overseen growth and progress in all facets of the organization. I would also like to thank him for his friendship. He is a man of intelligence and character and I have benefited from that relationship."

Bobby McCool, chief institutional officer, said Dr. Edwards' leadership has elevated the importance of postsecondary education in economic development.

"Big Sandy Community and Technical College has brokered the dialogue of conversation on the role of our college in workforce development," he said.

Dr. Nancy B. Johnson, provost at BSCTC, said Dr. Edwards' leadership and commitment to students and communities served by the college has been phenomenal.

"The many successful programs initiated—increased scholarship access; the improvement of facilities; the access to technology and its infusion into the learning process; the responsiveness to workforce needs; and the continual encouragement and support to faculty and staff through professional development opportunities—all provide evidence of this leadership and commitment. Working as a member of his team at Big Sandy has truly been a gift for me."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT GENERAL PETER M. VANGJEL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant and officer in the U.S. Army, LTG Peter M. Vangjel. General Vangjel served as the 64th Army inspector general and retires on February 1, 2015, after more than 37 years of selfless service to our Nation. Throughout his professional life, General Vangjel personified the Army values of duty, honor, and selfless service in leadership roles around the world and here at home. Many of us on Capitol Hill know General Vangjel by these qualities and have enjoyed the opportunity to work with him on a

wide variety of Army issues and programs. It is my privilege to recognize his many significant contributions.

General Vangjel is a native of New Hampshire and graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1977. He served in a variety of command and staff assignments and has led our soldiers in both peace and war, in combat and humanitarian missions, in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He has proven himself as a stellar leader demonstrating unselfish devotion to the Nation, our leaders, soldiers and their families.

For the final 3 years of his noteworthy career, General Vangjel served as the Army inspector general, providing independent and unbiased advice to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army. His advice, assistance, and detailed oversight of timely, high-visibility inspections and investigations proved critical for an adaptive Army in transition. He personally led multiple efforts to promote readiness, resource stewardship and accountability of equipment, funds, personnel and leader behavior.

As he has throughout his career, General Vangjel embraced his charter to conduct outreach to our Army's leaders, soldiers, families, and the public at every opportunity, stressing the importance of resource management and creativity. Nowhere was this more evident than during his 2-year assignment to the Middle East, where he supervised efforts that provided nearly \$8 billion dollars in cost avoidance and streamlined contracting and logistic support efforts as our troops surged in to Afghanistan and retrograded from Iraq. His vision, passion, and energy kept key military and civilian leaders aware of emerging trends enabling them to correct problems and anticipate future challenges.

General Vangjel led his team in conducting many significant inspections enabling our Army to address critical issues, revise policies, and improve processes. His special inspections of Arlington National Cemetery restored effective oversight and reinstalled public confidence in the effort to honor our fallen heroes at a place sacred to all Americans. Likewise, his team's work to help our suffering soldiers receive more efficient behavioral health treatment within the Integrated Disability Evaluation System brought to light new information about process issues and the need for better coordination and support from Veterans Affairs. In addition, during his tenure, the Army inspector general performed vital compliance oversight inspections for some of our Nation's most sensitive activities, including nuclear and chemical research and development centers, intelligence oversight, and information assurance operations.

LTG Peter M. Vangjel has consistently provided superb leadership, ad-

vice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army and our Nation. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Vangjel, his wife Joanne, and his entire family for their commitment and contributions to our Army and the Nation, and I congratulate them both on an exceptional career of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING NANCY J. COX

Mr. HARKIN. I would like to recognize the outstanding career of a dedicated civil servant, Iowan Dr. Nancy Cox, who will retire in November 2014 after 37 years of distinguished Federal service at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Cox started working on influenza at CDC in 1976. Thirty-seven years and 278 publications later, she has transformed the surveillance and science of influenza viruses and vaccines. Her scientific work has been critical, given the tremendous global burden of human seasonal influenza—1 billion cases, 3 to 5 million severe illnesses, and 300,000 to 500,000 deaths each year. In addition, avian or swine influenza viruses can adapt to human-to-human transmission, leading to global and devastating pandemics with disruption in commerce and tragic numbers of illnesses and deaths. The breadth and depth of influenzas impact is vast, underscoring Dr. Cox's vital contribution from her science and service.

Dr. Cox began her senior leadership duties years ago directing a small branch of 40 to 50 staff. Today she oversees more than 320 staff, and the Influenza Division she directs has broad responsibilities as the U.S. Government, USG, lead for influenza prevention and control, and as one of five World Health Organization Collaborating Centers for the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza. Dr. Cox recognized that influenza prevention and control requires a broad, multifaceted surveillance effort. Through her scientific leadership, direction, and publication of scientific findings, CDC established surveillance for various aspects of influenza illness to improve the understanding of influenza impact and to provide ongoing influenza surveillance data throughout the season to inform clinical management and to monitor effectiveness of influenza prevention efforts.

During her 37 years at CDC, Dr. Cox has served as mentor, educator, supervisor, and supporter to hundreds of individuals: undergraduates, medical and PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, laboratory and epidemiology staff members, journalists, and visiting researchers. As Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza at CDC, Dr. Cox has worked closely

with public health laboratory officials from Russia, Vietnam, and China, leading to transforming their capabilities in influenza virology and surveillance. Her oversight of influenza laboratories at CDC has set the standards for measuring immune response in infected and vaccinated people and also has led CDC to be the global reference center for antiviral resistance and for measuring transmission of influenza viruses in animal models. Her leadership at WHO has also led to significant changes in the methods, reporting, interpretation, and policy development for selecting candidate vaccine viruses for use in annual vaccine production. Dr. Cox has been able to see where the field of influenza prevention and control needs to go to address emerging problems, and the successes of her scientific intuition and persistence are present in many places around the globe.

Dr. Cox has been recognized by virologists, public health officials, leaders in State and Federal governments, international leaders, academics, and others. She is the recipient of 10 National Center for Infectious Disease recognition awards, 7 Nakano Awards, 4 Shepard Awards, Lancet Paper of the Year, Time Magazine's The Time 100: People Who Shape Our World, Service to America Award, CDC's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the USG-wide award for Federal Employee of the Year. She has served as a reviewer for numerous scientific journals and research grant efforts. She is frequently invited by editors of Science, New England Journal of Medicine, and other journals to write editorials and opinion pieces. She has been chair of many scientific panels and symposia and has served on various scientific committees for international conferences and global influenza policy development workgroups. Even more important than her past contribution is the solid footing of CDC's Influenza Division for the future that she leaves as her legacy.

Dr. Cox is an Iowa native—born in Emmetsburg—and attended Iowa State University, ISU, where she got a BS in bacteriology in 1970. She is a life member of the ISU alumni association. In addition to her Iowa State degree, she has a doctorate in virology from the University of Cambridge and was a postdoctoral fellow at both the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

REMEMBERING PERRY RENN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Indianapolis, IN Metropolitan Police Officer Perry Renn. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Renn served with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, IMPD, for 21 years.

On Saturday, July 5, 2014, Officer Renn responded to a report of shots fired on the northeast side of Indianapolis, the district where he was a patrolman throughout his career with IMPD. When Officer Renn arrived, he joined another IMPD officer already on the scene, and they approached a group of individuals standing in a nearby alley. As they approached the group, one of the individuals brandished a gun and began shooting at the officers. Despite the fact that he was wearing a protective vest, Officer Renn was struck by the gunfire. After additional officers arrived and detained the shooter, Officer Renn was transported to Eskenazi Hospital in critical condition. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Renn, 51, succumbed to his wounds.

A native of Indianapolis, IN and raised in Phoenix, AZ, Officer Renn joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school. For the majority of his 10-year enlistment, Perry was stationed in Fort Bragg, NC with the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper and jumpmaster, completing more than 100 jumps. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant and was awarded achievement and commendation medals during his tenure. Perry was stationed in Korea for 2 tours, spent 18 months in New York City as a recruiter, and served in Operation Urgent Fury, the military conflict in Grenada in 1983.

Officer Renn was awarded two Medals of Bravery during his career with IMPD, in the years 1999 and 2003. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked at the Marion County Sheriff Communications Department as a dispatcher and control operator. In 2011, Officer Renn received a letter of commendation for his efforts to assist individuals after a stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair injured 58 and killed 9 people. Always seeking to help those in need, Officer Renn chose to serve in a district on the northeast side of Indianapolis because he knew it was an area of the city where many citizens would need help.

Officer Renn is survived and deeply missed by his wife of 25 years, Lynn Sappenfield-Renn; mother Phyllis Renn; father David Renn (Tina); sister Sherri Jones (Michael); five nieces; two nephews; four great nieces; four great nephews; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department family; and his beloved pets.

Officer Renn loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Indianapolis. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Officer Renn demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, husband, and

community member—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, modest yet brave man set for us, and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH B. SMRT

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I also wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of U.S. Army MSG Joe Smrt. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Mr. Smrt was drafted into the Army in 1942 and served throughout World War II.

On September 23, 2014, Joe passed away at the age of 98. A native of North Judson, IN, Joe was a shining star in the "greatest generation," forced to learn the virtues of hard work, frugality, and self-reliance at a young age after losing his father when he was just 6 years old.

Joe was always proud of his service to our country during World War II. He served as a combat engineer in the 94th Division—a part of Patton's Third Army and earned the European Medal with four bronze stars—signifying his participation in four separate military campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Recognized for his love of country, Joe was well-respected by those in his community. As one of the most patriotic men in Knox, his neighbors often referred to him as "Mr. Patriotism." Many considered him a pillar of the Knox community, and over the past several decades, whenever there was a veterans function or celebration of patriotism in Starke County, chances are Joe was deeply involved. Joe worked to educate our youth about the sacrifices of our veterans and servicemembers by giving presentations about World War II at Knox schools and Veterans Day events. He also served as commander of VFW Post 748 in Knox from 1991 to 1994, and he was elected Starke County surveyor for 7 terms spanning 28 years.

I had the privilege of meeting Joe in 2009 when he visited Washington, DC through the Honor Flight Network. I am honored to have met such an admirable and patriotic man. Last month the State of Indiana laid this public servant—a veteran, a Yankees fan, and most of all, a hero—to rest. We are forever grateful for his service to our country.

Mr. Smrt is survived and deeply missed by his wife of over 63 years, Ursula Kelly, and their four children—Terry Smrt of Knox, Kevin Smrt of Knox, Christopher Smrt of Louisville, Kentucky, Madonna Johnson of Austin, Texas and five grandchildren and five great grandchildren, as well as friends, the United States Army family, and Hoosiers across the State of Indiana.

Joe Smrt was an American hero. He conducted himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity—both while serving our nation and throughout his time as a civilian back home in Indiana. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I applaud Jackson Township Elementary School of Brazil, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Jackson Township Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Jackson Township Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was around 96 percent for third through fifth grades. Jackson Township Elementary School's effectiveness can be found in its Character Education program. In this program, students are familiarized with positive characteristics that are connected to character development introduced first in the home environment. Jackson Township Elementary School affirms that every student's success is directly related to family and community support. With over 40 percent of its students identified as economically disadvantaged in a primarily rural farming town, Jackson Township Elementary School is seen as a beacon of light for the development of Indiana's youth.

I would like to acknowledge Jackson Township Elementary School Principal Bradford C. Ennen, the entire staff, and

the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Jackson Township Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School of Fishers, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as "Exemplary High Performing," schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment, or as "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing," where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics. Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School has made great strides in these areas.

Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School combines creativity and critical thinking with the tools of the 21st century. Students are taught complex problem solving, innovative collaboration, and the merits of integrity. Also, by offering mobile technology labs and focusing on college and career readiness, students are prepared for future success. These standards have led Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School to consistently achieve an A-rating and a four-star designation by the Indiana Department of Education. The staff and students' hard work will continue to benefit the city of Fishers and all of Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tim A. Mankin of Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

REMEMBERING ROBERT S. EDWARDS, JR.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Robert S. "Bob" Edwards, Jr. Bob was an Army veteran, a successful businessman, a community leader, a friend, and an inspiration to us all.

Bob was an advisor with AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company and before that a successful textile executive.

Among his many business accomplishments, Bob received the Equitable's Centurion Award and several Legion of Honor President's Cabinet Awards. He also received recognition as Associate of the Year and as the agency's representative to the national agents. Bob was also honored with the Equitable's Community Leadership Award twice.

A compassionate community leader, Bob served as chairman of the Board of the Freestore Foodbank and founded its most popular fundraiser, the Rubber Duck Regatta. Proceeds from this fundraiser have provided millions of meals to Cincinnatians in need. This past August, the Freestore Foodbank hosted the 20th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta. To celebrate this milestone, Bob set the ambitious goal of raising \$1 million dollars, which equates to approximately 3 million meals for hungry children and families. With Bob's leadership, that goal was reached.

In 2002 Bob received the Bengals Community Quarterback Award, the NFL league-wide volunteer recognition program, and in 2006 he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Feeding America. Bob also served as president of the Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America and founded the Council's United Food and Clothing Drive, serving as its general chairman for 2 years. He was awarded the Silver Beaver from the Boy Scouts and the Outstanding Citizenship Award from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

In 2010, Bob received the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Jefferson Award, the Nobel Prize for public service honoring community and public volunteerism in America. Bob was a graduate of Marietta College, and in 2011 he was added to Marietta College's prestigious Hall of Honor. He was also an active member of the Armstrong Chapel United Methodist Church.

Bob Edwards was a source of inspiration and he touched the lives of so many people throughout southwest Ohio. His extraordinary legacy lives on, and the impact he made in and around Cincinnati will serve as an example to many. He will be missed, but he will not be forgotten.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, last month, 20 World War II Veterans and 3 Korean War Veterans from the Last Frontier Chapter of the Honor Flight

Network traveled from Alaska to Washington, DC, to visit their memorials on October 21. I know you will join me in recognizing these heroes for their service to our Nation.

I would like to record the individual names of those who traveled from Alaska to be here to see the Nation's capital on October 21, 2014: Mr. Norman B. Bean, U.S. Army, Korean War; Mr. William R. Elam, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. Henry E. Farrar, U.S. Coast Guard, World War II; Mr. Roy Harold Fay, U.S. Navy, World War II; Mr. Roland Henry Frank, U.S. Air Force, Korean War; Mr. Dewey Max Hodel, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. Paul Patrick Jenkins, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. Andrew Marion Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps, World War II; Mr. Arthur F. Jones, U.S. Air Force, World War II; Mr. Daniel K. Karmun, Army National Guard, World War II; Mr. Kenneth L. Krasselt, U.S. Navy, World War II; Ms. Vickey Malone, U.S. Navy, World War II; Mr. Henry Nosek, U.S. Air Force, World War II; Mr. Clyde Frank Oberg, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. David C. Pratt, U.S. Air Force, World War II; Ms. Mary Julia Quesnel, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, World War II; Mr. John Martin Schwulst, U.S. Marine Corps, Korean War; Mr. Harold Walter Stover, U.S. Navy Construction Battalion, World War II; Mr. Jean R. Therrien, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. Calvin C. Topliff, U.S. Army, World War II; Mr. John Lindsay Tullis, Sr., U.S. Navy, World War II; Ms. Marcella Green Vreeland, U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve, World War II; Mr. Henry N. Warren, U.S. Army, World War II.

These veterans from Alaska join over 120,000 other veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have traveled to our Nation's capital to visit and reflect at memorials built here in their honor. This Honor Flight was made possible by generous public donations and contributions from those who wish to honor these heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING HORSES4HEROES

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a national nonprofit organization within Las Vegas known as Horses4Heroes for being awarded the American Horse Council Time to Ride 100-Day Horse Challenge by introducing the most newcomers to horses in just 100 days. This unique program works to improve the lives of more than 6 million Americans who serve in the military, National Guard, as first responders and their families, by making horseback riding more affordable and accessible. As a longtime horse owner and horse enthusiast myself, I recognize the importance horses play as both companion animals and to our Nation's economy.

The brave men and women who have served the United States and fought to protect our freedom have often come home suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress, PTSD. Veterans faced dangerous situations in order to protect Americans from harm, and we owe them a debt of gratitude. Horses4Heroes is a shining example of the kind of initiatives that will help to reintegrate our veterans into civilian life, combat the effects of PTSD, and help reduce the rates of suicide, while also providing comfort to grieving families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the founders and volunteers at Horses4Heroes are working to assist our Nation's veterans by giving them the opportunity to use horses to help reconnect and get reacquainted with their families. The organization was founded by Sydney Knott in 2006 operating out of her backyard and has now grown to incorporate affordable recreational, instructional, and morale-boosting health & wellness programs at more than 200 therapeutic equestrian centers across the country. This organization's continued dedication to serving veterans in the Silver State and the country is commendable.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and service members in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans' service organizations like Horses4Heroes are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Horses4Heroes, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to recognize Horses4Heroes and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.●

CONGRATULATING OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITIES

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to applaud the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma for being recognized by the Military Times as among the 100 best colleges for our Nation's veterans. With over 2,400 students who are veterans between them, UCO and OU provide outstanding support and academic experiences for our Nation's heroes after they have returned from their service to our Nation in uniform.

Founded in 1890 as one of Oklahoma's first institutions of higher learning,

the University of Central Oklahoma is ranked 40th on this list and cultivates creativity and innovation from its 17,000 students, of which more than 700 are veterans. Students have the opportunity to earn diplomas from the more than 100 major areas of study offered at UCO. In 2010, UCO established the Veteran's Hero office to address the unique needs of our veterans and their families as they transition from the battlefield to the classroom. Continuously recognized as among the best universities in the Nation, UCO puts the extra effort into taking care of our veterans and has earned distinction in this area for 3 consecutive years in similar rankings by Victory Media, a nationwide veterans' employment recruiting service.

Also founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma ranks 85th on this list and has nearly 30,000 students, of whom more than 1,700 are veterans who are earning degrees from the more than 150 majors offered on three campuses. Through the Veterans Support Alliance, faculty and staff volunteers at the University of Oklahoma have provided a positive and supportive learning environment for veterans. OU's efforts have helped student veterans and servicemembers achieve academic excellence and personal success. As a pacesetter for public higher education, OU is also ranked by the Princeton Review as among the top 10 public universities in the nation in terms of academic excellence and cost for students.

On behalf of the great State of Oklahoma, I commend UCO and OU for making the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2015" list and salute their steadfast efforts to provide quality education for those who have defended our freedoms at home and abroad.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel

of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

The message also announced the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5266. An act to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1233) to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4194) to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4. An act to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2. An act to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7489. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone: Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0708)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7490. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spe-

cial Local Regulation, Hydrocross, Lake Dora; Tavares, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0691)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7491. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone, Change of Enforcement Period, Chesapeake Bay; Between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0296)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7492. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Detroit Offshore Grand Prix, Detroit River, Detroit, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0729)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7493. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation and Safety Zone; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone" ((RIN1625-AA08 and RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0717)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7494. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Gulfstar 1 SPAR, Mississippi Canyon Block 724, Outer Continental Shelf on the Gulf of Mexico" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0242)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7495. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones, Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0874)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7496. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Urban Shield 2014, South San Francisco Bay, Oakland, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0658)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7497. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Shallowbag Bay; Manteo, NC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0723)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7498. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Seafood Festival Fireworks, Fox River, Menasha, WI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0748)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7499. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Lower Mississippi River Mile 94.0 to Mile 95.0; New Orleans, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0531)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7500. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; San Diego Tri-Rock Triathlon; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0600)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7501. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Vigor Industrial Ferry Construction, West Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0805)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7502. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Tarague Basin; Anderson AFB, GU" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0732)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7503. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lucas Oil Thunder on the River; Thompson Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0611)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7504. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Wrightsville Channel; Wrightsville Beach, NC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0200)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7505. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; IncreDoubleman Triathlon, Lake Ontario, Sackets Harbor, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0745)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7506. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Shipping and Transportation; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments" ((RIN1625-ZA33) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0688)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7507. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Seattle Seafair Unlimited Hydroplane Race, Lake Washington, WA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1018)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7508. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; San Diego Sharkfest Swim; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0695)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7509. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; 2014 Life Time Tri; Oceanside Harbor, Oceanside, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0772)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7510. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; International Jet Sports Boating Association World Finals; Lake Havasu City, AZ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0610)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7511. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Riverside Music Festival, Missouri River, mile 372.0; Riverside, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0700)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7512. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Personal Flotation Devices Labeling and Standards" ((RIN1625-AC02) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0263)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7513. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Taylor Bayou Outfall Canal (Joint Outfall Canal), TX" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0386)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7514. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; South Bristol Gut Bridge Replacement, South Bristol, ME" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0214)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7515. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments; Correction" ((RIN1625-AC13) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0410)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7516. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, TENNESSEE RIVER between mile 4.8 to 5.8; Ledbetter, KY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0831)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7517. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Bridge Demolition, Fox River, Green Bay, WI" (Docket No. USCG-2014-0835) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7518. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Dignitary Arrival/Departure and United Nations Meetings, New York, NY" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0737)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7519. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Suisun Bay Electromagnetic Scan and Ordnance Recovery, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0862)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7520. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugus River, Revere and Lynn, MA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0272)) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7521. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Delaware River; Delaware City, DE" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0883)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7522. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Navy Exercise, Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean; Cape May, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0855)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7523. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; University of Alabama vs. University of Alabama at Huntsville Rowing Competition; Black Warrior River mm 339 to mm 341.65; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0791)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7524. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gulf of Mexico Highly Migratory Species (HMS); Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks (SCS) in the Gulf of Mexico Region" (RIN0648-XD475) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7525. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations, U.S. Hydro-Drag Nationals, Lake Dora; Tavares, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0643)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7526. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "AAAPD and AAASD; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9917-03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7527. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prallethrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9917-30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7528. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Paraquat Dichloride; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9917-15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7529. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Fresh Unshu Oranges From Japan Into the United States" ((RIN0579-AD85) (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7530. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure to Shareholders; Pension Benefit Disclosures" (RIN3052-AD02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7531. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Other Than Bermuda-Granex-Grano-Creole; Bermuda-Granex-Grano" (Docket No. AMS-FV-12-0013) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7532. A communication from the Acting Director of the Legislative Affairs Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Interim Rule" (RIN0578-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7533. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9914-35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7534. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "C9 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons, C10-11 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons, and C11-12 Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9916-23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7535. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9915-78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to

the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7536. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polyoxyalkylated sorbitan fatty acid esters; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9916-97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7537. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metrafenone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9917-56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7538. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pseudomonas fluorescens strain D7; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9916-13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7539. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Relaxing Grade Requirements on Valencia and Other Late Type Oranges" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0041; FV14-905-2 FIR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7540. A communication from the Associate Administrator, National Organic Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program (NOP); Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (Crops and Processing)" ((RIN0581-AD32) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-13-0011; NOP-13-01FR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7541. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exclusion of Utility Operations-Related Swaps with Utility Special Entities from De Minimis Threshold for Swaps with Special Entities" (RIN3038-AE19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7542. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7543. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Purchase and Usage of Ammunition for 2013"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7544. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David S. Fadok, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7545. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Gilmory M. Hostage III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7546. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General James F. Amos, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7547. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7548. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mark D. Harnitchek, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7549. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a, for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7550. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7551. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7552. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment and Logistics), Department of the Air Force, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7553. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities), Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7554. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Department of the Army, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7555. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Utilization of Contributions to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7556. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Text Implementing 10 U.S.C. 2323" ((RIN0750-AH45) (DFARS Case 2011-D038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7557. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Special Contracting Methods, Major System Acquisition, and Service Contracting" ((RIN0750-AI27) (DFARS Case 2014-D004)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7558. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-Foreign Acquisition" ((RIN0750-AH94) (DFARS Case 2013-D005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7559. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7560. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report relative to an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7561. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7562. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards" (RIN1700-AE03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7563. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency relative to the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan as declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7564. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Annual Privacy Notice Requirement Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Regulation P)" ((RIN3170-AA39) (Docket No. CFPB-2014-0010)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7565. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards" (RIN3064-AE04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7566. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio" (RIN3064-AE12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7567. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit Risk Retention" (Commission Release No. 34-73407) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7568. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Surety Companies Doing Business With the United States" ((RIN1530-AA00) (31 CFR Part 223)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7569. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7570. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7571. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7572. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio" (RIN1557-AD81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7573. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7574. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7575. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014-2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7576. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Commerce Control List: Imposition of Controls on Integrated Circuits, Helicopter Landing System Radars, Seismic Detection Systems, and Technology for IR Up-Conversion Devices" (RIN0694-AG08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7577. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7578. A communication from the Regulatory Liaison, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of Appeal Procedures" (RIN1012-AA08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7579. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material—

Written Reports and Clarifying Amendments" ((RIN3150-AJ34) (NRC-2010-0271)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7580. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "ESBWR Design Certification" ((RIN3150-AI85) (NRC-2010-0135)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7581. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Arkansas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 9918-56-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7582. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky: New Source Review for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9918-68-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7583. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Arkansas" (FRL No. 9918-61-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7584. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1997 Fine Particle (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS; Correction" (FRL No. 9917-96-Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7585. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Ohio PM_{2.5} NSR" (FRL No. 9917-92-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7586. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead and 2010 NO₂ NAAQS" (FRL No. 9917-32-Region 5) received during adjournment of

the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7587. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9917-02-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7588. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Amendments to Gasoline Volatility Standards and Motor Vehicle Refinishing Requirements for Illinois" (FRL No. 9914-97-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7589. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Lake County Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9912-71-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7590. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9917-33-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7591. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Revisions to PSD and NNSR Programs" (FRL No. 9915-94-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7592. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9916-95-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rule on Certain Chemical Substances; Technical Correction" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9917-25)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a) (2) Prevention of Significant Deterioration Requirements for the 2008 Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9917-17-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7595. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions of Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Placer County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 9915-51-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7596. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Industrial Solvent Cleaning Operations for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions" (FRL No. 9917-16-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7597. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources" (FRL No. 9917-10-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7598. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County Air Quality Department" (FRL No. 9912-69-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7599. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Pinal County and Gila County; Pb; Correction" (FRL No. 9916-55-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-342. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President and Congress of the United States to encourage international intervention on behalf of the Iraqi civilians in dire need of protection from religious persecution; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 402

Whereas, Sunni Islamist insurgents and the terrorist group known as the Islamic State or IS (also known as ISIS or ISIL) have expanded control over areas in north-west and central Iraq. IS has a stated mission of establishing an Islamic state and is moving forward through extremist attacks on Christians, Shiites, and other unprotected minorities in certain parts of the region. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people in the Nineveh Plain face ethnic and religious cleansing, persecution, and harassment due to attacks by the terrorists; and

Whereas, Over two-thirds of the Christian population in Iraq is made up of Chaldeans and Assyrians, with smaller populations of Syrians and Armenians. More than 500,000 people have been displaced by the current violence in Iraq, with nearly 80% of Iraq's 1.5 million Christian population having fled since 2003. These communities in North-western Iraq have recently been given an ultimatum to convert, flee, or be killed. Mosul's 1800-year-old Christian community no longer exists. Many of these individuals have resettled in the United States, including Michigan. Over 130,000 Chaldeans currently reside in our state, the largest population outside of Iraq. This community has, and continues to be, a strong asset to our state, among other states in our union; and

Whereas, The United States has provided over \$73 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq's minority populations since 2003. Yet, the crisis currently gripping north-western Iraq has serious potential to undo all international efforts to restore stability to Iraq. Action by the United States is necessary to reaffirm our commitment to protecting minority groups facing persecution: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President and Congress of the United States to encourage international intervention on behalf of the Iraqi civilians in dire need of protection from religious persecution; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-343. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to take action forthwith to amend the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 106

Whereas, the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution states that, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"; and

Whereas, the states primarily regulate today's health insurance market and provide aggressive oversight of all aspects of this market and enforce consumer protection as well as ensure a local, responsive presence for consumers; and

Whereas, states like Idaho are working hard to create public-private health care partnerships and facilitate local solutions; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has passed legislation that will impose restrictions on the states' ability to regulate health plans and will require citizens to acquire health care insurance coverage; and

Whereas, the creation of a new federal system of regulation for health insurance would be inefficient, unnecessary, not cost-effective and an additional burden on states; and

Whereas, the legislation passed by the Congress will impose a legacy of untold debt on our children and grandchildren; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the citizens of the State of Idaho to have an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the Congress from making any law that would require citizens to enroll in, participate in or secure health care insurance and that would penalize any citizen who declines to purchase or participate in any health care insurance program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature urges Congress to take action forthwith to amend the United States Constitution by adding a Twenty-eighth Amendment as follows:

The Congress shall make no law requiring citizens of the United States to enroll in, participate in or secure health care insurance or to penalize any citizen who declines to purchase or participate in any health care insurance program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States and the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislature of each of our sister states in the Union.

POM-344. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to investigate the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of military veterans seeking health care at facilities throughout the country; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 385

Whereas, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been aware of a backlog of patients seeking to see doctors or have specific tests completed at several VA hospitals around the nation for several years. As many as 7,000 veterans have been on the backlog list, often waiting over a year for necessary procedures or tests. The VA admits that 23 veterans have died while waiting to see a doctor. However, many believe the number of veterans to have died while waiting to be seen is much higher; and

Whereas, It has now come to light that VA facilities have, not only a backlog of patients, but also secret waiting lists, keeping veterans' names out of the computer system until they could be seen by a doctor within the required 14-day wait time. The secret waiting lists made it appear the VA facilities were meeting their performance goal to see patients in a timely manner; and

Whereas, The men and women who serve our country deserve better than lackluster medical care or no care at all. Many of them

have been injured in the line of duty and come home to face medical challenges that require timely diagnosis and care. All veterans are entitled to the best care we can give them. To be deceived by a system more interested in performance goals than health care is intolerable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the United States Congress to investigate the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, treatment of military veterans seeking health care at facilities throughout the country; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2041, a bill to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-271).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1045. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment (Rept. No. 113-272).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 43. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 451. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

H.R. 1391. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 1865. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

H.R. 3085. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3957. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 4189. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the "Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4443. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the "Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building".

H.R. 4919. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 5019. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

H.R. 5106. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the "Philmore Graham Post Office Building".

S. 2523. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW., in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

David Rivera, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2920. A bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2921. A bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2922. A bill to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2923. A bill to restore an opportunity for economic development by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe on terms that are equal and fair, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. VITTER, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2924. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2925. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2926. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07 in the State of Rhode Island; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 2927. A bill to strengthen Inspector General audits and investigations by streamlining computer matching agreements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2928. A bill to prohibit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from issuing certain decisions that will raise costs for ratepayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 578. A resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 572, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 675

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to prohibit contracting with the enemy.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, supra.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1407, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes.

S. 1623

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1623, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2332

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2332, a bill to expand benefits to the families of public safety officers who suffer fatal climate-related injuries sustained in the line of duty and proximately resulting in death.

S. 2337

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Admin-

istrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, *supra*.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2663, a bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2687

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2687, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2779

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2779, a bill to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2812

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2812, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2814

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2814, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes.

S. 2816

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2816, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the specific exemption for professional football leagues and to provide a special rule for other professional sports leagues, and to provide an additional authorization of appropriations for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 2841

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2841, a bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine on health disparities, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines on reducing health disparities, and for other purposes.

S. 2862

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes.

S. 2909

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2909, a bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to end extreme global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote enduring, long-term, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes,

especially for women and children, build resilient, adaptive, local capacity of vulnerable populations, and for other related purposes.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. RES. 561

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 561, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that recently proposed measures that will reduce transparency and public participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) should be disapproved by United States representatives to the IAIS.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2921. A bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN ENSURING CHILDREN IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES HAVE ACCESS TO VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION THROUGH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 578

Whereas, prior to 2000, the distribution of, and the resources for, vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 30,000,000 children born in the developing world each year were not fully immunized;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new life-saving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas access to routine immunization and vaccines protect children from deadly but preventable disease and contribute to national economic growth and poverty reduction by ensuring people live longer, healthier, and more productive lives;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, bilateral partners, developing countries, the private sector, including the vaccine industry, civil society, and other partners joined forces to create a public-private partnership called the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines (now Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance) in order to expand access to new and underused vaccines and support the introduction and scale-up of these vaccines into routine immunization systems in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas partnership and sustainability are at the core of the Gavi model by requiring eligible countries to contribute financing to some portion of their vaccine costs and directly invest in immunizing their children;

Whereas, by 2012, more than 65 developing countries working with Gavi were co-financing new and underused vaccines and more than 20 countries are projected to graduate between 2016 and 2020, moving toward fully funding their national immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has transformed the market for vaccines by pooling demand from developing countries matched with secure, predictable financing to make vaccines more affordable and their supply more reliable, and encouraging research and development of new vaccines;

Whereas, as a result, Gavi has played a critical role in increasing the number of global vaccine manufacturers selling to the world's poorest countries from 5 in 2001 to 13 in 2014;

Whereas the price for the pneumococcal vaccine, which prevents pneumonia, is now more than 90 percent lower for Gavi-eligible countries than elsewhere, and the price of rotavirus vaccines, which prevents diarrhea, is 67 percent lower in Gavi-eligible countries;

Whereas, with innovative financing mechanisms like the Advance Market Commitment and International Finance Facility for

Immunisation (IFFIm), Gavi ensures that appropriate and affordable vaccines are available throughout the developing world;

Whereas Gavi supports the financing and delivery of 11 vaccines, including those against pneumococcal disease and rotavirus, the leading vaccine-preventable causes of pneumonia and diarrhea, which kill more children under the age of five than any other disease;

Whereas Gavi collaborates closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the final push to end polio, strengthening and bringing the inactivated polio vaccine into routine immunization programs;

Whereas strong immunization systems are critical to ensuring continuous coverage and sustainability of new and routine immunization programs in implementing countries;

Whereas Gavi supports the strengthening of health systems and local civil society organizations to ensure effective immunization and health services;

Whereas, since 2000, with support from the United States, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, implementing countries, donor governments, the private sector, and other donors and partners, Gavi has supported country-led vaccine roll outs in 77 countries to support the immunization of an additional 440,000,000 children and will avert an estimated 6,000,000 deaths in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas, in 2013, Gavi was ranked the second most transparent aid program in the Aid Transparency Index, behind only the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

Whereas, even with significant contributions by Gavi, only a small percentage of young children worldwide receive all 11 life-saving vaccines universally recommended by the World Health Organization;

Whereas vaccines are widely regarded as one of the "best buys" in global health and recognized as one of the most efficient, cost-effective, and successful health initiatives in history;

Whereas, in 2012, leading experts on health economics ranked childhood immunization as one of the three most cost-effective solutions to advance global health;

Whereas, as one of the initial six donors, the United States has been an important supporter of Gavi and through the generosity of the people of the United States has contributed almost \$1,200,000,000 for the acquisition of life saving vaccines;

Whereas, at Gavi's first pledging conference in June 2011, the United States increased its support and pledged \$450,000,000 for fiscal years 2012 through 2014 to increase access to new and underused vaccines, including pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines;

Whereas, in addition to this three-year pledge, the United States contributed an additional \$90,000,000 to Gavi in fiscal year 2011;

Whereas United States investment in Gavi complements and enhances the effectiveness of other bilateral and multilateral United States investments in global health, particularly in child survival;

Whereas Gavi is committed to working with partners, including United States bilateral programs run by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure children in developing nations have access to vaccines and immunizations;

Whereas, in June 2012, the United States Government, together with the Governments of Ethiopia and India as well as UNICEF,

mobilized the world around the goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2035;

Whereas access to immunizations is a key component of reaching that goal;

Whereas, in May 2014, at the World Economic Forum meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, African leaders pledged to increase investment in their countries' immunization programs by endorsing the Immunise Africa 2020 leaders declaration;

Whereas, on May 20, 2014, Gavi called on donors to support an ambitious plan to immunize an additional 300,000,000 children against potentially fatal diseases and save an additional 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 lives between 2016 and 2020;

Whereas Gavi needs donors to invest an additional \$7,500,000,000 to support immunization programs in developing countries from 2016 to 2020;

Whereas, at the same time, implementing countries are expected to co-finance an additional \$1,200,000,000, an increase from almost \$500,000,000 in 2011 through 2015; and

Whereas, with this support from donors and the global vaccine community, Gavi can reach its 1,000,000,000th child with critical vaccines by the early 2020s, nearly double the number of lives saved since its founding, and unlock between \$80,000,000,000 and \$100,000,000,000 in economic benefits through health care savings and productivity gains: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, civil society, the private sector, faith-based organizations, the international community, and implementing countries on the progress that has been made on reducing child mortality through the increased availability and distribution of vaccines;

(2) affirms the continued support of the people and Government of the United States for the purchase of vaccines for the world's poorest countries through Gavi as a cost-effective, efficient means to reduce child mortality and as a critical component of meeting the United States goal to end preventable maternal and child deaths;

(3) supports the ideals and goals of Gavi to—

(A) accelerate equitable uptake and coverage of vaccines;

(B) improve the effectiveness and efficiency of immunization delivery;

(C) improve sustainability of national immunization programs; and

(D) shape markets for vaccines and other immunization products;

(4) upholds that the United States is a critical donor in its work with other donors to perform diplomatic outreach in seeking additional funding for Gavi in order to leverage its commitment;

(5) recognizes that the United States, in addition to being an important donor, is a critical technical partner to Gavi, and the impact of United States investments to Gavi is leveraged by providing direct technical assistance to implementing countries and global bodies;

(6) encourages the continued use of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) maternal and child health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) global immunization resources to strengthen local public health capacity to introduce and sustain new and underutilized vaccines, that are supported by Gavi, through routine immunization systems; and

(7) encourages continued commitment and investment by the United States Government and international donors, through Gavi, to the global effort to ensure that children in developing nations have access to vaccines and immunizations.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3941. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3941. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI of division C, add the following:

SEC. 3117. REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURIAL IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial impact of technology transfer at the laboratories of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

(b) BASIS OF REPORT.—The report under subsection (a) shall be based on an evaluation of quantitative performance metrics, including—

(1) the number of licenses granted to small businesses;

(2) the number of start-up businesses created;

(3) the number of cooperative research and development agreements and collaborations involving small businesses and the total number of businesses involved in those agreements and collaborations;

(4) the period of time required for execution of a license; and

(5) the number of jobs created.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 13, 2014, at 11 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 13, 2014, at 3 p.m., room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 13, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Hearing on the nominations of Virginia T. Lodge and Ronald A. Walter to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 13, 2014, at 3:30 p.m., room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Hearing on the nominations of P. David Lopez to serve as General Counsel and Charlotte Burrows to serve as a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 13, 2014, at 11 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 13, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 13, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 4

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 4 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time on this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2

Mr. REID. There is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I ask for a second reading in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, but I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Sarah R. Saldana, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, reported by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, now be referred to the Judiciary Committee until no later than December 4, 2014; that if the Committee on the Judiciary has not reported by that date, then it be automatically discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur with respect to S. 1086 and vote on the motion, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be four rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday on adoption of the motion to concur on the child care and development block grant bill and on cloture on the Adams, Cohen, and Ross nominations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 17, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ELISSA SLOTKIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE DEREK H. CHOLLET.

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

JOHN E. MENDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2015, VICE SHARON Y. BOWEN, RESIGNED.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2018, VICE ALLISON M. MACFARLANE, RESIGNING.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LORETTA E. LYNCH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF THE CLASS STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JAMES D. LINDLEY, OF LOUISIANA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

BRUCE MATTHEWS, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

AMI J. ABOU-BAKR, OF IDAHO
GEORGE E. ADAIR, OF VIRGINIA
VANESSA LEILANI ADAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
IKE H. ADIGWE, OF VIRGINIA
ALYCE S. AHN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARVIN E. ALFARO, OF NEW YORK
ERNESTO L. ALFONSO, OF FLORIDA
LOUIS ALVARADO, OF VIRGINIA
LISA NICOLE ANDONOVSKA, OF VIRGINIA
TERESA ANDRE, OF VIRGINIA
NAOMI ANISMAN, OF NEW YORK
WILLIE J. ARMSTRONG, OF CALIFORNIA
VANESSA LYNN ARNESS, OF VIRGINIA
ERICA MARIE AUGUSTENBORG, OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDER CARROLL AUGUSTINE-MARCEIL, OF VIRGINIA
NICHOLAS D. AUSTIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BENJAMIN R. AVENIA-TAPPER, OF VERMONT
YVONNE C. BADGER, OF CALIFORNIA
CAROLINE BAKER, OF FLORIDA
CHARLES M. BALCK, OF VIRGINIA
AGNES M. BAPTISTE, OF MARYLAND
DAVID PAUL BARGUENO, OF VIRGINIA
AARON BARNARD-LUCE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEFFREY RICHARD BARRETT, OF VIRGINIA
JILL Y. BARWIG, OF COLORADO
JUANITA M. BATISTE, OF MARYLAND
DARIEN B. BATZER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CAITLIN BAUER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
PAUL W. BAUER, OF NEW JERSEY
GREGORY W. BAUS, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES C. BAYNE, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTINA ELENA BEARD, OF FLORIDA
COLLIN D. BELL, OF NEW YORK
DAVID P. BENCHENER, OF VIRGINIA
AMANDA M. BERG, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH D. BERRETT, OF TEXAS
HEATHER NICOLE BLAINE, OF VIRGINIA
RONALD A. BLAINE, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT A. BLANCO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
MARIA KIRSTEN BLEES, OF WASHINGTON
CHRISTOPHER DAVID BLINKY, OF PENNSYLVANIA
PATRICK ANIM BOATENG II, OF MARYLAND
ANDREW BENJAMIN BOCKUS, OF VIRGINIA
FREDERICK BOLAGEER, JR., OF NEW YORK
DAVID P. BOLES, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER BETH BOOKBINDER, OF VIRGINIA
ERIC BORGMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LEAH ANGELLE BOYER, OF LOUISIANA
ELIZABETH A. BRENNAN, OF VIRGINIA
GARY M. BRENNIS, OF CALIFORNIA
NORA S. BRITO, OF FLORIDA
JOHN J. BRITTAINE, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW L. BROWN, OF OHIO
APRIL N. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
JANINE E. BROWN, OF NEW YORK
JUAN CARLOS BROWN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TIFFANY J. BUFORD, OF TEXAS
DARIA BUIE, OF MARYLAND
JOSHUA DAVID BULL, OF GEORGIA
COSTON L. BURNES, OF MARYLAND
JOSEF BURTON, OF OREGON
ELIJAH BUSH, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW RYAN BYRLEY, OF INDIANA
KAREN J. CALDERON, OF VIRGINIA
NICOLE LEAH CALLRAM, OF MINNESOTA
JEFFREY CAMPBELL, OF MINNESOTA
THERESA H. CANAVAN, OF VIRGINIA
GABRIELA SOFIA CANAVATTI, OF TEXAS
ALLISON M. CARRAGHER, OF FLORIDA
BRYAN SCOTT CARROLL, OF WASHINGTON
ELIZANN CARROLL, OF TEXAS
OLIVER S. CASS, OF NEW YORK
KYLE R. CASSILY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
WILLIAM PATRICK CHAMBERS, OF VIRGINIA
AMIT SINGH CHANDA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BRIAN C. CHANDLER, OF NEW YORK
ANTHONY CHANG, OF CALIFORNIA
TERESA CHANG, OF CALIFORNIA
XUAN CHAU, OF VIRGINIA
RONGJIE CHEN, OF ILLINOIS
JEUNG HWA CHOE, OF TEXAS
GARY K. CHOW, OF CALIFORNIA
JULIAN B. CIAMPA, OF COLORADO
MATTHEW CIESIELSKI, OF INDIANA
HAZEL M. CIPOLLE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JAMES PATRICK CLARKSON, OF UTAH
JAMES OZZIE COKER II, OF TEXAS
RANDY E. COLE, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA
CHERYL R. COLLINS, OF VIRGINIA
GARETH R. COLLINS, OF ILLINOIS
RYANN M. COLLINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JESSICA COPELAND, OF COLORADO
MATTHEW E. CORCORAN, OF WISCONSIN
JORGE CORDOVA, OF FLORIDA
LESTER L. CORNELISON II, OF INDIANA
BRIANA C. CORSO, OF CALIFORNIA
NATHANAEAL Q. COX, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ROBIN JEAN CRAM, OF OHIO
NATHANIEL DOUGLAS CROOK, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL CULLOP, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RENEE MARY CUMMINGS, OF WASHINGTON
FRANCIS G. DAVENPORT, OF VIRGINIA

BROOKE CHELSEY DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA
 EVAN LAMAR DAVIS, OF OHIO
 TAYLOR DEWEY, OF VIRGINIA
 KALI JANINE DEWITT, OF INDIANA
 CHRISTY L. DIAZ, OF CALIFORNIA
 JASON A. DILKS, OF TEXAS
 JOSEPH DIRENZO, OF VIRGINIA
 SHANEISHA DODSON, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL C. DONAHUE, OF VIRGINIA
 THOMAS A. DOUGLAS, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIKA L. DOVE, OF VIRGINIA
 KAREEM JULES DRIGHT, OF CALIFORNIA
 ANDREW DUBINSKY, OF VIRGINIA
 YUZZY GAINA DUBUISSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CLAIRE DUFFETT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOSHUA EARLEY, OF TEXAS
 EDWARD H. EBERT, OF NEVADA
 CHRISTOPHER L. EDDIE, OF TEXAS
 JILL K. EGAN, OF MARYLAND
 MICHAEL ELKIN, OF FLORIDA
 EMILY GRACE ENRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA
 PETER JAMES EPTON, OF ALASKA
 KIMBERLY MICHELLE EVERETT, OF ALABAMA
 MATHEW M. FALKOFF, OF CALIFORNIA
 NATHANIEL FARRAR, OF FLORIDA
 JUSTIN HOWARD FAULKNER, OF INDIANA
 ASHLEY M. FAY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 COREY STANICH FEINSTEIN, OF CALIFORNIA
 CHRISTOPHER S. FIELDS, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTA KAY FISHER, OF VIRGINIA
 KYLE ALEXANDER FISHMAN, OF FLORIDA
 KRISTIN R. FITZGERALD, OF VIRGINIA
 KYLE WILLIAM FONAY, OF VIRGINIA
 LINCOLN FRAGER, OF COLORADO
 KATHRYN LYNETTE FRANKO, OF NEW YORK
 ERIC R. FREDERICK, OF ARIZONA
 JOHN TAYLOR FREELAND, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDREW R. FREEMAN, OF TENNESSEE
 TARYN A. FRENCH, OF TEXAS
 RYAN FUGIT, OF VIRGINIA
 OLIVER W. GAINES, OF TEXAS
 ADELITO NICHOLAS GALE, OF VIRGINIA
 SEANN C. GALE, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID ALAN GALLES, OF WASHINGTON
 BRADLEY GARDNER, OF CALIFORNIA
 DANIELLA A. GAYAPERSAD-CHAN, OF MARYLAND
 JEANNE CHADWICK GEERS, OF VIRGINIA
 SARAH ALLISON GEISLER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTOPHER P. GEURTSSEN, OF TENNESSEE
 NARDOS GHEBREGZABHER, OF COLORADO
 KATHRYN GLUCKMAN, OF FLORIDA
 RYAN A. GOCONG, OF NEW YORK
 JESSE GOLLAND, OF COLORADO
 JACOB LYON GOODMAN, OF NEW MEXICO
 NORA P. GORDON, OF NEW YORK
 PIERRE A. GORHAM, OF MARYLAND
 ROBERT GRASSO, OF NEVADA
 ROBERT D. GREENE, OF CALIFORNIA
 ABIGAIL SARAH GREENWALD, OF MINNESOTA
 MARK D. GREENWELL, OF VIRGINIA
 CHASE JAMES GUINN, OF OHIO
 NEIL GUNDAVDA, OF FLORIDA
 JOHN LESLIE HALEY, OF OKLAHOMA
 SHEENA R. HALL, OF INDIANA
 DANIEL P. HAMEL, OF VIRGINIA
 CLARE J. HATFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN A. HAWLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 COLIN T. HEALEY, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICK JOSEPH HEALEY, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDREA JEAN HEILAND, OF TEXAS
 JON THOMAS HEIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MICHAEL G. HENLEY, OF MARYLAND
 EMILY ELIZABETH HENNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SARAH C. HENNESSEY, OF GEORGIA
 TAMEISHA HENRY, OF MARYLAND
 MANUEL G. HERNANDEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN HOOD HEYWOOD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MEGHAN L. HIGGINS, OF VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM HARVEY HINE-RAMSBERGER, OF COLORADO
 ERIKA RUTH HOLLNER, OF VERMONT
 KALISHA HOLMES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 KAYLA HOWE, OF IOWA
 MARTHA A. HOWELL, OF VIRGINIA
 TODD R. HUGHES, OF FLORIDA
 TIMOTHY J. HUIZAR, OF TEXAS
 WILLIAM JOHN HUSSEY, OF TEXAS
 D. SCOTT HUTCHISON, OF UTAH
 JOSEPHINE HWANG, OF VIRGINIA
 TETIANA IVANISHENA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 MATTHEW JAMRISKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MICHELLE JANZEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 FRANCES S. JEFFREY-COKER, OF MARYLAND
 MATTHEW JENNINGS, OF TEXAS
 MAN SIK JEON, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHERINE JERNIGAN, OF TEXAS
 JENNIFER ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OF COLORADO
 MEGAN PATRICIA JOHNSON, OF NEBRASKA
 NEAL H. JOHNSON, JR., OF MARYLAND
 JOSEPH JONES, OF NEVADA
 KAMEKO JONES, OF VIRGINIA
 STEVEN GARETH JONES, OF FLORIDA
 TIMOTHY K. JONES, OF VIRGINIA
 ALENA VENIECE JOSEPH, OF MARYLAND
 JACHELLE R. JOSEPH, OF VIRGINIA
 TYLER JOYNER, OF TEXAS
 GENEVIEVE NATALIE JUDSON-JOURDAIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 BRIAN JUNGWUWATTANAPORN, OF NEW YORK
 BENJAMIN ERIC KALT, OF ARIZONA
 JACOB BRIAN KASPER, OF VIRGINIA
 KEITH P. KELLY, OF VIRGINIA

AUDREY KERANEN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 BENJAMIN LEE KESSLER, OF CALIFORNIA
 FAROUK KHAN, OF NEW YORK
 SADAF KHAN, OF TEXAS
 DAVID ANDREW KIERSKI, OF ILLINOIS
 JONGMI ESTHER KIM WIDEX, OF VIRGINIA
 JACQUELINE KINGFIELD, OF MARYLAND
 NICHOLAS E. KNISKA, OF FLORIDA
 CHARLES A. KOENINGER, OF VIRGINIA
 WILSON M. KOROL, OF NEVADA
 JOSEPH M. KRAFFT, OF CALIFORNIA
 KARINA S. KRAJEC, OF OHIO
 JESSICA KUHN, OF WASHINGTON
 ZACHARY LANDAU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOSEPH S. LANGDORF, OF VIRGINIA
 F. CHRISTOPHER LANNING, OF NEW MEXICO
 PETER S. LAU, OF WISCONSIN
 LANCE LAUCHENGCO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DAVID LAWLER, OF NEW MEXICO
 JESSICA LAZCANO, OF VIRGINIA
 KAJAL A. LEARY, OF VIRGINIA
 CARMEN GAYLE LECLAIR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 CHE KWANG LEE, OF TEXAS
 SUN J. LEE, OF CALIFORNIA
 JEREMY LEWIS, OF VIRGINIA
 TANIA A. LEWIS, OF VIRGINIA
 MATTHEW LINCOLN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ROSE VELMA LINDGREN, OF VIRGINIA
 BENJAMIN R. LINGEMAN, OF OHIO
 KARL LOHSE, OF CALIFORNIA
 ABEL TANGEMAN LOMAX, OF MINNESOTA
 MATTHEW M. LOMBARDO, OF VIRGINIA
 ANDREW ALEXANDER LOOMIS, OF TEXAS
 LEANA M. LOPEZ, OF WASHINGTON
 JEANNETTA LORETTA LOVE, OF ALABAMA
 DAVID M. LOYA, OF NEW MEXICO
 MATTHEW ELROY LUNN, OF FLORIDA
 JOHN DAVID LYNCH, OF CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL L. LYONS, OF VIRGINIA
 COLIN JUDE MACHADO, OF CALIFORNIA
 LYNNE PATRICIA MADNICK, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 STEPHEN ANDREW MANNING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 KRISTIAN R. MARGHERIO, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA A. MARKS, OF MARYLAND
 ROSE ANN MARKS, OF FLORIDA
 VENOY V. MATTAMANA, OF FLORIDA
 MARY MATTHEWS, OF MINNESOTA
 DAVID W. MAURO, OF TEXAS
 HEATHER S. MAXWELL, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHLEEN MAXWELL, OF NEW YORK
 MATTHEW REED MAYBERRY, OF VIRGINIA
 KEVIN MASON MCCOWN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 WILLIAM I. MCCOY, OF VIRGINIA
 KELLY MCCRAY, OF TENNESSEE
 PATRICK M. MCERLEAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 BRIAN C. MCKEAN, OF FLORIDA
 KEVIN T. MCNAMARA, OF NEW YORK
 MELISSA G. MCPHERSON, OF VIRGINIA
 JACKIE HART MEEKER, OF WYOMING
 DEREK THOMAS MERCER, OF VIRGINIA
 KARL EDSON MERCER III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ERIC A. MERIDETH, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA I. MERTSCH, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 ALICIA M. MESSMER, OF VIRGINIA
 GEORGE MESTHOS, OF MARYLAND
 KIRSTEN ANNE MICHENER, OF CALIFORNIA
 LINDSAY JO MIESKO, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTINE J. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
 CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER, OF MARYLAND
 SHANE A. MILLER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 ADNAN AZAM-ALI MIRZA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ALISA MARIE MODICA, OF ILLINOIS
 REBECCA MOLINOFF, OF OHIO
 CHRISTOPHER LEE MOLITORIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ROSE MARIE MONACELLI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DANIEL EDWARD MONSON, OF VIRGINIA
 CAROLINE KIM MONTOYA, OF MARYLAND
 AMBER N. MOORE, OF TEXAS
 JAMES W. MOORE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANGELA M. MORA, OF TEXAS
 JEFFREY W. MORENCY, OF VIRGINIA
 FRANCES A. MORENO, OF TEXAS
 NATALYA V. MORIN, OF FLORIDA
 JAMES T. MOSHER, OF OHIO
 KAREN Y. MOZINGO, OF VIRGINIA
 DANIEL MUFFLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CLARE MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICK R. MURPHY, OF WISCONSIN
 AGNES NAM, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 MICHAEL LOREN NEEDLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 PATRICK H. NEELEY, OF VIRGINIA
 DOUGLAS J. NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
 ERICA LEE NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
 JAKE ROBERT NELSON, OF VIRGINIA
 JONAH NEUMAN, OF NEW YORK
 DAVID THOMAS NEWTON, OF ALABAMA
 MIKE PHUONG ANH NGUYEN, OF CALIFORNIA
 DANIEL THOMAS NIBARGER, OF VIRGINIA
 LAGRETTA DORAN NICKLES, OF FLORIDA
 MARI-JANA OBOROCEANU, OF FLORIDA
 HARALD OLSEN, OF CONNECTICUT
 ABIGAIL A. OLVERA, OF TEXAS
 CAITLIN M. O'MALLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 BESTY J. O'MEARA, OF VIRGINIA
 DANIEL J. O'ROURKE, OF ILLINOIS

STEPHANIE NATALIE OVIEDO, OF PUERTO RICO
 TMITRI A. OWENS, OF GEORGIA
 EROL OZAKCAY, OF CALIFORNIA
 AMY MARIE PADILLA, OF TENNESSEE
 MORTON S. PARK, OF CALIFORNIA
 DIANE PARR, OF VIRGINIA
 LISA ANN PARRINGTON, OF FLORIDA
 MIRANDA S. PATTERSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 BRANDON PEART, OF UTAH
 MOLLY MURPHY PEDERSEN, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA CHANDLER PEFFLEY, OF MINNESOTA
 THOMAS A. PEPE III, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 ABDEL PERERA, OF FLORIDA
 ERIN ELIZABETH PERETTI, OF VIRGINIA
 RYAN PESECKAS, OF FLORIDA
 KIRA MARIE PETERSON, OF MICHIGAN
 TIMOTHY J. PETRO, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHERINE PETERSSON, OF NEW YORK
 SUSAN PHEMISTER, OF NEW YORK
 CHRISTINA ANGELINE PHILLIPS, OF LOUISIANA
 GARVEY PIERRE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 TIMOTHY J. PIRO, OF VIRGINIA
 MARK PITUCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRIANT S. PLATT, OF UTAH
 NEAL S. POSDAMER, OF VIRGINIA
 THERESE M. POSTEL, OF NEW YORK
 JESSE POTTER, OF WASHINGTON
 MITCHELL H. PRAY, OF VIRGINIA
 ASHLEY A. PRICE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANTHONY A. PRIDOTKAS, OF VIRGINIA
 AYESHA QUIRKE, OF FLORIDA
 TRUDE ENOLA RAIZEN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 RENATO RAMACIOTTI, OF TEXAS
 MARJORIE JEANE HABIT RAPP, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DAVID J. REDDLING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ALLISON JEAN REEDY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 KIRBY SCOTT REILING, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL RIES, OF FLORIDA
 RYAN RIKANSRUD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 TIMOTHY KEVIN RILEY, OF VIRGINIA
 ROGER RODRIGUEZ RIOS, OF CALIFORNIA
 ANDREW J. RIPLINGER, OF ILLINOIS
 MARINA RITSEMA, OF CONNECTICUT
 MITCHELL J. RITSEMA, OF CONNECTICUT
 PAUL ALEXANDER RIVERA, OF FLORIDA
 MARK T. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELIZABETH M. RODRIGUEZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 CHAD ROEDEMEIER, OF NEW YORK
 SARAH ROHN, OF VIRGINIA
 ANTONELLA P. ROMONA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DAVID B. ROSENBLUM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SHARON ANN RYAN, OF MISSOURI
 NICHOLAS M. SAGNIMENI, OF VIRGINIA
 TYLER SAMS, OF VIRGINIA
 DANA SLADE SANDERS, OF WEST VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN SANDERS, OF CALIFORNIA
 NICOLE A. SATAR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 NATHANIEL R. SAVIO, OF VIRGINIA
 JOSHUA A. SAVITCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRYAN KENJI SCHELL, OF CALIFORNIA
 DAVID MATTHEW SCHNEIDER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 PAUL SCOTT, OF ARIZONA
 GOURI SEETHARAM, OF NEW YORK
 NICHOLAS J. SESNAK, OF WASHINGTON
 JESSE A. SHAW, OF CALIFORNIA
 DANE ALAN SHELLEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BRIAN D. SHERIDAN, OF VIRGINIA
 MOON SHIN, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHANIE ALLISON SHOEMAKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 REBECCA K. SIMON, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN M. SMALL, OF VIRGINIA
 KRISTIN SMITH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MARK D. SMITH, OF MINNESOTA
 AMY K. SNELLINGS, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES RICHARD SNODDY, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES THOMAS SNYDER, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHANIE R. SOBEK, OF OHIO
 STEVEN SOONG, OF VIRGINIA
 CATHERINE S. SPEICH, OF TEXAS
 MICHAEL SIDNEY STABLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 INGRID H. STAUDENMEYER, OF VIRGINIA
 PAUL A. STEMPEL, OF MARYLAND
 BRITTNEY CONNAE STEWART, OF TEXAS
 MICHAEL C. STIEG, OF CALIFORNIA
 VANESSA STOTTS, OF TEXAS
 JAMES A. STRICKLAND, OF VIRGINIA
 DAGMAR STRONG-WITTMANN, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMES M. STUHLTRAGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 GRETA MARIE STULTS, OF CALIFORNIA
 MICHELLE SUAREZ, OF FLORIDA
 JACK SWETLAND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JEFFREY TANG, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 SHEILA S. TANG-RABEONY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ALENA L. TAYLOR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SARAH M. TAYLOR, OF VIRGINIA
 PETER JOHN THEIS, OF MINNESOTA
 R. CHASE THOMPSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 RONALD DANIEL THOMPSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 HEATHER R. THORNTON, OF VIRGINIA
 JASON W. TILLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 SHEREE D. TINDER, OF KANSAS
 ASHELY MICHELLE STOVER TOKIC, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JAMES D. TOMLINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 KRISTINA ERLIEWINE TONN, OF OHIO
 THOMAS TORRES, OF VIRGINIA
 BRIAN M. TORRO, OF VIRGINIA
 MARY KATHARINE AIMEE TRECHOCK, OF CALIFORNIA

ABIGAIL TRENHAILE, OF HAWAII
 TRAVIS L. TUCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 CARYL MARIE TUMA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 KIMBERLY HERMINE MIHRAN TURLEY, OF VIRGINIA
 DARRYL ALLEN TURNER, JR., OF ILLINOIS
 KONRAD TURSKI, OF VIRGINIA
 KEITH TYLECKI, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIN CELESTE TYLER, OF VIRGINIA
 ECHIKA UDIKA, OF MARYLAND
 DANIEL VAN DYKEN, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICIA ANN VANDERWALL, OF FLORIDA
 PETER VANDERWALL, OF FLORIDA
 JESSICA TORRES VARDA, OF FLORIDA
 ZINA Z. VARELAS, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHAEL A. VASILOFF, OF VIRGINIA
 MARIBEL VASQUEZ, OF NEW YORK
 ZAHEERA WAHID, OF NEVADA
 PAULA S. WALKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 BRETT WALKLEY, OF CALIFORNIA
 LEIF WALLER, OF VIRGINIA
 PHILIP A. WALLISCH, OF VIRGINIA
 KENNETH K. WAN, OF CALIFORNIA
 JACOB ANDREW WARDEN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 SARAH ELIZABETH WARDWELL, OF OREGON
 COLLIN KENNETH WEBSTER, OF NEVADA
 ELIZABETH SARA WEISMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 RAYMOND E. WELCH, JR., OF NEW YORK
 MATTHEW JAMES WELSH, OF NEW YORK
 BRYN WEST, OF TEXAS
 MICHAEL WESTENDORP, OF MICHIGAN
 JOHN NATHANAEEL WHEELER, OF ALASKA
 BRYANT WHITFIELD, OF INDIANA
 KELLEY M. WHITSON, OF MARYLAND
 CHRISTOPHER LOUIS WIEDEMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BENJAMIN JOSEPH WILLIAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
 MARCUS TAMBOURA WILLIAMS, OF TEXAS
 MICHAEL G. WLODEK, OF VIRGINIA
 CASEY S. WOHLFEIL, OF VIRGINIA
 COURTNEY ANNE WOLFF, OF NEVADA
 GORDON TATE WOOD, OF FLORIDA
 KELLY WOOD, OF TEXAS
 TIM WORM, OF FLORIDA
 CHRISTINE NING-CHIUN YARNG, OF TEXAS
 KEREN YOHANNES, OF KENTUCKY
 LYNDSY KANANI YOSHINO, OF WISCONSIN
 AMANDA K. YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA
 ANGELA L. YOUNG, OF TEXAS
 CHARLOTTE YOUNG-PADARE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 CALVIN YIN-CHUNG YU, OF GEORGIA
 EMILY YU, OF CALIFORNIA
 SAMY ZAKA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 HALEH H. ZAREEL, OF VIRGINIA
 BRIAN STEPHEN ZELAKIEWICZ, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ALEXIOUS BUTLER, OF GEORGIA
 MIRIAM GAIL LUTZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DANIEL JOHN MILLER, OF MINNESOTA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JOHN G. ALLELO, OF TEXAS
 MATTHEW A. ANDERSON, OF MARYLAND
 WILLIAM JESSE BENJAMIN, OF NORTH DAKOTA
 TIMOTHY WALKER BORN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 ROBERT BURCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 RICHARD A. BURNS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DONALD P. CHISHOLM, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIC WILLIAM DAVIS, OF CALIFORNIA
 JANEAN ELYSE DAVIS, OF NEW JERSEY
 SUSAN DECAMP, OF FLORIDA
 SHEILA E. DESAI, OF FLORIDA
 MICHAEL J. DESISTI, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN MICHAEL DILLE, OF TEXAS
 CHRISTINE A. DJONDO, OF VIRGINIA
 BAHIRU DUGUMA, OF VIRGINIA
 MARC ELLINGSTAD, OF FLORIDA
 JAMES EVANS-BUTLER, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIC S. FLORIMON-REED, OF VIRGINIA
 BARRY T. GILL, OF TEXAS
 JOHN D. GORLOWULU, OF OREGON
 SCOTT WAYNE HDLUND, OF WASHINGTON
 TYLER C. HOLT, OF MARYLAND
 STEPHEN C. IKE, OF GEORGIA
 DANIELE JEAN-PIERRE, OF TENNESSEE
 BRETT JONES, OF FLORIDA
 CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL KELLY, OF MISSOURI
 HEATHER MICHELLE KHAN, OF CALIFORNIA
 PAUL KANGYOO KIM, OF NEW YORK
 ALEXANDER MATTHEW KLAITS, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 CHRISTOPHER E. KRAFCHAK, OF CALIFORNIA
 EMILY COFFMAN KRUNIC, OF FLORIDA
 EDWARD G. LAWRENCE, OF CALIFORNIA
 TERESA M. MILLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 FRANK EDGAR MONTICELLO, OF TEXAS
 NINO NADIRADZE, OF FLORIDA
 RICHARD LELAND NELSON, OF TEXAS
 JEAN ROBERTS OLIVERAS, OF ILLINOIS
 MARK H. PARKISON, OF MARYLAND
 CONAN ERIC PEISEN, OF FLORIDA
 IAN J. ROBERTSON, OF FLORIDA
 THOMAS D. ROJAS, OF WASHINGTON

MELISSA D. ROSSER, OF OHIO
 LAUREN K. RUSSELL, OF VIRGINIA
 EZRA SIMON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JULIE A. SOUTHFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
 CHARLES SWAGMAN, OF NEW MEXICO
 CARL A. SWANSON, OF VIRGINIA
 JAMSHED JAL UNWALA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 STEPHEN G. VALDES-ROBLES, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 THOMAS E. WHITE, OF NEW YORK
 DAVID R. YANGGEN, OF FLORIDA
 KIM KIM YEE, OF OREGON

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ERIC D. ADAMS, OF WASHINGTON
 JENNIFER BELLE AGUILAR, OF TEXAS
 MARIE AHMED, OF CALIFORNIA
 OSAGIE CHRISTOPHER AIMUWU, OF MARYLAND
 ANGELINA F. ALLEN-MPYISI, OF WASHINGTON
 AYANA WILKES ANGULO, OF VIRGINIA
 ZOHR A. PATEL BALSARA, OF FLORIDA
 HERBERT RUSSELL BAUER, OF ILLINOIS
 CHRISTINA BECK, OF VIRGINIA
 NILS R. BERGESON, OF UTAH
 SARAH R. BEUTER, OF VIRGINIA
 SARAH ELIZABETH BUCHANAN, OF TENNESSEE
 WILLIAM M. BUTTERFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN MICHAEL CALI III, OF VIRGINIA
 REBECCA H. CARTER, OF ARIZONA
 PHILLIP M. CHERRY, OF TEXAS
 KYUNG SHIN CHOE, OF MARYLAND
 LAURA ELLEN CHOLAK CIZMO, OF VIRGINIA
 MICHELLE N. CORZINE, OF ILLINOIS
 CHERYL T.M.S. DAVIS, OF FLORIDA
 DANIEL A. DEDEYAN, OF TEXAS
 JUSTIN TROY DIVENANZO, OF ILLINOIS
 THOMAS C. DIVINCENZO, OF VIRGINIA
 RORY LOPEZ DONOHUE, OF CALIFORNIA
 COLIN C. DREIZIN, OF CALIFORNIA
 JORGE L. DULANTO-HASSENSTEIN, OF FLORIDA
 ANTONINA B. ESPERITU, OF HAWAII
 ELIZABETH CLINTON ESSEX, OF TEXAS
 JOHN MICHAEL EYRES, OF ARIZONA
 ELIZABETH L. FEARY, OF FLORIDA
 ALAN J. GARCEAU, OF FLORIDA
 EDWARD GONZALEZ, OF CALIFORNIA
 LAURA GONZALEZ, OF VIRGINIA
 MONIKA A. GORZELANSKA, OF VIRGINIA
 LUANN GRONHOVD, OF NORTH DAKOTA
 SHAWNTEL B. HINES, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 CHERYL HODGE-SNEAD, OF TEXAS
 DANIEL A. HOLLANDER, OF ILLINOIS
 DAVID ELLIOTT HORTON III, OF OHIO
 TREVOR M. HUBLIN, OF OHIO
 M. SCOTT JACKSON, OF INDIANA
 ERIC MICHAEL JOHNSON, OF MINNESOTA
 KRISTIN M. JOPLIN, OF OREGON
 TERESE E. KALLOO, OF MARYLAND
 SELAM KEBROM, OF NEVADA
 MATTHEW ALLEN LAIRD, OF TEXAS
 H. ZAKS LUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SAMUEL R. MATTHEWS, OF CALIFORNIA
 KEVIN P. MCGRATH, OF NEW JERSEY
 LISA MCGREGOR-MIRGHANI, OF ARIZONA
 LAURA LEAH MCKECHNIE, OF OREGON
 GHAZI MEHMOOD, OF TEXAS
 STEPHEN PAUL MENARD, JR., OF MARYLAND
 JOSHUA ELI MIKE, OF FLORIDA
 MATTHEW EUGENE MILLS, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICIA MIRA-HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA
 VICTORIA L. MITCHELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 LARISA MORI, OF CALIFORNIA
 MEI MEI PENG, OF CALIFORNIA
 PATRICK SHAWN PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA
 NORA ELENA PINZON, OF FLORIDA
 KRISTIN A. POORE, OF VIRGINIA
 RAGHEDA ELIAS RABIE, OF INDIANA
 CYNTHIA B. ROGERS, OF CALIFORNIA
 CHRISTOPHER D. SAENGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LEONA SASINKOVA, OF TENNESSEE
 LESLIE ANNE SCHAFER, OF CALIFORNIA
 MARGARET HELM SCHOCH, OF WASHINGTON
 JANINE A. SCOTT, OF MARYLAND
 NATHANIEL SCOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 JOY ALMAZ SEARCIE, OF VIRGINIA
 NADEEM H. SHAH, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DIANA E. SHANNON, OF CALIFORNIA
 TYCE L. SHIDELER, OF WASHINGTON
 VANDANA STAPLETON, OF TEXAS
 TIMOTHY STEIN, OF TEXAS
 DANA S. STINSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS
 SIANA ELENA TACHETT, OF WASHINGTON
 BELLEN SOLOMON TADESSE, OF MARYLAND
 JOSEPH GUSTAVO TERRAZAS, OF FLORIDA
 JOSHUA TEMPLETON, OF FLORIDA
 PAUL ANTHONY VACA, OF CONNECTICUT
 RYAN EASTMAN WALTHER, OF FLORIDA
 REBECCA RAY WHITE, OF NEW YORK
 MARK R. K. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
 DINAH ZELTSEER WINANT, OF FLORIDA
 BILLY L. WOODWARD, OF ILLINOIS
 FELICIA R. WILSON YOUNG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MOHAMED ZAHAR, OF NEW YORK
 NAIDA ZECEVIC BEAN, OF NEW JERSEY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

CRAIG A. ANDERSON, OF WASHINGTON

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARCUS A. MCCHRISTIAN, OF VIRGINIA
 ERIC JAMES MENDENHALL, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

OMAR AHMED ALI, OF GEORGIA
 KATHLEEN A. BRESNAHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ARLEEN GRACE R. GENUINO, OF CALIFORNIA
 GABRIEL HONS-OLIVIER, OF FLORIDA
 DIANE MARGARET KOHN, OF MICHIGAN
 TRACEY R. THORNTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOSEPH W. A. VASQUEZ, OF ALASKA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FAREED A. ABDULLAH, OF GEORGIA
 JAMES ROBERT ABESHAUS, OF FLORIDA
 EMILY GRACE ABRAHAM, OF ILLINOIS
 YVON ACCIUS, OF FLORIDA
 JONATHAN DANIEL ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
 CASEY L. ADDIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 BOBBY (ROBERT) ADELSON, JR., OF FLORIDA
 OMAR SYED AHMED, OF VIRGINIA
 RACHEL A. AICHER, OF NEW YORK
 CAROLINE A. AMBERGER, OF FLORIDA
 MATTHEW R. ANDRIS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 DAVID N. ARIZMENDI, OF FLORIDA
 LAUREN BROOKS ARMENISE, OF MARYLAND
 BRANDON C. BARON, OF FLORIDA
 DEANNA KRISTINE BEARDEN, OF TEXAS
 HARVEY LEWIS BEASLEY, JR., OF FLORIDA
 ALISON L. BEHLING, OF WEST VIRGINIA
 GEOFFREY N. BENELISHA, OF TENNESSEE
 AARON S. BENESH, OF FLORIDA
 ADAM RYDER BENZ, OF FLORIDA
 SOMER BESSIRE-BRIERS, OF NEVADA
 THOMAS DEE BEVAN, OF UTAH
 RAIN CHE BIAN, OF NEW YORK
 CORI BICKEL, OF GEORGIA
 THOMAS M. BILLS, OF OHIO
 IRMIE KEELER BLANTON III, OF FLORIDA
 MATTHEW L. BLEVINS, OF COLORADO
 CARLO WISE BOEHM, OF TEXAS
 BENJIMAN C. BOHMAN, OF ARKANSAS
 THOMAS CHARLES BOLLATI, OF FLORIDA
 COREY BORDENKECHER, OF INDIANA
 ADRIENNE C. BORY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JON BOWERMASTER, OF MICHIGAN
 ERIN ELIZABETH BOYER, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 ALEXIA MCNEAL BRANCH, OF CALIFORNIA
 STEVEN ARTHUR CONNETT BREMNER, OF MISSOURI
 M. ALLYN BROOKS-LASURE, OF VIRGINIA
 THEODORE BROSIUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 THOMAS V. B. BROUNS, OF CALIFORNIA
 ALISON SARAH BROWN, OF WASHINGTON
 IAN T. BROWN, OF TEXAS
 ANYA YAKHEDT'S BRUNSON, OF FLORIDA
 ZSOFIA BUDAI, OF MINNESOTA
 CHRISTINE BUZZARD, OF OKLAHOMA
 SARAH EMILY CALDEJON HAMILTON, OF TEXAS
 JUAN MANUEL CAMMARANO, OF MARYLAND
 JUAN CARLOS CAMPOS, OF FLORIDA
 ALFRED JOHN CANGILIA III, OF MISSOURI
 AMELIA S. CANTER, OF TEXAS
 CHRISTIAN HIRAM CARDONA, OF NEW YORK
 ELLIOTT ROSS CARMEAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DAVID RYAN CARR, OF OREGON
 MELANIE ROSE CARTER, OF WASHINGTON
 AMANDA J. CAULDWELL, OF CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL CAVEY, OF WISCONSIN
 VICTORIA MORGANNE TYSZKA CEDENO, OF MICHIGAN
 ANDREW CHAPMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 HOWARD H. CHYUNG, OF NEW YORK
 EMILY KATHLEEN CINTORA, OF ARIZONA
 BENJAMIN LEE COBURN, OF GEORGIA
 WILLIAM BENJAMIN COCKS, OF FLORIDA
 PAUL C. COLOMBINI, OF MARYLAND
 PATRICK EVANS CONNALLY, OF WASHINGTON
 JOSEPH G. CORDARO, OF TENNESSEE
 SETH AARON CORNELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 JOANNE ILENE COSSITT, OF CONNECTICUT
 ROCCO COSTA, OF CALIFORNIA
 LOGAN RISHARD COUNCIL, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 GREGORY ROY COWAN, OF TEXAS
 LISA MARGARET COWLEY, OF TEXAS
 TODD WILSON ARDELL CRAWFORD, OF OREGON
 ANDREW D. CROSSON, OF TENNESSEE
 ROBERT J. CROTTY, OF WASHINGTON
 EVA HELENE D'AMBROSIO, OF INDIANA
 JACKSON C. DART, OF MICHIGAN
 IRENE ARINO DE LA RUBIA, OF FLORIDA
 CARRIE A. DENVER, OF VIRGINIA
 JULIA SAMPSON DILLARD, OF CALIFORNIA
 AMANDA WICKHAM DIXON, OF TENNESSEE
 CHRISTOPHER J. DOSTAL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
 RUTH LILLIAN DOWE, OF NEW YORK
 MICHAEL JOSEPH DURNAN, OF FLORIDA
 SHEILA-ANNE P. EBERT, OF NEVADA
 JESSICA DAWN EICHER, OF COLORADO
 DONYA SHANE ELDRIDGE, OF FLORIDA

BENJAMIN S. EMBURY, OF VIRGINIA
DONALD CLAYTON EMERICK, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
RYAN SCOTT ENGEN, OF WASHINGTON
MARY CHRISTINE ERMEL, OF TEXAS
ANNA ESTRINA, OF VIRGINIA
JACQUES PAUL ETIENNE, OF NEW YORK
ALEXANDRA ELIZABETH EVANS, OF TEXAS
PETER O'MEARA EVANS, OF VIRGINIA
MONICA SAGEBIEL EWING, OF TEXAS
S. ADAM FERGUSON, OF UTAH
SAMUEL R. FERGUSON, OF UTAH
KEVIN CHRISTOPHER FISHER, OF UTAH
DOUGLAS GEORGE FOWLER, OF WYOMING
JASON O. FROHNMAYER, OF OREGON
KEVIN T. FUREY, OF MONTANA
MAIDA A. FURNIA, OF VIRGINIA
BRENDA B. GABRIEL, OF FLORIDA
SOPHIE YAN GAO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
MARC GARTNER, OF CALIFORNIA
PHILLIP M. GATINS, OF FLORIDA
JOSEPH P. GIBLIN, OF NEW YORK
DAMON MATTHEW GOFORTH, OF TEXAS
ARIEL M. GORE, OF ILLINOIS
NAIMA NILAJA MARIAMA GREEN, OF OHIO
ANDREW M. GRILLOS, OF CALIFORNIA
NATALYA IVANOVNA GROKH, OF VIRGINIA
GRETA L. GROMOVICH, OF KANSAS
SARAH REBECCA GROSSBLATT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CASSANDRA HAGAR, OF TEXAS
KRISTY L. HALLER, OF MARYLAND
JAMES W. HALLOCK, OF NEW YORK
JASON MATTHEW HAMMONTREE, OF CALIFORNIA
PAUL MICHAEL HANNA, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTINE L. HARPER, OF ALABAMA
VANESSA H. HARPER, OF CONNECTICUT
NOEL URBANO HARTLEY, OF TEXAS
HAKIM J. HASAN, OF OREGON
JOHN TRYGVE HAS-ELLISON, OF TEXAS
KRISTIN KARIN HAWKINS, OF VIRGINIA
ANNALIESE HEILIGENSTEIN, OF TEXAS
CHRISTOPHER D. HELMKAMP, OF VIRGINIA
CHARLES A. HENDRIX, OF MINNESOTA
JAMES M. HENRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HEIDI HERSCHDE, OF WISCONSIN
ZEHRA HIRJI, OF NEW YORK
JOHN OMAR HISHMEH, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTIN HO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
KURT DANIEL HOLMGREN, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL JOSEPH HORSFALL, OF TENNESSEE
BRIAN HOYT, OF CALIFORNIA
JULIA MAGDALENA HOZAKOWSKA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
TRAVIS A. HUNNICUTT, OF CALIFORNIA
SHARLINA HUSSAIN-MORGAN, OF NEW YORK
JASON S. HWANG, OF NEW JERSEY
THOMAS B. HWEL, OF CALIFORNIA
MEGAN R. IHRIE, OF TENNESSEE
GREG PARDO III, OF TEXAS
RYAN SCOTT INGRASSIA, OF CALIFORNIA
RYAN M. JANDA, OF MASSACHUSETTS
CYNTHIA L. JEFFERIES, OF TEXAS
JAMES WESLEY JEFFERS, OF WEST VIRGINIA
SAMANTHA ANN JENKINS, OF WASHINGTON
JEREMY R. JEWETT, OF WISCONSIN
CHRISTOPHER A. JONES, OF ILLINOIS
TODD HAROLD JUNGENSEBERG, OF TENNESSEE
ANDREA R. KALAN, OF TEXAS
IVAN FAIAMA KAMARA, OF ARIZONA
CHRISTOPHER A. KEELEY, OF UTAH
ANDREW E. KELLY, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW A. KELLY, OF NEW YORK
DEVIN JAMES KENNINGTON, OF MARYLAND
JOHN PAUL KILL, JR., OF GEORGIA
CRAIG P. KIM, OF WASHINGTON
MICHAEL KISELYCZNYK, OF NEW YORK
NOLAN S. KLEIN, OF TENNESSEE
JEFFREY KLICK, OF TEXAS
JOHN CHARLES KMETZ, OF OKLAHOMA
JOEL ERIK KNIGHT, OF NEW MEXICO
THOMAS D. KOHL, OF FLORIDA
DEREK R. KOLB, OF CALIFORNIA
DANIELLE KORSHAK, OF NEW YORK
LYNN CHUANG KRAMER, OF TEXAS
JINGPING AI, OF CALIFORNIA
NATALIE BONJOC LEAHY, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREW D. LEBKUECHER, OF MINNESOTA
STEPHEN F. LECOMPTE, OF TEXAS
CHUNG JOON LEE, OF CALIFORNIA
SONAM LIBERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELIZABETH SHIU-MING LIU, OF FLORIDA
EMMA CONDON LOMAX, OF MINNESOTA
BENJAMIN J. LOWENBERG, OF WISCONSIN
BONNIE M. MACE, OF IOWA
DANIELLE ANNE MANISCALCO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
RACHEL M. MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA
THEODORE THOMAS MASSEY, OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDER MAYER, OF TEXAS
MOLLY KATHERINE MAYFIELD BARBEE, OF FLORIDA
MATTHEW ROBERT MCALLISTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
PATRICK CALEY MCCORMICK, OF TEXAS
DEBORAH M. MCFARLAND, OF ARIZONA
BRADLEY T. MCGUIRE, OF VIRGINIA
KERRY EVELYN MCINTOSH, OF VERMONT
DAVID DIXON MCKAY, OF UTAH
MAUREEN A. MCNICHOLL, OF VIRGINIA
THEODORE ANDREW MEINHOVER, OF MINNESOTA
MARC A. J. MELINO, OF WASHINGTON
MEGHAN E. MERCIER, OF FLORIDA
MEREDITH T. METZLER, OF TEXAS
ADAM L. MICHELOW, OF ARIZONA
KARL J. MILLER, OF FLORIDA
SCOTT M. MILLER, OF TEXAS

CATHERINE T. MILLER-LITTLE, OF TEXAS
MOLLY LYNN MITCHELL-OLDS, OF NORTH CAROLINA
YANG ZHANG MONTEIRO, OF FLORIDA
JAIME LYNETTE MOODY, OF LOUISIANA
KRISTINE MORRISSEY, OF MARYLAND
GRANT HANLEY MORROW, OF PENNSYLVANIA
KAITLIN D. MUENCH, OF CONNECTICUT
VINCENT M. MUT-TRACY, OF VERMONT
JULIE NAUMAN, OF FLORIDA
RAY PATRICE NAYLER, OF CALIFORNIA
BOBBIE S. NEAL, OF VIRGINIA
MARK L. NEIGHBORS, OF VIRGINIA
KEVIN D. NELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIEL WESLEY NEWMAN, OF NEW YORK
KRYSTLE WANITA ONIKE NORMAN, OF VIRGINIA
EMILY YASMIN NORRIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS
BRANDON RENE NUGENT, OF TENNESSEE
VAYRAM A. NYADROH, OF ILLINOIS
MARTIN N. OBERMUELLER, OF NEBRASKA
ALBERT FRANCISCO OFRECIO, OF CALIFORNIA
LARA A. O'NEILL, OF FLORIDA
MELISSA S. O'SHAUGHNESSY, OF FLORIDA
MARCIA Y. OUTLAW, OF ARIZONA
BENNY A. PADILLA, OF CALIFORNIA
DANIEL L. PALMQUIST, OF MINNESOTA
JACK PAN, OF NEVADA
CHARLES PARK, OF NEW YORK
CAROLYN JOY RATZLAFF PARKER, OF TENNESSEE
DIANA CHU PARTRIDGE, OF ARIZONA
STEPHEN PATRICK PAZAN, OF NEW JERSEY
DAVID D. PEMBERTON, OF INDIANA
MICHAEL PENNELL, OF TENNESSEE
DEAN R. PETERSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA
JESSICA BRIANNA PFLEIDERER, OF MINNESOTA
MARLENE HESS PHILLIPS, OF TEXAS
JEAN PHILLIPSON, OF VIRGINIA
JONATHAN PINOLI, OF FLORIDA
ALISANDE L. PIPKIN, OF NEW YORK
MICHAEL A. POINTER, OF LOUISIANA
MICHAEL JOHN POLYAK, OF MICHIGAN
KATHRYN STANSBURY PORCH, OF VIRGINIA
KIRK S. PORTMANN, OF WASHINGTON
CHRISTINE ANANDA PRINCE, OF CALIFORNIA
PAUL PROKOP, OF CALIFORNIA
SARAH R. QUINZIO, OF VIRGINIA
RENEE MICHELLE RAGIN, OF NEW YORK
HEIDI M. RAMSAY, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY R. RANDS, OF IDAHO
AJAY SHASHIKANT RAO, OF NEW MEXICO
KATHERINE REEDY, OF NEW YORK
CHRISTOPHER T. REYES, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN LUKE REYNOLDS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHRISTOPHER M. RICHARDSON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ABIGAIL ELIZABETH RICHEY-ALLEN, OF MINNESOTA
ANNA ELIZABETH RICHEY-ALLEN, OF MINNESOTA
JEFFREY M. RIDENOUR, OF WASHINGTON
GLORIA P. RIGOR, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN PATRICK RINAKER, OF NEBRASKA
NATHAN P. RINGGER, OF UTAH
DANIEL O'MALLEY RITTENHOUSE, OF NEW YORK
LASHANDA LELIA ROBERTS, OF MARYLAND
DAVID ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA
SETH R. ROGERS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
TANIA J. ROMANOFF, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
HELEN VAN WAGONER ROSEMONT, OF VIRGINIA
ZACHARY R.S. ROTHSCHILD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LADONNA S. SALES, OF TENNESSEE
TODD BENSON SARGENT, OF VERMONT
RICHARD SAUNDERS, OF FLORIDA
TIMOTHY LINCOLN SAVAGE, OF CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. SCHALLER, OF WASHINGTON
ANDREW J. SCHEINERSON, OF VIRGINIA
KATHRYN SCHLIEPER, OF WASHINGTON
SCOTT EVAN SCHLOSSBERG, OF CALIFORNIA
DEMARK F. SCHULZE, OF NEVADA
TAMARA L. SCOTT, OF MARYLAND
BRIAN A. SELLS, OF OHIO
VIKRAM AARON SEQUEIRA, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ELIZABETH E. SHACKELFORD, OF MISSISSIPPI
SUJATA PRADEEP SHARMA, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ALEXANDER DANIEL PERRY SHARP, OF KANSAS
JEROME L. SHERMAN, OF NEW YORK
JASON MATHEW SHOW, OF TEXAS
JAMIE LEIGH SHUFFLEBARGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN THOMAS WOODRUFF SLOVER, OF COLORADO
CESAR GUILLERMO SORIANO, OF VIRGINIA
JUDITH CHRISTINE SPANBERGER, OF MINNESOTA
LANTA V. SPENCER, OF MASSACHUSETTS
MATTHEW RYAN STEELE, OF KANSAS
KRISTEN L. STOLT, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN M. STRAIGHT, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL STRAUSS, OF CALIFORNIA
DANIEL STREBE, OF TEXAS
BRIAN J. STREET, OF FLORIDA
GEORGE JAMES SULLIVAN, OF NEW YORK
PAUL SWIDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL CHARLES TAPLEY, OF TEXAS
ANOOD MEHMOOD TAQUL, OF CALIFORNIA
DENISE M. TAYLOR
MORGAN C. TAYLOR, OF MONTANA
RONALD M. TAYLOR, OF VIRGINIA
DENIS TEST, OF MAINE
DARREN THIES, OF WISCONSIN
MARTIN K THOMEN IV, OF TEXAS
HEATHER JOY THOMPSON, OF NEW YORK
JAMES PORTER THROWER, OF FLORIDA
BRETT FORSTER THURMAN, OF ILLINOIS
MATTHEW A. TOTILO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JENNY GRAY TRAILLE, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW UPTON TRUMBULL, OF OHIO

EVELINE W. TSENG, OF NEW YORK
KAITLIN ELIZABETH TURCK, OF VIRGINIA
ERIN M. UZES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MAUREEN PATRICIA VAHEY, OF DELAWARE
JOHN S. VELA, OF VIRGINIA
WILBUR ARMEL VELARDE, OF CONNECTICUT
JOSHUA D. WAGGENER, OF TEXAS
KARIN S. WALLACE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MIMI WANG, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SHELLY WESTEBBE, OF FLORIDA
JASMINE N. WHITE, OF OHIO
HILLEARY CARTER WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
KEVIN J. WILSON, OF GEORGIA
JOHNATHAN PAUL WINSTON, OF TEXAS
BENJAMIN ASHER WITORSCH, OF VIRGINIA
ALICE ELIZABETH WOLFRAM, OF CALIFORNIA
DEREK WONG, OF MARYLAND
SUZANNE YUEH WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THOMAS TUNG-WEI WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATT YARRINGTON, OF FLORIDA
SAMUEL S. YEE, OF CALIFORNIA
NIAMBI A. YOUNG, OF GEORGIA
WILLIAM QIAN YU, OF WASHINGTON
NADIA ZIYADEH, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW J. ZVIRZDIN, OF NEW YORK

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2012: CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DANIEL M. PERRONE, OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2013: CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

PAUL DAVID BROWN, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED, EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2014: CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

MATTHEW STEPHEN COOK, OF NEW JERSEY
HENRY KAMINSKI, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ADAM MICHAEL BRANSON, OF WASHINGTON
MARCELA E. RONDON, OF MARYLAND
RYAN R. SCOTT, OF PENNSYLVANIA
BARNETT G. SPORKIN-MORRISON, OF WYOMING
MICHAEL J. WARD, OF MISSOURI

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER COUNSELOR:

RONALD P. VERDONK, OF MARYLAND

FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARC C. GILKEY, OF LOUISIANA

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be captain

SCOTT E. ANDERSON
MICHAEL M. BALDING
DAVID C. BARATA
RICHARD E. BATSON
MATTHEW T. BECK
PETER F. BRADY
MARKO R. BROZ
TIMOTHY J. BUCHANAN
JAMES D. BURNS
SEAN M. CARROLL
CHRISTOPHER J. CONLEY
DAVID W. COOPER
MICHAEL W. CRIBBS
LUCINDA CUNNINGHAM
GREGORY J. CZERWONKA
JERRY W. DAVENPORT
CHRISTINA M. DAVIDSON
MARY M. DEAN
DANIEL J. DEPTULA
JOHN C. DETTLEFF
ERIC J. DOUCETTE
JOHN J. DRISCOLL
JOSEPH S. DUFRESNE
JOSEPH A. DUGAN
PATRICK J. DUGAN
ANDREW W. ERIKS
JAMES C. ESTRAMONTE
OWEN L. GIBBONS

CHRISTIAN J. GLANDER
DAVID J. GODFREY
JEFFREY W. GOOD
RYAN K. GRIFFIN
RANDAL A. HARTNETT
TIMOTHY L. HAWS
JONATHAN P. HICKEY
RUSSELL E. HOLMES
DAVID A. HUSTED
JEFFREY A. JANSZEN
THOMAS J. KAMINSKI
CHRISTOPHER R. KAPLAN
BRIAN P. KEFFER
SCOTT J. KELLY
ERICH F. KLEIN
ROBERT J. LANDOLFI
SCOTT E. LANGUM
BRANDON W. LECHTHALER
JOSEPH B. LORING
WILLIAM J. MAKELL
MICHAEL C. MCKEAN
CARL R. MESSALLE
FRANCES M. MESSALLE
THOMAS S. MEYER
CHARLES D. MILLER
THOMAS S. MORKAN
HOLLY L. NAJARIAN
PATRICK S. NELSON
RONALD PAILLIOTET
DANIEL K. PICKLES
JEFFREY K. RANDALL
JOHN W. REED
RODD M. RICKLEFS
STANLEY T. ROMANOWICZ
RICHARD J. SCHULTZ
VINCENT J. SKWAREK
KYLE J. SMITH
THOMAS J. STUHLREYER
PAUL D. STUKUS
LINDA A. STURGIS
GREGORY B. TLAPA
TROY J. VEST
KURTIS L. VIRKAITIS
DANIEL P. WALSH
SCOTT J. WEAVER
CHRISTOPHER S. WEBB
HOWARD H. WRIGHT
DANIEL L. YOUNGBERG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

ELIZABETH A. CAMPBELL
TODD A. CHILDERS
JAMES T. COBB
RICHELLE L. JOHNSON
MIRIAM L. LAFFERTY
ANTHONY LARUSO
SCOTT R. LINSKY
THOMAS O. MARTIN
CAROL M. MCALLISTER
SEAN D. SALTER
LYNN S. SLETT
KEVIN J. SMYTH
CHRISTOPHER R. STOUT
GEOFFREY J. WARREN
KATHLEEN A. ZYGMUNT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

PHILIP R. PRATHER
KIRBY K. SNIFFEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be commander

MICAH N. ACREE
ERIN N. ADLER
EDWARD W. AHLSTRAND
ERIC C. ALLEN
JAMIE T. AMON
KYLE S. ARMSTRONG
JORDAN M. BALDUEZA
DAVID M. BARTRAM
DEREK C. BEATTY
JAMES R. BIGBIE
JAMES A. BINNIKER
STEPHEN R. BIRD
JOSE M. BOLANOS
MATTHEW T. BOURASSA
MATT A. BOURNONVILLE
JEFFREY R. BRAY
CHANING D. BURGESS
PATRICK C. BURKETT
GREGORY A. CALLAGHAN
JAMES C. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL J. CAPELLI
ERICK M. CARRERO
JUSTIN M. CARTER
DREW M. CASEY
SEAN R. CASHELL
JOHN D. CASHMAN
ERIC R. CASLER
ROBERT B. CHAMBERS

JOHN V. CHANG
RANDALL T. CHONG
JOSEPH A. COMAR
PETER A. COOK
DANIEL H. COST
THOMAS G. COWELL
THOMAS D. CRANE
MICHAEL A. CRIDER
EGARDO CRUZ
PATRICK A. CULVER
KENNETH C. CUTLER
DOUGLAS K. DANIELS
STEPHEN P. DAPONTE
JAVIER A. DELGADO
MATTHEW J. DENNING
FREDERICK D. DETAR
SHANA R. DONALDSON
JANINE E. DONOVAN
JASON J. DORVAL
RACHEL M. ELDRIDGE
ROBIN A. ELLERBE
THEODORE J. ERDMAN
THOMAS C. EVANS
JESSICA A. FANT
PETER E. FANT
FRANCES ANN B. FAZIO
JOHN M. FEREBEE
ELIZABETH A. FIELDER
THOMAS R. FOSTER
JAMIE C. FREDERICK
MATTHEW S. FURLONG
LAWRENCE D. GAILLARD
JOSEPH W. GASKILL
MARK P. GLANCY
JEFFREY R. GRAHAM
SEAN W. GREEN
ANDREW L. GUEDRY
JAMES J. HARKINS
ANTHONY H. HAWES
SUZANNE E. HEMANN
JEFF S. HENDERSON
BRIAN J. HENRY
JOHN HENRY
CHAD B. HOLM
ASHLEY R. HOLT
ANNA K. HOPKINS
WESLEY K. HOUT
JEFFERY S. HOWARD
THOMAS A. HOWELL
BRIAN P. HUFF
MICHAEL S. JACKSON
JAMES L. JARNAC
MERIDENA D. KAUFFMAN
DANIEL P. KEANE
BRAD W. KELLY
HEATHER J. KELLY
SHANELL M. KING
ROBERT R. KISTNER
BREANNA L. KNUTSON
BRIAN M. KOSTECKI
JERRY J. KRYWANCZYK
JULIE P. KUCK
MICHAEL R. LACHOWICZ
MEGAN L. LANE-CULL
DEBORAH S. LINDQUIST
ANTHONY J. MAFFIA
ROMULUS P. MATTHEWS
WILLIAMS L. MCGOEY
EUGENE D. MCGUINNESS
BRIAN J. MCCLAUGHLIN
BRIAN J. MCSORLEY
WILLIAM L. MEES
DAVID L. MELTON
ANDREW J. MEYERS
JOHN H. MILLER IV
STACY L. MILLER
MATTHEW J. MOORLAG
GUY A. MORROW
EDWARD X. MUNOZ
ANDRE C. MURPHY
MAURICE D. MURPHY
DAWN W. MURRAY
LOAN T. O'BRIEN
MICHAEL G. ODOM
CRAIG T. OLESNEVICH
MICHAEL P. O'NEIL
THOMAS A. OTTENWAELEDER
PHILBERT C. PABELLON
JOSHUA D. PENNINGTON
EBEN H. PHILLIPS
ROBERT M. PIRONE
CHARLOTTE E. PITTMAN
JUAN M. POSADA
ROBERT H. POTTER
MICHAEL J. RASCH
MICHAEL C. REED
DAVID J. REINHARD
RYAN S. RHODES
LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ
PAUL A. RODRIGUEZ
BLANCA ROSAS
GREGORY K. SABRA
SCOTT M. SANBORN
MARK C. SAWYER
NORBERT M. SCHWEINSBERG
DONALD E. SHAFFER
MICHAEL D. SHARP
GREGORY A. SHOUSE
KEITH L. SMITH
WILLIAM E. STRICKLAND
JAMES B. SUFFERN
CHRISTOPHER J. TANTILLO

GREGORY P. TORGENSEN
TODD C. TROUP
DANIEL R. URSINO
OMAR VAZQUEZ
GREG E. VERSAW
RICHARD E. VINCENT
RANDY S. WADDINGTON
MATTHEW J. WALDRON
THOMAS W. WALLIN
JON T. WARNER
CHARLES E. WEBB
KIMBERLY S. WHEATLEY
CHRISTOPHER J. WILLIAMMEE
SCOTT R. WILLIAMS
TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMSON
NORMAN C. WITT
WILLIAM C. WOITYRA
MICHAEL J. WOODRUM
ROBERT S. WORKMAN
MICHAEL J. ZERUTO

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. VINCENT R. STEWART

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

TRAVIS K. ACHESON
PAUL R. AGUIRRE
JEFFREY RICHARD ALEXANDER
VALENTINE SCOTT ARBOGAST
BRIAN K. BERGERON
GREGG G. BIDDLE
JOHN DEVIN BLACKBURN
KEVIN J. BOHNSACK
JOHN TIMOTHY BOWEN
JONATHAN C. BOYD
MATTHEW C. BROWN
JAMES R. CAMP
JOHN PATRICK CASTILLO
FREDERYCK A. CAYER, JR.
DAVID J. CIESIELSKI
ANN MARIA COGHLIN
TERRY LEE COOLIDGE
THOMAS PATRICK COPPINGER
MITCHELL D. CULP
TROY TUPPER DANIELS
WILLIAM R. DAVIS
PATRICK E. DECONCINI
MARIA C. DIAZ
TIMOTHY J. DONNELLAN
JIM P. DUONG
MARVIN T. EE
MEGAN H. ERICKSON
EDWARD H. EVANS, JR.
DAMON T. FARNSLEY
CHRISTOPHER K. FAUROT
MARY TENISE GARDNER
ERIC JAMES GERBER
BRADLY A. GLENN
TODD W. GRIMSLEY
LAWRENCE P. HAGER
EMMANUEL HALDOPOULOS
PATRICK MICHAEL HANLON
WILLIAM ELIAS HARRIS
RICHARD JAMES HART
DAVID W. HERDER
CHRISTOPHER F. HOUSEWORTH
JOEL P. HOWLE
CODY J. JACOBS
THOMAS JOHN JAMES
NICHOLAS BOONE KAVOURAS
ROBERT INSCOE KINNEY
WILLIAM A. KINNISON, JR.
JASON L. KNOBBE
GREGORY ALEXANDER KRANE
TONI M. LORD
STEPHEN J. MALLETT
SEAN C. MALTBI
DAVID W. MAY
ANNE M. MAZIAR
BERRY L. MCCORMICK
JAMES C. MCEACHEN
RICHARD LOUIS MCGOUGH
STEVEN CHARLES MCGRAW
MAURICE M. MCKINNEY
CHRISTOPHER L. MONTANARO
TROY C. MORGAN
AARON L. MORRIS
NEAL P. MURPHY
DONALD M. NEFF
BROOKS E. NELSON
JOHN SCOTT OBRIEN
JOHN RICHARD OCONNOR
DANIEL R. PERALA
JENIFER J. PETRINA
JOHN W. POGOREK
DAVID C. PRATT
KEITH ALAN REED
PHILIP REY REGUALOS

CHARLES E. E. REMBOLDT
MICHAEL D. REYNOLDS
DEREK B. ROUTT
BRYAN E. SALMON
TAMALA A. SAYLOR
TODD C. SCHOENEBERGER
MARK A. SCHUTTA
GREGORY M. SCRIVNER
STEPHANIE L. SHEPPARD
LYLE D. SHIDLA
JAMES G. SILVASY
ADAM R. SITLER
DAVID MICHAEL SLAYDON
MICHAEL ROBERT SMITH
THOMAS SMITH
TRACY D. SMITH
WILLIAM D. SMITH
JOSEPH H. STEPP IV
RANDY L. STEVENS
AIMEE L. STORM
KRISTIN M. STREUKENS
STEVEN ELLIOTT TINDOLL
BRIAN DAVID TURNER
BRIAN NEAL VANKOUWENBERG
JAMES L. WENTZLAFF
DANIEL JAMES WHIPPLE
VONDA M. WIGAL
DAVID ALAN WILLIAMS
TERRY L. WILLIAMS
DAVID W. WOODWORTH
MATTHEW R. YAKELY
PAUL C. ZURKOWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

JENNIFER C. ALEXANDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOYCE P. FIEDLER

In the Army

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOSEPH T. MORRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

RICHARD T. KNOWLTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

ROBERT A. BORCHERDING
MICHAEL S. DEVINE
GREGG A. ENGLER
JOHN S. FROST, JR.
LANCE S. HAMILTON
PETER R. HAYDEN
BRIAN A. HUGHES
IAN R. IVERSON
JOHN P. JURDEN
ELIZABETH G. MAROTTA
ALISON C. MARTIN
DOUGLAS K. WATKINS
WARREN L. WELLS
DEAN L. WHITFORD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

STEVEN E. BAKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ARUN SHARMA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES M. BRUMIT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

SAMUEL AGOSTOSANTIAGO

CONNELLY L. ARCHEY
ANDREW W. BATTEN
JOSEPH M. BROCATO III
LUKE R. BURNETT
ROBERT G. CAMERON
ROBERT B. DAVIS
MARY L. DEVINE
ROBERT H. DONOVAN, JR.
JOHN J. DORAN
RICHARD F. DREW
JOHNNY FISHER
BRYAN M. HOWAY
JAMES M. JONES
MICHAEL J. KAZMIERZAK
DAVID T. MANFREDI
SHAWN P. MANKE
THOMAS A. MCMAHAN
PAUL D. MELANSON
JEFFREY W. MITCHELL
NEAL S. MITSUYOSHI
TODD A. PATNESKY
JAMES T. VANBIBER III
JOHN R. WILT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

EDWIN B. BALES
RAUL E. BANDAS
JOHN M. BRELAND
JULIA DIAZREX
THOMAS S. DOUGHERTY
ROBERT D. GIFFORD II
PATRICK D. HANKS
CLINTON J. JOHNSON
NICHOLAS J. LORUSSO
NICHOLAS M. SATRIANO
GLENN R. SCHMITT
RYAN M. ZIPF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL P. MCBRIDE
PAUL E. REYNOLDS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN E. ATWOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

DANIEL H. ALDANA
MICHAEL SOUTHWORTH

To be major

DAVID R. NAVORSKA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ERIC GRAHAM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

SUSAN DAVIS
RAYMOND L. PHUA
MATTHEW G. STLAURENT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

SHELLEY P. HONNOLD
JERROD W. KILLIAN
NEAL E. WOOLLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

SUSAN J. ARGUETA
TAKAKO L. BARRELL
ANDREW C. BAXTER
SHARON M. BEACH
DAVID M. CASSELLA
SUSAN R. CLOFT
PATRICIA A. COBURN
CONSTANCE L. JENKINS
SHANNON M. JONES
WILLIAM L. KUHN
STEPHEN J. LINCK
MICHAEL E. LUDWIG
DONNA E. MOORE

DANA A. MUNARI
ROBIN R. NEUMEIER
NANCY E. PARSON
ANDREW A. POWELL
MICHAEL L. SCHLICHER
PAMELA M. SOLET
JASON S. WINDSOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JOHN R. BAILEY
DAMON G. BAINE
DANIEL G. BONNICHSEN
JAMES D. CARRELL
JORGE D. CARRILLO
ANDREW D. CENTINEO
RODRIGO CHAVEZ, JR.
ANTHONY S. COOPER
JUAN B. COSME
LEONARD A. CROMER, JR.
GERALD L. DALLMANN
WILLIAM E. DAVIS IV
MONICA S. DOUGLAS
SHEPARD H. W. GIBSON II
ROGER S. GIRAUD
DAVID P. HAMMER
TIMOTHY J. HOIDEN
THOMAS L. HUNDLEY
DAVID A. JOHNSON, JR.
JACK R. LEECH III
ANDREW G. LEIENDECKER
LYNN E. MARM
THOMAS M. MARTIN
SHARON A. MCBRIDE
RICARDO J. NANNINI
NEIL I. NELSON
GERMAINE D. OLIVER
MEE S. PAEK
RICHARD D. PAZ
ANDRE R. PIPPEN
BRANDON J. PRETLOW
MAURICE L. SIPOS
PHILIP L. SMITH
MARK D. SWOFFORD
BARBARA A. TAYLOR
LISA A. TEEGARDEN
GWENDOLYN H. THOMPSON
TIMOTHY D. WALSH
D004653

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GARY L. GROSS
CRAIG D. SHRIVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

MELISSA R. BEAUMAN
CLARENCE J. HENDERSON
JOHN J. HESS
LEONARD F. KOSICKI II
JAMES A. MONTTOYA
MICHAEL W. STEPHENS

In the Navy

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TIMOTHY S. ROUSH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

KIMBERLY M. FREITAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ADAM B. YOST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHARLES S. EISENBERG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JACK W.L. TSAO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

November 13, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE, Vol. 160, Pt. 11

15723

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES M. ROSS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY
APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C.,
SECTION 6222:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER E. HALL

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate November 13, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

RANDOLPH D. MOSS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUM-
BIA.

LEIGH MARTIN MAY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT
OF GEORGIA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CHABAD HOUSE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Jewish Community Center of Granite Bay, California, and join in celebrating the commissioning of a new community Torah scroll.

Opened in 2005 as a local home for Jewish life in Placer County, the Chabad House Jewish Community Center serves as a center of education and support to the local Jewish community and an inspiration to people from all walks of life.

The Granite Bay center is a branch of the International Chabad movement, which seeks to promote a greater awareness of education, morality and decency among all people. Chabad serves the community through a wide variety of services and programs, including by making the beauty of Jewish principles and heritage accessible to all Jews, and by bringing Jewish traditions into their daily lives.

As part of this effort, the Chabad House Jewish Community Center has commissioned a professional scribe in Israel to write a Torah scroll in the traditional method, which dates back thousands of years.

The Torah, a sacred text over 3,300 years old, contains the Five Books of Moses and is the most precious article in Jewish life. Its guidance provides a strong foundation for morals in today's global society.

On October 26, 2014, members of the Jewish community gathered with rabbis and community leaders in Placer County to witness the first letters of the Torah being inscribed.

Mr. Speaker, since the inception of our nation organizations like the Chabad House Jewish Community Center have been the bedrocks of their communities; and bastions of civic engagement upon which our society depends. As George Washington stated in his Farewell Address: "of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

We are fortunate to have the Chabad Jewish Community Center as a pillar of religious and moral teachings in our community and I am proud to join in honoring this auspicious occasion.

CELEBRATING MARIN TRANSIT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Marin Transit on the occasion

of the organization's 50th Anniversary Celebration, held on October 20, 2014.

For the last five decades, Marin Transit has advanced its responsibility to serve the community by strengthening local public transportation and launching contracts with other bus and paratransit service providers, including Golden Gate Transit, Marin Airporter, MV Transportation, and Whistlestop Wheels.

Marin Transit has provided seniors and Americans with disabilities services to accommodate the mobility needs of an aging transportation network and a diversely growing population. It has demonstrated a powerful commitment to fostering a strong transit system and more engaged community by offering comprehensive operational programs including Local, West Marin Stagecoach, Novato dial-a-ride, and the award-winning seasonal Muir Woods Shuttle in cooperation with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The organization has kept pace with the growing demands for transit options; in particular the Muir Woods Shuttle is estimated to carry 95,000 passengers in 2014, a significant increase from 77,000 passengers in 2013. This service keeps vehicles off narrow mountain roads, relieves congestion, and improves the experience of visitors from across the United States and around the world.

Marin Transit has been a vital tool for the people of Marin County and beyond, and I am confident it will continue to serve as a valued transportation agency for future generations to come. Please join me in congratulating Marin Transit on their 50 year Anniversary celebration and wishing them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING HELEN CISNEY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Ms. Helen Cisney as she celebrates her 100th birthday on November 22, 2014.

Ms. Cisney was born in Hammond, Indiana in 1914. She married Irvin Cisney, and together they owned a diner in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During World War II, Ms. Cisney worked on the assembly line at General Motors. Upon retirement, Mr. & Mrs. Cisney moved to Zephyrhills, Florida where they lived for thirty years. Today, Ms. Cisney lives in Fruitland Park where she attends Sunday services at Faith Bible Baptist Church and plays dominoes on Tuesday evenings at First Baptist Church of Leesburg. Ms. Cisney is a talented bowler and has won many trophies over the years. She is also a breast cancer survivor and was named Grand Marshall of the Lake County Cancer Walk in 2005.

Ms. Cisney has two daughters, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. I wish her a very happy 100th birthday and all the best to her and her family.

HONORING TARKIO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Tarkio First Baptist Church, which will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding in my hometown of Tarkio, Missouri on September 21st, 2014. Since 1889, the Tarkio First Baptist Church has served the community through its faith, fellowship and welcoming spirit.

From the first time they opened their doors until today, First Baptist has stood as a cornerstone of the Tarkio community. First Baptist has experienced wars and conflicts as well as times of peace and prosperity. It has served as a haven through many hardships of economic struggle and social change. Through droughts, floods, tornadoes, blizzards, as well as harvests both good and bad, this church has remained a constant source of comfort. It has served congregants by promoting faith in God, the Bible, prayer and the community itself.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Tarkio First Baptist Church. For 125 years, this church has supported Tarkio and its people come what may. It is truly an honor to serve this church and its congregation in the United States Congress.

CELEBRATING THE CONGREGATION SOCIETY B'NAI ISRAEL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma, California on the occasion of the organization's sesquicentennial on November 1, 2014.

Congregation Society B'nai Israel is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the State of California and is the oldest congregation between San Francisco and the Oregon border. For the past one hundred and fifty years, the B'nai Israel Jewish Center has provided a place where all who identify with the Jewish community may gather and participate in enriching spiritual, social, cultural, and educational experiences. The diverse programs

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and educational opportunities offered through Congregation Society B'nai Israel strengthen, celebrate and sustain Jewish culture in Petaluma, build cross-cultural understanding, and enrich the lives of those in the community at large.

The B'nai Israel Jewish Center is a treasure to the City of Petaluma, and countless residents of Sonoma County have benefitted from the organization's longstanding commitment to the Jewish faith and strong community values. Please join me in congratulating the B'nai Israel community on this milestone one hundred and fifty year anniversary and wishing them many years of future success.

**HONORING DORAL PERFORMING
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY**

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Doral Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of preparing students, and instilling in them a belief in their own efficacy, seriously.

Doral Academy opened its doors in 1999, and currently serves 2800 students. Doral Academy believes that engaging families and communities contributes to greater academic achievement and to the improvement of the school as a whole. This model of engagement is predicated on three core beliefs: student achievement increases the more knowledge parents have about their children's school experience; greater involvement of families through non-academic channels still contributes to greater academic buy-in by all; and the more a school invests in a community, the more resources, support networks, and allies are available to bolster the health and vitality of the school holistically.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy for their tremendous service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
VERLEIGH BLOOM**

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear lady in our district, Ms. Verleigh M. Bloom, 83, who passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29th.

Verleigh was a genuinely thoughtful and loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who held onto her family very dearly. Verleigh cherished the time spent with her loved ones, and considered her family one of her greatest joys and accomplishments.

Preceded in death by parents, James and Verleigh Darnell, Verleigh will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched. Verleigh is survived by her daughter Verleigh I. Gray of Niles, OH; two sons, James C. Bloom of Leavittsburg, OH and Ted E. Bloom of Howland, OH; nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Verleigh M. Bloom. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to her entire family. Her loving character and considerate nature will be immeasurably missed. Our community is a much better place because of Verleigh's loving approach to life.

**RECOGNIZING PETER LAVALLEE
AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Peter LaVallee, who was honored as the Humboldt Citizen of the Year on October 2, 2014, an award he richly deserves.

Peter LaVallee's long history of public service has been of tremendous benefit to the community. His work as an elected official, as an advocate for youth and vulnerable populations, and as a conservationist has made Peter LaVallee a vital member of my congressional district and the surrounding region.

After attending Wayne State University, Peter LaVallee completed his bachelor's degree in political science at Humboldt State University. He went on to graduate studies at Sacramento State University. Peter LaVallee served as director of youth services for Trinity County from 1980 to 1985. He then spent 26 years as director of Redwood Community Action Agency's Youth Services Division. California Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Peter LaVallee to the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1992 and he served until 2000 in that capacity.

Peter LaVallee was mayor of the City of Eureka from 2002 to 2006. During that time, he also was a member of the Eureka Rotary Club. From 2006 to 2011, Peter LaVallee served on the Humboldt County Housing and Homeless Coalition. Among his contributions

are the development of services for runaway and homeless youth, including 24-hour crisis intervention, street outreach, school-based prevention and intervention services, short-term emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing and supportive services.

Mr. Speaker, Peter LaVallee's dedication to youth and community services in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and congratulations for the people of Taiwan, who celebrated their National Day on October 10, 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enduring value of Taiwan's friendship with the United States, and to reaffirm our commitment in Congress to strengthening our nations' ties.

Taiwan stands as an example in the Pacific of what economic and political freedom can bring to a country and its people. Since its founding 103 years ago, Taiwan has established itself as a country dedicated to citizen government and the free exchange of goods and ideas that forms the foundation of any modern and prosperous society. Taiwan has also made significant economic and cultural contributions to the global community, and to peace and stability in the region.

Again I would like to offer my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their 103rd National Day.

**HONORING MATER GARDENS
ACADEMY**

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mater Gardens Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Mater Gardens Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of bringing about meaningful achievement enabling students to become confident, life-long learners.

Mater Gardens Academy opened its doors in August 2006 as a K-8 charter school sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Mater Gardens upholds core values that pave the way for student success: setting high expectations, valuing individuality, expecting accountability, and demonstrating respect, honesty, and integrity. The school has consistently been recognized for outstanding achievement. In 2011 Mater Academy placed sixth in the county on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Science, and has also won the Gold Award from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2006 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013 the school was named one of the top 10 schools in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mater Gardens Academy for their tremendous service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

RECOGNITION OF POLICE CAPTAIN
DARRIN M. MOODY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Darrin M. Moody who is leaving the Fairfield Police Department. After serving two years with the Modesto Police Department, Captain Moody was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on September 5, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that include Patrol, Youth Services, Investigations, Field Training, and Special Activity Felony Enforcement. He was promoted to Police Corporal in 1999 and became a K-9 handler in 2001.

On December 24, 2004, Captain Moody was promoted to Police Sergeant and served in Patrol and Investigations before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on December 7, 2007. He was a strong and decisive leader which led to him receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2007. As a Police Lieutenant, he served as Commander for Patrol, Quality of Life, and Major Crimes Bureaus, and for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, Captain Moody constantly stepped in and assisted City management in filling the gaps. Before being officially promoted to Police Captain on May 6, 2011, he willingly assumed the Captain's position twice and managed Patrol Operations in 2008 and 2010.

Captain Moody has been a valued employee and leader and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis. He is commended for his selfless contribution to Fairfield and its constituents.

IN MEMORIAM—FRANK
ALEXANDER GRANT III

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of Frank Alexander Grant III, who

passed away on September 16, 2014 in his Altadena home following a battle with cancer. A natural leader and mentor to others both professionally and privately, Mr. Grant was a model of achievement and a positive force within the local community.

Frank Alexander Grant III was born in Eureka, CA on December 7, 1942, and grew up on the Yurok Indian Reservation, where he attended grammar school and high school. After graduating as high school valedictorian, Mr. Grant went on to receive a B.S. and M.S. in civil and sanitary engineering from Stanford University. On graduation day in 1966, he married Carole Susan Magnus. Mr. Grant served his country in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps stateside for two years before earning a Ph.D. in engineering at University of California Berkeley in 1972.

Frank Grant worked for over 30 years at MWH Global, an international engineering firm, managing large projects throughout California and abroad. Following a very successful career at MWH Global, Mr. Grant retired as the company's Senior Vice President. He built his own cabin along the Klamath River and was an active member in the Yurok community. Mr. Grant provided economic development advice to the tribe in addition to his involvement in other community organizations and pursuits in both Northern California and the Pasadena area.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Alexander Grant III leaves behind a legacy of professional and personal achievement and community engagement that will not soon be forgotten. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his wife Carole; sons Frank IV and Philip; grandchildren Frank V, Andrew, Eva and Naomi; brothers Zane Grant Sr. and James Jackson Jr.; and step-mother Elinor Grant.

RECOGNIZING BEN NICHOLSON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ben Nicholson, who left the Appropriations Committee staff in October after more than 12 years of distinguished service. Ben started his career serving our Nation in 1992 when he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving for 10 years before joining the Appropriations Committee staff in 2002. Since that time, Ben has worked on various subcommittees, and for several chairmen, ultimately becoming the Clerk and Staff Director of the Homeland Security Subcommittee in 2011.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Ben. He is professional, he is reliable, he is dedicated, and he gets the job done, regardless of the circumstances. Ben is a born leader and a Patriot. He holds himself accountable to a code of the highest standards. He efficiently manages his staff, not by micromanaging but by setting an example and empowering them to make informed

recommendations. He is affable, thoughtful, determined to make a difference, and calm under pressure.

As we all know, congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Ben than his supportive and loving family. In his new employment, Ben will hopefully have more time to spend with his lovely wife, Anna, and their son, Tim. I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. And Ben Nicholson is the epitome of that statement.

Congress, the House, the Appropriations Committee, and I will surely miss Ben's contributions and leadership; but we thank him for his service and dedication and we wish him well now and in the future.

RECOGNIZING CONNIE STEWART
AS 2014 NONPROFIT LEADER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Connie Stewart, who was honored on November 5, 2014, with the Northern California Association of Nonprofits 2014 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Connie's service to California and my congressional district has been exemplary. Her work on the Arcata City Council, as staff for the California Assembly, and as the executive director of the California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University has improved the lives of many in the community. Connie Stewart has worked tirelessly to promote broadband deployment, economic development, food security, youth leadership, and improved healthcare for all.

Raised in New Jersey, Connie Stewart later attended Humboldt State University, where she graduated with a B.A. in speech communication. She went on to work at the Northcoast Environmental Center for 14 years before serving as senior field representative to Assemblywoman Patty Berg for seven years. Connie Stewart was elected to the Arcata City Council in 1996, was re-elected in 2000, and served as mayor for two years.

Connie Stewart became executive director at the California Center for Rural Policy in 2009. Within four years, she had expanded staff from three to 25 and cultivated relationships with private foundations and government agencies, bringing in millions of dollars for a wide variety of rural projects. During this time, she also served on the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group Product Design Advisory Team for the Wealth Creation and Rural Livelihoods Initiative. Connie Stewart is well respected throughout the community as a civic leader and rural policy powerhouse.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Stewart's commitment to improving community services through her nonprofit work in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my

colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, I was unavoidably detained due to the necessity of accompanying the Vice-President of the United States on his visit to Houston and attending to other representational activities in my congressional district, and thus unable to return in time for Rollcall Vote 516. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On Rollcall No. 516 I would have voted "aye" (Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act)

CONDEMNING REMARKS MADE BY FORMER MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my disappointment in Former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour's offensive remarks regarding President Barack Obama. On a post-election conference call Barbour referred to President Obama's policies as "tar baby."

Although some may feel as though Barbour's remarks were a "slip of the tongue" or not offensive I, as an African American who has been the recipient of such references find such remarks reprehensible.

As the former governor of a state such as Mississippi, Barbour's remarks were particularly degrading to those citizens who still remember being raised in an era of extreme racial criticism and hatred. Remarks such as these demonstrate a lack of racial sensitivity and foster a culture of prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I am highly offended by Barbour's comments and am offended by his insensitivity.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPIRIT OF SPRINGFIELD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Spirit of Springfield. Since incorporated on December 21, 1989, the Spirit of Springfield has entertained approximately eight million area residents and visitors with events that bring the community together in celebration and provide community vitality.

These events currently include the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, Spirit of Springfield Golf Classic, MassMutual Star Spangled Springfield, Tower Square Parade of the Big Balloons, City of Bright Nights Ball, Bright Nights at Forest Park and annual free holiday concert by the 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Bright Nights at Forest Park is the largest event the Spirit of Springfield presents and it is in conjunction with the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management. The three-mile drive through magnificent lighting displays has been honored by the American Bus Association as one of the Top 100 Attractions in North America for multiple years. 2014 marks the event's 20th season.

The Spirit of Springfield is also pleased to provide event services to the City of Springfield for events that include the mayoral inaugurations, building dedications, swearing-in ceremonies, police academy graduations and September 11th Remembrance Ceremony.

To produce the events, the non-profit organization, which is governed by a Board of Directors and employs three full time employees, raises approximately \$450,000 in corporate contributions and an additional \$450,000 in donated goods and services. The magic is all made by three full-time employees, college interns, volunteers and a dedicated board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime supporter of the Spirit of Springfield, I am very proud to congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and wish them many more years of success with their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FORT BEND COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMISSIONER FOR RECEIVING AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Commissioner Marc Grant for receiving the first ever Road Administrator of the Year Award from the Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators.

This award recognizes the technical and professional contributions of those who ensure the safety of Texas's critical infrastructure. For 14 years, Grant has admirably served the county by managing the maintenance and safety of Fort Bend County's roads and bridges. Strong leadership ensures that this infrastructure allows all of us to safely commute in a highly congested area.

I thank Marc Grant for his exemplary public service. Through his position, he has supported the growth of our county and has expanded opportunity for so many businesses and families in our community. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we again congratulate Marc Grant for receiving the 2014 Road Administrator of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LANE EVANS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last week we lost a dear friend and a distinguished former Member of this House.

Lane Evans ably served the people of Illinois's 17th District for 24 years. He had been a public interest lawyer and a Marine veteran when he took office in 1983, and he got right to work fighting for his constituents by standing up for workers' rights, pushing for better care and benefits for those who had served in uniform, and advocating for greater opportunities for middle class families.

Lane was known as a champion of constituent services, helping northwestern Illinoisans get the help they needed from federal agencies and ensuring that casework was processed quickly and effectively. And America's veterans will always remember him for his work on behalf of those suffering from exposure to Agent Orange and those disfigured by land mines. When the Rock Island Arsenal faced cuts and closure 10 years ago, he fought with tenacity and determination to keep it open and save jobs across his district.

Lane was a self-described populist, someone who always put his fight for the common men and women of America first. He always kept faith with those he served, even after receiving the difficult diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 1995. While his Parkinson's grew worse, Lane only grew more determined to achieve a better future for his constituents and his country. All of us who served with him were awed by his strength in body and in character as he faced that challenge with grace and resolve.

I join with the many whose lives he touched and made better throughout Illinois and across the country in paying tribute to Lane Evans and his legacy. I want to thank Representative CHERI BUSTOS for organizing this special order in Lane's memory and for carrying his work forward in Illinois's 17th District.

The people of Illinois and the United States—and the Members of this House—will not forget Lane Evans, his work, and his unwavering commitment to serving the country and community he so loved.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Anniversary of Behavioral Health Response. BHR is a nonprofit organization, established in 1994, that provides free 24-hour access to behavioral health services for the citizens of the Eastern Region of Missouri by equipped mental health professionals. BHR continues to play a crucial role in Missouri's behavioral healthcare system.

BHR serves as a prominent asset to the behavioral health community through its cooperation with hospitals, community mental health centers, police officers, and other community organizations. They also provide prompt and constant accessibility by means of private telephone counseling and mobile outreach services. In addition, BHR uses a strategic system of careful administrative work, compassionate calls, and courteous follow-up calls to ensure respect and high-performance for the citizens. BHR complements the efficient and effective deliverance of high-quality healthcare services and largely contributes to the well-being of the residents of Missouri.

For the critical contributions Behavioral Health Response has made to the behavioral healthcare system in Missouri, it is my pleasure to recognize the 20th Anniversary of Behavioral Health Response in the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE ALTUVE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the millions of Astros fans in Houston and Texas and throughout the world to recognize the historic performance of our all-star second baseman and Venezuelan native, Jose Altuve, during the 2014 Major League Baseball season.

Jose finished the 2014 season with 225 hits and a .341 batting average, the best in all of baseball, along with 56 stolen bases, tops in the American League. Jose is just the second player since 1945 to lead the AL in all three categories.

Baseball writers at the season's end noted that Jose's 2014 season will go down as one of the greatest performances by a second baseman in baseball history.

Most notably, Jose had more hits than any second baseman since Charlie Gehringer's 227 hits in 1936 and became only one of two players since the turn of the 20th century to record 220-plus hits, 55-plus extra-base hits, and 55-plus stolen bases in one season. The other is Ty Cobb.

But beyond the numbers, Jose shows baseball fans, young and old, that with tenacity and a commitment to be the best, anyone, no matter their background or size, can achieve greatness.

On the last day of the season, the Astros planned to keep Jose out of the line-up in order to secure his batting championship, a first for any player in an Astros uniform. Instead, Altuve convinced Coach Lawless to put him back in the line-up just minutes before the game started. Jose proved to all that he was the true batting champion, going 2-for-4 with a double.

I had the opportunity to meet Jose last April, when he, fellow Astro Jason Castro, and baseball great Nolan Ryan, came to Denver Harbor, a working class neighborhood in our congressional district in Houston, to celebrate the opening of the revitalized baseball fields at

Denver Harbor Park and spend the morning with little leaguers from the area.

It was a pleasure to see Jose, Jason, and Nolan spend time with these wide-eyed little leaguers and inspire them to work hard and achieve their dreams.

On behalf of the Astros faithful, I would like to say "thank you" and anticipate that with Jose and our squad of talented young players, Houston will continue to be competitive in the American League.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 516. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 516.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RICHARD J. NOTTE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Mayor Richard J. Notte, who passed away on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Richard Notte was a good friend and colleague in public service, and I am honored to pay tribute to him.

Mayor Notte was at the heart and soul of the City of Sterling Heights. He served his community with such active and vibrant devotion, and was considered to be a "working man's mayor." He was highly recognizable in his trademark fedora but he was less interested in the spotlight than representing the residents of Sterling Heights and improving the community he cherished.

Mayor Notte was first elected to city council in 1983 where he served for ten years before he was elected Mayor in 1993. He also enjoyed a lengthy and successful career working at Ford Motor Company for 45 years before retiring in 2004. He held several elected UAW positions including plant chairman, recording and financial secretary.

Mayor Notte's love for his city and the automotive industry combined when we needed the most. As a founding Mayor of the Mayors Automotive Caucus he was an articulate spokesperson nationally for the domestic auto industry and the U.S. manufacturing base. Locally his tenacious efforts helped to keep the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) open and when Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy, the company invested over \$1 billion to construct a new assembly facility and paint shop at SHAP. He was deeply proud of that effort and the resurgence of the auto industry in our state.

Mayor Notte's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. Through the years he was honored with dozens of prestigious awards. In October

2013 he was inducted into the Macomb Hall of Fame and was recognized for his outstanding contributions to improving the economic, family, and community life of Macomb County. He was also a strong advocate for the Sterling Heights Community Foundation and its mission to enhance cultural, educational and recreational opportunities for Sterling Heights residents. In 2010, he funded the "Richard J. Notte Scholarship for Public Service Endowment." Through this permanent endowment, impact on the community will live on in perpetuity, as the Foundation will annually present a college scholarship to a deserving student in his name.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am honored to have worked with Richard Notte during his career and to see up close how rooted he was in his community. I am pleased to join with his family, friends and the larger Macomb County community in mourning his loss, celebrating his life and honoring his accomplishments.

HONORING ANTHONY "STONEY" PARKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Chief of Police, Anthony "Stoney" Parker. Chief Parker has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Anthony "Stoney" Parker was born in Montgomery, Alabama to the late Cornie and Lillian Parker. Chief Parker graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Alabama in May 1974 where he received a scholarship in football to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Chief Parker is a 1979 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. After graduation he played one year of professional football for the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Canadian Football League before being injured. He was later inducted into the University of Southern Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame for football in April of 1992.

Chief Parker is a member of the University of Southern Mississippi M-Club Board of Directors. He is a member of Seven Springs United Methodist Church in Raymond, Mississippi.

Chief Parker became a Mississippi State Trooper in December of 1982 and retired from the Mississippi Highway Patrol in June of 2009, as a Master Sergeant serving in the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation Division (MBI). While working in MBI, he was assigned to the DEA as a Task Force Officer for four years. Chief Parker was a founding member of the Mississippi Black Troopers Coalition and the National Black Troopers Coalition.

Chief Parker started working as a patrolman with the Crystal Springs Police Department after retiring from the Mississippi Highway Patrol. He served as a Sergeant and Lieutenant at the Crystal Springs Police Department before being appointed Chief of Police for the Crystal Springs Police Department in October,

2013. Chief Parker has thirty-two years of combined law enforcement experience with the State and Local Government.

Chief Parker and his wife, Bettie, have been married for thirty-three years and have two beautiful children: Christopher and Stefanie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Anthony "Stoney" Parker for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF MIDDLEBORO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro as it celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society has long been a central fixture in the Middleboro community. On June 29, 1889, after the new church first sought formal recognition, its members hired Unitarian minister Rev. William Ramsey of Salem to lead the church for its first year. Not long after, local member Enoch Pratt donated a lot on Pearl Street, where the group's first church was opened on October 26, 1890. While this was the original site of the modern-day building, it is not where the church can be found today, as in the early 1900s a more central and visible plot of land was gifted to the church by member David Pratt. The building was then cut into three pieces, led through the streets, and remounted in its current location.

While society changed drastically over the course of the next century, the First Unitarian Universalist Church remained a central part of the local community. An early advocate of equality, the Society called its first woman minister, Clara Cook-Helve, in 1929, and she became a prominent voice in the town throughout the Great Depression. Today, the Society remains a vibrant presence in Middleboro and continues its strong focus on community service and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro as it celebrates its 125th anniversary and in wishing the Society well in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TERI EHRESMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to Teri Ehresman, a dedicated public servant who recently retired from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). As a Member of Congress representing Idaho's Second Congressional District, I got to know Teri as the communications lead for the Nuclear Science and Technology Division of Commu-

nications and Governmental Affairs at INL. In that capacity, Teri played an instrumental role in spreading INL's influence as the nation's lead lab for nuclear energy, and that designation has served the nation, the nuclear energy industry and the State of Idaho very well. For all of her hard work and the extra effort she always gives to her tasks, Teri deserves our recognition and praise. I want to wish Teri all the best.

Teri Ehresman has received communications awards from Media Network Idaho, National Federation of Press Women, Idaho Press Club, and the Society for Technical Communications. She was also named Idaho's 2008 Communicator of Achievement by Media Network Idaho, and in 2010 received a "Presidential Citation" from the National Federation of Press Women President for her volunteer efforts. She is currently serving as first vice president of the National Federation of Press Women, a national organization for communications professionals. She has previously served as second vice president and secretary of the national organization. Additionally, Teri is active in the Idaho affiliate, Media Network Idaho, where she organizes a yearly writing contest for high school journalism students throughout the state.

Teri served two years as chair of the Idaho Section of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and during both of those years, the local section received the honor of being named "Best Local Large Section" while she was leading the 500 plus member organization. Teri has been an elected board member for ANS and helped to organize several international meetings for the national organization. She was also appointed by the American Nuclear Society president to the ANS Public Information committee and helps organize communications-related sessions for the organization's national meetings.

Teri Ehresman is a wonderful lady and she has served honorably and with distinction. As a valuable contributor to the State of Idaho and to the country, I want to offer my praise as she moves forward to the next stage in her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on November 12, 2014, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 516.

THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION OF 1956

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, last month, on October 23, 2014, we celebrated the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, honoring the mem-

ory of freedom fighters who rose up against the communist regime imposed on Hungary after World War II by the Soviet Union. It was not only a culmination of Hungary's struggle for freedom, democracy and independence, but also presaged the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Indeed, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Fight for Freedom was the first tear in the Iron Curtain, which collapsed none too soon 25 years ago. Many heroes died fighting, others were tortured and executed, while 200,000 had no other option other than to leave their country. A large number of them came to the United States and, together with their families, started a new life as part of our vibrant Hungarian American Community.

We must never forget the heroes of 1956 who knew exactly what they wanted. They fought and died for freedom, a multi-party democracy and independence from the communist tyranny imposed on their country by the Soviet Union.

One of our greatest presidents, Ronald Reagan, whose statue now stands in Freedom Square of Budapest, remembered the Revolution as follows: "The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a true revolution of, by and for the people. Its motivations were humanity's universal longings to live, worship, and work in peace and to determine one's own destiny. The Hungarian Revolution forever gave the lie to communism's claim to represent the people, and told the world that brave hearts still exist to challenge injustice."

Consistent with our practice of fifty-eight years, we are committed to keeping the memory of the heroes of 1956 alive. As we contemplate the promise of Hungary 1956, we are reminded that that promise must never be forgotten or abandoned, as the heroes of 1956 deserve nothing less.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,942,478,973,674.58. We've added \$7,315,601,924,761.5 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER MIKE DOHERTY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clallam County Commissioner, Mike Doherty, for his many years of service to communities across the Olympic Peninsula.

Commissioner Doherty has served for two decades on the Clallam County Board of Commissioners and his longstanding commitment to this community has been evident throughout his tenure. As he steps down from his position, I admire and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Like me, Doherty is a native of Port Angeles, Washington. He graduated from Port Angeles High School in 1961 before serving in the U.S. Navy, attending Peninsula College and Gonzaga University, and later earning a J.D. from Georgetown University. During his summers in law school, he spent time working in the office of Senator Warren G. Magnuson. After completing his law degree, Doherty returned to Port Angeles and launched a career serving his community.

Doherty served as the first chairman of the Board of Freeholders, better known today as the Charter Review Commission and was responsible for the creation of Clallam County's charter. After being appointed to the Commission and serving from 1976–1980, Doherty was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1998, representing the constituents of District 3, which stretches from Neah Bay to western Port Angeles. In addition, he served as a Port Angeles School Board Member from 1991–1998.

In my time as a representative of our region, I have enjoyed working with Mike and appreciated his accessibility and his advocacy for the people of Clallam County's West End. From small businesses to Native American Tribes to timber mills to federal agencies, Mike has been a champion for people on the Peninsula. Aside from his work on local government issues, he has made a difference on a number of fronts, including his advocacy for secure rural schools funding in the Congress and his participation in the Olympic Peninsula Collaborative.

As a native of Port Angeles, I am grateful to have leaders like Doherty working for our community. I've been grateful for his counsel and his friendship. His decades of service to the people of this region are commendable, and he has distinguished himself as an impactful and thoughtful public servant for our region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by applauding Doherty for his dedication to serving the people of Clallam County, Washington. I am honored to recognize his service today in the United States Congress.

HONORING MR. WILLIE LEE HUDSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable former Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Willie L. Hudson, who is a lifelong resident of Jonestown, Mississippi.

Willie Lee Hudson, Jr. was born to the late Willie Lee Hudson, Sr. and Alouis Hudson on February 14, 1959 in Marks, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Coahoma Agricultural High

School in Clarksdale, Mississippi and furthered his education at Coahoma Community College and North Carolina College. In May, 1977 he joined the U.S. Marine Corp, where he served three years and received an honorable discharge. On August 4, 1981 he became a police officer with the Clarksdale Police Department in Clarksdale, Mississippi. While at the Clarksdale Police Department, Willie moved up in rank as: Sergeant, Warrant Sergeant, and Warrant Captain.

In 2012 he retired from the Clarksdale Police Department. During his tenure as a police officer, he worked for municipal police departments in Friars Point, Mississippi, Greenville, Mississippi and Jonestown, Mississippi. In 2014 he was appointed Chief of Police for the Jonestown Police Department, but, due to health reasons, he retired from law enforcement in September.

Mr. Hudson has been an Associate Minister for 10 years at St. Luke Baptist Church in Jonestown, Mississippi. He is married to Annie Thomas-Hudson and they have eight children: Willie, III, Michael, Cherise, Paris, Willexia, Whitney, Andrenett, and Ilesha; and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing former law enforcement officer.

HONORING LUKE BLANTON

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luke Blanton of Sikeston, Missouri for his outstanding achievement of receiving his Eagle Scout Award. This award is not easily attained and cannot be achieved without a steadfast determination to succeed.

In order to receive this award, Luke completed an Eagle project that exemplifies patriotism and his commitment to serve others. With the help of Sikeston Career and Technology Center, Luke built a flag depository box in the Veterans Park in Sikeston, Missouri where numerous flags continue to be collected so they can be retired properly.

At a young age Luke has shown values such as honesty, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. He has shown commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education. By learning important survival skills, he has made himself an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Luke is a role model for young and old, alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNDEL WILDCATS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince

Lombardi once noted, "Football is a great deal like life in that it teaches that work, sacrifice, perseverance, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price that each and every one of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

The gridiron is a place of winning and losing, learning and growing—the same in the pros as in local leagues across our nation.

For the Pennel Wildcats 145lbs team, their time together under the coaching eye of Joe Erb has been as much about football as it has been about life.

On Saturday, November 1, the team will play their final game—closing out years of work, dedication, friendship and success. While football might not be in each player's future, there is no doubt that their time spent together has helped shape their coming years for the better.

Best of luck to each member of the Pennel Wildcats and their coaching staff—both on the field and in their futures.

HONORING MICHAEL A. McMURPHY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Michael A. McMurphy, a longtime resident of Potomac, Maryland, for his lifetime of dedicated service to family, community and country, and I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him on the occasion of his retirement.

Michael McMurphy served honorably for ten years in active duty in the United States Air Force following graduation from the Air Force Academy, after which he continued serving our Nation in the Air Force Reserves, receiving several commendations for his outstanding contributions.

After earning advanced degrees from St. Mary's University and the University of Texas School of Law, he worked in the Office of Chief Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations in Tennessee from 1979 to 1983, where he supported the Department's Uranium Enrichment Enterprise, among other critical areas.

In 1983, he joined COGEMA, Inc. in Bethesda, Maryland as its Secretary and General Counsel, was subsequently promoted to Vice President, and then elected President and Chief Executive Officer in 1988. After COGEMA was merged into the AREVA Group in 2001, he became President and Chief Executive Officer of AREVA NC Inc., and then President of AREVA Inc. in 2003.

In 2008, Mr. McMurphy was appointed Senior Executive Vice President of AREVA's worldwide Front End Business Group, located in Paris, France, and returned to the U.S. in 2013, rejoining AREVA Inc. as Executive Vice President through 2014. Over his tenure, he has won the admiration of his many colleagues and peers and has served on the boards of directors of numerous companies and industry organizations.

For his exceptional contributions to U.S.-France relations and to the important commercial ties between our two countries, he was

recognized by the President of France with an appointment to the rank of Chevalier, or knight, in the Ordre national du Mérite and then, in 2012, to the rank of Chevalier in the Légion d'honneur, that country's highest civilian honor.

Aside from his professional accomplishments, his greatest achievement, according to his sons Matthew and Kevin, is his love for his wife Maureen—"that's a thing that makes us very proud . . . that holds the family together, and our family has always been close."

In 2008, Michael and Maureen suffered a tragic loss when their son Patrick, who moved to New York City to pursue his dream of acting, died at the age of 23 from severe head injuries sustained from an accidental fall. Michael and Maureen established the Patrick Michael McMurphy Memorial Foundation in his honor, and they have since done some wonderful work through the foundation to promote the arts, especially theater, film and music. The foundation has benefited the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, where Patrick completed his studies, and is supporting promising young people who would not otherwise be able to pursue the arts with "life changing" scholarships, mentoring and counseling.

Michael delighted in his children; his sons fondly recall the sense of humor and commitment with which Michael insisted on playing the part of Cub Scout "Den Mother," an unusual role for a dad in the 1980s, to spend more time with his boys. "We were proud to be the only boys we knew who had a dad for a Den Mother," they have said. Michael loves children as he thinks they only bring joy and humor to his life, and now Michael's joy will be spending greater quality time with his three young grandchildren, perhaps outfitting them with Chuck Taylor high-top All-Star basketball shoes—shoes that bring him back happy memories of his late son, who wore them often.

I thank Michael for his many fine contributions, especially to the business and civic vitality of Maryland, and I wish him much happiness in this new phase of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMPDEN COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this year the Hampden County Massachusetts Bar Association celebrates its 150th anniversary, having been officially incorporated on October 20, 1864. For all those years, this group has been one of the pre-eminent organizations in my district and beyond. The association is much more than a group of lawyers looking out for the interests of their profession. The association is now over 1,000 members strong and out of its membership over the years have emerged some of the most outstanding lawyers and jurists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For a century and a half the association has been a proven leader in providing legal assist-

ance for the poor, educating the public on our legal system and seeking improvements in our courts.

The Hampden County Bar Association plays a significant role in providing Pro Bono services and access to justice, as well as community outreach programs to the local community. Such programs include a legal clinic, a lawyer referral and information service, and providing for Lawyer for a Day Programs, in its Housing, Probate and District Courts. This volunteer organization of lawyers provides professional support and education to its members and advocacy on behalf of lawyers, the judiciary and the public at large. Its members have continued to provide an unwavering commitment to the legal profession, to each other and to the people they serve. One of the many noteworthy services provided by the Hampden County Bar Association occurred following the June 1, 2011 tornado, which impacted Springfield and its surrounding communities. The Bar Association served as the base and primary liaison to coordinate efforts to assist victims of the tornado, including setting up a hotline for the public as well as a FEMA hotline. Members of the Association attended various town meetings to assist property owners with legal issues resulting from the tornado devastation. This service also included representing individuals who were facing condemnation hearings because of the significant property damage to their premises. In addition, the Hampden County Bar Association maintained the FEMA hotline a few months later in 2011 when flooding from Hurricane Irene affected Franklin and Berkshire Counties, knowing that their bar associations did not have the resources.

I urge all citizens to take note of the good work of the Hampden County Bar Association as it begins its next 150 years of public service.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA BARBARA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER, THE FORGE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Santa Barbara High School student newspaper, The Forge.

Published on October 16, 1914, The Forge is the oldest existing high school newspaper in Santa Barbara County and the second oldest high school newspaper in the state of California. The Forge published its first edition as a letter-size, four-page weekly paper with a staff of twelve and since then has developed into a respected student run publication, delivering news and creating discussion among students and the entire Santa Barbara community.

Not only has The Forge built a reputation within the Santa Barbara community, but also on a state and national level. As a pioneer of high school publications, The Forge earned charter memberships in the National Scho-

lastic Press Association, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the Quill & Scroll International Honor Society. Unlike many other high school newspapers, The Forge has continuously published in print so as to keep the long standing tradition since its' first issue in 1914.

I am honored to represent Santa Barbara High School and am proud of The Forge for being an innovative leader within the institution of high school newspapers. Thank you for bringing to light the issues that matter most to the students of Santa Barbara High School then, now, and in years to come.

Today, I congratulate members, alumni, and supporters of The Forge newspaper on 100 successful years of providing a voice for the Santa Barbara High School Dons and for making history. I look forward to watching this esteemed organization and its members grow and have no doubt that they will continue to play a prominent role in our community.

THE PASSING OF JOHN DOAR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of John Doar, who passed away at the age of 92, this past Tuesday, November 11th, 2014.

A courageous advocate, a brilliant legal mind, and a remarkable public servant—Mr. Doar will remain an inspiration to everyone who has made and who will make the pursuit of justice their life's work. His accomplishments are such that they cannot seem but exaggerations—but because they are not—I feel the need to stand before you and recognize a colleague who did so much for so many.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I was fortunate to have worked with Mr. Doar many times—first during his time as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, and later when he served as Special Counsel during the investigation and impeachment in the House of President Nixon.

I remember Mr. Doar as someone of fierce determination and true integrity. A Lincoln Republican—he served two Democratic Presidents and impeached a Republican one—without ever changing his party affiliation.

But more than an adviser, he was an active participant in making history. He was a firm defender of our national ideals, and he fought their perversion with every tool at his disposal.

As one of the architects of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, he helped ensure that every American had the opportunity to fully participate in our society and our democracy.

As an attorney and advocate for the American people, he fought to integrate the University of Mississippi, and secured the first conviction of white persons for violent crimes against black persons in the history of Mississippi.

As a believer in law and the power of non-violence, he stood between protesters and police on the edge of confrontation in the wake of Medgar Evers funeral.

In every action he brought credit to his profession, to the government, and to the promise of our nation.

It is has been my privilege to have worked with Mr. Doar for so many years, and it has been America's privilege to have had his service. His example will serve as a benchmark for generations of public servants to come.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my sincere thanks and condolences to his family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 512–515 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on #512, "no" on #513, "yes" on #514, and "no" on #515.

HONORING R.D. SIMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Chief R.D. Simpson, a native of Jackson, Mississippi.

Chief Simpson began his professional fire service career in 1993 with the City of Jackson Fire Department. Chief Simpson is well respected among firefighters in the City and the County for his professionalism and his ability to build strong relations between career firefighters and volunteers.

In his 20 years of service, he has held the following positions: Firefighter, Lieutenant in the Emergency Service Division, Captain/Emergency Medical Technician in the Emergency Service Division, Division Chief of Training, and Deputy Chief of the Emergency Service Division.

Chief Simpson's educational background includes: a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Jackson State University and a master's degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University. He has served as the Public Information Officer for the Jackson Fire Department for the past ten years.

Chief Simpson resides in Jackson, Mississippi with his wife and their five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief R.D. Simpson for his dedication to serving others.

COMMENDING FBISD VOLUNTEER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carol Scott, a Fort Bend Inde-

pendent School District volunteer, for receiving the 2014 Hero for Children award.

This award recognizes volunteers who make outstanding contributions of time and effort to provide encouragement and practical knowledge in the Texas public school system. Carol Scott's commitment to children through her energetic support of FBISD makes a difference in the lives of children every day. She is leaving an invaluable mark on the individual achievement of countless students and the fabric of the Fort Bend community.

Thank you to Carol Scott for dedicating so much of your time to our Fort Bend community children. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas; we congratulate Carol Scott for earning the 2014 Hero for Children Award.

TRIBUTE TO LANE EVANS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my respects to one of the former members of this body, Lane Evans, who during his twenty-four years in the House of Representatives really made a difference, especially to our nation's veterans.

Lane Evans and I came to Congress together in 1983. During his more than two decades in the House, Lane was a forceful advocate for the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. His earlier service in the Marines as a young man made him a natural champion of U.S. military personnel, and he rose to be the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He was one of the first to recognize the serious and long-overlooked problems of Agent Orange, PTSD, and traumatic brain injury, and the impacts these conditions had on veterans and their families.

Representative BUSTOS, who today represents the area that Lane Evans served so well for so many years, and others in the Illinois Delegation, have introduced a bill to name the Veterans Clinic in Galesburg, Illinois after Lane Evans. I can think of no better tribute to a person who gave so much to America's veterans, and I am proud to join in co-sponsoring this measure.

I am proud to have served with Lane Evans and to have possessed his friendship. I extend my condolences to his family. He is deeply missed.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE REV. JIMMIE L. MITCHELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to the Reverend Jimmie L. Mitchell, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. On

Sunday, October 12, 2014, family, friends, and members of Good Shepherd Deliverance Church gathered to celebrate her birthday at Receptions for You in Thomasville, Georgia.

Ollie Jimmie Lee Mitchell was born in 1924 to Mr. Jim and Mrs. Wessie Wilkerson of Thomas County, Georgia. Family and friends felt, even at that time, that Rev. Mitchell was destined to do great things for God. However, because of her mother's premature death, Rev. Mitchell had to take on adult responsibilities when she was just thirteen. She and her sister, Willie Mae Simon, helped raise their young sister and five brothers. Having overcome these difficult times together, Rev. Mitchell and Willie Mae Simon were inseparable until October 2009 when Willie Mae Simon died.

Growing up, Rev. Mitchell experienced some very difficult and abusive years that would have devastated any human being but she nevertheless maintained her strength and faith in God and He blessed her and led her to her true purpose.

At 20 years old, she married Willie Mitchell, Sr. and they settled down in Thomasville, Georgia after he was discharged from the U.S. Army. They had ten children, but one died at birth. Rev. Mitchell was known for her very conservative and strict parenting style. She trained her family to treat all people equally regardless of color or gender. She taught her children to value education, love family, live by faith, and study and work hard to achieve their dreams. Those nine children have blessed her with 24 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 4 great, great-grandchildren.

When she was about 32 years old, Rev. Mitchell attended a prayer meeting at her next door neighbor's house, where she met Evangelist Mella Lawyer who led Rev. Mitchell to Christ and later became one of her dearest friends. Rev. Mitchell became a member of Saints Temple Holiness Church in Thomasville, where she actively participated in many ministries and became a missionary. Rev. Mitchell accepted her call into the ministry in 1963, becoming one of the first ordained women in Thomas County. She established Good Shepherd Deliverance Church the following year. In the fifty years since then, she planted more than seven churches throughout the state of Georgia and traveled throughout the nation to minister God's grace to all.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Rev. Mitchell has gone far in life because her everlasting faith in the Lord is vivid testimony of His greatness to all whom she encounters. A woman of determination and perseverance, she has a special spiritual talent for getting closed doors to open. Her love and commitment to Christ is reflected in her compassionate leadership, which makes her a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes to an outstanding spiritual pioneer, the Reverend Jimmie L. Mitchell. She is truly a woman of faith whose heart never stops giving and whose hands

never stop serving the people of her church and her community of Thomasville, Georgia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
GLEN SPERLING, PHD

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. John Glen Sperling, the visionary educator, entrepreneur, and University of Phoenix founder who passed away in August at the age of 93.

Sperling embraced education as the foundation for living a full life—and as a resource for overcoming poverty and creating new ladders of opportunities for fellow citizens to fulfill their potential.

Throughout his life, Sperling drew wisdom from the wellspring of his own experience. Coming of age in rural Missouri during the Great Depression, Sperling struggled with childhood illnesses, physical abuse, and learning disabilities. When he received his secondary school diploma, Sperling was still illiterate.

He decided to join the U.S. Merchant Marine, where he would finally learn to read. After the U.S. entered the Second World War, Sperling joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. His service made him eligible for the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill.

The affordable education made available through the G.I. bill unlocked previously unimaginable possibilities for Sperling. He discovered a passion for learning, receiving his Bachelor's from Reed College and earning a Master's in history from the University of California at Berkeley. He capped his studies with a Ph.D. in 18th century mercantile history from the University of Cambridge.

Education had lifted the sharecroppers' son to attend one of the most august institutions in the English-speaking world, and Sperling was determined to help other non-traditional students realize their full potential.

So began the passion for education that would become Sperling's defining legacy. As a professor at San Jose State University, Sperling made a point of working with police officers and other educators who aided teenagers with behavioral troubles—championing the value of flexible, patient, and non-judgmental teaching for students struggling to find their way forward.

Sperling knew there was an opportunity and a need for an institution dedicated to people reaching for education at all times of their lives—a place that recognized the circumstances of students already juggling the demands of work or a family.

As he wrote in his memoir, Sperling found himself a "Rebel With a Cause," working to put higher education within the grasp of working adults. In 1973, Sperling started what would become the University of Phoenix, one of the largest institutions of higher education.

Sperling created an institution that has empowered thousands of working adults with the tools needed to provide a better quality of life for themselves and their families. His enduring

legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship in education has inspired new thinking and a renewed focus on non-traditional students across all of academia.

John Sperling inspired so many Americans to see—and seize—the opportunities in their lives. We hope that it is a comfort to son, Peter, his family, Joan Hawthorne, his companion, and all of John's loved ones that so many share their sadness.

CONGRATULATING ALVIN ISD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alvin Independent School District for receiving the 2014 Clean Air Champion award.

This award honors organizations operating in the Houston-Galveston area that are taking extraordinary, voluntary measures to improve the region's air quality. The Alvin ISD earned this recognition by revamping district-wide transportation; they have boosted fuel efficiency through a no-idle policy, pulled older, less efficient vehicles off the road, and replaced most diesel-fueled buses with propane-fueled buses.

I applaud the Alvin Independent School District in its forward thinking and contributions to our local air quality and health. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Alvin ISD for receiving the 2014 Clean Air Champion award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, I was absent due to airline delays between California and Washington, DC and was unable to cast my vote for rollcall 516.

Rollcall No. 516: Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act. Had I been present I would have voted, "aye."

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION
FOR THE NAZI SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS TERMINATION ACT OF
2014

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014 along with my colleagues Representatives JASON CHAFFETZ, LEONARD

LANCE, STEVE COHEN, JAMES MCGOVERN, KATHY CASTOR, PETER KING, HANK JOHNSON, DAVID CICILLINE, KEITH ELLISON, PATRICK MURPHY, STEVE ISRAEL, DEREK KILMER, and JACKIE SPEIER. I commend Sens. BOB CASEY and CHARLES SCHUMER for introducing the Senate companion.

After the conclusion of World War II, thousands of people who participated in Nazi persecution fled to the United States and lied about their pasts to gain U.S. citizenship. The Department of Justice has successfully identified and deported hundreds of these individuals over more than three decades. There were, however, individuals who left the country of their own accord before being issued an order of removal, which would have terminated all federal benefits, including Social Security. Without this order, eligibility for these benefits remained intact and these individuals collected millions of dollars in federal benefit checks.

The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014 would require the U.S. Attorney General to notify the Social Security Commissioner to terminate benefits for any individual who has renounced citizenship or been denaturalized on the grounds of participation in Nazi persecution. In the event that the Department of Justice identifies Nazi war criminals still residing in the U.S., it may initiate its denaturalization process as normal, and this rule change would allow benefits termination at the end of that process. The measure also requires an annual report to Congress from the Department of Justice on the number of individuals it has determined are disqualified for Social Security benefits under this new legislation as well as the number of active investigations against Nazi war criminals it continues to pursue.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that would finally put an end to this grave misuse of federal dollars. After decades of paying out benefits to Nazi criminals who slipped through our justice system, it is past time to correct this injustice.

HONORING THE UNITY COUNCIL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Unity Council's 50th Anniversary. For five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich our community's quality of life by helping families build wealth and assets through sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development programs.

In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in Oakland, California's Fruitvale district. In their new capacity, the Unity Council created Oakland's first Spanish-speaking employment office and worked with Oakland city officials to create the first Latino library, now known as the Cesar E. Chavez Branch Public Library. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. In the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

During the 1970s, the Unity Council created a business advisory committee composed of Clorox, Pacific Bell, PG&E, Kaiser Permanente and Safeway; formed the Fruitvale Community Development District; initiated a small Latino business loan and assistance center; and built Las Casitas, the first ever Latino-built housing development in Oakland.

The 1980s brought challenging times for the Unity Council, which nearly resulted in the organization's demise. Fortunately, broad-based community support, strategic business partnerships, and a drastic reorganization allowed the Unity Council to rebuild its reputation and once again establish itself as the voice of the Fruitvale district and of Latinos in Oakland.

Starting in the early 1990s, the Unity Council expanded its Head Start Program from 18 children to 117, and offered early childhood development services, health and nutrition education, advocacy, and social services. Currently, the Head Start Program and the more recent addition, Early Head Start Program, serve a total of 608 low-income families.

In 1995, the Unity Council began its Façade Improvement Program, designed to provide business and property owners matching grants of up to \$10,000 to fund rehabilitation projects. By 2005, the Façade Improvement Program had completed 120 projects and leveraged \$220,000 of grant dollars into millions of dollars in contributions from stakeholders. That same year, the Unity Council received funding to launch the Fruitvale Public Market, a 7,000 square foot business incubator space designed to promote the local economy and create high quality and sustainable jobs for neighborhood residents. As a result, the Fruitvale commercial district went from 30–40 percent vacancy to less than 1 percent vacancy, and became the second largest revenue producing commercial area in the city of Oakland.

One of the Unity Council's biggest milestones is the Fruitvale Transit Village. The nationally recognized Fruitvale Transit Village opened in 2003 with 47 housing units as well as offices for several major community organizations. Earlier this year, the Unity Council received state funding that will allow the addition of 275 affordable and market-rate rental units to the Fruitvale area. After 50 years, the Unity Council remains the most relevant voice for the Latino community in the East Bay.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I thank the Unity Council for the countless contributions and never-ending commitment to our communities. I wish the Unity Council another fifty years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford as this organization celebrates its 75th anniversary this month.

For three quarters of a century, the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford has united religious organizations throughout our community in service to the surrounding area. Comprised of 47 member congregations stretching from Westport to Wareham, and supported by a volunteer force of more than 150 leaders, the Council has since its founding served as a strong faith collaborative committed to social justice and spiritual renewal for all its members.

The Council serves our community in many important ways. Its housing programs serve more than 400 low-income elderly and disabled residents, its chaplains assist patients in St. Luke's Hospital, and its members participate in various community service initiatives, such as Peace Marches, gun exchanges for food, and hands-on ministries in the local neighborhoods. Clergy and lay members alike tackle the tough issues faced in our region each and every day, and for this reason our community is a better place as a result of their service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford upon its 75th anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking this organization for everything it has given to our community, and in wishing it well for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING MACHINISTS
LOCAL LODGE 831 ON THEIR
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take an opportunity to congratulate Machinists Local Lodge 831 on their 100th anniversary. Local Lodge 831 is located in Cedar Rapids, which is in my district. Local Lodge 831 was chartered as Harmony Lodge 831 on November 18, 1913.

For over a century, the Machinists in Cedar Rapids have worked to strengthen the middle class and advance every American's right to collectively bargain. Machinists successfully implemented the 8-hour workday, helped outlaw child labor, and have worked to increase salaries for middle class Americans. In Cedar Rapids, Local Lodge 831 has provided good paying jobs to many hardworking Iowans. Since being elected to Congress, I've been proud to work alongside the members of Local Lodge 831 in strengthening the middle class.

I'm proud to call many of the members of Local Lodge 831 my friends, including President Brad Van Fossen and former President Joe Ironside. I congratulate every member of Local Lodge 831 on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MIKE
GAYMON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a strong community and business leader and outstanding citizen, Mike Gaymon. Mr. Gaymon has retired after more than 26 years as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He was honored at a Retirement Celebration on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of South Carolina, Mr. Gaymon has been in the chamber business for over thirty-eight years. He led chambers in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama before moving to Columbus, Georgia in 1988 to serve as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gaymon has revolutionized the Columbus Chamber as well as the Columbus community in many ways during his long tenure as President. He spearheaded the Need for Land project between Fort Benning and Columbus, which resulted in land for the Muscogee Technology Park. He oversaw the Chamber's Riverfront Committee, which worked to set the stage for development of the riverfront, including the Riverwalk, one of the longest river walks in the nation, spanning 15 miles along the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The Chamber was actively involved in the first SPLOST in 1993, which opened the door for the construction of the new Civic Center and the enhancement of Golden Park, where the 1996 Olympics Women's Softball Tournament was held. Mr. Gaymon also led the Chamber in forming the Valley Partnership, one of the largest and most successful regional economic development organizations. Additionally, the Chamber created the Young Professionals Program, which has over 650 members representing over 200 companies.

Under Mr. Gaymon's leadership, the Chamber became the first five-star chamber in Georgia and one of only twenty-seven in the nation in November 2006. He will leave the Chamber in good shape with a \$3 million annual operating budget and a steady membership of about 1,250 firms, a majority of those small businesses. His economic development accomplishments exceed \$5.3 billion dollars with nearly 60,000 new jobs generated or retained.

Mr. Gaymon has been selected by his peers as the Georgia Chamber Executive of the Year and has been named as Georgia Tech's Top Presenter for Economic Development Workshop and one of Top Five National Instructors by the U.S. Chamber. He also has been named as one of the 100 Top Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend, among numerous other honors and distinctions.

The city of Columbus has also felt the waves of change emanating from the renovated old train depot where the Chamber is housed. In 2013, over 3,000 new primary jobs were created and more than \$148 million was invested in the region. It is home to successful

and renowned companies such as Aflac, TSYS, NCR, Pratt & Whitney, and Koch Foods, which as a whole have invested almost \$3.5 billion into the region while creating more than 20,000 direct and indirect jobs. Furthermore, Columbus became the first Certified Literate Community in Georgia and has consistently been recognized as one of "Top 100 Places to Live in America," "100 Best Places to Raise a Family," and "Number 1 for Single Senior Citizens" throughout the years.

Mr. Gaymon has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Sheila, their children and grandchildren, and his parents.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Mr. Gaymon has given his time and talents to shaping a team of dedicated business leaders to improve the city of Columbus and surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Mike Gaymon for his twenty-six outstanding years as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. His energizing leadership has helped this organization transform the Columbus community for the better.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY BERGEY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude and appreciation to Barry Bergey, who retires this month as Director of Folk and Traditional Arts at the National Endowment for the Arts after a distinguished 29-year tenure.

Mr. Bergey's predecessor at the NEA, Dan Sheehy, spoke of him as follows:

"Barry grew up in the picture postcard town of New Haven, Missouri, on the banks of the Missouri River, population 2,000. His father was a minister, and Barry once recalled how sitting through the same sermon two times each Sunday prepared him for the many meetings he would sit through during his government career. After working for a time at Washington University of St. Louis, he found the professional love of his life—Missouri's rich store of traditions and the artists who maintained them. He became the state's first folk arts coordinator. His congenial persona, his cultural knowledge, and his dedication to serving grassroots people and their most cherished traditions caught the attention of Bess Lomax Hawes, then director of the National Endowment for the Arts' budding Folk Arts Program. Barry was hired by the NEA as a senior arts specialist in 1985 and became the program's fourth Director in 2001, following Alan Jabbour, Hawes and Daniel Sheehy. With 29 years of service to his credit, he is the longest-serving folk and traditional arts staff member."

Mr. Bergey absorbed the values of folk and traditional artists during his upbringing and worked to preserve and promote them

throughout his career. With Julia and Jim Olen, he produced "I'm Old but I'm Awfully Tough," a recording of field documentation made in the Ozark Region of Missouri and Arkansas in 1975. As State Folk Arts Coordinator at the Missouri Cultural Heritage Center based at the University of Missouri-Columbia from 1983–85, he initiated a model statewide traditional arts apprenticeship program and a statewide touring and performance series. He also curated a touring exhibition on a 19th century housebarn in rural Franklin County near New Haven, Missouri, where he grew up. Mr. Bergey founded the Missouri Friends of the Folk Arts, an organization that sponsored the annual Frontier Folklife Festival at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and produced The Missouri Tradition, a public radio program. He also taught courses on the blues and on American folk music at Washington University in St. Louis.

In addition to managing NEA grants on folk and traditional arts, Mr. Bergey directed the NEA National Heritage Fellowships, the premiere American lifetime honors for individual accomplishments in folk and traditional arts. He provided guidance and support for folk arts infrastructure and statewide apprenticeship programs, as well as technical assistance in the field. Mr. Bergey urged support for many recommended applicants, recognizing that even a small grant could make a difference to folk arts projects and that an organization could leverage NEA support when seeking funding from other organizations and donors.

Mr. Bergey's international leadership includes service as consultant to the Center for U.S.-China Arts Exchange on a long-term project to conserve traditional arts and minority culture in Yunnan Province, China; author of a chapter on music and public policy in the United States and Canada in the Garland Encyclopedia of World Music; and service on the U.S. delegation for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Meetings of Experts to Draft a Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the UNESCO Inter-American Committee on Culture of the Organization of American States in 2003, and the U.S. delegation to UNESCO to draft a Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in 2005.

Joe Wilson, who served as Chairman of the National Council for the Traditional Arts in Silver Spring, Maryland, described Mr. Bergey's service as follows:

"During his years as a folklorist and collector, Barry sought out those the Good Book calls 'even the least of these little Ones.' He understood that the genes for creativity were spread wide, and knew it was his duty to reach into the places where the poor and ragged people dwelled. He was gracious and good to all who came calling, and understood that it was his duty to be certain that his branch of government was fair to all its citizens. He honored the taxpayers by being careful in the expenditure of funds. In an influential place and at an important time, he lifted artists up, all artists, and made them better understood. His reach has been great, and his grasp magnificent."

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Barry for his extraordinary service to the National Endowment for the Arts and for his outstanding contributions to our cultural heritage,

and in wishing him, his wife Jean, and his children Claire and Matthew all the best in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Mechanical issues in Minneapolis delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4194 (Roll No. 516).

HONORING MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Canton, Mississippi.

The population of Madison County, Mississippi has been predominantly African-American since 1840. Prior to 1865, some members of the African-American population, most of whom had arrived in the country as slaves, were permitted to attend worship services, to be baptized and to be married in the area churches. They were also allowed to join established white congregations.

Early county records indicate that slaves were a part of the church communities. The Old Madison Presbyterian Church, the First Presbyterian, and the First Baptist listed a total membership of one hundred and thirty-four. One hundred were slaves and the other thirty-four were whites.

After the Civil War and freedom, African-Americans naturally desired to establish their own houses of worship. In 1865, the newly freed members of the congregation of First Baptist, with encouragement and financial assistance from their white counterparts, organized Mount Zion Baptist Church. Rev. T.J. Drane, pastor of the white church, served as minister receiving for his services a monthly salary of one dollar.

In 1870, Drane and R.B. Johnson donated two acres of land on the northern boundary of the plantation to Mount Zion. The first church was erected on Freedman Hill, located at the corner of North Railroad and Bowman Streets, according to the 1898 George and Dunlap map of Canton. Rev. Drane called for a meeting with council along with Mr. Will Powell from the white Baptist Church to help establish the church.

In addition to serving as pastor, Rev. Drane ran a day school and was assisted by Lillian Highgate, a white female. Rev. Drane received an additional \$1.50 a month for his services. He also organized and maintained the first Sunday school class. All other organizations came into existence after Rev. Drane's resignation. Rev. Jordan Williams replaced him.

Newspapers frequently carried announcements concerning Mount Zion's activities. For example, "Several converts at the Colored Baptist Church were baptized at the railroad culvert," or "Rev. Williams, pastor of the Colored Baptist Church, immersed ten converts last Sunday night". The second church site was across the street where the TWL parking lot is now located.

The third and fourth pastors were Reverends Mass and Davis. The fifth pastor, Rev. R.T. Sims, served for eighteen years and Rev. W.L. Varnado for seven. The seventh through the tenth pastors were as follows: Rev. Bradley, Rev. Morris, Rev. Drew, and Rev. A.D. Purnell.

By the 1920's, the congregation had outgrown the church and Rev. Purnell, along with members, began raising money for a larger building. The new lot for our present church was purchased from Jack Warren. Rev. Purnell asked Mr. S.M. Reddick, Vice President of Madison County Bank, to serve as custodian over the church's building funds. He also asked if he would direct the building of the church and issue bonds to underwrite construction costs.

The bank issued \$14,000 in bonds. Raymond H. Spencer was the architect of the neoclassical brick structure. He also designed the First Methodist Church of which Reddick was a member. The building was erected in 1929 at the cost of \$35,000. The congregation moved into the new structure February 1930.

Rev. P.F. Parker, the eleventh pastor, with the help of God and members, burned the mortgage. Under his leadership the church grew. For example, the following organizations played an active role in missionary work: Senior Missionary Society, Junior Matrons, Young Woman's Auxiliary, Red Circle/Sunshine Band, Sunday school, Baptist Training Union, Senior Choir, Gospel Chorus, Junior/Beginner's Choir, New Membership Club, Pastor's Aide, Boys' Bible Club and Usher Board. Rev. Parker served until his death in 1970.

Mount Zion continued to serve the African-American community religiously and socially. During the summer of 1964, Mount Zion was the location of a pivotal moment in our state's civil rights struggle. In her autobiography, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Ann Moody notes that Mount Zion was the biggest Negro church in Canton and the center of the local marches.

On Friday, May 29, 1964, on the church lawn, six hundred community and church members witnessed the near death beating of McKinley Hamilton, a young African-American man. As a result, eighty church members marched on the Madison County jail in one of the first protest marches in Canton. Mount Zion became known as the "Church of Refuge". In 1968, twelve hundred students from Rogers High School marched because they were outraged over the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A group of parents led them to Mount Zion. Rev. Parker opened the doors of the church to them, thus saving them from injury by law enforcement officers waiting for them on Hickory Street in front of High's Funeral Home.

Dr. W.L. Johnson, our twelfth and present pastor, has served for twenty-nine years. His words have power through the Holy Spirit.

Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, the church has continued its growth. For example, the church has been air-conditioned, carpeted throughout, a fellowship hall and recreation center built and equipped, four parking lots purchased and surfaced, restrooms were remodeled, a lounge installed, pews padded, a new intercom system purchased, speakers installed in the pulpit and choir loft, additional chairs purchased for the choir and seating areas in the wings, two new copiers, a computer, storage room, and a fifteen passenger van and twenty-seven passenger bus were also purchased. The stained glass windows were repaired, and the pastor study was moved upstairs.

We now have a summer recreation program. Our membership is approximately 500 and still growing. The church is one of the most monumental, intact, and historic resources associated with the Canton African-American Community. As a result of this, the church was recently placed on the registry of Historical Buildings.

Our aim is to give every God-seeking person an opportunity to receive salvation. The church clearly reflects the importance of the social and religious life of the African-American community from its birth in 1865 up to the present. Let us resolve to make service to Christ a priority in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

HONORING THE PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Peralta Community College District's 50th Anniversary. Encompassing Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College and Merritt College, the Peralta Colleges have provided quality higher education to over one million students since its founding.

Established on July 1, 1964, Peralta Community College District was formed after the residents of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont voted to create a separate and single community college district. The district was named Peralta after Sergeant Luis Maria Peralta, since all the cities are located on the original Spanish land grant.

At that time, Laney and Merritt Colleges were the only campuses that made up the new college district. A year later, voters approved a \$47 million bond measure to build new campuses across the northern Alameda county area, with the College of Alameda established in 1968 and Berkeley City College in 1974.

While there are no Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in California, Merritt College is considered an accredited minority-serving institution, allowing the college access to HBCU funding.

The colleges within Peralta Community College District offer innovative programs such as

nursing, automotive technology, office administration, mechanics, bio manufacturing, bookkeeping, carpentry, food service and restaurant management. The colleges often align with businesses, industry and government to tailor training programs to meet economic and staffing needs. This in turn helps build a strong workforce and support our vibrant community and economy.

Community colleges provide opportunities for millions of students and adults to continue their education in a flexible and affordable environment. Students attend community colleges for a range of reasons: as a first step to earning a bachelor's degree, an opportunity to gain workforce training, or simply a chance to learn or improve a skill.

I commend the Peralta Community College District for providing our community with quality and affordable education. In addition to serving our region's students, the Peralta Community College District also attracts and engages individuals from all over the world. Through its Office of International Affairs and District Education, it has been at the forefront of promoting cultural diversity, pluralism and mutual understanding, benefitting all Bay Area residents and visitors.

During the 1980's, my mentor and friend, a great woman warrior and member of the Berkeley City Council, Maudelle Shirek, and I attended night classes at then Vista, now Berkeley City College. We received a certificate in International Business and I will always remember this as a rigorous and rich educational experience. I am very proud of this certificate and encourage my constituents to attend Peralta Colleges because of the excellent programs and curriculum they offer.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the people who have contributed to the success of the Peralta Community College District throughout the years. I wish the Peralta Colleges continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 12, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on #516.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE POLLY WILLIAMS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Rep. Annette Polly Williams. She was the longest serving woman in the history of the Wisconsin State Legislature, retiring from public office after 30 years

of service. Affectionately known as Polly, she was not only a former colleague but also a mentor to me and many other new legislators. Ms. Annette Polly Williams passed away on November 9, 2014.

Polly was born in the Mississippi Delta region of Belzoni, Mississippi and moved to Milwaukee when she was 10 years old. She was a product of the public school system and a fellow graduate of North Division High School. Rep. Williams was committed to ensuring that all children received access to a good education. She became the author/mother of the nation's first true Educational Parental Choice Legislation because of her passion and commitment to education.

Although she is best known for her Parental Choice legislation, Rep. Williams was a great stateswoman and made her mark in other areas as well: founder of the Black Women's Network, the Milwaukee Parental Assistance Center and the Black Leadership Organization. Further, she was a co-founder of the African American Alliance providing political leadership to Milwaukee's African American community, a founding member of the Wisconsin African American Women's Center and served as the host of several different programs on a local radio station for many years. She was there to bring assistance, whether it was to someone who had lost a loved one, experienced a natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina or local flooding. She provided outstanding service to her constituents.

Polly leaves behind 4 children: Winston Williams III (Lynette); Mildred Williams; Kimberly Bums (Michael, deceased); and Krystal Oby (Joe), grandchildren, a great grandchild and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her passing. She leaves a legacy of a giving, willing worker, always providing both support and compassion to those in need. Annette Polly Williams leaves a strong example of leadership and excellence for her children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Polly was my friend and a Milwaukee and Wisconsin treasure and I valued her service to the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Rep. Annette Polly Williams.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD SHEA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to District Attorney Gerald Shea, who recently retired after 37 years of public service to the county of San Luis Obispo.

A San Diego native, Mr. Shea began his prosecutorial career in 1974 as a Deputy Attorney General with the California Attorney General's office in Los Angeles. In 1977, he moved to our local community of San Luis Obispo where he became a Deputy District Attorney with the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office.

For the next 37 years, Mr. Shea worked his way through the ranks in the District Attorney's office. In 1982 he became the Supervising At-

torney for the Child Support Division, and in 1985 he was selected to be Chief Deputy District Attorney. Eventually Mr. Shea became San Luis Obispo County District Attorney, elected by the voters first in 1998, where he served the remainder of his distinguished career. Mr. Shea's accomplishments in the field of criminal justice have left a renowned and lasting impact on his colleagues, peers, and the community.

Beyond his professional roles in our community, Mr. Shea has served the San Luis Obispo community through his roles on the Board of Directors for the San Luis Obispo Women's Shelter, on the Executive Council for the County's Children's Services Network, on the Advisory Board for the statewide organization known as Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and as Chair of the Domestic Violence Task Force. He is the former Chair of the Criminal Justice Administrators' Association, a founding member of the county's Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission, and was President of the California District Attorneys Association.

It is with great respect that I thank Mr. Shea for his decades of public service, commitment, and leadership and I wish him continued success and happiness during retirement.

CONGRATULATING UH PRESIDENT AND UH SYSTEM CHANCELLOR ON "PRIDE OF INDIA AWARD"

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of Houston (UH) President and UH System Chancellor Renu Khator for receiving the "Pride of India Award."

This award honors individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership abilities in business or civic life and acted as role models for Indians and Indian-Americans in the United States. The Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas includes a thriving Indo-American community, which benefits from strong community leaders like Dr. Khator. Moreover, the entire Houston economy benefits from the remarkable contributions of the UH educational community.

I applaud President Renu Khator on her remarkable progress in strengthening University of Houston's educational system. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Dr. Khator for receiving the "Pride of India Award."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, when Roll Call Vote #516 was taken on November 12, 2014, I was unable to be in Washington, DC to place my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor.

HONORING SERGEANT MILTON MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Sergeant Milton Moore. Sergeant Moore has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Sergeant Moore attended the Southern Regional Public Safety Institute in Long Beach, MS where he graduated with honors in 2000. He has completed training in: Clandestine Lab Investigations, Interview and Interrogation, Psychological Response to Active Shooter, and numerous other training courses, including, FEMA Incident Command System ICS200, ICS300, ICS400, and ICS700.

Sergeant Milton Moore was hired with the City of Vicksburg in September 1999, as a firefighter. Deciding to follow the footsteps of his father, he became an employee of the Vicksburg Police Department in March 2000. Since that time, he has served as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer.

Sergeant Moore was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2010, scoring the highest of all candidates. Sergeant Moore is presently serving as a shift commander, where he currently has 9 officers under his command.

Sergeant Moore was only 6 years old when his father joined the Vicksburg Police Department in 1975. Being around law enforcement all of his life, Sergeant Moore gained interest and respect for the duties of law enforcement. He knew that one day he would be able to wear the uniform and follow his father's footsteps and become an officer at the Vicksburg Police Department. Most of the traits and values that Sergeant Moore's father instilled in him he still practices daily. These attributes have helped Sergeant Moore become a model officer.

February 19, 2014, Sergeant Milton Moore was honored as Officer of the Year by the Vicksburg Homecoming Benevolence Club. Being a recipient of this award, was a very humbling experience for Sergeant Moore. The award is named the "Artel Moore Award" after Sergeant Moore's deceased father.

Sergeant Moore is a member of the Mississippi Homeland Security Task Force. Sergeant Moore is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, serving in the U.S. Navy during the first Iraq war, Desert Storm, in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Milton Moore for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of the 2014 Veterans

Day essay contest for New York's 14th Congressional District. Kezia Dickson, a student from I.S. 61 in Corona, Queens submitted the winning essay on the topic, "What Veterans Day Means To Me." Kezia's essay reads as follows:

Each day, millions of people in the Armed Forces risk their lives in order to protect us. They put losing their family, friends and life behind just so that they can protect us. These people show unexplainable bravery and courage. I can't even imagine putting my life on the line to fight in a war where I may possibly die. When I sit down and think about what these people are doing it blows my mind. I find it so honorable and breathtaking that someone would put themselves in such danger for strangers.

That is why when Veterans Day comes along I make sure to do something for those members of the Armed Forces. This holiday is just a chance for me to say thank you and God bless you for your unimaginable courage and kindness. I can't even go on to think about the struggle and pain some of these family members may feel each day as they don't know if their husband, wife, son or daughter, mother or father is still alive. Just let alone going to sleep without having that type of awareness is hard. Sometimes we Americans take things for granted, especially other freedoms. Most people fail to understand that the freedom we have doesn't come for free. Sacrifices are made and people end up dying in the process.

For some, Veterans Day is a day where you don't have to go to work or school. For me it's a time of reflection and renewal. That is why Veterans Day is very important to me. To know that somebody's husband/wife, son/daughter, father/mother is dying just so that I can have my freedom makes me take a step back. It makes me think twice about the actions I'm taking and the things I'm doing right now. I just begin to say to myself: "Are the things I'm doing now worth someone's life being lost?"

I appreciate these members of the Armed Forces with the deepest gratitude. They've helped save my life and protect other millions of Americans. In my family, I have uncles and cousins who have served and are serving now. I understand what they do is very hard and it takes mental, emotional, and physical strength to go through with it. They go through so many obstacles, but they seem to never give up. They make me proud to call myself an American. It is their bravery and audacity that keeps America living. What they do is just unbelievable. Basically, Veterans Day is my time to say, "Thank you for saving my life and thank you for your service."

STATEMENT CONCERNING
B.R.A.K.E.S. (BE RESPONSIBLE
AND KEEP EVERYONE SAFE)

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the good work of

B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe), a charitable organization that is taking meaningful steps to reduce the number of traffic-related injuries and deaths by training and educating teenage drivers and their parents about the importance of safe, responsible driving.

B.R.A.K.E.S. was born out of the personal tragedy of National Hot Rod Association drag racing star Doug Herbert. In January 2008, Herbert lost his two young sons, Jon and James, in a car accident. His loss led him to create a driving program that same year to help prevent other families from experiencing similar grief by teaching young drivers more conscientious and confident skills behind the wheel.

More than 5,000 American teenagers lose their lives in traffic accidents each year. B.R.A.K.E.S. is working to reduce this staggering number of deaths by providing free advanced driver's education in a program entitled the Teen Pro-Active Driving Course. This program goes beyond conventional driver's education to target specific driving situations responsible for many traffic accidents involving teens.

Based in North Carolina, B.R.A.K.E.S. is making an impact nationwide. More than 11,000 teenage drivers and their parents have attended the B.R.A.K.E.S. program in 10 states. Participants have traveled from 29 states and 2 countries to attend these training events. The group is constantly seeking additional locations so even more young American drivers and their families can experience the peace of mind that comes with this specialized training.

Last month, I visited a B.R.A.K.E.S. program with my teenage son Cameron and was truly impressed by what they do. I consider it a privilege to share what B.R.A.K.E.S. is accomplishing in the lives of thousands of teenage drivers, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAZZ À LA MODE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 30th anniversary of New England Public Radio's weeknight program, Jazz à la Mode.

Jazz à la Mode, with its host and producer Tom Reney, started broadcasting on August 6, 1984. This exemplary program provides its listeners with some of the greatest recorded jazz, stretching from the classics to music created by emerging artists. Jazz à la Mode gives a broad offering of styles and the evolution of jazz from Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington to Miles Davis and John Coltrane and beyond. Additionally, Tom Reney has had the opportunity to interview many famous musicians such as David Brubeck, James Moody, and Wynton Marsalis. The hallmark of Tom Reney's program is special yearlong series that he dedicates to individual artists that had a substantial impact on jazz as a genre. Jazz

à la Mode has done centennials for Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie.

In addition, Reney makes a point to highlight the jazz concerts, performances, and festivals that take part around New England. His audience will always have the most up-to-date information to be able to see live performances. Reney also acts as host for many jazz festivals around New England including the Tanglewood Jazz Festival and the Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival in my district.

Mr. Speaker, Jazz à la Mode has been a part of the cultural identity of western Massachusetts and New England for the past 30 years. As they celebrate this important milestone, I wish Tom Reney and the staff of Jazz à la Mode further success and many more years of entertaining New England.

HONORING DAVID ABSHIRE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David M. Abshire, who passed away on October 31st, 2014, in Alexandria, Virginia. I worked with David during my career in Congress and always held him in the highest regard.

David was an indispensable public servant. He began his career at West Point, from which he graduated and led a platoon in the Korean War, earning a Bronze Star for bravery. He went on to found the Center for Strategic and International Studies and lead the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress. David also served as assistant secretary of state for congressional relations and chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting under President Nixon and United States ambassador to NATO under President Reagan. He coordinated President Reagan's internal investigation of the Iran-Contra Affair as well.

David was a man of moral strength and character. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and community. David is survived by his wife Carolyn, five children and 11 grandchildren.

I respectfully submit David's obituary from The New York Times and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring David's life and accomplishments.

[From The New York Times, Nov. 3, 2014]

DAVID M. ABSHIRE, WHO HELPED REAGAN THROUGH IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL, DIES AT 88

(By Douglas Martin)

David M. Abshire, who led respected research groups and held high government posts but made his most visible mark by helping President Ronald Reagan navigate the political storms of the Iran-contra scandal, died on Friday in Alexandria, Va. He was 88.

His death was announced by the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress, a Washington group he helped lead.

Reagan sought out Mr. Abshire in December 1986. He called him in Brussels, where he was the United States ambassador to NATO, and asked him to accept a cabinet-level job as coordinator of the White House's response

to multiple investigations of the administration's secret sales of arms to Iran, despite an embargo on such sales.

There were allegations that United States officials had hoped the arms sales would secure the release of several hostages being held in Lebanon by a group with ties to Iran, which would have been another violation of policy. Proceeds from the sales were to be used to finance the anti-Communist insurgents in Nicaragua known as contras—aid that Congress had expressly forbidden.

Reagan asked Mr. Abshire to handle all requests and obligations stemming from investigations in both the House and the Senate and from an independent commission headed by John Tower, a former senator from Texas.

"What we wanted was someone who would come and could immerse himself in all the details of this Iran controversy—the dates, when the arms went, who said what on which date," Patrick J. Buchanan, then the White House communications director, said in an interview with CNN in 1986. "It really is a detailed job, and the rest of the White House staff, which was not involved in the controversy, has to get on with the budget, has got to get on with the State of the Union. We simply don't have the expertise."

In a profile in 1987, *The New York Times* said the job could leave Mr. Abshire in a "potentially tricky position" and raised the possibility that he could turn up an incriminating "smoking gun."

Mr. Abshire accepted the post on the condition that the administration would be forthcoming. He told *The Times* that he regretted suppressing information about military incursions into Laos and Cambodia during the Nixon administration, when he was assistant secretary of state for congressional relations.

"That," he said, "was an example of how not to do it."

In his first meeting with Reagan, recounted in his 2005 book, "Saving the Reagan Presidency: Trust Is the Coin of the Realm," Mr. Abshire told the president that it was unwise to keep insisting that the United States did not trade arms for hostages. He pointed out that two-thirds of the public believed that the administration had made such a deal.

"Dave, I don't care if I'm the only person in America that does not believe it—I don't believe it was arms for hostages," he quoted Reagan as saying.

But in a dozen meetings with the president and in others with the first lady, Nancy Reagan, Mr. Abshire pressed his case for admitting what seemed obvious to him and to many others. He also released thousands of unedited documents to investigators, handled press relations and signed off on the president's speeches about the subject.

On March 4, 1987, with evidence of the arms deal mounting, Reagan admitted in a speech to the nation that he had learned he was wrong. "What began as a strategic opening to Iran deteriorated, in its implementation, into trading arms for hostages," he said.

Mr. Abshire soon resigned, feeling he had finished the job 90 days after taking it. Reagan largely escaped personal blame and saw his approval rating rise from 46 percent to 64 percent in less than two years.

The Washington Post in 2006 called Mr. Abshire the "judicious convener and manager of the A-list powerful." In 1962, he joined with Adm. Arleigh Burke to start the Center for Strategic and International Studies, originally as an affiliate of Georgetown University. Distinguished foreign policy figures like Henry A. Kissinger, James R.

Schlesinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft have been senior advisers and adjunct fellows there.

Mr. Kissinger, at a colloquium in Mr. Abshire's honor in 2006, said that Mr. Abshire had a knack for getting people to do what he wanted, "making you feel that he's doing you a tremendous favor for giving you that opportunity."

From 1999 to 2012, Mr. Abshire was president and chief executive of the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress. More recently he was vice chairman. He served on government task forces and policy study groups and wrote seven books. He headed Reagan's foreign affairs transition team after his election in 1980, and was often mentioned as a candidate for national security adviser in Republican administrations.

His job as assistant secretary of state under President Richard M. Nixon was to be a liaison to Congress. Nixon then appointed him chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting, overseeing Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

As NATO ambassador, Mr. Abshire helped parlay the deployment of American Pershing II missiles in Europe into a treaty limiting intermediate-range nuclear weapons there.

David Manker Abshire was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., on April 11, 1926. An imposing figure at 6-foot-4, he never lost his courtly Tennessee drawl.

He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1951 and, as a platoon leader in the Korean War, was awarded a Bronze Star and other decorations for bravery. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown.

Mr. Abshire, who died in a nursing home in Alexandria, is survived by his wife of 56 years, the former Carolyn Sample; his son, Lupton; his daughters, Anna Bowman, Mary Lee Jensvold, Phyllis d'Hoop and Carolyn Hall; and 11 grandchildren.

Reagan was not the first president to ask for Mr. Abshire's help in dealing with a crisis. In his memoir, Mr. Abshire wrote that Nixon had asked him to join his staff to fight the threat of impeachment during the investigations of the cover-up of the Watergate break-in. He tactfully said no.

He recalled that when a relative expressed amazement that he had turned down a president, he replied: "I don't believe he's telling the truth."

IN HONOR OF MRS. CHARLOTTE M. FRAZIER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of grace, class, and dignity, Mrs. Charlotte M. Frazier. Sadly, Mrs. Frazier passed away on October 5, 2014. Her funeral service was held on October 14, 2014, at First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. She has been a dear friend to my wife Vivian and me for many years.

Charlotte was born on May 23, 1932 to Arlene Hawkins in Columbus, Georgia. She graduated from William H. Spencer High School and was a director for the Spencer Golden Owlettes, Inc.

Charlotte was always involved in doing good deeds for the betterment of her community.

She always put others ahead of herself. And very often she took the lead in working on worthy projects and always saw those projects to a successful completion.

She spearheaded the initiative to save the Liberty Theatre and supported its nomination and listing in the National Registry of Historic Places. She also led the efforts for the development of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center, Inc., the restoration of Ma Rainey's grave site and the recognition of her legacy with a United States Postal Stamp. She was also a full time coordinator for the preservation of African-American resources. She was a recipient of many awards for her efforts on behalf of humankind.

She advocated tirelessly on behalf of the local, state and national Democratic Party. Charlotte was a lifetime member of the Order of Eastern Star and the founder of the Princess Chapter #194 of the Modern Free and Accepted Masons of the World, Inc. She was largely responsible for acquiring the present site and building for the group.

Charlotte held many titles and roles, but the most important role that she had in her life was serving her God with her work at First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead, but go instead where there is no path and leave the trail."

Charlotte Frazier was truly one of a kind who blazed a trail for all of us to follow and left an indelible mark on the world that will not be forgotten. We are only here on this earth for a season. Charlotte Frazier used her season for good and to help others to reach their full potential. Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Charlotte Frazier paid her rent and she paid it well.

On behalf of my wife Vivian and the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, I extend my deepest sympathies to Charlotte's husband Anderson and all of those that she touched throughout her life.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE PROVIDED
BY SERENITY HOSPICE CARE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25 years of service that Serenity Hospice Care in Park Hills, Missouri has provided our community. Serenity Hospice Care is the area's only independent, non-profit hospice. They have served over 5,000 patients and their families, regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

When Serenity Hospice Care first opened its doors 25 years ago, it was thanks to a volunteer staff and funds raised by an all-volunteer Board of Directors concerned by the lack of hospice care in the surrounding counties. Until they received their Medicare and Medicaid certification, Serenity Hospice Care operated solely on the funds raised by generous donors. Today those funds are used to help cover the costs for the patients without sufficient insurance coverage.

It is in the late stages of life where Serenity Hospice Care aims to relieve the financial burden of finding adequate hospice care for seniors. As their name so perfectly describes, Serenity Hospice Care has provided peace and comfort to many patients and their families. It is their mission of "providing excellent end-of-life care and grief support services to all in our community who need them", that makes them a valuable and respected organization to the eight counties it services.

It is my pleasure to recognize Serenity Hospice Care and their devoted staff for their 25 years of service.

HONORING TONY WARREN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Tony Warren who is a lifelong resident of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Mr. Warren is the son of the late William Hampton and the late Roberta Scott Warren.

Mr. Warren entered law enforcement in 1990 as dispatcher for the City of Mound Bayou Police Department, and progressed to the positions of: Patrolman, Fire Chief, and his current position, Chief of Police.

In his desire to expand his law enforcement career in 2007, he became a Correctional Field Officer, formerly known as a Parole Officer. As a Correctional Field Officer he assists former inmates with employment and housing opportunities, as well as addictive behavior placement for reintroduction into family and society. He regularly attends trainings to become aware of societal threats and what technical resolutions will be best for his day-to-day utilization.

His love of law enforcement played a tremendous role in enhancing his love for his hometown and the need to protect and serve the community. Therefore, he has an open door policy for the residents and visitors. Chief Warren believes in communication between the police department and the people they serve to enhance the community.

Mr. Warren has received numerous awards for his community and academic involvement with the Mound Bayou School District, AARP and other civic organizations.

Mr. Warren is the youngest of eight siblings: Joyce, James, Ella, Odis, Ivory, Justeen, Veronica, and Kenny (deceased).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing law enforcement officer for his dedication and service to his profession.

IN RECOGNITION OF FALMOUTH'S 60TH VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Falmouth in celebrating its 60th Veterans' Day Parade.

Since 1954, when President Eisenhower proclaimed November 11th as Veterans' Day, Falmouth has honored its veterans in a procession from the Town Green to Memorial Lane on Library Lawn. Police escorts, the parade marshal, selectmen, the Coast Guard, and others come together on this day to recognize those who have been invaluable to our country's strength and security. A rifle salute, including sirens in memory of Armistice Day in 1918, followed by a memorial address and an open house for the public conclude the celebrations.

Between 1927 and 1953 the town's celebration entailed a moment of silence, a placing of a wreath at the World War I Memorial, and a procession beginning at the American Legion. Following the procession, the American Legion attended services at various local churches and participated in parades in Hyannis and Plymouth, and sometimes the celebration came to an end with a display of fireworks. In the early 1950s, the placing of a wreath, a moment of silence, and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner have been added to honor the fallen servicemen of the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to congratulate Falmouth for hosting its 60th Veterans Day Parade. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the importance of this day, and to recognize the honorable service that veterans provide to our country.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN PHIL CRANE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer praise of and appreciation for my friend and former colleague Congressman Phil Crane. I had the honor of serving alongside Phil on the Ways and Means Committee for many years, allowing me to witness first hand just what an exceptional leader he was. Phil was a true conservative that strived for real solutions that worked for all Americans near and far.

Never shying away from the tough conversations, Phil was a leading reformer, pioneering significant efforts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) during his time as Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. He was a staunch advocate of free-market policies and remained dedicated to simplifying the tax code. Phil was an influential member of the Committee and helped pave the way for meaningful reform that we are still fighting for today.

What's more, Phil was just as personable as he was outspoken, two qualities that forged friendships on both sides of the aisle. It is no secret that Phil was an undeniable presence in any room he entered, often remembered for his knack for storytelling and entertaining punch lines.

Phil was a one-of-a-kind force to be reckoned with, and I am honored to have known him, both personally and professionally. I am deeply saddened by his passing, but know his

legacy will continue to impact Congress for many years to come.

HONORING COMMUNITY LEADER, JOSEPH SCHER, UPON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Joseph Scher, my constituent and local leader, on his 90th birthday and a lifetime of service to his community.

Prior to moving to Santa Barbara in 1981, Joe was a successful businessman in Chicago, serving as President of the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and as Director of the Birchwood Club.

Once in Santa Barbara, Joe continued his commitment to community service, devoting considerable time to local charities and the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara. His first job at the Jewish Federation was Chairman of the Annual Drive for Funds followed by serving as Vice President for over a decade as well as participating on countless committees within the Jewish community. Under Joe's leadership, the Jewish Federation set a new fundraising record and gradually grew in size and strength. Today, the Jewish Federation is a thriving organization and great source of pride, offering wonderful activities and programs for the entire community.

Joe also dedicated his time and efforts to the broader Santa Barbara community, serving as Chairman of Camarada Pacifica, President of the Santa Barbara City College Foundation, and Director of Speaking of Stories.

Today, we celebrate Joe's inspiring spirit and thank him for his many contributions to the Santa Barbara community. Thank you for decades of service, good will, and achievement.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN PHILIP M. CRANE

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement to honor the distinguished life and career of Congressman Philip M. Crane. I was fortunate enough to serve with Phil not only in the House but also on the Ways and Means Committee. He was in his third decade of public service when I was just starting out, and so I considered Phil a role model. While in Congress, Phil shaped several trade agreements as chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee. He also helped to found the Republican Study Committee, of which I am a proud member. Outside of Congress, Phil was a loving husband and father, an accomplished scholar, and a proud veteran.

Phil was an exceptional leader, and his legacy will serve as an inspiration for conservatives and all public servants for generations to come.

HONORING UNDER SHERIFF
DERRICK CUBIT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable enforcement officer and community servant, Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit.

Derrick Cubit was born on a warm, sunny day of September 1, 1970 in Jackson, MS. As a youngster, he lived in Hazlehurst, Mississippi with his mother, Bobbie, his brother, Travis, and his late grandmother, Sarah.

Derrick Cubit started school when he was six-years-old. He went to kindergarten through fifth grades at Hazlehurst Elementary, attended Hazlehurst Middle School, and graduated from Hazlehurst High School in 1988. He continued his education by attending Hinds Community College and Jackson State University where he majored in Criminal Justice.

"Life has been a means of friends and family who you can trust and who trusts you," says Mr. Cubit. He is pretty happy with what life brings and is accustomed to being around primarily adults, those who he received wisdom from. He met lots of people who invested and took time with him, and helped him to excel at most of his many and various hobbies. He did well in school because of this and fortunately, self-awareness was something that was learned later on in his years.

Under Sheriff Cubit is a member of the Phi Beta Fraternity and of the Golden Square Lodge #88. There was always an interest in being a public servant, and he finally got an opportunity to work for the Copeiah County Sheriff Department in October of 1997. He gives all thanks to the late Chief Deputy Joe L. Young, who gave him the opportunity to become a Deputy Sheriff with the Copeiah County Sheriff Department. The trend was set by just meeting his potential, and taking on new challenges when someone brought it to his attention that he'd be perfect for the opportunity to work through the ranks at the Sheriff Department. He started out being a Deputy Sheriff, later was promoted to Juvenile Officer, after that he was promoted to Captain of Patrol, and now he serves as the Under Sheriff for the Copeiah County Sheriff Department.

Under Sheriff Cubit always assumed he'd never get married because he was a hard worker and thought that if he was tied down by the constraints of a wife and kids his work might hinder family growth. But then, he met the beautiful Ms. Semekia Jones in 1994 and they agreed to marry in 2001. He had one son before this union and now his new family role suits him as being a father and husband. He's driven to spur his son on to even greater accomplishments.

Despite a lifetime of challenges and accomplishments Under Sheriff Cubit has held on to a quote by James Baldwin: "The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in." His goal is to achieve what James Baldwin speaks about. Although he would question, "How?" he believes that the moment his son entered this world, he then knew that he had achieved it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF FIRST CHURCH
OF NEWPORT NEWS (BAPTIST)

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a continuing legacy of faith and community in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, First Church of Newport News (Baptist) in Newport News, Virginia is celebrating its sesquicentennial, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Newport News community.

First Church of Newport News (Baptist) holds the distinction of being the first form of organized religion located within the original city limits of Newport News. In fact, it predates the city by 32 years, having been originally organized in 1864 as First Baptist Church by the Reverend Thomas Poole of Isle of Wight County. The small wood framed church located under what is now the 28th Street Bridge was a spiritual home for many slaves, freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, whose only exposure to Christianity had come from their previous masters.

Under Reverends Carr and Cooley, the church moved its location to 23rd Street and Jefferson Avenue and continued to grow. Under Reverend William H. Dixon in 1897, planning and construction began on the new church building that would house the church for most of the 20th century. The impressive structure would include a steeple that was believed to be the highest in Newport News and was a landmark on the city skyline for decades.

A church is more than its building, and First Baptist's ministry in Newport News continued to expand under Reverends Harris, Taylor and Henderson. In 1919, Dr. A. A. Galvin became Pastor and many ministries and facets of parochial life at First Church that still exist were founded during his tenure, including the Benevolent Fund and the Men's Star Bible Class. Under the next pastor, Dr. John F. Williams, the church formed both a Gospel Choir and a Deaf and Blind Ministry.

In 1961, Dr. Fred J. Boddie, Jr. succeeded Dr. Williams and began his 39-year tenure, the longest of any pastor in the church's history. It was under Dr. Boddie that the church moved to its current location on Wickham Avenue and changed its name from First Baptist Church to First Church of Newport News (Baptist) to reflect its historic roots. Dr. Boddie led First Church into the 21st century, retiring in 2001. Under his leadership, the church truly lived up to its motto becoming, "the friendly church on the corner where everybody is somebody and Christ is all".

In 2005, Dr. Reginald Dawkins was called to be pastor. In 2011, Rodney Johnson was installed as the twelfth leader of First Church

and the church continues to grow in its outreach to the community under his stewardship. This dedication to service is reflected in the theme for First Church's Sesquicentennial, "Renewing Minds and Transforming Lives with a Legacy of Hope and Charity".

As First Church gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate all of the members of First Church of Newport News (Baptist) on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary, and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING REAGAN MYERS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reagan Myers from Poplar Bluff, Missouri for his years of service with the Salvation Army. Reagan Myers is being honored as the 2014 Mariana Islands Young Citizen of the Year. This award is not easily attained, and can only be achieved by demonstrating a selfless passion for serving and a giving heart. Reagan and his family are serving as missionaries under the auspices of General Baptist International Missions. At only 16 years old, Reagan has demonstrated his commitment to serving those in need in Saipan.

Over the past year he has donated many of his own items to the Salvation Army, he has volunteered his time to help in the soup kitchen, and ring the bell at the red kettle location. Reagan has led efforts to provide relief to families who suffered from Typhoon Vongfong. With support from his church, he provides baskets to families in need filled with food, toys, and Bibles.

Reagan Myers is a role model for young and old alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS OF AMERICAN PHYSI-
CIANS ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS
OF UKRAINE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, almost one year ago, students peacefully protesting the previous Ukrainian regime's decision to not join the European Union were attacked by their own government in Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan). Following these protests, pro-Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine has left over 3,000 people dead and thousands more injured. Ukraine's medical staff and facilities were inundated with wounded protesters soldiers and citizens. Without hesitation, a tremendous group of American physicians offered their talents and expertise to

treat the wounded Ukrainians who fought for freedom, human dignity, democracy and peace in Ukraine.

These medical professionals and their institutions have provided the seriously wounded with advanced life-saving treatments. Though their injuries were grievous, as a result of the medical care provided by our amazing physicians, they have been given a second chance.

We extend our sincere thanks to: Ahmet Aksakal, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH; Dr. Brandon Ayres, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Jurij Bilyk, Wills Eye Hospital; Dr. Akram Boutros, MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, OH; Dr. Christopher Brandt, Chair, Department of Surgery, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. William Cappaert, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Myung Chang, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Tammy Coffee, RN, CNP, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Alfred Connors, Jr., MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Delos Cosgrove, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Sasha Davisson, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. James Eakins, Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Joanna M. Fisher, Holy Redeemer Health Care System, Huntingdon Valley, PA; Dr. Michael Fritz, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Thomas J. Gillon, Holy Redeemer Health Care System; Dr. Katie Hallahan, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Julia Haller, Wills Eye Hospital; Dr. Michael P. Horan, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Shu Que Huang, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Roderick Jordan, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Michael J. Joyce, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Peter J. Kaiser, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Anjay Khandewal, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Peter Kozicky, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA; Dr. Alexandra Kushnir, Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, CT; Orysia Levyska, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Lisa D. Lystad, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Mark Eric Manstein, Holy Redeemer Health Care System; Dr. Melvin Mejia, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Yoshi Modi, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Nicole Moskal, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Olha Onyshko, coordinator of efforts between Ukrainian physicians and Ukrainian Federation of America; Dr. Francis A. Papay, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Holly Perzy, MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Pamela Ritchey, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Alisa Savetamal, Bridgeport Hospital Burn Center; Dr. Eon K. Shin, The Philadelphia Hand Center, P.C. & St. Mary's Medical Center, Langhorne, PA; Jackie Spence, MSN, RN, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Dr. Maria Strus, Cleveland Clinic Foundation & MetroHealth Medical Center; Dr. Carroll Weinberg, Lankenau Hospital, Wynnewood, PA; and Dr. Thomas Whalen, Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the heroic humanitarian efforts of these outstanding physicians, volunteers, medical professionals and their associated institutions, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing their extraordinary service.

HONORING SHERIFF OLIVER PARKER, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr.

Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr.'s life began in Duncan, MS. Sheriff Parker's mother, Mrs. Eddie Mae Parker, relocated to Hinchcliff, MS when he was ten years old. Sheriff Parker has resided in Quitman County for over 50 years. He is a graduate of Quitman County High School, Northwest Junior College, and the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy. Parker completed the Mississippi Fire Investigation Training Academy as a requirement to become an Arson Investigator. He has one daughter, Fatina Parker Elliott; one granddaughter, Ashley-Faith Elliott; and one goddaughter, Detra Foster-Webb.

Sheriff Parker has never been a stranger to hard work. He worked assiduously as a teenager to help his single-mother provide for his siblings. He has always had a desire to help others. He knew at an early age that he wanted to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Quitman County. He pursued his dreams of helping the citizens of Quitman County by beginning a career in law enforcement. He served in the capacity of Deputy Sheriff for the Quitman County Sheriffs Department for 23 years. In 1999 he pursued his life-long dream of becoming the Sheriff of Quitman County. He was elected the first African-American Sheriff of Quitman County in November of 1999 and took the Oath of Office on December 9, 1999. He began his responsibilities as Sheriff of Quitman County on January 1, 2000. He has humbly served as Sheriff of Quitman County for 14 years.

Since the beginning of his career as Sheriff of Quitman County, Sheriff Parker has instituted change in a variety of ways and made major contributions to the Quitman County Sheriffs Department. Jailed youth are offered a variety of programs designed to help them avoid returning to jail, as well as GED tutoring and testing. The elderly are assisted via the TRIAD Program. Sheriff Parker also initiated the employment of a full-time School Resource Officer at Madison Shannon Palmer High School. Under Sheriff Parker's leadership, a full-time detective and additional deputies and dispatchers were hired to assist with protecting and serving the citizens of Quitman County. Sheriff Parker's leadership has proven to be successful, as there were no unsolved murders in Quitman County until February 8, 2013.

Sheriff Parker was present at a major milestone in the history of Quitman County which was the unveiling of the Mule Train sign at the city limits of Marks, Mississippi.

Sheriff Parker possesses sound judgment; he has a great sense of accountability to the citizens of Quitman County; and he has an irreproachable professionalism. Sheriff Parker constantly seeks to establish relationships with the community that ensures continued trust and dependability. He is a God-fearing indi-

vidual who seeks to serve the citizens of Quitman County with the utmost respect, dignity and honesty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr. for his dedication in being a respected community leader.

IN HONOR OF C.E. "RED" MCDANIEL, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant of Columbus, Georgia, Councilor C.E. "Red" McDaniel, Jr. Councilor McDaniel passed away on Monday, November 3, 2014. A funeral service was held on Friday, November 7, 2014 at First Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Councilor McDaniel served on the City Council of Columbus for 38 years. When he was first elected in 1969, he served in the old county courthouse until the Government Center tower was built. The Council now meets at the new City Services Center off Macon Road. He was the only current Councilor to have served on the Council before Columbus and Muscogee County merged to form the Columbus Consolidated Government.

Councilor McDaniel was a Columbus man through and through. After graduating from Columbus High School, where he was a football star, he went to the University of Florida on a football scholarship. After an injury, he switched to Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where he earned an associate degree. He returned to Columbus and ran a private insurance company until his retirement from business.

During his long tenure in the Columbus City government, he advocated for the improvement of city services while keeping a close eye on the budget. He was a champion of public safety and tirelessly supported the city's law enforcement officers and firefighters who often put their lives at risk.

Always open and outspoken about his opinions, Councilor McDaniel stood as a giant redwood in local government, widely respected for his deep institutional knowledge and intrinsic experience. He served as a mentor to newly-elected councilors regardless of their ideological views. A man of integrity and principle, Councilor McDaniel possessed many qualities that make for a strong foundation of character. More importantly, he never wavered on his values and remained true to himself and to the residents of Columbus throughout his career.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Councilor Red McDaniel passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in public service to the countless residents of

Columbus whose lives he touched and brightened.

On a personal note, Councilor McDaniel was a close personal friend of mine and one of the first city officials I met when I first came to Columbus in 1972. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Councilor McDaniel has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife Joanne, two sons, several grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 residents of the Second Congressional District, salute Councilor McDaniel for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to his community. I asked my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Councilor McDaniel's family, friends and the Columbus, Georgia community during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MRS. TAKIYA FRYE-LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educator in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Mrs. Takiya Frye-Lewis is the daughter of Ms. Carolyn Frye and the late Mr. Levester Frye, Sr. She is married to Mr. Casey T. Lewis and is the mother of two girls; Ciera and Keziah and is expecting a son in July of 2014 who will be named Casey, Jr. Although born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Takiya Frye-Lewis has been a resident of Bolivar County, Mississippi for 17 years and she considers herself a "transplanted native."

Mrs. Lewis graduated from Willow Run High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1997 and received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Mississippi Valley State University in 2005 and her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice in 2008 from Mississippi Valley State University.

Mrs. Lewis serves in the capacity of a Pre-K teacher at the Coahoma Opportunities Incorporated Head Start Center in Clarksdale, Mississippi. During her 7 years of teaching diverse socio-economic youths ranging in the ages of 3 to 5 years old, she has found it challenging and rewarding. She desires that all of the children in her classroom and care receive the necessary tools to advance their understanding, knowledge of all subject matter which is taught, even devoting time for individualized coaching and tutoring.

Mrs. Lewis loves teaching and believes in helping children and adults strive towards their life endeavors. Her future objectives are to take the teachers exam and become a kindergarten teacher in a public school district.

Mrs. Lewis devoted endless hours to running errands, home care needs, feeding and

clothing the less fortunate. Also, she is active in her church by serving as Vice President of the Youth Department, President of the Purity Class, and President of the Youth and Adult choirs.

Mrs. Lewis is a member of the NAACP and Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON's Bi-Monthly Municipal Meetings which is hosted by his Mound Bayou District Office where she is outspoken on issues which affects her community and our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Head Start professional for her dedication and service to educating the youths.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 33RD
ANNUAL BIG PIG JIG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 33rd Annual Big Pig Jig held in Vienna, Georgia on November 7-8, 2014. Sponsored by the Dooly County Chamber of Commerce, the Big Pig Jig is Georgia's Official Memphis Barbecue Network (MBN) State Barbecue Cooking Championship. Thousands of people from all over joined the residents of Vienna to enjoy the finest barbecue in the world at this widely celebrated pig-cooking contest this year.

In 1982, a group of talented chefs living in Vienna, Georgia made a bet on who could prepare the best barbecue. This private wager quickly grew into a full-fledged barbecue cooking competition after it combined forces with a local crafts fair and an annual hog show hosted by the county's livestock association. That fusion has since evolved into the annual Big Pig Jig, the world's largest MBN-endorsed contest as well as Georgia's biggest and oldest sanctioned contest of its kind.

The Big Pig Jig's broad national recognition contributes heavily to the economy of the rural community of Vienna, Georgia, as well as the surrounding area. It draws a crowd that almost triples the city's average population and showcases the charm and beauty found within the city of Vienna on a grand scale. It is a beautiful thing when a community comes together to welcome people from all walks of life to their hometown to create a lasting and time-honored tradition like the Big Pig Jig.

Next year's festivities will be particularly exciting as the National Whole Hog Championship will be held in conjunction with the Big Pig Jig. The addition of this brand new event in November of 2015 will only add to the palpable excitement the Big Pig Jig already inspires throughout the Southeast.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Big Pig Jig as well as the folks of Dooly County, Georgia for cultivating this once small, local event into all that it is today. The Big Pig Jig promotes a delicious part of the South's cultural heritage and fosters a sense of unity among all those who travel from far and wide to our beloved community in Vienna, Georgia.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH
NASER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenneth Naser upon his retirement as Executive Director of ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically). ALIVE! is a nonprofit organization of 42 faith communities working together for 45 years to help Alexandrians facing emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community. Many people talk about getting faith communities involved in helping those in need, but, through his work with ALIVE!, Ken has lived and led that effort in Alexandria.

Prior to becoming the first Executive Director of ALIVE! 10 years ago, Ken volunteered for ALIVE! for close to 30 years, served as chair of two of its programs and as President in 1982-83. During Ken's term as Executive Director, ALIVE! increased its reach and its assistance to families in need. This growth now allows ALIVE! to help over 14,000 individuals in need each year with food, financial assistance, early childhood education, transitional housing, furniture and house wares.

ALIVE!'s largest programs—the monthly Last Saturday Food Distribution and the Family Emergency Program daily delivery of food—have grown from assisting approximately 1200 individuals each month in 2003 to serving over 3000 individuals each month in 2014. Financial assistance provided to families who cannot make rent, utility or medical payments has grown from \$130,000 annually to over \$310,000 this year. Ken has worked closely with City social workers and other nonprofits in the City to assure that families who need food, financial aid, furniture or house wares receive assistance.

Ken also has helped ALIVE!'s Child Development Center grow and improve, both as a volunteer chair of the committee overseeing its operation and in the Executive Director role, where he exercises a key, day-to-day oversight function. Ken has been instrumental as the Center has received national accreditation and also was highly rated by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Center assists working families who pay sliding scale fees based on their income level, and fundraising efforts, under Ken's direction, make up the difference in cost.

During Ken's term as Executive Director, ALIVE! House, which is a transitional housing program for four women and their children, has expanded its program and undergone a major renovation. The women at ALIVE! House are provided the support they need to secure a job, improve parenting skills, and develop other life skills that will allow them to live on their own. Over the past five years alone, Ken has been involved in helping 21 families change their lives and live independently.

Ken has been active in other non-profit activities as well. He was recognized for his efforts in 2010 when Volunteer Alexandria awarded him the Nonprofit Leader of the Year award. Most recently, he has been a leader in

the effort to bring faith communities, non-profits, local businesses and the City together in support of "A Hunger Free Alexandria." Lending his skills to this initiative, Ken has worked to assure that families and individuals in Alex-

andria have access to affordable, healthy food and that no one in Alexandria goes hungry.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Ken Naser on his outstanding career at ALIVE! and his many contributions toward making Alexandria a better place to live for all citizens, but particularly those most in need.

After close to 40 years as a volunteer and then Executive Director at ALIVE!, we wish Ken a long and happy retirement and know that, even in retirement, he will continue to find ways to help the less fortunate in our community.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, November 14, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week during which some Members of this people's House have come to finish their service in the Congress and others have come to prepare for their opportunity to serve this great Nation. It is a time of tremendous transition, a time fraught with trepidation and some uncertainty.

Send Your spirit of peace and calm that all might have confidence in Your faithfulness to us and that no matter what lies ahead Your grace is abundantly available.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, as we approach the November 24 Iran nuclear deadline, we should all be reminded that Iran is a U.S.-designated state sponsor of terrorism. Iran continues to violate multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions, and the regime continues to advance its ballistic missile program, a program that has only one purpose: to launch a nuclear weapon. Iran is one of the world's worst human rights violators and under the so-called moderate Rouhani has been executing people in record numbers.

Yet we recently found out that President Obama sent a secret letter to Iran's Supreme Leader last month. The Supreme Leader responded by releasing a plan to destroy our closest friend and ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

The Iranian regime cannot be trusted. Yet this administration continues to push for a nuclear deal that threatens our U.S. national security interests.

Madam Speaker, we must not allow any deal to be finalized that we view is not in the interests of the United States of America.

STOP DELAYING AMERICA'S MAIL

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with the American Postal Workers in Buffalo, New York, and across the country who today rally to send a message: Stop delaying America's mail.

Since 2012, 141 mail processing plants have closed. Eighty-two more across 37 States are scheduled to either close or be consolidated beginning in January.

The erosion of service standards is not only bad for customers, U.S. businesses, and hardworking postal work-

ers, but it represents a huge step backward in an increasingly competitive delivery industry.

Today the Postal Service Board of Governors holds their last public meeting of 2014. I urge them to reverse course and maintain service standards that uphold the trademark reputation of the United States Postal Service.

I also urge the House to bring H.R. 630, the Postal Service Protection Act, to the floor for a vote. This legislation removes the pension pre-fund obligation, provides for the expansion of shipping operations and the lease of surplus facility space while maintaining Saturday delivery.

WE NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY WE DO POLITICS IN AMERICA

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Speaker, Members of the House, money and negative advertising in the last election cycle has clearly established the need for us to change the way we do politics here in America.

Putting an end to negative advertising is so essential. It is not only polluting the airwaves on TV, but it is denigrating the candidates, it is corrupting the public policy process, and it is dangerously diminishing people's confidence in our system.

I was greatly heartened 2 years ago to see the spirit of bipartisanship that came with all the new Members of the Congress. I am seeing it again. But until we change the way we do our politics, it is not going to be realized.

We need to do this by putting an end to all this money by outside special interests and their negative advertising and complement that with a change in the way we do business with open rules, where every idea gets a chance to be heard and voted on.

That is how bipartisanship works. That is how things get done. That is essential for compromise, and that is where we need to go to restore people's confidence in our system here in America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9:00 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1213

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Thursday, November 13, 2014, all time for debate on the motion to recommit had expired, and the previous question had been ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the passage of the measure.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 192, nays 224, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

YEAS—192

Adams	DeGette	Jeffries
Barber	Delaney	Johnson (GA)
Barrow (GA)	DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.
Beatty	DelBene	Kaptur
Becerra	Deutch	Keating
Bera (CA)	Dingell	Kelly (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Kennedy
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Kildee
Bonamici	Edwards	Kilmer
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Kind
Braley (IA)	Engel	Kirkpatrick
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Kuster
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Langevin
Bustos	Farr	Larsen (WA)
Butterfield	Fattah	Larson (CT)
Capps	Foster	Lee (CA)
Capuano	Frankel (FL)	Levin
Cárdenas	Fudge	Lewis
Carney	Gabbard	Lipinski
Carson (IN)	Galleo	Loeb
Cartwright	Garamendi	Lofgren
Castor (FL)	Garcia	Lowenthal
Castro (TX)	Grayson	Lowe
Chu	Green, Al	Lujan Grisham
Cicilline	Green, Gene	(NM)
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	Luján, Ben Ray
Clarke (NY)	Gutiérrez	(NM)
Clay	Hahn	Lynch
Cleaver	Hanabusa	Maffei
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Maloney
Cohen	Heck (WA)	Carolyn
Connolly	Higgins	Maloney, Sean
Conyers	Himes	Matheson
Cooper	Hinojosa	Matsui
Courtney	Holt	McCarthy (NY)
Crowley	Honda	McCollum
Cuellar	Horsford	McDermott
Cummings	Hoyer	McIntyre
Davis (CA)	Huffman	McNerney
Davis, Danny	Israel	Meeks
DeFazio	Jackson Lee	Meng

Michaud	Rahall	Slaughter
Miller, George	Rangel	Speier
Moore	Richmond	Swalwell (CA)
Moran	Roybal-Allard	Takano
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Thompson (CA)
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)
Napolitano	Rush	Tierney
Neal	Ryan (OH)	Titus
Negrete McLeod	Sánchez, Linda	Tonko
Nolan	T.	Tsongas
Norcross	Sanchez, Loretta	Van Hollen
O'Rourke	Sarbanes	Vargas
Owens	Schakowsky	Veasey
Pallone	Schiff	Vela
Pascarell	Schneider	Velázquez
Pastor (AZ)	Schrader	Visclosky
Pelosi	Schwartz	Walz
Peters (CA)	Scott (VA)	Wasserman
Peters (MI)	Scott, David	Schultz
Peterson	Serrano	Waters
Pingree (ME)	Sewell (AL)	Waxman
Pocan	Shea-Porter	Welch
Polis	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Price (NC)	Sinema	Yarmuth
Quigley	Sires	

NAYS—224

Aderholt	Gingrey (GA)	Miller (MI)
Amash	Gohmert	Mullin
Amodel	Goodlatte	Mulvaney
Bachmann	Gosar	Murphy (PA)
Bachus	Gowdy	Neugebauer
Barr	Granger	Noem
Benishek	Graves (GA)	Nugent
Bentivolio	Graves (MO)	Nunes
Bilirakis	Griffin (AR)	Nunnelee
Bishop (UT)	Griffith (VA)	Olson
Black	Grimm	Palazzo
Blackburn	Guthrie	Paulsen
Boustany	Hanna	Pearce
Brady (TX)	Harper	Perry
Brat	Harris	Petri
Bridenstine	Hartzler	Pittenger
Brooks (AL)	Hastings (WA)	Pitts
Brooks (IN)	Heck (NV)	Poe (TX)
Broun (GA)	Hensarling	Pompeo
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Posey
Bucshon	Holding	Price (GA)
Burgess	Hudson	Reed
Byrne	Huelskamp	Reichert
Calvert	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Camp	Hultgren	Ribble
Capito	Hunter	Rice (SC)
Carter	Hurt	Rigell
Cassidy	Issa	Roby
Chabot	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Chaffetz	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Clawson (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (KY)
Coffman	Jolly	Rogers (MI)
Cole	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Collins (GA)	Joyce	Rokita
Collins (NY)	Kelly (PA)	Rooney
Conaway	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Cook	King (NY)	Roskam
Cotton	Kingston	Ross
Cramer	Kinzinger (IL)	Rothfus
Crawford	Kline	Royce
Crenshaw	Labrador	Runyan
Culberson	LaMalfa	Ryan (WI)
Daines	Lamborn	Salmon
Davis, Rodney	Lance	Sanford
Denham	Lankford	Scalise
Dent	Latham	Schock
DeSantis	Latta	Schweikert
DesJarlais	LoBiondo	Scott, Austin
Diaz-Balart	Long	Sensenbrenner
Duffy	Lucas	Sessions
Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus
Duncan (TN)	Lummis	Shuster
Ellmers	Marchant	Simpson
Farenthold	Marino	Smith (MO)
Fincher	Massie	Smith (NE)
Fitzpatrick	McAllister	Smith (NJ)
Fleischmann	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (TX)
Fleming	McCaul	Southerland
Flores	McClintock	Stewart
Forbes	McHenry	Stivers
Fortenberry	McKinley	Stockman
Fox	McMorris	Stutzman
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Terry
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Thompson (PA)
Gardner	Meehan	Thornberry
Garrett	Messer	Tiberi
Gibbs	Mica	Tipton
Gibson	Miller (FL)	Turner

Upton	Webster (FL)	Wolf
Valadao	Wenstrup	Womack
Wagner	Westmoreland	Woodall
Walberg	Whitfield	Yoder
Walden	Williams	Yoho
Walorski	Wilson (SC)	Young (AK)
Weber (TX)	Wittman	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—18

Barletta	Costa	McGovern
Barton	Duckworth	McKeon
Bass	Enyart	Miller, Gary
Blumenauer	Gerlach	Payne
Campbell	Hall	Perlmutter
Coble	Jones	Smith (WA)

□ 1242

Messrs. STUTZMAN, THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, GARDNER, ROSS of Florida, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, HUDSON, PERRY, YOUNG of Alaska, LAMALFA, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. ROSKAM changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. ADAMS, Ms. HAHN, Messrs. HOLT, CÁRDENAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Messrs. BRALEY of Iowa and SCHIFF changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 252, noes 161, answered "present" 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 519]

AYES—252

Aderholt	Cole	Gardner
Amodel	Collins (GA)	Garrett
Bachmann	Collins (NY)	Gibbs
Bachus	Conaway	Gibson
Barr	Cook	Gingrey (GA)
Barrow (GA)	Cooper	Gohmert
Benishek	Cotton	Goodlatte
Bentivolio	Cramer	Gosar
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gowdy
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Granger
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Graves (GA)
Black	Culberson	Graves (MO)
Blackburn	Daines	Green, Al
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Green, Gene
Brady (PA)	Denham	Griffin (AR)
Brady (TX)	Dent	Griffith (VA)
Brat	DeSantis	Grimm
Bridenstine	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brooks (AL)	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Brooks (IN)	Doyle	Harper
Broun (GA)	Duffy	Harris
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Bucshon	Duncan (TN)	Hastings (WA)
Burgess	Ellmers	Heck (NV)
Byrne	Farenthold	Hensarling
Calvert	Fincher	Herrera Beutler
Camp	Fitzpatrick	Hinojosa
Capito	Fleischmann	Holding
Carter	Fleming	Hudson
Cassidy	Flores	Huelskamp
Chabot	Forbes	Huizenga (MI)
Chaffetz	Fortenberry	Hultgren
Clawson (FL)	Fox	Hunter
Clyburn	Franks (AZ)	Hurt
Coffman	Frelinghuysen	Issa

Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney

Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert

NOES—161

Adams
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards

Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)

Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas

Van Hollen
Vargas
Velazquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—20

Barletta
Barton
Blumenauer
Bustos
Campbell
Coble
Costa
Duckworth
Enyart
Gerlach
Hall
Jones
McGovern
McKeon

Miller, Gary
Payne
Perlmutter
Ros-Lehtinen
Smith (WA)
Stockman

□ 1252

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of November 14, 2014, a series of votes was held. I intended to cast the following vote: rollcall 519—I vote "yea."

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for the week to come.

I want to, first, congratulate the majority leader on his reelection. I want to congratulate him on the expansion of his majority—not something that I was seeking, but it is the reality. I know that all of us look forward to moving forward and to, hopefully, having a degree of cooperation that will respond to what, clearly, the American people want, and that is the two sides to be working together to make their country better and more successful.

And so I want to congratulate the majority leader, and at this point in time I will yield to the gentleman for the purpose of telling us what the schedule is for the week to come.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week. A

complete list will be announced by close of business today.

In addition, the House will consider three bills aimed at alleviating burdens imposed on small businesses by EPA practices. The first, H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, sponsored by Representative CHRIS STEWART, would establish board member qualifications. The second, H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, sponsored by Representative DAVID SCHWEIKERT, would prohibit EPA from finalizing a regulation unless the data is made public. The third, H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, sponsored by our majority whip, STEVE SCALISE, will bring much-needed transparency to the EPA permitting process.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the majority leader for that information, and we will expect to be considering those pieces of legislation.

The majority leader has not mentioned, of course, four bills that I know the majority leader is focused on and are very important.

□ 1300

Are we still, Mr. Majority Leader, expecting to end this session of the Congress on the 11th of December?

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Yes, it is our intention. I do understand that government is only funded until the 11th, and it is our intention to continue to work with you and all Members and have that finished by December 11 and be out.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that observation.

Let me say, Mr. Majority Leader, I know there has been discussion on your side and my side of the aisle. I know Mrs. LOWEY is working with Mr. ROGERS to effect an omnibus appropriations bill.

As we all know, not a single appropriations bill has been adopted. We are operating under a continuing resolution. That is not giving the stability that we need to give to the agencies to know what resources they have to accomplish the objectives we expect.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not his expectation is we will proceed with an omnibus out of the Appropriations Committee before December 11?

It is not on the schedule for next week. My presumption it would be, therefore, hopefully on the schedule for the first week in December when we get back so that we can send it to the Senate to be adopted.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. The gentleman is right. We did pass seven

of the 12 and 11 of the 12 out of committee. Unfortunately, the Senate had passed none.

The best way for this House and this country to work is through regular order, and we hope to be able to get that back with the new Senate.

The gentleman is right. It is not scheduled for next week. No decisions are made, but there is a possibility that we could end on an omnibus in December.

Mr. HOYER. Is it the expectation of the Majority Leader that we would be considering an omnibus so that we would do the 12 appropriations bills in a single bill?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. No decisions are made on the direction that we will go. The gentleman knows that we were down at the White House just last week meeting with the President. I do believe the best way forward is that we would all work together and move this country in the right direction. So no decisions are made on the direction that we go.

Mr. HOYER. Well, I would say, on our side, we agree with Mr. ROGERS and Senator MCCONNELL, who did indicate early on that an omnibus would be the preferable alternative.

The problem, as the gentleman well knows, with the CR, it gives a very limited ability of agencies, particularly the Department of Defense, at a critical time, to plan as they would like. General Dempsey and General Odierno and others have mentioned that, so I am hopeful that we will be able to work together to accomplish that objective.

There are three others. There is no mention of a tax extenders bill. As the gentleman knows, the Senate is addressing that.

Does the gentleman have any idea, again, given the fact that we have essentially 3 weeks left to go and a few days, and cooperation is going to be essential if we get our work done, where we are going on tax extenders?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I had just met with our chairman of Ways and Means and he has been working in the other House with the chair on the Senate, and nothing has been finalized yet.

As you know, we had passed many of those bills permanently out of this House. Negotiations are still going on with the Senate, but it is our intention to have that done before the end of the year as well.

Mr. HOYER. Given that intention, can the Majority Leader tell us whether or not there is an inclination—the Senate, as you know, had a different approach. They did a limited extension, not permanent extensions, and they dealt with all of the extenders, and they had a 2-year extension, as you know.

Whether or not we are looking at doing something temporarily while we prepare for what I think both sides think are necessary, and that is a major tax reform bill at some point in time in the spring or the summer, can the gentleman tell me whether there is that component of the consideration of the tax extenders legislation?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman again. As the gentleman stated, yes, coming out of the House we made it permanent because that gives much greater stability to the country, and that is still part of the negotiation.

The Senate has a different idea than inside the House. None of that has been finalized yet. When the negotiation gets finalized, that will give us the answer.

Mr. HOYER. I would thank the gentleman and urge him that we get to agreement pretty soon because if we are going to give some certainty to the business community, as well as individuals, we need to act on that, and we have some approximately maybe 10 days, if we count 3 days for each one of the weeks that is remaining, 10 days in order to accomplish that through the House and the Senate. So it is necessary, I suggest respectfully to the Majority Leader, that we come to agreement on that fairly soon if we are going to have the ability to pass and send to the President that legislation.

Thirdly, the third of the items, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, which Mr. HENSARLING just wrote an op-ed about. I know that the committee has acted or is contemplating action on that.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not TRIA—and I know there has been some discussion about including it in the omnibus. I don't know whether that is rumor or fact that it is being considered. But can the gentleman tell me where we are on the Terrorism Risk Insurance?

As the gentleman knows, it passed 93-4 in the United States Senate, so it was not a partisan bill in the Senate, overwhelming support for it, and I would hope that we could move it through the House in a similar bipartisan, overwhelming fashion.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I have just met with our chairman and he is scheduled to meet with the Senate on the other side of the aisle early next week.

The Speaker and I have both put a statement out that we know the timeline of this. If they can't come to agreement, we are open to doing a 1-year extension, making sure that it doesn't have any problems. But we would like to see a resolution of this with a negotiation between both sides.

Mr. HOYER. The Senate bill, of course, is 7 years, as the gentleman

knows, and that gives a certain degree of certainty to the lenders and borrowers and those who do business with both lenders and borrowers and in the construction industry.

I am hopeful that we could come to an agreement that is longer term so we could give more confidence. I think that would be in the best interest and, very frankly, I think would enjoy bipartisan significant support in this House, Mr. Majority Leader.

Lastly, the National Defense Act, authorization bill, which has passed this House, as you know, is pending in the Senate. Does the gentleman have any knowledge as to where that stands now and what possibilities there are to assure its adoption prior to the 11th of December?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. The gentleman is correct. We have passed it in the House and we have been working with the Senate. I think it is very strong that we will get this done before December 11. I don't have a set date, but I believe that this is a top priority, not just on this side, but on your side of the aisle as well. We just need a little movement on the Senate and we will be done with it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Given that expectation of moving on it, does the gentleman expect or know whether or not we will deal with the "train and equip" authorization within the framework of the National Defense Authorization Act, or perhaps the omnibus or some other piece of legislation?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You were with us at the White House when the President laid out the supplemental. The Appropriations Committee is going through all the funding there. No decisions have been made yet where that would move forward, but it is our intention to be able to have that question answered but be able to have the resources needed to do the job.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTING THE DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H. J. RES. 129

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first regular session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress shall begin at noon on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF THE RULES AND MANUAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution (H. Res. 753) providing for the printing of a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 753

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress be printed as a House document, and that three thousand additional copies shall be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, of which nine hundred sixty copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, November 17, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT JAMES WHITE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Eagle Scout award, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America, is widely recognized as a great accomplishment in the life of a young man. Only a small percentage, about 2 or 3 percent, of all the young men who join and participate in the programs of the Boy Scouts are able to achieve it.

This weekend, in my district, James White will become our Nation's newest Eagle, and he is the third son of Dave and Ann White of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to have been awarded scouting's highest honor.

As an Eagle, James has lived up to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law and has demonstrated the type of citizenship and leadership that I believe is so vital to the future of our Nation.

When he becomes an Eagle Scout, James will be standing with World War II combat veteran George Gieda, who James accompanied on an Honor Flight of veterans here to the Capitol 2 years ago. They became friends; they have stayed in touch; they have provided inspiration to each other.

Because I can't be with the White family this weekend, I wanted the RECORD to reflect my congratulations, my hope that James' future will be filled with many more significant and meaningful achievements, and my belief and reflection that we need more young men like Eagle Scout James White.

RULE FOR THE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today marks the closing of the comment period on the rule for the Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act that has been proposed by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Since the comment period opened, which was April 24 of this year, landowners, States, counties, and groups representing a diverse range of both economic and environmental stakeholders from across the country have filed more than a quarter million comments on a rule that threatens both our economy and the ability of States to effectively manage water quality.

Through a strong State-Federal regulatory partnership that provides adequate flexibility to address water quality while accounting for local and regional variations and conditions, Pennsylvania has demonstrated a successful track record of improving and protecting the ecological health of its waters. Unfortunately, this new Federal policy poses a direct threat to the longstanding federalist approach empowered within the Clean Water Act.

Today, Members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation will join the thousands of other concerned citizens in opposing this flawed policy.

FEDERAL FOOD POLICE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal food police now control what American children are permitted to eat in public schools. The First Lady has said, "We just can't leave it up to the parents."

Several things are wrong about this totalitarian control of children. Kids say the portions are so small or the food is so disliked they must smuggle food from home or just go hungry. This leads to the Federal Government food being wasted and thrown away at the end of the day.

What is next?

Are the Federal food bureaucrats going to force-feed schoolchildren with government food?

It should not be the role of Washington and the Federal Government to control what children eat. That is the responsibility of parents.

Americans are not stupid and cannot leave it up to the almighty Feds to determine what is best for our kids. The Federal Government should not raise our children because the Federal Government is not the parent of my kids or my grandkids, whether Washington likes it or not.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1315

THE NEW OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is an important day for a number of reasons.

It is an important day in that we passed the Cassidy bill here in the House that will open the door to the Keystone XL pipeline being built. Since this administration has dallied so, the Chinese have entered the picture and are desirous of having a pipeline going to the west coast of Canada so that, apparently, when this administration does, finally, get around to deciding what is best for Americans instead of what is best for his political situation, then we will have to compete with the Chinese, who will be seeking the oil to go in their pipeline as opposed to the United States' getting it to come through our pipeline.

We understand that our friend Ms. LANDRIEU, Senator LANDRIEU, will have

a bill in her name come to the Senate floor for a vote. I am really proud BILL CASSIDY is a friend. I am proud that we had a chance to vote on the Bill Cassidy bill, and I am proud that it passed. I think it is such a shame that MARY LANDRIEU will not be able to likely get her colleagues to vote for the Keystone pipeline and pass it as BILL CASSIDY has been able to do here in the House.

Make no mistake. Since I live in east Texas and the pipeline will come through part of my district and come across private land, nobody who has private land wants a pipeline coming across their land. Anybody who has ever had one knows it is no fun. You don't like having an easement across for a pipeline like that. So it will require great diligence to make sure that it is properly maintained and that damage is avoided, and if damage occurs, then I will certainly want to fight for our landowners to make sure they are properly addressed and taken care of and compensated.

That is one thing today, but it really pales in comparison, Mr. Speaker, to what happened 100 years ago today.

In recent years, after this administration blindly supported what it called—and others in North Africa and the Middle East called—an Arab Spring, we have come to find out what many of us suspected even at the time and said was likely to be even more of a devastating winter than an Arab Spring. It has seen the fall of the government in Libya. It has seen the chaos arise in many parts of Libya. It has seen terrorists take control of parts of Libya. It has seen the fall of the governments in Algeria, Tunisia, and the takeover of radical Islam.

I was amazed at the ignorance of many in the mainstream media when I said back at the time that what radical Islamists—what the Muslim Brotherhood—were seeking to re-create was the beginning of the Ottoman Empire and that, in its ignorance, our executive branch—this administration here in the U.S.—actually helped jump-start what the Muslim Brothers are hoping will be the new Ottoman Empire. I was surprised how many reporters asked what did I mean by “Ottoman Empire.” They had not had the kind of education that I was fortunate to have had in public schools in east Texas and in public school by way of Texas A&M University and then law school at Baylor. So they didn't know what the Ottoman Empire was. Hopefully, they did some research.

Many of us did not realize that the date 9/11—when the worst attack on America occurred—also marked the anniversary of the worst defeat that the Islamic caliphate ever suffered in history. That was the devastating defeat to the caliphate. The radical Islamist caliphate had made it all the way to Vienna. It laid siege upon Vienna, and on 9/11 of 1683, the radical Islamic ca-

liphate suffered its worst defeat in history. Amazingly, that was the date that Osama bin Laden and the mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—currently in Guantanamo, who hopefully will stay there until his death—chose to inflict the worst attack in American history.

To many people, dates mean things. My anniversary means a lot. I have never forgotten one. Our birthdays mean a lot to most Westerners. Some of us begin to try to forget them, but major dates in caliphate history mean a great deal to radical Islamists.

There was an article today written by Dr. Sebastian Gorka, and I would like to read this in for the RECORD. He does a good job of incapsulating this issue today.

Dr. Gorka says:

One hundred years ago today, the last caliph, or emperor of Islam, declared the last jihad against the infidel, and today is the first time ever that the National Cathedral in the Nation's Capital will host Muslim prayers.

Most Americans will have no idea that, as part of World War I, the then-caliph of the Ottoman Empire declared a holy war against infidels as was his right within shari'a law and Islamic theology. You can read the full fatwa.

In that fatwa, there actually was a typo in the original. It was provided on this day in 1914, but they had a typo saying it was 1915.

The article says:

That statement by the last sitting head of what was the theocratic empire of Islam was the catalyst which led to the religiously fueled genocide against Christian Armenians and Assyrians.

That is what is pictured. It actually represents a photograph that was taken of young Armenian Christian girls who were kidnapped, stripped naked, raped, and then crucified on crosses as far as the eye could see.

This article points out:

The Episcopal church leaders who agreed to host Muslim prayers inside the Washington cathedral probably have no idea what happened a century ago in Asia Minor or that there even was a caliph in office at the beginning of the 20th century.

However, we can rest assured that the co-organizers do, for they include the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), and the All Dulles Area Muslims Society (ADAMS) Center.

Both CAIR and ISNA will be fully aware of the significance of November 14th, seeing as both organizations were declared by a Federal court to be unindicted coconspirators of Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood terror group, in the largest terrorist financing trial in U.S. history.

Those Muslims who have a supremacist understanding of their religion, such as members of al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood, which was recently declared an illegal terrorist organization in the country of its founding, Egypt, have a special regard for historic dates and anniversaries.

It is, of course, no accident that the 9/11 attacks—the worst terror attacks in world his-

tory—occurred exactly to the day in 1683 when the Islamic Ottoman forces were defeated outside the city walls of Vienna, the deepest the Islamic caliphate's forces made it into the heart of the Christian West.

There is nothing inherently wrong about interfaith initiatives as long as they start from the same place: a mutual respect for the belief system of the other and their inherent dignity as humans created by God. When one party acts in bad faith based upon its ideological commitment to see other faiths destroyed or subjected, then the event runs the risk of becoming a propaganda coup for the extremists and their followers.

The fact that this event is occurring just as ancient Christian communities are being destroyed in the Middle East and “non-believers” are being actually crucified by ISIS jihadists makes it all the more egregious.

We know that the Episcopal church is in trouble with more conservative believers leaving in great numbers and the remaining adherents not exactly outdoing their Catholic cousins in terms of reproducing the next generation of believers.

The author goes on to say:

But I doubt they also understand the finer points of jihadist doctrine, one of which is that if a place of worship is used by Muslims for their prayers that territory subsequently becomes part of Dar al Islam, sacred Muslim land, forever.

That author was Sebastian Gorka, Ph.D., and he is the Major General Matthew C. Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory at the Marine Corps University and is the national security and foreign affairs editor at Breitbart.com.

Mr. Speaker, it is an important day. The prosecution referred to in this article was actually the Holy Land Foundation criminal trial in the United States Federal District Court in Dallas, Texas. I have done a great deal of reading and looking into the issues involved in that case, and am aware of the massive number of counts of conviction, and also have read some of the pleadings in this case in which the Islamic Society of North America and the Council on American-Islamic Relations—CAIR and ISNA—were named as coconspirators in that prosecution, in which they were contributors and part of funding terrorism.

□ 1330

They were not named as indicted coconspirators, but they were named as coconspirators. And CAIR and ISNA were among parties that filed pleadings in Federal District Court, demanding that their names be eliminated from the pleadings.

Yet after the Federal judge in Dallas reviewed all of the information, the evidence before him, he declared that actually there was plenty of evidence to support the fact that CAIR and ISNA—which have such cozy relations with this administration now—that there is plenty of evidence to support that those two entities are coconspirators in supplying and financing terrorism.

Well, those convictions occurred in late 2008. And from some who have been involved in that effort, their understanding was that if the Bush administration Justice Department, after years of investigation and effort of prosecution, if they got convictions, then the intention was to come back—and especially since the courts had said that there is plenty of evidence to support that these named coconspirators were coconspirators, then they would come back and actually indict them, prosecute them. And those parties were not satisfied, though, with the judgment of the Dallas Federal court.

So they appealed the ruling that there was plenty of evidence to support CAIR and ISNA being coconspirators, and Imam Majid, who is their part of the prayer effort at National Cathedral today—they wanted their names eliminated. The Federal judge in Dallas would not do that. So they appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

And after the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reviewed the record, all the information, then they stated even more plainly and more directly than the Federal District Court did that, yes, there really was plenty of evidence to support that they were coconspirators and that the names should not be struck. They should not be kept private.

And the thinking was that, you know, gee, any administration, of course, will understand that once a Federal District Court and a Court of Appeals find there is plenty of evidence to support that CAIR and ISNA are coconspirators in helping terrorism around the world that surely they would not end up being cozy with any American administration. That would be the common sense, you would think.

There is plenty of common sense back where I come from. But you get to Washington, and it is not common sense. It is just sense.

And it is rather a shame that organizations who were said by a Federal court system to have plenty of evidence to show that they are coconspirators and had radical Islamic efforts at terrorism, that they would have such an open ear at the White House.

In recent years, there was a 2-day seminar that was going to take place out at Langley. And I know one of the instructors very well. He has made a career out of studying radical Islam. He used to provide briefings, do research, provide advice to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of our military about radical Islam. Well, he was one of them. Well, that rather upset what the Federal courts have said the evidence indicates were front groups for the Muslim Brotherhood, were suppliers, helpers in terrorism. They got upset that he was going to be out there and be a part of the teaching of the seminar. So they burned up the phone line

to the White House. The White House canceled the seminar.

And it was CAIR that had an ongoing partnership that they developed with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. And I was surprised that it took so long after the FBI had spent a couple of decades investigating what, ultimately, we understood was the Muslim Brotherhood. It was surprising, with Federal courts saying that there is plenty of evidence to show that they are complicit in supplying terrorism funding, helping with terrorism. I was surprised that the FBI decided, with all that evidence they furnished the prosecutors, that they ended up turning around and making CAIR their partner.

So I was surprised that the letter took so long from the FBI eventually to the leaders of CAIR, saying that, in view of evidence in essence there in the Holy Land Foundation trial, we need to suspend our partnership in the outreach program that the FBI had to them.

When I was questioning the immediate previous director of the FBI, Director Mueller, about the Tsarnaevs and the lack of investigation into their backgrounds, even after the Russians warned this administration twice—after the first time, apparently the Russians were surprised that we didn't do anything with the knowledge they had provided, that Tsarnaev had been radicalized and would likely kill people here. They warned a second time and had to be totally shocked—and, to the best I understand, basically the investigation included talking to Tsarnaev, himself, and to his mom. There may have been some other peripheral things.

But as I questioned the director of the FBI, saying, you guys didn't even go out to their mosque to ask questions to help you determine whether Tsarnaev had been radicalized. And, in essence, he ended up saying, we did go to the mosque. When he gave the answer, I didn't hear the little add-on he gave until my staff replayed it with the little add-on he gave after: We did go out to those mosques, but he added, "in our outreach program."

So just as I suspected, the FBI didn't go out and investigate. MICHELE BACHMANN, LYNN WESTMORELAND reviewed some materials. TRENT FRANKS looked at some of the materials. But we were concerned because CAIR, this named coconspirator in supplying and helping terrorism, as a front group for the Muslim Brotherhood, we were surprised that CAIR had such powerful inroads into the FBI, enough to the point that they could demand to have the training materials for the FBI reviewed and had them purged of things that they, as apparently a front group for the Muslim Brotherhood, found offensive. As named coconspirators in funding terrorism, they were offended.

So a massive number of pages that radical Islamists might find offensive, that people who wanted to kill Americans might be offended by, were purged from our training materials. The State Department apparently purged materials. The intelligence community purged materials. And, as one intelligence officer told me, we have blinded ourselves of the ability to see our enemy.

So, Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart, grieves me deeply when innocent Muslims are maltreated, killed, tortured. It is a grievous violation of human rights. But in the same way, the things that have been done and are growing and spreading in numbers never before seen in human history, of Christians being persecuted around the world, as America basically remains silent.

But today, being the 100th anniversary of the caliph's public fatwa, demanding the murder, killing of Christians in 1914 by the last Islamic caliph, also is the first day in our history when the National Cathedral, run by the Episcopal Church, conceded to the named coconspirators in funding terrorism, their demands to have prayers today on this 100th anniversary of the fatwa that caused the deaths of countless Christians, especially Armenian Christians, as depicted in this blown-up photograph from the newspaper, as depicted in this drawing that we have blurred, depicting what was actually seen along the road as massive numbers of young Christian girls were raped and crucified.

We don't want a holy war. No Christian should ever go to some kind of holy war. But for heaven's sake, when there is an international group about which moderate Muslim leaders in the Middle East have said to me: The Muslim Brotherhood is your enemy; they have been behind every attack that has occurred onto America and Americans; they have been behind the killing of Americans all over the Middle East and the world—why do you keep helping the Muslim Brotherhood?

When the largest uprising in the history of the world occurred over a year ago in Egypt, when moderate Muslims, Christians, even the Coptic Christian Pope, secularists, over 30 million came to the streets of Egypt and said, we don't want radical Islam controlling our country, it was a day of historic proportions. Never before had there been a crowd of that size gathered. Even when 20 million came out or when the estimated 33 million came out, they demanded the same thing. It was not a military coup, as CNN and this administration tried to paint. It was the largest uprising in the history of the world, in Egypt.

And the Egyptians, instead of being called stupid, foolish by this administration and some media, they should have been congratulated. We should have rushed to their assistance. And,

instead, this administration said, Unless you put Muslim Brother Morsi back in power, then we are not going to help you. The Apache helicopters that were coming, that you use to keep the Suez Canal open, that you use to fight terrorism in the Sinai, that help Israel, we are not going to send them. You are not going to be able to keep the Suez Canal and the Sinai terrorism down until you put the Muslim Brothers back in charge.

Many in the media made a big deal about the Christian churches being burned and about Jews and Christians being persecuted, tortured, and killed, and, for some unbelievable reason, tried to blame it on those who ousted the Muslim Brothers. And anybody that will do any modicum of research in Egypt will understand, it was the Muslim Brothers that burned the churches, that killed Christians and Jews there. It was not the government. It was not the military. The military, under General el-Sisi, was doing everything it could to stop it.

I talked to a former CIA operative in the Middle East last year who said that he had talked to a guy who said, Morsi, President Morsi, had tried to contract through him to have General el-Sisi murdered.

□ 1345

I asked our Embassy personnel if they had heard of anything like that. They said they had not.

In our meeting with General el-Sisi, I asked him directly, "Did you have evidence when you arrested President Morsi that he was trying to hire someone to kill you?" He beat around the bush twice and ultimately answered, "Yes, we did."

Yet we even had even Republicans go to Cairo and say, "Put back the Muslim Brothers." And I met the brilliant gentleman—Muslim, seemed to be a very fine man—that was put in charge of the committee to draft a new constitution because the constitution the United States helped and this administration helped Egypt to get that led to the Muslim Brotherhood control of the country had no provision for impeachment.

So as Muslim Brother President Morsi began to usurp power, kind of in the same vein, and Noriega and other dictators who get elected and then start grabbing power, he was doing it in Egypt. There was no provision for impeachment.

There was nothing they could do except what they did, go to the street in the tens of millions, demand his removal and, in the largest uprising, cause the removal of an unconstitutionally acting President, and he was removed, thank goodness.

I was thrilled earlier this year when I think it was over 90 percent of the Egyptian voters voted to ratify the new constitution for Egypt. I really

wished that all of the American media could have grasped the significance of what happened.

That constitution actually included provisions that required the Egyptian Government under the constitution to rebuild and replace the churches or synagogues that had been damaged or destroyed by the Muslim Brotherhood. They felt so badly for what the Muslim Brotherhood had done to the Christians and Jews that they put it in their constitution that they had to be repaired and replaced. That should have been a big day for freedom, and most of the American media missed it entirely.

Well, they are also missing today. As the left often wants to do—maybe they want to vilify me. You can try to rewrite history, but you can't change what has happened in the past, and what happened 100 years ago today, the first day, November 14, that the National Cathedral, run by the Episcopal Church, has allowed Muslim prayers by named coconspirators in the terrorist funding trial to come lead prayers in this Christian cathedral.

I thank God that the massive majority of Muslims, including some of my Muslim friends in the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, they don't want radical Islamists controlling anything. They don't want to be at war with Americans. They don't want to kill Americans. Thank God for that.

But it is sheer lunacy not to recognize how important anniversaries are to radical Islamists, to the Muslim Brotherhood, to those who would kill and persecute and wipe out Jews and, as they say, wipe the Great Satan America off the map and the Little Satan Israel off the map. It is lunacy not to recognize the way these radical Islamists feel. We can live at peace with moderate Muslims.

When I visited Nigeria not long ago to mourn with the Africans—23 mothers who had had their daughters kidnapped, brutalized every day still in Boko Haram, radical Islamist controlled, it was a beautiful thing. Nigeria, until the radicals got involved, had Muslims and Christians living peacefully together.

Meeting a government official, a devout Christian, who had in his wedding party one of his best friends in the world who was a Muslim, it is a thing of beauty to see people with different backgrounds and beliefs living at peace together.

But until the American media, until a majority of Americans realize there really are radical Islamists that think that the fatwa that was declared by the last Islamic caliph of the Ottoman Empire 100 years ago today was a great thing, then this country remains at great risk.

It is bad enough that we have enemies publicly saying they want to wipe us off the map, destroy our freedom of worship, free speech, the free-

doms we hold dear and love, but to be blind that they want to destroy us is negligence, reckless indifference that can cost a country's freedom.

Mr. Speaker, today is a big day. I hope Americans will wake up and understand the Muslim Brotherhood is not our friend. They want us all to be living, if we live at all, as Muslims or to pay the fine that acknowledges that we are subjugating ourselves to radical Islam. People have got to wake up. This country is at risk.

Mr. Speaker, with prayerful regard to the masses of young Christians who were kidnapped, raped, crucified as a result of that fatwa issued 100 years ago today, I hope that we will not be so blind that we could allow this movement to continue to grow as it has grown and grown.

Some say a good way to avoid destructive forces overtaking civilized society is to watch Israel—that Israel could be looked at as the world's miner's canary, as miners used to take canaries into mine shafts. They knew canaries were more sensitive to poison gas, so if they saw a canary getting in trouble, falling, then they knew they better get out of the mine because it was very, very dangerous.

When we see Israel being attacked, our best friend in the Middle East being attacked, when we see anti-Semitism, hatred for Jews, hatred for Israelis growing in Europe, of all places—I never thought that would happen again after Hitler—but it is growing again around Europe. It is growing on American campuses.

These young, wonderful, brilliant students who have been miseducated to think that they need to get involved in anti-Semitism on their campuses in America will hopefully wake up and realize they have been played by people that are not about freedom.

It is time for America to wake up. Because today, as an anniversary of what happened 100 years ago, is a really big deal for those who want to destroy our way of life and our lives if we are Christians.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon because of a threat, a rare threat, because this seldom happens in the House anymore, but a threat from at least one Member of this House to try to nullify a local initiative approved by the voters of the District of Columbia.

But when it comes to the lawful initiative for District of Columbia citizens, that is a threat to democracy

that means that anyone who represents this city, has to come to the floor and to indicate to Members how important it is to hold fast to your own principles.

Wherever you stand on the District of Columbia or any of the underlying issues, this is the local jurisdiction of 650,000 people who pay taxes without full representation in this House.

So I am asking Members of the House not to take advantage of an anachronism in the law which does allow Members of the House to step forward, if they are so inclined, to try to get others to join them in nullifying the local laws of a local jurisdiction. If one reads the history of our country, it is hard to find anything more un-American.

That is why, particularly, I have to thank the bipartisan group of Members who stood with me yesterday, three Members of this House—two Democrats and a Republican—who themselves come from States that have taken action on the underlying issue, one that is rapidly developing in our country where the States differ among themselves. But since each State is, as a local or State matter, a government unto itself, those matters don't come before this House.

The Members who stood with me yesterday were Representative EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon, which has approved a ballot initiative just this past election day, that legalized small amounts of marijuana; Representative JARED POLIS of Colorado, his was the first State to legalize small amounts of marijuana; and DANA ROHRBACHER of California, who is perhaps the recognized leader in the House of Representatives and in the country for reform of marijuana laws.

□ 1400

Alaska and Oregon joined two other States, Washington and Colorado, and yes, a third, the District of Columbia, approved the legalization of marijuana in small amounts. I am going to indicate to the House how that came about because it didn't come about in the usual way. There were pressing concerns that led the District to move to decriminalize and then legalize small amounts of marijuana.

In fact, the D.C. Council, upon hearing concerns about disparities in arrests and convictions based on race, had moved to decriminalize marijuana with a small fine; whereas, before, there was a penalty of up to 6 months in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine. After the council passed that decriminalization law—and 18 States have decriminalized—then some residents put legalization on the November ballot.

Now the people have spoken. Two-thirds of the residents of the District of Columbia say that the council did not go far enough, and they have, I think, among them a number of reasons that I will try to indicate on the floor this

afternoon why they thought they had to go further.

I indicated that there are and already were States that had legalized marijuana, and the Justice Department has taken the position and took it again at a hearing on the D.C. decriminalization law that the District will be treated like the States that have relaxed their marijuana laws—in our case, 2 ounces of marijuana for personal use.

And the position of the Justice Department—and I will indicate later why the Justice Department has taken that position—has been that, as a matter of prosecutorial priority, the Justice Department, the U.S. attorneys of the United States are not in the business of prosecuting people who smoke small amounts of marijuana.

So the District is to be treated in the same way as the States who have either decriminalized or legalized marijuana. The Justice Department is on record in a hearing saying that—and we appreciate that the District is not to be treated differently when it comes to Federal enforcement, any differently than, for example, Oregon, Colorado, and Alaska, and you don't see the Justice Department rushing forward to prosecute what will almost always be young people for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

Particularly for new Members, I want to make clear that there is an anomaly here, an anachronism, because the House does still have the authority to step forward and nullify the local laws of the District of Columbia. That goes back hundreds of years, and the fact that anybody would attempt to use that authority today flies in the face of 200 years of history and democratization in our country.

It is interesting to know that the Member who has stepped forward to stop D.C. thus far is a sophomore. I want to thank Members of Congress who recognize that they have the authority and who may disagree with the District but have not in fact moved to nullify local law. This really isn't where you stand on the law. It is whether you believe local jurisdictions should have what the Framers believed all should have throughout the United States, and that is the right to pass local laws without interference by the Federal Government.

That is the principle at stake here. That is why we rarely have Members step forward to try to nullify a law of the District of Columbia, and I am very grateful that principle for most Members is almost always observed.

Now, I want to make something very clear: I am not here this afternoon to make a case for the use of marijuana; I am here to make a case only for local control of local law.

If you were to ask my preference, and obviously, I am obligated to support the laws of my local jurisdiction here, but if you were to ask my preference, I

would say to you, in all candor, that I don't believe Americans should smoke anything.

We know that millions of lives were lost needlessly because people didn't know about the deadly effects—I think I do not speak inaccurately when I say the “deadly effects”—of cigarette smoking. Cigarette manufacturers are still paying the price with millions of dollars—billions of dollars that they have had to pay States in order to make up for essentially hiding information on the effects of cigarette smoking.

Frankly, there is much investigation still to be done about cannabis. We certainly can't say it is good for your health, except for medical marijuana.

Representative ROHRBACHER yesterday spoke of a constituent whose son had come back from Iraq and had seizures and other problems emanating from his service, and no amount of medicine had done him any good. He was able to get a prescription for medical marijuana, and it controlled the problem.

Yet, by the way, although there have been bills introduced, the VA could not have prescribed medical marijuana to that veteran.

So I can't make the case for the underlying issue. In fact, there is evidence of harm to the brains of children. The bills that have passed the States are for adults only, people over 21. I am not even making the case for them. We need to know a lot more about marijuana, a substance that is breathed in deeply.

However, I tell you this much: I cannot make a case at all for a drug conviction for smoking marijuana in small amounts. That is where it seems to me that there is increasing agreement by the American people.

Just look at the latest polls. 54 percent approve legalization. I don't think they approve of legalization because they smoke cannabis; I think they approve of legalization because they don't believe people ought to be convicted of a drug offense for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

There is very good news. The reason we always speak of marijuana and young people is because, apparently, people tend to outgrow the use of marijuana. As young adults leave college and become more mature, they tend to smoke very little of anything today and no longer marijuana. You don't see lots of middle-aged people talking about marijuana either.

I wish I could say that their parents had outgrown alcohol, that people could outgrow alcohol, which is a legal substance that destroys lives, the lives of individuals, lives of entire families. Some become addicted to the substance, but if all you do is use it and get drunk and don't hurt anybody, then of course you are not convicted of a crime.

A Member of this House, Representative ANDY HARRIS, makes the case for nullification of the D.C. law based on harm to young people; except, of course, the law doesn't allow young people to smoke, and it is interesting to know that Representative POLIS said, because it is legal in Colorado, that smoking among juveniles in Colorado has gone down. I asked why.

He said it is because Colorado is wiping out the illegal market and kids have to go to that illegal market to get marijuana—and to a very illegal market to get it because some are under 21, so young people are smoking less and less in Colorado.

I don't think you can make the case against freedom and liberty based on children here, where we are talking about a substance for adults, and not when the District of Columbia already has introduced a bill called the Marijuana Use Public Information Campaign, which Council Member Tommy Wells has put on a fast track for passage. I like the bill that Council Member Wells is taking through the council. It would include education forums for each ward of the city. There are eight wards.

It is trying to get to people where they live, educating the public on what we do know of the impact of marijuana use and abuse. The bill requires that the Mayor report to the council on the type and the frequency and the provider and school age level of public school health education programs related to substance abuse, including marijuana use, and of course alcohol and tobacco.

Again, not making the case that I cannot in honesty make, I do want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that marijuana is still classified under Schedule I, and that is the schedule for the most dangerous drugs.

Marijuana is scheduled in the same category as heroin and LSD and ecstasy, even though the science we know today tells us that the addictive qualities of cannabis are nowhere near the same; worse, marijuana is scheduled above cocaine.

Now, if you want to know a drug that has torn big cities and suburbs alike apart, it would be cocaine. So cannabis is more dangerous, according to the scheduling of drugs, than cocaine and methadon and OxyContin.

Well, young people know that is not the case. The young people who smoke and then outgrow marijuana know that is not the case, so they don't pay any attention to the law.

And as I shall indicate, the laws don't pay much attention to them because most of them do not face the possibility of conviction. They don't face conviction, and I want to emphasize this because, when you consider law enforcement, it is impossible not to recognize that State and local law enforcement officials and Federal law en-

forcement officials, have virtually ceased to enforce the laws that make marijuana a Schedule I drug offense—but some people do get arrested.

I have already indicated that the Justice Department has said that it will not prosecute people for possession of small amounts. U.S. attorneys in Democratic and Republican administrations for years now—there are many who have never prosecuted anyone for small amounts of marijuana.

In effect, that means that marijuana is so widely used, has caused so little in the way of known harmful effects, that it is, today, *de facto* legal. That is why young people take the risk.

□ 1415

If that is the case, if convictions rarely occur, let's look at what happens when arrests and convictions do occur.

What led the District of Columbia to pass its law, its first law, the decriminalization law, were two studies done by outside organizations, two reputable organizations: the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the American Civil Liberties Union. They found that while Whites and Blacks use marijuana at the same rate, 9 out of 10 arrests are of African Americans. This city is half White and half Black.

The people of the District of Columbia have decided that decriminalization alone would not undo this outrageous disparity. A conviction on your record for marijuana is a conviction for a schedule 1 drug offense. And it doesn't matter; the word "drug" is what matters. That record can sentence, for example, a young Black man or woman or young Hispanics to a lifetime of underemployment or unemployment. Indeed, if there is enough underemployment and unemployment, a drug conviction for a small amount of marijuana can lead some further to a life where drugs become, in their view, the only way to make a living at all. So for them it can be a gateway drug precisely because the marijuana arrest or conviction has simply stopped their lives.

So when the council understood that 9 out of 10 arrests were of African Americans, it could not justify keeping that law on the books. And I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I have now had, for 10 years, a Commission on Black Men and Boys and am cochair of a Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys because of issues like this that affect young men of color. Such a conviction can ruin a young man's life for work. If it makes work impossible or work possible only in the underground or the illegal economy, then it ruins his life for marriage and for children and for stability in the community.

The D.C. Commission on Black Men and Boys and the Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys, of course, look

at issues across the board, but there are serious concerns about disparities of this kind that affect men and essentially take them out of the African American community, out of the Hispanic community, and make them men apart. Marijuana use is simply one example.

And again I point out, it is not that people of color use marijuana at a greater rate than their counterparts of the same age who are White. It is who gets arrested. Whether that is in the ordinary course of law enforcement, intentional or not, those are the facts.

The interesting thing about the investigations by the independent organizations in the District, is that they find that these statistics showing hugely disparate treatment of people of color from other Americans on marijuana convictions and arrest are by no means confined to the District of Columbia. It is a nationwide phenomenon. If only a tiny minority are arrested and they turn out to be people of color, you have a classic case of racial discrimination.

I note that I have been joined on the floor by a very good friend from Nevada (Ms. TITUS). I am pleased to yield to her.

Ms. TITUS. Well, thank you very much.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman NORTON, for arranging this important discussion about an issue that is moving quickly in State capitals across the country, here in Washington, D.C., but in Congress maybe not so much.

I would like to speak about the legal regulated use of marijuana for medical and commercial sale because this is an important issue that has garnered attention nationwide as States and communities continue to enact laws to allow for legal and carefully regulated and taxed sale and use. We see this in all parts of the country, in all types of communities, and we see it not just passed by State legislatures, but mandated through public referendum.

I represent the heart of the Las Vegas Valley in the State of Nevada where, for nearly 14 years, we had a voter-approved mandate allowing for medical marijuana. Then just last year, the State legislature put forth a legal framework for medical marijuana businesses to be permitted, regulated, and to go into operation around the State.

This has led to enormous interest from investors and entrepreneurs, researchers, and, most importantly, patients who now can benefit, through the assistance of their physicians, from medical marijuana for the treatment for all kinds of things, a variety of things: epileptic seizures in children, PTSD treatment, pain relief from cancer, appetite enhancers for people undergoing chemotherapy, and HIV/AIDS.

Nevada is now one of 23 States with legal marijuana for medical or commercial sale, and those numbers continue to grow after poll after poll shows increasing support for legalization and regulation. We saw two States just in the election last week where marijuana was approved.

Now, that brings us to what is happening here in Congress. Over the course of the last 113th congressional session, we have seen considerable advancements that had not been the case up until now. A few years ago, just a short time ago, only a small group of Members of Congress would be willing to speak out about medical marijuana, much less support any kind of legislation that would update our Nation's antiquated drug laws. But today, Democrats and some Republicans have come together to advocate for this industry and work to update the Nation's laws to catch up to what is happening in the States and to reflect the realities of what is going on in Nevada, in Washington, D.C., and in places around the country.

For the first time, with the help of leaders like Congressman BLUMENAUER, Congressman ROHRBACHER, and others, the House of Representatives passed not one, but two significant amendments to protect the rights of States when it comes to legal marijuana sales and use.

As more States and communities move forward with ballot initiatives like the one that passed here in D.C., 2-1, or with regulatory laws like those that were just enacted in Nevada, it is important that we, as elected representatives of our communities, become educated and advocate for the community's best interests.

Because of the important potential role that medical marijuana will play in Nevada's economic future and because this conversation is so quickly becoming a national issue, I have tried to educate myself and have been traveling the country visiting dispensaries, growers, and experts in the industry to learn about the fiscal and scientific potential, as well as the obstacles that are faced by these businesses.

I traveled to the Berkeley Patients Group, The Apothecarium, and Blum dispensary in the San Francisco Bay area to learn more about how the industry has evolved from leaders like Sean Loose, Ryan Hudson, and Salwa Ibrahim, all of whom are recognized experts and innovators in the field of medical marijuana.

I went to Arizona to visit with Beth Stavola and Dr. Sue Sisley and discussed the advantages of medical marijuana in treating veterans with PTSD and for helping seniors. I also met with folks at Monarch Wellness Center to hear how an entrepreneur's personal history with his mother's medical condition inspired him to open Scottsdale's first medical marijuana

dispensary. And I recently traveled to Colorado, where I was very impressed by CannLabs' facility that is bringing the highest standards of quality and safety to the medical cannabis industry.

I would encourage my colleagues here in Congress to visit these businesses, talk to their employees, and see firsthand that today's industry is not just some little head shop on the corner with a picture of Che Guevara. It is a very professional, very scientific, very regulated industry. It is a modern, professional office with skilled and educated personnel.

So we have more work to do. It has begun, but we have a lot to do as we start the 114th Congress. We should concentrate on issues that are having a significant impact and bringing uncertainty to an industry that is booming and needs certain protections. We also need to regulate it to protect children, for example, and also hold it accountable so it can make a financial contribution by being a legal, regulated operator that pays taxes.

Congress should also allow medical personnel at our veterans hospitals to recommend the best available care for our Nation's veterans, and that may include medical marijuana. This could help with the effects of PTSD that are far too common in our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

We must also ensure that products are available for vital research into the medical benefits of marijuana. So far the research has mostly been on the negative side. What are the possible positive contributions that can come from studying the benefits so we can advance the science and move us beyond that notion of "Reefer Madness"?

And as you have been hearing from my colleague, it is important that, in considering all of this, Congress respect home rule and the will of the people. That is certainly true in the District of Columbia. Their laws need to be respected because they have been enacted in the best interests of that own community. Just as State laws are, we need to respect those states' rights.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this important issue and to protect the rights and interests of those communities like Washington and States like Nevada where the people have decided that this is the way of the future.

I thank you for letting me join you today, and I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Ms. NORTON. Well, Ms. TITUS, I must say I thank you for coming to the floor, but I particularly thank you and congratulate you for the extensive homework you have done educating yourself before you took a position on this issue. It is something to be emulated.

I do want to say, when you spoke of the need for further investigation, and

particularly when you considered how many veterans with PTSD and other ailments may benefit from medical marijuana, it is worth noting that marijuana is so sharply regulated and restricted that we have not even been able to do the studies necessary to find out what is wrong with it or what is right with it. For example, medical marijuana cries out for studies. If, in fact, the anecdotal evidence is to be believed, that in itself should lead to Federal studies by the NIH and federally funded studies.

What are we afraid of? We need to know more about this substance. And on the negative side, we know that it has some harmful effects on the brain for children. We need to know more about it for adults. Why would the Federal Government not be out front, considering how widely used this substance is?

If the government had done the kind of homework you had, Ms. TITUS, I think we would be much further ahead. Thank you very much for coming to the floor with all of that useful information from your own study.

□ 1430

I particularly appreciate your supporting the District's home rule and the right to pass its own local laws without Federal interference. I thought that was what both Democrats and Republicans believed. I thought that was the contention of Republicans that want to get the Federal Government even out of Federal matters. I thought they would be my natural allies to say, "Big foot Federal Government, don't mess with any local jurisdiction." Yes, even here in the District of Columbia.

In July, the District's marijuana decriminalization bill took effect. I should note that the District passed medical marijuana earlier with one of the strictest sets of regulations in the United States. Our council has shown it knows how to handle these issues.

The threat that has been made is to use our local budget. Now, if you want to know insult on top of injury, you ask what is our local budget doing here? We are talking about \$6 billion raised in the District of Columbia locally from businesses and residents. It comes here, again, because of an anomaly.

Although the District got home rule 40 years ago, there was still the obligation to bring its balanced budget here, where there is no balanced budget. Well, it has resulted in shutdowns of the District of Columbia more than once. It has been responsible for the fact that the District pays a premium on Wall Street because our budget has to be passed by another body that knows nothing about our budget. And to its credit, the Appropriations Committee doesn't even have hearings on our budget because it doesn't intend to overturn our budget. But it does allow

people to come forward and use the budget as a vehicle for attachments to try to nullify our local laws. It is rarely done—and I appreciate that—because Members, in their own forbearance, have tended not to do that. But we do have a threat on this bill.

Now, the House did pass an amendment to block D.C.'s decriminalization bill. Representative HARRIS offered it in committee. And this amendment was not included, I am pleased to say, in the fiscal year 2015 short-term resolution or in the Senate's fiscal year 2015 D.C. appropriation bill. You see, there is a real difference here, and I hope that the House, in contemplation, will understand it also should go with liberty and freedom for the local jurisdiction.

The administration has issued a statement of policy that it strongly opposes the amendment that passed the House. And it did so. And here I am quoting its words:

Because it violates principles of states' rights and of District home rule.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the District is not even a pioneer when it comes to marijuana decriminalization or legalization. Yet it is the District that is singled out. There has been no Federal interference. No one has come to this floor who may disagree with the notion of legalization to call down the States that have legalized or decriminalized. And I think the reason is because there is simply no principled way for Members who 100 percent believe in local control to call out the States that may have taken their own route different from the other States and the District.

There is just no principled way to do anything with respect to what those States have done because those are local matters or State matters. Therefore, for the District, it is particularly painful not to be respected because the District has no vote on this floor.

When the bill containing the Andy Harris amendment was passed, everybody in the House could vote on it except the Member who represents the District of Columbia, because I have no vote even on matters affecting the District of Columbia. When the Democrats controlled the House, I would have had a vote on amendments to appropriations bills because they occur in the committee of the whole, but even that was taken away. So every Member got to vote on a matter affecting only my district except the one Member that the District sends to the Congress, and that is why I come to the floor.

We pay \$12,000 per capita in Federal taxes. Keep that figure in mind because that is the highest per capita figure in Federal taxes paid by any jurisdiction. The lowest in Federal taxes happens to be Mississippi. I point out the difference because I think Mississippi pays about \$4,000 per capita. The District pays \$12,000 per capita.

So you can imagine if you support the Federal Government at this rate

and you have no vote on the House floor and others have a vote that could take away your laws, you perhaps have every reason to be concerned.

May I ask how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When I say that there is no principled position except the American position that local jurisdictions must have complete autonomy to deal with local matters, I can offer at least one very prominent example.

Senator RAND PAUL was asked what he thought about the District's marijuana legalization initiative. And I want to quote him. Senator PAUL said:

I'm not for having the Federal Government get involved. I really haven't taken a stand on the actual legalization, but I'm against the Federal Government telling them they can't.

This is a classic principled position because Senator PAUL hasn't taken a position on the underlying issue. He has only taken a position consistent with his views, and what I thought were the views of my Republican and Democratic colleagues alike, that the Federal Government shouldn't tell a local jurisdiction that it can't do what is, in this case, *de facto* legal, because the Federal Government does not prosecute. All I am asking Members to do is to take the same principled position that Senator PAUL has taken.

Notwithstanding Senator PAUL's position, Representative HARRIS has said that he will try to insert language into the omnibus bill to block legalization in D.C. Well, I am going to try to keep him from doing that. But isn't it interesting to note that Representative HARRIS couldn't keep his own State, Maryland, from decriminalizing marijuana, and so he hops over into my jurisdiction to do what he couldn't do in the State where he has authority. Well, we are not going to have it.

Representative ROHRBACHER and I disagree on any number of things. That is why I was pleased to have him stand with me. But what he said is interesting because he has the longest history of fighting for marijuana reform. I want to quote him. He called on Members of his own party to "wake up and see where the American people are."

Representative ROHRBACHER is from conservative Orange County. He says he believes that his position on marijuana reform may have helped him to gain 5 points in the last election. He says that he thinks that GOP principles about individual liberty and limited Federal Government are completely consistent with his own views on marijuana, and certainly consistent with his own philosophy. I cite Representative ROHRBACHER and Senator RAND PAUL because they have taken positions that I do not believe are in-

consonant with the positions of their party.

People are fond of saying that this is not a partisan issue. Well, I guess it is because the parties have not come together on it. What is not a partisan issue, however, is local control of local laws.

I want to note what my good friend from Nevada referred to. Representative ROHRBACHER and a Democrat, SAM FARR, succeeded in passing an amendment in this House, this very Congress, that would keep the Justice Department from intervening in States that have legalized medical marijuana. This matter passed in a Republican House.

The fact is that the Justice Department has indicated that it will not intervene—and it has not intervened—when it comes to medical marijuana or recreational use of medical marijuana when we are talking about small amounts. And yet the House came forward and indicated where it stands, and that is where I think the country is going and where the House is going.

But there is an important issue still pending—one that this House has passed and I urge the Senate to pass, along with the Rohrabacher-Farr bill—and that is a bill that is sponsored by Representative BLUMENAUER and Representative ROHRBACHER, who were joined at a press conference by Grover Norquist, who, of course, is the antitax advocate. Their bill passed this House. It would change Federal tax law so that State-sanctioned providers can claim deductions and credits as other businesses do.

I am sorry I said that passed. This did not pass. This is pending. What did pass is an amendment that would no longer penalize financial institutions because they provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana operations. Now, you can imagine those operations now must deal in cash because the banks and the financial institutions are afraid to deal with them.

This amendment, which is perhaps the most urgent of the reforms, did pass the House, and I think it, again, shows growing recognition of where the country is and where the House should be headed.

It is worth noting that just hearing the names of the States that have decriminalized marijuana, I think, makes the case for where the country is headed. This is decriminalization alone. States that have done so, in alphabetical order, have red and blue running right through the list. I am talking decriminalizing marijuana for small amounts.

They are Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. They have nothing in common except they don't

convict people for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

□ 1445

The Congress, 40 years ago, passed the District of Columbia Home Rule Act. That act says that matters of local law are for the District alone. It was a landmark law. We intend to have it respected.

There were some exceptions. They were very small, and I can guarantee you that there were no exceptions of the kind that I have spoken about today.

Legalization in the District of Columbia comes from the direct votes of two-thirds of the people in my district; therefore, it comes with a very special mandate. It comes with a mandate of freedom and liberty, and it comes with a very special mandate that the country will probably increasingly note, and that special mandate is the disparity in arrests based on race, where 9 out of 10 of the arrests are of blacks in, by the way, a progressive city.

It is very hard to justify such a law remaining on the books. That is why I think the people went all the way to legalization.

So what I am asking this afternoon is for House Members to remember your own States and the States of your colleagues that have taken action in one form or another to relax marijuana laws, and I am asking for all of the residents of the District of Columbia simply the same ordinary privilege.

I particularly ask, not only our own Members, but Members who I think would particularly want to take note in the other body because in that body are found the Senators who represent the 23 States that have passed medical marijuana laws, the 18 States that have passed marijuana decriminalization laws, and the four States that have legalized marijuana.

It is difficult for me to see how the other body, which has States which

have relaxed marijuana in this way, could possibly vote not to give equal treatment to the residents of the District of Columbia.

So, Mr. Speaker, at bottom, I am asking only for equality of treatment for the residents of the District of Columbia. I come in that spirit only. I don't ask for your support for the underlying matter.

I ask for your support on the one issue in which I believe I can say Members in this body, to the last Member, are in agreement, and that is, since the very founding of our country, the principle that holds us together is federalism, that what happens in a State may not be what we would desire or do in our own, but if it is a local matter and if it is legal and constitutional, then it is for the people of that State.

Mr. Speaker, that is the essence of freedom and democracy. I ask in that spirit for the same respect for the people of the District of Columbia that I would give to the people of every State of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of official business in his district.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE AGGREGATES AND ALLOCATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET RESOLUTION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for printing in the Congress-

BUDGET AGGREGATES

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year	
	2015	2015–2024
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,031,744	(1)
Outlays	3,026,384	(1)
Revenues	2,533,388	31,202,135
Adjustment for the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014:		
Budget Authority	0	(1)
Outlays	–15	(1)
Revenues	2,590	4,264
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,031,744	(1)
Outlays	3,026,369	(1)
Revenues	2,535,978	31,206,399

(1) Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2016–2024 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

House Committee on Ways and Means	2015		2015–2024 Total	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Current Allocation	987,320	985,919	15,009,326	15,007,958
Adjustment for the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014	0	–15	–3,542	–4,777
Revised Allocation	987,320	985,904	15,005,784	15,003,181

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1233. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 17, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Alma S. Adams, Robert B. Aderholt, Rodney Alexander*, Justin Amash, Mark E. Amodei, Robert E. Andrews*, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Ron Barber, Lou Barletta, Garland "Andy" Barr, John Barrow, Joe Barton, Karen Bass, Joyce Beatty, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Kerry L. Bentivolio, Ami Bera, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Suzanne Bonamici, Jo Bonner*, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Dave Brat, Jim Bridenstine, Mo Brooks, Susan W. Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Julia Brownley, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Michael C. Burgess, Cheri Bustos, G.K. Butterfield, Bradley Byrne, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Eric Cantor*, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Tony Cardenas, John C. Carney, Jr., André Carson, John R. Carter, Matt Cartwright, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Joaquin Castro, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine M. Clark, Yvette D. Clarke, Curt Clawson, Wm. Lacy

Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, Chris Collins, Doug Collins, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Paul Cook, Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Tom Cotton, Joe Courtney, Kevin Cramer, Eric A. "Rick" Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Steve Daines, Danny K. Davis, Rodney Davis, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, John K. Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan K. DelBene, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Ron DeSantis, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Michael F. Doyle, Tammy Duckworth, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson*, Elliot L. Engel, William L. Enyart, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Bill Foster, Virginia Foxx, Lois Frankel, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, Pete P. Gallego, John Garamendi, Joe Garcia, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Alan Grayson, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Janice Hahn, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Denny Heck, Joseph J. Heck, Jeb Hensarling, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, George Holding, Rush Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steven A. Horsford, Steny H. Hoyer, Richard Hudson, Tim Huelskamp, Jared Huffman, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Sheila Jackson Lee, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, David W. Jolly, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, David P. Joyce, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Robin L. Kelly, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Daniel T. Kildee, Derek Kilmer, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Ann Kirkpatrick, John Kline, Ann M. Kuster, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug LaMalfa, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Alan S. Lowenthal, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Lujan, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Stephen F. Lynch, Daniel B. Maffei, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean Patrick Maloney, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey*, Thomas Massie, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Vance M. McAllister, Carolyn McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNERNEY, Mark Meadows, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Luke Messer, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore,

James P. Moran, Markwayne Mullin, Mick Mulvaney, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murphy, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Richard M. Nolan, Donald W. Norcross, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard B. Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, Beto O'Rourke, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Ed Perlmutter, Scott Perry, Gary C. Peters, Scott H. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Robert Pittenger, Joseph R. Pitts, Mark Pocan, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Mike Quigley, Trey Radel*, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Reid J. Ribble, Tom Rice, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Peter J. Rosskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Dennis A. Ross, Keith J. Rothfus, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Raul Ruiz, Jon Runyan, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Matt Salmon, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, Mark Sanford, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Bradley S. Schneider, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Carol Shea-Porter, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Kyrsten Sinema, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Jason T. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland II, Jackie Speier, Chris Stewart, Steve Stivers, Steve Stockman, Marlin A. Stutzman, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takano, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott R. Tipton, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Fred Upton, David G. Valadao, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc A. Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Ann Wagner, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Jackie Walorski, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt*, Henry A. Waxman, Randy K. Weber, Sr., Daniel Webster, Peter Welch, Brad R. Wenstrup, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Roger Williams, Frederica S. Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, Ted S. Yoho, C.W. Bill Young*, Don Young, Todd C. Young

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7699. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Contracting Programs for Minority-Owned and Other Small Businesses [FAC 2005-77; FAR Case 2009-016; Item I; Docket No.: 2011-0090, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM05) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7700. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Irrevocable Letters of Credit [FAC 2005-77; FAR Case 2011-023; Item II; Docket No.: 2011-0023, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM53) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7701. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Uniform Procurement Identification [FAC 2005-77; FAR Case 2012-023; Item III; Docket No.: 2012-0023, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM60) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7702. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standard Format and Content for a Specific License Application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation or a Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility, Regulatory Guide 3.50, Revision 2 received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7703. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Medical Assessment of Licensed Operators or Applicants for Operator Licenses at Nuclear Power Plants, Regulatory Guide 1.134, Revision 4 received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7704. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-116, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7705. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-090, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7706. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-101, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7707. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-100, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7708. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-062, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7709. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-082, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7710. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-092, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7711. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-023, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7712. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-115, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7713. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-081, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7714. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications by Corporations and Labor Organizations [Notice 2014-10] received October 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

7715. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the semiannual report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113-174); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

7716. A letter from the FHWA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Environmental Impact and Related Procedures—Programmatic Agreements and Additional Categorical Exclusions [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0049] (FHWA RIN: 2125-AF59) (FTA RIN: 2132-AB14) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7717. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Environmental Impact and Related Procedures—Programmatic Agreements and Additional Categorical Exclusions [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0049] (FHWA RIN: 2125-AF59) (FTA RIN: 2132-AB14) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7718. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2015 [CMS-8058-N] (RIN: 0938-AS34) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. COOK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 5708. A bill to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 5709. A bill to terminate the authority to waive certain provisions of law requiring the imposition of sanctions with respect to Iran, to codify certain sanctions imposed by executive order, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 5710. A bill to authorize the provision of assistance on an emergency basis for countries affected by or at risk of being affected by the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease to effectively address such outbreak at its source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 5711. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to extend the coverage of the Federal prohibition against hate crimes in order to provide greater protections to persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLAWSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 5712. A bill to authorize the Private Sector Office of the Department of Homeland Security to improve private sector engagement in protecting the homeland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. BENISHEK):

H.R. 5713. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5714. A bill to permit commercial applicators of pesticides to create, retain, submit, and convey pesticide application-related records, reports, data, and other information in electronic form; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 5715. A bill to adjust the age limitations under the Social Security program for payment of child's insurance benefits to certain disabled individuals and for calculation of recent work for determining eligibility for Social Security disability insurance benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. RUNYAN):

H.R. 5716. A bill to extend the replacement period for nonrecognition of gain for property involuntarily converted in the Hurricane Sandy disaster area; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5717. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require annual reports from

agencies detailing the cost of multilingual services, to end speculation about the cost of multilingual services provided by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5718. A bill to study the effect of the Earth's magnetic field on the weather; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5719. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5720. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California:

H.J. Res. 129. A joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; considered and passed.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Con. Res. 118. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that health workers deserve our profound gratitude and respect for their commitments and sacrifices in addressing the Ebola epidemic in West Africa; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California:

H. Res. 753. A resolution providing for the printing of a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 754. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its gross human rights violations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MEEHAN, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 755. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

319. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 22, requesting the Congress of the United States to call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; Article I, Section 8, Clause 12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years. Article I, Section 8, Clause 13: To provide and maintain a Navy.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 5709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 (regulation of commerce with foreign nations)

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Clause 8, Section 18.

By Mr. CLAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 5712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution enumerates to Congress the power to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States." This legislation defines the way that the Department of Homeland Security engages with the private sector to address homeland security challenges.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 5713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 5714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 5715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts."

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 4 Clause 1 of United States Constitution

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the authority to spend revenue on the general welfare.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 278: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 519: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 532: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 628: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 809: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1563: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1732: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 1764: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1795: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1801: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1852: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1857: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1878: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2077: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2288: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2329: Mr. BARTON.
H.R. 2788: Mr. RUZ and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2831: Mr. DEUTCH and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2851: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2856: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2994: Mr. ROKITA, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 3121: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3297: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3398: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 3426: Mr. KIND and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 3489: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 3513: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3543: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3717: Mr. REED.
H.R. 3991: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4122: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4148: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4188: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4214: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4395: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4494: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 4515: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4525: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4647: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 4703: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 4706: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 4717: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4740: Mr. WELCH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4793: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 4807: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4837: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4920: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 4930: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4946: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4960: Mr. BYRNE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PERRY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SIRES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4969: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 5059: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 5199: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5213: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 5226: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5227: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 5231: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5239: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5294: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 5320: Mr. BARR and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 5381: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 5382: Mr. HURT.

H.R. 5403: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 5417: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 5439: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 5441: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 5445: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5481: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 5484: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 5508: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5539: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 5544: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5559: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5609: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 5644: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 5646: Mr. KILMER and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 5648: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 5655: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MAFFEI, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 5685: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 5686: Mr. OLSON and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 5688: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 5700: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 208: Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 456: Mrs. NOEM.

H. Res. 596: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 658: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 701: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 711: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 728: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 735: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. GARRETT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING AMBASSADOR SENG SOUKHATHIVONG AND THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on August 10, 1955, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and the United States established diplomatic relations.

Since this time, both countries have worked together on key issues, including carrying out humanitarian work for and on behalf of those missing in action (MIA). In 2008, the Lao PDR and USA established military-to-military cooperation. Laos would like to work more closely on UXO clearance, counter-narcotics, and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Laos is considered the world's most heavily bombed nation. From 1964 through 1973, during the war in Indochina, the United States flew 580,000 bombing runs over Laos and dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on the countryside, exceeding the amount of bombs dropped on Germany and Japan in World War II.

Cluster bombs still continue to kill innocent people and also affect rural economic development. Estimates of the number of unexploded submunitions from cluster bombs range from 8 million to 80 million, with less than one half of one percent destroyed, and less than 1% of contaminated lands cleared.

In response to a hearing I held in April 2010 drawing attention to the situation during my service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and after U.S. Secretary of State Clinton made her historic visit to Laos in 2012, the U.S. government increased assistance to Laos from \$5 million to \$9 million in 2012; and up to \$12 million in 2014.

While the Lao government appreciates the assistance, this is a pittance. In order to be bomb-free, Laos needs the United States to assume responsibility for UXO clearance and contribute significantly—in a way that would make a difference.

Regarding counter-narcotics, the United States has facilitated the work of the National Committee for Drug Control and Supervision since 1989. Due to Lao government action and international cooperation between 1998 and 2007, opium poppy cultivation has decreased by 96 percent. However, cultivation has since risen from 1,500 hectares (ha) in 2007 to 6,800 ha in 2012, as estimated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Laos sits at the heart of regional drug trade in mainland southeast Asia and shares remote and poorly-controlled borders with Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. The Lao government recognizes the threat posed

by illegal narcotics production and trafficking and has articulated policies to address it. However, the Lao government possesses little ability to act independently since a high percentage of the government budget comes from international donors. The United States decreased its funding from \$650,000 per year to about \$330,000. This has made it difficult for Laos to implement the 2013 work plan on counter-narcotics. The Lao government is hopeful that the U.S. will consider increased support for funding and also for further assistance to build rehabilitation drug treatment centers in some provinces.

Regarding GSP, Laos became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2013 and is looking forward to promoting bilateral trade with countries in the world including the United States. Laos is hopeful that the United States will consider GSP approval to Laos.

The Lao government is represented in the U.S. by His Excellency Seng Soukhathivong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United States. Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong began his diplomatic duties in June 26, 2010. He served as First Secretary and Counselor from 1993 to 1997; and in 2001 as Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Lao Embassy in Washington D.C. Ambassador Soukhathivong has more than 30 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong has worked to strengthen bilateral relations and to promote trade and investment in Laos. He has also been a strong advocate in calling for the removal of cluster bombs in Laos and in urging the U.S. government to provide greater assistance. He is my dear friend and brother, and I commend him for his outstanding service.

I extend my kindest and highest regards to His Excellency Seng Soukhathivong and his lovely and talented wife, Madam Somdy Soukhathivong, and their two children, Prakaiseng and Sengfa. It has been my distinct honor to know them, and I wish them the very best.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during this past recess, on October 29th, the Turkish people celebrated Republic Day, which commemorates the 91st anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

On October 29, 1923, the Turkish Parliament proclaimed the new state as a repub-

lic, replacing the Ottoman Constitution. Turkish soldiers prevailed in the War of Independence despite being under equipped. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who led the Turkish Army became the new country's first President. Turkish women played a crucial role in helping to bring about a new nation. During the war they were often left earning the only income in their households. They also assisted in the war effort by transporting ammunition on their backs, moving cannon balls, and pushing equipment to the battle fields.

Since independence, Turkey has made incredible gains and taken its place among the community of nations. Turkey remains an important ally in a turbulent region. Its economic vibrancy has catapulted the country to become the 6th-largest economy in Europe and the 16th in the world. Turkey has prevailed because of its roots as a republic and its place as one of the few democracies in the region.

This political stability along with a strong cultural connection has led to Turkish investment in Native American enterprises. Turkish businesses have sought to share their experience and expertise with Native Americans. There have been several Native American delegations to Turkey, and Turkish businesses have visited tribes to discuss ways in which to work together. This relationship between Turks and Native Americans is a shining example of how stable governments help foster collaborative growth.

Mr. Speaker, all this is why, on this occasion, I congratulate the people of Turkey on this important anniversary, and look forward to a strong and stable Turkish Republic for many generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL TELFORD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate San Bruno Police Chief Neil Telford upon the occasion of his retirement from the San Bruno Police Department after 32 years of distinguished service. Chief Telford's story is an example of a boy who grew up to serve his neighbors.

Neil Telford was raised in the adjacent city of South San Francisco. He graduated from South San Francisco High School and attended two of our outstanding community colleges: the College of San Mateo and Skyline College in San Bruno. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from San Francisco State University, an outstanding institution also located in California's 14th Congressional District.

In 1982, San Bruno hit the jackpot when it offered Neil Telford the chance to be a volunteer Reserve Police Officer. During that time,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he attended the basic police academy in San Jose and was then sworn in as a full-time San Bruno police officer in 1984. He immediately demonstrated his leadership capability by serving as a Field Training Officer and as a Detective. San Bruno promoted Detective Telford to Sergeant in 1991. From there, his rise was swift as he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1997 and to Captain in 2002. He became San Bruno's sixth Police Chief in 2006.

San Bruno is a wonderful city of 42,000 nestled on the bay and across the hillsides of the San Francisco Peninsula. It is characterized by families. There are families in San Bruno Park, families in its churches, families supporting its outstanding schools, and civic engagement that rivals that of any community in America. It is home to the Peninsula's middle class, an outstanding community college, and amazing youth baseball. The city is blessed with beautiful trees, quaint streets and a new train station that will soon be a centerpiece of downtown revitalization. It is also a community that supports its police and fire departments, and a town in which children respect public safety professionals.

In both the State Legislature and Congress, it has been my privilege to represent this remarkable city, and to interact with Chief Telford on many occasions. However, none of my interactions with the Chief were marked by tragedy until one late afternoon on September 9, 2010. Eight precious lives were lost that fateful afternoon when a natural gas transmission pipeline exploded in a residential neighborhood of San Bruno. Throughout the night and on through the days to follow, bravery and compassion in the line of duty were an every-moment event on the front lines. The explosion shaped this nation's laws and practices on pipeline safety.

Chief Telford led his police force through the fire and the difficult days thereafter with outstanding compassion, strength and calm. In those difficult weeks, events that might otherwise have marked decades of experience cascaded upon Chief Telford and other public safety professionals, the leadership and the residents of San Bruno. Through it all, Chief Telford stayed focused on recovery, protection of public safety, and the preservation of the dignity of every resident of San Bruno. While he has many other notable accomplishments in his career, Neil Telford will always be remembered as the Chief who cared when caring counted for everything.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Telford is a graduate of the State of California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), the Command College program, and he also holds Advanced, Supervisory, Management and Executive certificates from POST. California law enforcement is marked by a high degree of professionalism. In truth, Neil Telford could have written the definitive textbook on police leadership.

Please join with me in congratulating Chief Neil Telford upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of public service to the residents of San Bruno. He and his wife, Cindy, have lived for 22 years in the city that he protects. They have a son, Anthony, who also resides in this special place on the Peninsula. We wish the Telford family much happiness in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week I was not able to vote because I was home recuperating from surgery to remove plaque from my right carotid artery. I missed the following roll call votes: 516, 517, 518, and 519.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call 516, the Government Reports Elimination Act (H.R. 4194); "aye" on roll call 517, the rule (H. Res. 748) to proceed to the measure to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; "nay" on roll call 518, the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 5682; and "aye" on roll call 519, final passage of H.R. 5682, the bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5682 and strongly support its passage, as construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline means jobs, specifically in the Pennsylvania manufacturing industry.

RECOGNIZING LARRY CHEEVES

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union City City Manager Larry Cheeves on his retirement.

Larry earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in 1975 and then a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University at Fullerton in 1977. Since then he has devoted his 38 year career to serving California cities.

Following jobs with the City of Cerritos, City of Pico Rivera, City of Buena Park, and City of Norwalk, Larry took over as Director of Public Works for the City of Union City in 1989. Union City was in a period of growth at this time, and in his role Larry saw the creation of many new streets, parks, and fire stations. He helped Union City win two Helen Putnam Awards from the League of California Cities and the 1999 All-America City Award.

Larry served twice as interim city manager of Union City before earning the position permanently in 2004. Since assuming this role Larry has put together balanced budgets in each year for the city council, despite very difficult economic circumstances. During this time Union City also developed the Intermodal Station District and the Mark Green Sports Center.

Larry is an active contributor to our community. He is a member of the Alameda County City Management Association, a board member of the California Redevelopment Association, and a founding member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority.

On behalf of the citizens of Union City and the entire East Bay, I want to thank Larry Cheeves for his years of dedicated service. I wish him good luck in the years to come.

A CELEBRATION OF TRIUMPH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Triumph Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates its 45th church anniversary and Pastor James S. Hall, Jr.'s 63 years of preaching and teaching as its leader.

Over the past forty-five years, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has endured as the spiritual home for countless numbers of Philadelphia citizens. Strong leaders, like Pastor James S. Hall, allow institutions like Triumph Missionary Baptist Church to thrive and support the communities in which they reside. Since he was elected Pastor for Life in 1969, Pastor Hall's wisdom and years of experience preaching have allowed him to sustain the church, even in the face of adversity, and provide a venue for Christians in the North Philadelphia community to worship their Creator.

Since its founding, the Church has had four homes in North Philadelphia. It has been in its current location since 2007 and has worked to uplift surrounding residents through numerous efforts, including the creation of a supermarket to serve the local underserved community. From the 63 members it began with, to the 5,400 Philadelphians who call this church home, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has accomplished much in its forty-five years of existence.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Triumph Missionary Baptist Church's 45th anniversary. May its success and commitment to helping the City of Philadelphia be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CRUSADERS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic High School Crusaders Girls Volleyball team for winning the Class 3 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Helias Crusaders for a job well done.

SPEECH BY HELMA ADDE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to draw your attention to a speech given by one of my constituents, Helma Adde of Huntington,

NY, when I visited St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. Ms. Adde offered me a warm welcome and introduction to the community and I would like to share her words.

Congressman Israel, let me start with our customary greeting. Shlomo, which in the Aramaic language literally means peace. We are very happy to have you here in our home today, so that we may get to know you better, as our Congressman and man chosen to be our voice in government. And we are also excited for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you, so that you may know who we, your constituents are, and so that you may understand our concerns as members of this community and participants in this democracy. I hope this brief history I will share with you helps you connect with us.

So who are the members of this congregation? The Syriac Orthodox Church is one of the most ancient Christian Churches tracing its roots to the Church of Antioch where Jesus' disciples were first called Christians, and Apostle Peter is believed to have established the first church. Ethnically and historically, we are indigenous to northern Iraq, southeast Turkey, northwest Iran, and northeast Syria, a region encompassing what was in ancient times known as the Assyrian empire and is often referred to as Mesopotamia, or the land between the two rivers, and we are proud to say that we speak a dialect of Aramaic, the language spoken by Abraham and his sons, and Jesus Christ. Due to the effects and obstacles brought on by population growth, political shifts and religious fanaticism, our community has evolved like many others and today we have come to be known as the Syriac, Assyrian, Chaldean people.

As modern day Assyrians/Syriac Chaldean people, we do not have our own country, and those of our people that have managed to stay in the homeland, today find themselves referred to as minorities in the land of their forefathers. Our people are known to be a God fearing, peace loving people, and have contributed to Middle Eastern society in a positive way over the years. But, after years of being the target of religious fanaticism, many have fled the ancient homeland, and sought refuge in the diaspora in the hopes of providing safety and stability to their children and their families.

Today, The United States constitutes the largest population of Assyrian Christians in the diaspora. Our people first started arriving in Western New York in the late 19th century, after the Christian massacre in Diyarbakir, Turkey. We witnessed another large influx of immigrants after the Christian genocide in 1915 under the sword of the Ottoman Turks, during which nearly 1 million Armenians and about 500,000 Assyrians were killed. As a result, many of our people left Mardin, Midyat and other cities in Turkey and eventually settled in parts of New York and New Jersey. But after visiting Long Island, it was hard to resist its beautiful green pastures, and its relaxing beaches. Eventually, a small group made their way out and settled there, mainly in parts of Queens, and then later to Nassau County. These immigrants worked hard, and became prominent entrepreneurs mainly in the jewelry and garment industry, trades brought with them from the old country, back in the early 70s. They built homes, grew families and raised children who became lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, and upstanding members in the community. Eventually, in 1985, this growing community, now comprised of immigrants from Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan, became large

enough to establish a church where they could all congregate and meet regularly with other Assyrian Americans to preserve their ancient culture and practice their sacred religion. That church was named St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. The community thrived and grew and after years of careful planning an opportunity arose that allowed them to finally purchase their own church. And in 2001, with the purchase of this church in Hicksville that we are gathered in today, we became permanent members of the Long Island community.

Over the years, our American born generation has begun to assimilate into American society and is proud of its American nationality. But this generation is also proud of its ancestral roots and works hard to maintain a balance between its nationality and ethnic heritage. We have always been grateful to our brave people living in our homeland knowing that we rely on them to preserve our ancient culture and language; they are the true torch bearers so to speak. God has somehow given them the strength and courage to stay rooted in their homeland, a feat many of us here could not achieve. And we have always feared that without them, our dwindling culture would undoubtedly face extinction, and our name and language that have survived for centuries would merely be something people hear about in history books. For centuries, it is our ethnic heritage and religion that have made us seem like a threat to governments in the Middle East. Some have forced us to stop speaking Aramaic in our homes with our children, forced us to hide our crosses, and even forced us to change our names to assimilate into their societies and forget where we came from. They have even turned our century old churches to mosques, and some have even become ashes, along with our ancient archaeological sites. This cycle has been hammering away at our people to the point where they have realized the need for a safe haven, a place in their ancestral homeland that they can call their own again, where they can feel safe and protected, and be who they are. But their voices in the Middle East are being stifled, so we, their American brothers and sisters must be their voice.

We have undertaken this duty to be their voice, not only as Christians and members of this church, but also as human beings and defenders of human, God given rights. Congressman, we attempted to voice our concerns for our persecuted people outside the UN where we rallied for our people back in August. We also voiced our concerns when we wrote to your office pleading for humanitarian aid and help in stopping the barbaric acts of terrorism. And we were so grateful when you replied both to our invitation to the UN rally and reached out to meet with us here at our church today. And now that you are here, and willing to build a relationship with us, we want you to know that our people need help, they are asking for their home back. We need a safe haven for them, in our ancient ancestral land, the Nineveh plains, under the protection of the United Nations so that we can break the cycle of constant persecution threatening our existence for too long. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to acquaint you with our community today. It is our sincere hope that our voices will be heard on behalf of our persecuted community, namely the hundreds of thousands of displaced men, women, and children suffering at the hands of ISIS today.

Thank you.

COMMENDING MONGOLIA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, His Excellency Ambassador Altangerel Bulgaa, the State Great Hural, and the people of Mongolia for their commitment to the development of a stable and prospering democracy. Since establishing diplomatic relations with the United States in 1987, Mongolia has successfully conducted six presidential and six legislative elections. Additionally, Mongolia has supported international peace efforts by deploying troops to Iraq from 2003 through October 2008, and now has approximately 350 troops in Afghanistan supporting Coalition operations.

Mongolia has also achieved remarkable success over the past two decades as one of Asia's fastest growing economies. Since 2003, Mongolia's GDP has more than doubled. With one of the world's largest copper and gold mines, such as the Oyu Tolgoi, which boasts one of the biggest metallurgical and thermal coal deposits as well, Mongolia is on track to become a thriving mining center in the Asian region. Additionally, Mongolia's trade with the United States has surged in the last few years, making the United States Mongolia's third largest trading partner.

Today the relationship between our two countries continues to grow and strengthen. I look forward to the continuing cooperation and comprehensive partnership between Mongolia and the United States based on our shared values and common strategic interests, and I have every confidence that Mongolia will continue to flourish as a relevant and established presence in the region.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES VINCENT TASA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief James Vincent Tasa for his 32 years of service with the Pacifica Police Department. Chief Tasa has been an exemplary leader and confidant for his colleagues and the residents of Pacifica.

Chief Tasa first joined the Pacifica Police Department as an officer in 1982. Ten years later he was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant and in 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Police Captain. He successfully completed the POST California Law Enforcement Command College in 2007 and in 2011 he was promoted to his current position as Pacifica's Chief of Police. Though he officially retired in February of this year, he continued to serve as Chief until now to allow the City of Pacifica time to search for his replacement.

Chief Tasa has received numerous awards for his exemplary work as a law enforcement officer, including the Police Officer of the Year

Award by the San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association, the Captain's Award, and countless commendations from the community, citizens and law enforcement professionals.

Chief Tasa has approached every aspect of his work with professionalism, integrity and a refreshing sense of optimism and humor. He has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow officers and residents. I've had the honor to work with Jim over the last three years to combat human trafficking in San Mateo County. His work and collaboration with all other chiefs of police have been essential to find cures for this epidemic of modern day slavery.

During his three decades with the police department, Jim has witnessed many memorable moments. One of them is without a doubt the afternoon of August 19, 2011. He accompanied Mayor Mary Ann Nihart and other city officials on a mayor's walk on Palmetto Avenue to meet local business owners. Towards the end of the walk, they opened the door of a "flower shop" and were met by an unmistakable aroma—the flower shop was a medical marijuana dispensary. Jim had to deliver the bad news to the owner that he had a false license and therefore needed to shut his flower shop.

Jim is married to Susan Kae Tasa and they have two sons, Nick and Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jim Tasa for his outstanding service keeping the residents of Pacifica safe. His leadership and warmth will be remembered long after he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

HONORING MR. ALAN R. PARHAM

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alan R. Parham as he receives the Labor Man of the Year Award from the Friends of Labor Committee of Laborers' Local 332. Mr. Parham is the Fund Administrator of the Laborer's International Union of North America Local 332, a local union representing thousands of construction workers in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. Parham is responsible for the administration and operation of a variety of the Laborers' funds with assets in excess of \$750 million for providing pension, health, and annuity benefits to over 12,000 people and their families. He has more than 25 years of experience working for the Benefit Fund, and been a member of the union for even longer, following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, who were both members of Local 332.

In addition to managing the benefit portfolio, Mr. Parham has a passion for health awareness initiatives, serving on the executive board of the Delaware Valley Health Coalition. He has led several initiatives within the union with a focus on the health of union members and their families. Under his direction, the Benefit Fund is undertaking a program to educate and encourage 50% of eligible members to get tested for prostate cancer.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Mr. Parham's accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community-based health care association that has served my home state of South Carolina for 35 years. South Carolina Primary Health Care Association has provided extraordinary care and has earned the appreciation and admiration of a grateful community.

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association held its initial meeting on May 3, 1979 and became incorporated in August of the same year. Its mission is to provide a coordinating structure that assures access to community-based primary, behavioral, and other health care services to every community in the state.

Today South Carolina Primary Health Care Association operates under the expressed vision, "Access to Quality Health Care for All South Carolina" and has efficiently and effectively provided such services across our state. On December 5th, they will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary of assisting the citizens of South Carolina.

Since their establishment in 1979, they have been working to increase the availability of quality health care to low-income, uninsured, isolated, vulnerable and special needs populations. They are committed to meeting the unique health care needs of these clientele and work tirelessly to reduce health disparities across the state. They have also coordinated initiatives to strengthen the local community health centers across the state.

I would also like to personally thank their CEO, Lathran Woodard, and Board Chair, Carolyn Emanuel-McClain, for their continued dedication to breaking through the barriers that often prevent the offering of high quality preventive and primary health care services to those in need.

According to the America's Health Rankings, South Carolina is ranked 43rd in the country for overall health. The United Health Foundation attributes this ranking to numerous factors including high rates of diabetes, obesity and infectious diseases. Without organizations like the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association these numbers would in all probability be much higher. The people of my home state truly benefit from this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association for its 35 years of compassionate health care services. As the Association continues to grow and expand much-needed services, I commend the staff and administration for its commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of health care to the people of South

Carolina. I look forward to its continued service to my state.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEAN OCEAN ACTION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clean Ocean Action as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Clean Ocean Action continues to advocate for improved ocean quality off both the New Jersey and New York coasts.

For 30 years, Clean Ocean Action has worked to protect our waterways from pollution and drilling. It conducts research, educates the public, lobbies elected officials and monitors activity to ensure laws are being followed. It not only identifies sources of pollution, it also seeks solutions and alternatives to environmentally harmful issues and activities.

Since its inception, 8 ocean dumpsites have been closed, the first Clean Ocean Zone has been established, federal legislation has been established to prohibit ocean dumping and over 5 million pieces of trash have been collected from the Jersey Shore during its biannual beach sweeps.

Currently based out of Sandy Hook in Highlands, New Jersey, Clean Ocean Action began above a hardware store in Sea Bright, New Jersey. It is led by Executive Director Cindy Zipf, who is also one of the founders of the organization. The coalition is comprised of 125 groups, including community, environmental, fishing, conservation, student, and service groups, among many others. Its members assist Clean Ocean Action staff in promoting policies and campaigns aimed at eliminating identified pollution issues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Clean Ocean Action on its 30th anniversary. The ongoing efforts of Clean Ocean Action to fulfill its mission of improving coastal water quality is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Girls Cross Country Team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

GREAT LAKES MARITIME
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Assessment Act, an important bill to promote and preserve the sunken treasures of the Great Lakes.

The rich maritime history of the Great Lakes is an integral part of the American narrative. Millions of immigrants who settled the region and started America's westward expansion arrived on Great Lakes steamboats. As cities grew, Great Lakes ships and barges carried the timber, coal, and ore that fueled America's industrial might. One of America's first great naval victories, the Battle of Lake Erie, was won on the Great Lakes. Today, much of this heritage remains, beneath the waters of the Great Lakes.

Despite thousands of shipwrecks throughout the Great Lakes, the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary is the only designated sanctuary in the lakes. Located in Lake Huron, off the coast of Alpena, Michigan, Thunder Bay Sanctuary has been a major economic driver for the area, spurring tourism, research, and educational opportunities. We can build on the success of Thunder Bay by establishing additional sanctuaries across the Great Lakes.

This bill would direct the Administrator of NOAA to identify underwater areas throughout the Great Lakes that possess significant historical and archaeological resources and recommend whether they should be designated as National Marine Sanctuaries.

Preserving the cultural legacy of our region is an important component of caring for our Great Lakes, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve this goal.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY FRANCIS
DENT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Betty Francis Dent died on Monday, November 10, 2014, at the age of 82. Funeral services will be held at Shortess Chapel on November 15, 2014, in Columbia, South Carolina. Betty Dent was a member of the board of trustees for both Columbia International University for 14 years and Ben Lippen School for seven years. Mrs. Dent was the wife of the late, Harry Shuler Dent, Sr., the legendary visionary who helped establish a two-party system in South Carolina producing a Republican majority.

Her obituary, published on Columbia International University's website contained this tribute:

BETTY FRANCIS DENT

Betty Dent, a former member of the Columbia International University Board of Trustees and a longtime supporter of CIU,

passed away in West Columbia, South Carolina on Nov. 10. She was 82.

Betty supported her husband, the late Harry Dent Sr. as he served in numerous leadership positions in state and federal government, including service in the White House under President Richard Nixon and as an advisor to Presidents Jerry Ford and George H.W. Bush.

In the mid-1970s, Betty served on the S.C. Mental Health Advisory Board and was recognized as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Women in Columbia.

Betty and Harry served together in ministry, founding Laity Alive and Serving in 1985, through which they coordinated mission trips around the world, especially to Romania. Betty also coordinated Market Place Bible Studies and assisted Harry when he was chairman of the Billy Graham Crusade in Columbia. In 1992, Betty and Harry wrote "Right Versus Wrong: Solutions to the American Nightmare," detailing stories of their upbringing in dysfunctional and alcoholic homes.

Betty Dent's memorial service will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the place she loved most: Columbia International University. Visitation will begin at 2:00. Both the visitation and memorial service will be in Shortess Chapel.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL
TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Girls Softball Team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary. In two days, the Daughters of Penelope, an international woman's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), will celebrate its 85th anniversary on November 16. Founded in San Francisco, the Daughters of Penelope originally worked to improve the status and well-being of women and their families. They also sought to provide women with the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country. After successfully achieving many of their early goals, the Daughters of Penelope now promote the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence, achieved through community service and volunteerism.

I am a proud Greek-American. As a young boy, my grandparents, parents, aunts and un-

cles instilled in me an appreciation for our beautiful Greek culture, which focuses on family, community, and faith. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it is with great pride that I see these values shine through the Daughters of Penelope today, across all of its 250 chapters worldwide. Through the exceptional Penelope House in Mobile, Alabama and Penelope's Place in Brockton, Massachusetts, the organization vigorously supports efforts to combat domestic violence in Greece as well as the United States. The development of these shelters brought renewed hope to many areas with suffering families who previously did not have access to the same level of care.

As a member of the Congressional Cancer Caucus, I am impressed with the organization's efforts to provide financial support and raise awareness for medical research on treatments for breast cancer, Thalassemia (Cooley's anemia), muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimer's disease. The Daughters of Penelope are also a leading sponsor of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which offers affordable housing to senior citizens in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas.

In addition to helping the elderly, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to schools, shelters and churches through the "Penelope's Books" program. Last year, the organization worked with our Hellenic Caucus and the Embassy of Greece to promote the health related benefits of eating a "Healthy Greek Diet" here in Washington, D.C. After eighty-five meaningful and productive years, it excites me to see what the Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next eighty-five years.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,936,639,705,375.46. We've added \$7,309,762,656,462.38 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING BIPARTISAN INITIATIVE 21ST CENTURY CURES AND JAMES O. WOOLLISCROFT, MD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I joined my Energy and Commerce Committee colleague DIANA DEGETTE of Colorado in launching a bipartisan initiative called 21st Century Cures, which is taking the first-ever comprehensive look at the cures process here in the United States—from discovery to development to delivery. Our goal is to help bring lifesaving treatments, devices, and therapies to patients faster and ensure our nation's laboratories and manufacturers remain global leaders in medical innovation.

Our initiative has fostered a nationwide dialogue, bringing together the brightest minds in the field of public health. One of Michigan's health leaders has been a part of that conversation from the very beginning, taking part in our first Cures roundtable on May 6: Dr. James O. Woolliscroft, MD, dean of the University of Michigan Medical School.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with some of the nation's top health researchers about the cutting-edge work being done in their laboratories at the University of Michigan. The scientific discoveries being made there are truly incredible and will ultimately help save untold American lives. The work being done within the University of Michigan Health System and at the U-M Medical School in particular is in no small part thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. Woolliscroft.

Dr. Woolliscroft was recently recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) with its highest honor: the Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education.

Dr. Woolliscroft has been a national leader in medical education for more than three decades, since joining the U-M medical faculty in 1980. He has served the school in several capacities until becoming dean in 2007, with a focus on transforming the curriculum to train our next generation of medical leaders.

In the words of one of his AAMC nominators, Dr. Woolliscroft "has been consistently ahead of his time and often prophetic about the trends in medical education." He was among the first to advocate moving the paradigm of medical education from the acquisition of knowledge to performance-based metrics. Likewise, Dr. Woolliscroft was among the first to champion medical student training in community settings. Through his tireless efforts, these have become the new standards in medical education. And like all great teachers, Dr. Woolliscroft not only imparts knowledge, but inspires others through his passion for educating.

The discoveries being made in the life sciences astound and amaze, opening up opportunities for therapies, treatments, and care never before possible. Thanks to the leadership of individuals like Dr. Woolliscroft, the United States will continue to lead the world in providing the highest level of patient care and medical training.

REMEMBERING BRAD DEMUZIO FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join the rest of the state of Illinois in mourning the loss of a great public servant, Brad Demuzio, who passed away this week at the young age of 50.

Brad was born in Carlinville in 1964, to the late state Senator Vince Demuzio and former state Senator and current Mayor of Carlinville Deanna Demuzio.

Brad followed in his family's footsteps of public service as the Mayor of Carlinville from 1993–2005, working in the Cook County State's Attorney Office from 1984–1986, as a criminal investigator for the Illinois Attorney General's office from 1986–1999 and most recently as the director of the Illinois Secretary of State Police.

Perhaps one of Brad's greatest legacies will be his support, generosity and compassion for the law enforcement community, those he considered colleagues and friends.

In passing, Brad leaves behind his daughter, Brooke, his son, Blake, his mother, and countless other family members.

We send our thoughts and prayers to his family during this difficult time and thank them for Brad's service to the state of Illinois.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT OF POLAND, ALEKSANDER KWAŚNIEWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, on the occasion of his 60th birthday, a true leader of our time and a transformative figure in the post-Soviet world, Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Not only did President Kwaśniewski lead Poland through a dramatic transition to freedom, he has remained an active participant on the global scale, contributing his experience and energy to helping others and fostering stability and cooperation in his region.

On his birthday, it is important to recognize his contributions to Poland's rise on the international stage, its leadership in Eastern Europe and its relations with the United States. With today's geopolitical events in Eastern Europe concerning Russia and Ukraine, it is important to recognize and honor those who support the ideal of democracy and freedom for everyone who so desires it.

Mr. Kwaśniewski served two presidential terms from 1995 to 2005. During this time, he worked hard for European integration, leading the bid from Poland to join NATO and the EU and joining both in 1999 and 2004, respectively. Prior to his presidency, as part of the Social Democratic Party of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Kwaśniewski participated in the Pol-

ish transformation in government from a communist nation to a democratic one in the famous Round Table negotiations in 1989. He has been decorated and recognized globally as a political thought leader, receiving the Jan Karski award in 2006 for opposing anti-Semitism and serving as an inspiration for international mediation efforts during Ukraine's 2004 "Orange Revolution," which eventually led to Ukrainian democracy.

The Congressional Caucus on Poland, which I have the honor to co-chair, focuses on promoting bilateral relations between Poland and the United States and raising the profile of issues that are important to both countries. That relationship is why today we honor Mr. Kwaśniewski as someone who has been and still is a valuable contributor to peace, prosperity and civil liberties in Poland and the world.

HONORING AMBASSADOR HEM HENG AND THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and brother, His Excellency Hem Heng, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United States. Ambassador Heng has been the Cambodian Ambassador to the United States since 2008. He has more than 30 years experience working in foreign affairs.

It has been my honor to serve with him for the past six years. Together, we worked to hold historic hearings on U.S.-Cambodia relations during my service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and brought attention to the need for the United States to forgive Cambodia's debt. Ambassador Hem Heng has worked tirelessly to make debt forgiveness a top priority.

Between 1972 and 1975, Cambodia incurred a \$276 million debt to the United States through the provision of agricultural commodities. General Lon Nol incurred this debt to support his chaotic and dictatorial regime, which seized power through a coup, making his an illegitimate government. Lon Nol did nothing to address the debt and, in 1975, the Khmer Rouge came to power. This regime also failed to service the loan. Additionally, the Khmer Rouge killed or starved at least 20% of Cambodians, neglected infrastructure and factories, and reverted to ancient agricultural techniques, all of which decimated the Cambodian economy and any ability to repay debt. Cambodia now owes the U.S. \$450 million including interest as of December 31, 2009.

Cambodia has asked the U.S. to forgive its debt or use a portion of the payments towards U.S. assistance programs which include health care, economic competitiveness, civil society, and land mine removal, among others. However, the U.S. Departments of Treasury and State, across administrations, have shown remarkable inflexibility and lack of cooperation.

Nonetheless, I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for his continued efforts to encourage

the United States to forgive the debt. In November 2004, the U.S. forgave \$4.1 billion of Iraqi debt accumulated under Saddam Hussein's leadership so as not to cripple the new government. Bosnia-Herzegovina's debt of \$24 million and Yugoslavia's \$538.4 million debt, both likely incurred under the dictator Josip Tito, were forgiven in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

I remain hopeful that one day the United States will come to understand the strategic importance of Cambodia and offer a hand up. Greater engagement with Cambodia would also help the United States achieve its foreign policy goals in the region.

It has been my pleasure to know Ambassador Hem Heng. With his support, I had the privilege of visiting Cambodia twice and, at the time, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Secretary of State Ouch Borith, and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh. All are committed to the goal of strengthening U.S.-Cambodia relations, and I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for the remarkable work he has done in representing Cambodia's interests in the United States.

Ambassador Hem Heng was born in Kampong Cham province and graduated from the Agricultural School of Prek Leap in Phnom Penh. His diplomatic service began in 1979, following the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge. He has worked as Bureau Chief in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Protocol Department, as Deputy Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, as Deputy Director General of the ASEAN Directorate, as Minister Counselor in the Cambodian Embassy in India, as Director of the Asia 2 Department, as Director of Information and Documentation, and as Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister.

He is married to the talented and lovely Madam Savine Ek, and they have three sons. I will long remember Ambassador Hem Heng and I will miss him very much. I extend to him and his family my highest and kindest regards.

IN RECOGNITION OF LILY RING
BALIAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lily Ring Balian, an extraordinary American who has been active in business and civic affairs for more than 35 years. Today Lily Ring Balian will be honored by the Los Angeles Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association upon the occasion of her receipt of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify outstanding professional and personal accomplishments while also preserving the richness of their heritage. Ms. Balian justly deserves this award.

From 1981 to 1997, Lily was the Corporate Director of Civic Affairs and Public Affairs for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is a major employer in California, and Lily was an outstanding advocate on behalf of this important company and its thousands of employees.

In public life, she served as the Executive Assistant for District Attorney, later California Attorney General, Evelle J. Younger, from 1964 through 1979. In 1980, she was offered positions in the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan, but Lily turned down these opportunities to return to her family in California. Recognizing a talented individual and realizing that she could make a contribution to our nation, President Reagan appointed Lily to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, a position that allowed her to advise the administration and Congress from the vantage point of an employer that regularly needed outstanding employees to maintain its national operations.

Lily's superb talents were also recognized by others. For example, California Governor Pete Wilson appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women, where she served for six years, and was Chair from 1994 to 1996. The commission advises the Governor and Legislature on issues such as economic equity, education equity, health access, and violence against women. In 1995, she represented the commission in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Lily is legendary for her energy and community involvement. She not only managed a challenging career in private industry, but she has led a decades-long effort supporting the Armenian community. She served as Chair of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America from 1985 to 2005, and she was elected to the Diocesan Council in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, serving as its Secretary. She was a member of the Cathedral Fund Raising Committee, a member of the Zorayian Museum Committee and of the Annual Christmas Ball Committee. As a longtime member of St. James Armenian Church of Los Angeles, she is a member of the St. James Ladies Society and currently serves as Chair of her Parish Council.

I am proud of my Armenian heritage, and proud that we have women like Lily to promote an understanding of America's cultural diversity, in part by supporting community-wide efforts encompassing Americans of all backgrounds. Lily has volunteered for the KCET Women's Council and is currently on the Board of Directors of this station. She has been a member of the Braille Institute Auxiliary Board from 2011 to the present. At the University of Southern California, she is currently President of the Friends of Armenian Music.

In recognition of her support of the church, Lily was awarded the Gontag and St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and received the Archbishop's Award from Archbishop Derderian in May 2006.

I am proud to call Lily a friend and have long appreciated her devotion to others, her selfless and daily endeavors to build America through mutual understanding and tolerance, and her sense of warmth, humor and generosity. The experience of America is that of an immigrant nation blending the cultures of hundreds of geographic origins into the land that we know as the United States of America.

Lily, through her goodwill, her wisdom, and her always-present smile, is a superb example of why America thrives. We know that the future of this nation is bright when we have engaged the energies of millions of Americans in the common endeavor of bringing peace and prosperity to every new dawn across this land. Lily is one of those persons who rivals the sun in its energy, and she is therefore appropriately being recognized today for her extraordinary accomplishments that benefit every American.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lily on her lifetime contributions to our great land.

HONORING THE HONG KONG
PROTESTORS STAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the brave protestors in Hong Kong who, starting in September of this year, engaged in, and continue to engage in, peaceful protests against Mainland China's recent moves to undermine the implementation of universal suffrage for Hong Kong's upcoming 2017 elections.

As Aristotle made plain in the Politics, "liberty and equality. . . will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." It is the hope of realizing this foundational principle that has brought tens of thousands of protestors to the streets of Hong Kong.

As Americans, we champion Aristotle's view that liberty and equality are more fully achieved when the many, instead of the few, have a voice in how they are governed. We support this view with foundational principles such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and transparency in government. These are ideals that we must not turn away from even when, as is the case with China, we know we will have meaningful economic and foreign policy contact with countries that make it more difficult for people to fully realize these ideals. People around the world yearn for freedom, and where they do so peacefully and with bravery, like our friends in Hong Kong, we ought to stand with them in solidarity as they seek those democratic ideals that we champion at home and abroad.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have a long history of supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law around the world. The protestors occupying the streets of Hong Kong have sustained repeated acts of violence in the face of their peaceful protests as they act to join us in the march toward a more humane and democratic world that is governed by the rule of law. I welcome them to this cause and wish them a safe and peaceful journey.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Walnut Creek, California.

Walnut Creek is a vibrant city within the boundaries of my 11th Congressional District in Contra Costa County. Once a small rural town, east of San Francisco, Walnut Creek has evolved into a beautiful city with plenty of open space and the reputation as a regional destination for shopping and fine dining.

Walnut Creek began as the home to four tribes of the Bay Miwok: the Chupcans, in the northern part of the Diablo Valley; the Sacans, in present day Lafayette as well as in smaller valleys of the east bay hills; the Volvon, in areas surrounding Mount Diablo and Marsh Creek; and the Talcans along the San Ramon Creek. The region's history was first recorded in 1772 when Spanish explorer Captain Pedro Fages led the first group of explorers into the Contra Costa County. The area began seeing an increase in settlement following the Mexican Revolution in 1821. In 1834 Mexico encouraged settlement in its new territory and as a result, four large land grants were made available. In 1849 the first American settler arrived and built a cabin in an area called Rancho Arroyo de las Nueces y Bolbones, one of the original 4 land grants. Americans called this area "Nuts Creek" due to the many walnut trees and creeks that were in the region.

Following the Mexican-American War, California became a U.S. Territory and subsequently gained statehood in 1850. As the area grew, commercial structures were built including, a hotel, general store, a blacksmith shop, and a meat market. Twelve years later with the establishment of the U.S. Post Office the community was officially named "Walnut Creek".

As years passed Walnut Creek continued to grow. In 1871, a plan to build a school failed for lack of funding, so the residents took the initiative to tax themselves \$15.00 and Walnut Creek Central School was built. This tradition of valuing education remains as strong today as evidenced by Walnut Creek's exceptional elementary, middle and high school programs.

Residents continue to generously support the schools with their time, talent and their money to ensure a bright future for all of their children.

The City of Walnut Creek was officially incorporated on October 21, 1914 making it the eighth city in Contra Costa County. Originally a small town comprised of 500 acres, Walnut Creek now covers almost 20 square miles.

In 1951 Walnut Creek entered its modern era of commercial growth. Broadway Plaza opened with 38 shops. The '50s also saw the first population boom for the region as total population soared from 2,460 in 1950 to 9,903 in 1960 and 39,844 in 1970. On May 25 of 1976 across the street from Broadway Plaza,

Liberty Bell Plaza was dedicated to the nation's bicentennial by former President Gerald Ford. Walnut Creek has continued to experience rapid growth and today is the home to over 64,000 people.

While Walnut Creek is no longer a small town it still boasts of the most open space per capita than any other community in the entire state of California, bringing together the comfort and excitement of city life while still maximizing the conservation of the surrounding environment. Today with its vast expanse of open space combined with a Mediterranean climate, sweeping views of nearby Mount Diablo, and diversity of flora, Walnut Creek has been established as one of California's most picturesque and charming communities. It is a thriving city with a colorful history and a very bright future.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Walnut Creek's incorporation and in wishing the residents another century of continued prosperity.

RECOGNIZING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER OF SAINT CLOUD ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) in Saint Cloud, Minnesota for 25 years of serving men and women in the greater Saint Cloud area.

PRC, through the hard work of their licensed medical team and volunteers, offers free and confidential pregnancy tests and screening for sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, PRC provides medical information and counseling, enabling patients to consider all their options before making decisions.

The chosen theme to mark this milestone is "Together for Life," which pays homage to both their pro-life values and the fact that they are "all in this ministry together for life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in thanking everyone at PRC for their efforts and the services they have provided to countless men and women over the past 25 years. May they continue far into the future.

FEDERAL OVER-REGULATION AND THE CASE OF COUNTRY MEATS

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the collective attention of the House to an unfortunate case of federal over-regulation and the consequences to a small business in my district. In Ocala, Florida, we have a small family business that has produced and distributed snacks to schools across the country for more than three decades. Country Meats makes a pork-based snack that is common to

student fundraisers and the proceeds of its sale in public schools over that time have netted more than \$30 million in support of marching bands, athletic teams and academic clubs nation-wide.

New standards established under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kid Act would prohibit the sale of anything in schools that cannot meet the nutrition standards. A well intentioned policy, but one that when rigidly enforced, excludes: cheese, milk, nuts and the snacks made by Country Meats. The Department of Agriculture applied common sense to offering exemptions for each of those items and their many variations, but not to the small family business in my district.

Country Meats is not an international business that can pool resources into a common interest of a multi-billion dollar industry to make its concerns heard in Washington. Its twenty employees in Ocala, whose jobs will be lost as collateral damage to federal overreach. This company does not have the clout to educate each state legislature on how to file exemptions with the Department of Agriculture. It needs to do that in order to continue fundraisers that have been a mainstay in schools dating back to 1978. Instead, Country Meats will be added to the list of small businesses that lost their income because of obtuse federal regulation.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or for those who were interned in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on November 12, 2014, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Salvatore Joseph Amata; Joe Aviles; Gerald L. Blokzyl; Gary Howard Crone; Manuel R. Espudo; Phillip A. Klock; Henry J. LaPointe; Steven Phillip Netter; Joe Earl Pruett; Rudolfo B. Ramirez; Adam Henry Ruelas; Juan Serrano; Muhammad Shamsid-Deen; TL Shelton; Phillip W. Walker; Robert S. Wible; and George L. Zankl.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all of these individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, due to operational difficulties of the flight I intended to take, I was unable to be present for the vote taken on Wednesday, November 12. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote number 516, regarding H.R. 4194.

HONORING ROBERT W. BOGLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Bob W. Bogle, as he receives the Outstanding Community Leader Award from the Friends of Labor Committee of Laborers' Local 332. Bob is the chairman, president, and CEO of The Philadelphia Tribune.

Bob is chairman of the Hospitals and Higher Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia, and also serves as the Mayor of Philadelphia's appointee on the Independence Blue Cross Board. Bob is also chairman of the Council of Trustees at Cheyney University, his alma mater, and serves on a number of boards, including the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. Additionally, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as member of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Commission.

The Philadelphia Tribune is America's oldest and Greater Philadelphia's largest audited paper primarily serving the African-American community. Before assuming his present position, Bob held other high-level positions at the newspaper, including director of advertising, director of marketing, and executive vice president. The magazine has been honored at least five times by the National Newspaper Publisher's Association, a trade association of 205 Black-owned newspapers across the country.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating my friend Bob's accomplishment and his dedication to the city of Philadelphia, the birthplace of America.

CONGRATULATING THE FESTUS
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS
COUNTRY TEAM**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus High School Boys Cross Country Team for winning the Class 3 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

SPEECH BY ROBERT GHAZOOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a speech given by one of my constituents, Robert Ghazool of Huntington, NY, when he introduced me during my visit to St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. It was a pleasure working with Mr. Ghazool in setting up my visit to the church.

"The persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East is an affront to human rights and cannot be allowed to endure. We must stand with this community and stand up against this violence".

This quote was sent to me by Congressman Israel and read during our rally for our brethren in front of the United Nations.

Congressman, as in the rally in front of the United Nations, our church has been at the center of a movement that has taken on life both here and abroad. Genocide is occurring and many Christians of the world can no longer be on the sidelines of history and see it happen. As we all know this genocide did not begin in June and July as the ISIS thugs poured in from neighboring Syria. This was the culmination, a last straw if you will, in what has been happening to the Christians in Iraq since 2003. For the sake of time, instead of giving you an exact timeline here is an overview of what our brethren have endured.

They have endured over 60 church bombings, countless kidnappings and executions, our priests being killed, the massacre of the church of Sayidat Al Najat, the ethnic cleansing in Dora, which was once called the Vatican of Baghdad for the amount of churches and Christians that lived there, our Archbishops being killed in Iraq and taken hostage in Syria. Due to all this most of the Christians of Iraq have fled the persecution they endured, and what was once a population of 1.5 million is now estimated to be 500,000.

In the last few years, the perils of the Christians of Iraq are now being faced by our brethren in Syria. The Christians of the Middle East are now in a precarious situation of failed nation states that cannot or will not come to the aide of the minorities being persecuted, democratic elections being held only to see Islamists coming into power as we saw with Hamas in Gaza and the Islamic Brotherhood in Egypt. The void left by lack of strong central governments has unfortunately been filled by groups like Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra, ISIS, and Khorasan just to name a few.

Now we come to the events that have brought us here today. ISIS came in with their black flag of hate and ignorance into Mosul and the Nineveh plains in late June. The ultimatum was clear—leave, convert or the only thing left for you is death by the sword. The conclusion for ISIS was simple; these people would simply lie over and convert to their brand of Satanic Islam. This would show the world how weak Christianity is and how powerful the Islamic State has become. I am so proud to tell you how wrong they were.

Even after the thugs of ISIS branded the homes of the Christians with the Arabic N which means Nazarene, none converted and after vicious threats and attacks and with minutes numbered they fled north to first the Nineveh Plains and then farther north with nothing more than the clothes on their back. Everything was confiscated, deeds to their houses taken, IDs burnt, anything of value even down to a mere wedding band taken. Some walked countless miles when their cars were taken on the border of Mosul, others were beaten and unfortunately many were killed.

All of them no matter what the circumstance said with one voice NO. NO, we will not convert, no we will not pay a Jizya, and if you kill us, we will be with a full heart knowing that we died for our Lord and Savior. You see my brethren these last souls were and are the bravest of our brave. They were the ones that no matter what the circumstance stayed to preserve our heritage, our language, our culture, and my God probably the last chance of civility in a land that frankly has little of it. Our Savior told us to leave everything and follow him. Our brethren in Nineveh have reminded us all what it is to be a true Christian. They are the modern day bearers of the cross, like our forefathers who themselves carried the cross as in 1890 Dierbekkar and the Christian Genocide of 1915. We cannot let their sacrifice go in vain. For if we do, we lose the voice of moderation that the Christians have always had in that region. We lose the teachers that taught literacy to the people that came after us. We lose a part of Judea-Christian History that once lost will be difficult to find once again. Today for the first time in over 1600 years no Christians are in Mosul. The sounds of the church bells are replaced by the sounds of war, our crosses, statues and signs of peace and love in the 45 Church facilities taken over by ISIS, now replaced by their black flag of hate, death and destruction. We are the indigenous people of that land and we deserve and want better.

Congressman Israel you have been a leader in Congress when it comes to issues of human rights and religious equality. You were influential in the response and letters about Darfur. You sit on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and were quick to stand with us and acknowledge what was transpiring to the minorities of Iraq and Syria as was evident in your statement that was read in front of the UN. You have visited Iraq and Afghanistan nine times which puts you in a unique position to be our voice in Congress. Our people are in harm's way, they have endured more than any people should and we need your help.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great sacrifice that our Armed Forces are enduring to bring the fight to ISIS. Their heroism makes us all proud to be Americans. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and for the families of the four American and British citizens that have been beheaded by these cowardice vultures.

Without further ado, on behalf of Reverend FR. Gabriel Adde, the board of trustees, and the congregation of St. Peter's Church please help me in welcoming the Honorable Congressman Steve Israel.

RECOGNIZING THE DE LA SALLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PRO-
GRAM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding record of a remarkable high school football program and Mr. Bob Ladouceur, the coach who, for 34 years, brought out the very best in his players both on and off the field. Under Coach Ladouceur's guidance, the Spartans of De La Salle have recorded a historic 151-game winning streak over a 12 year period and are the inspiration behind the recently released film, "When the Game Stands Tall".

In 1979 at just 24 years of age, Bob Ladouceur was hired as both a religious studies instructor and Head Coach of the De La Salle Varsity Football Team to mold an athletic program in the early stages of development. Coach Ladouceur masterfully shaped an outstanding program and by 1995 he was named the National Football League's first National High School Coach of the Year. In 2001, he was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame and has been named "Coach of the Year" by both ESPN and USA Today.

In addition to the winning streak, the statistics for the De La Salle Spartans are quite simply amazing:

- 399–25–3 overall record
- 20 undefeated seasons, including 12 in a row, resulting in the 151 game winning streak
- 49–7 average margin of victory during the streak
- 28 CIF North Coast Section titles
- No. 1 in national rankings seven times
- A dozen future NFL players began their careers as Spartans.

But the story of De La Salle football is more than touchdowns and field goals. To quote Coach Ladouceur, "I always placed the huge value in our program in how our kids treat each other; what kind of students they are. Are they learning things under our care?" He masterfully developed this outstanding program to guide his students to excellence not just on the field but through life.

Mr. Speaker, I invite this chamber to join with me in recognizing Coach Bob Ladouceur for his tireless service to the students of De La Salle and to congratulate each of the members of the Spartans Football Team for their dedication to the game and to values they have carried with them off the field.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPI-
ENTS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor thirteen high school seniors from the Sixth Congressional District of Min-

nesota who earned the Congressional Certificate of Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. The award winners include: Spencer Clark, Andover High School; Kevin Bloch, Immaculate Conception Academy; Brooke Volpone, Monticello High School; Brandon Fabel, Central High School; Carissa Nelson, PACT Charter School; Cole Anderson, Becker High School; Natalia Velenchenko, Buffalo High School; Austin Schmitt, Royalton High School; Grant Tesdahl, Elk River High School; Abbey Halonen, Dassel-Cokato High School; Jiahui Jiao, Delano High School; Gino Fraboni, Princeton High School; and Luke Anderson, Legacy Christian Academy.

These students have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty as the "cream of the crop." They have shown they can set and achieve goals, work as team members, be leaders, and volunteer—all while maintaining a proper school work/life balance.

I ask this body join me in congratulating them and wishing them the best in their assuredly bright futures. They are the pride and joy of Minnesota, and I expect they will continue to astound us.

HONORING AMBASSADOR U KYAW
MYO HTUT AND THE GOVERN-
MENT OF MYANMAR

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Myanmar for its positive developments in political transition and economic affairs.

After decades of isolation, Myanmar started a series of drastic political and economic reforms under President U Thein Sein in 2011 that present a promising opportunity for sustainable development toward democratization, freedom, rule of law and peace—crucial factors for a life of dignity.

President U Thein Sein was welcomed to the White House in May 2013, the first Myanmar leader to visit the United States in 47 years. He updated President Obama on key developments since Obama's visit to Yangon half a year earlier and both leaders praised Myanmar's political and economic progress. A year after U Thein Sein's visit to the U.S. 49 companies were registered in Myanmar, among them GE, Chevron, Coca-Cola and Colgate-Palmolive. In November 2014, President Obama joined regional leaders for the 25th ASEAN summit in Myanmar and met both President U Thein Sein and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Myanmar government is represented in the U.S. by His Excellency U Kyaw Myo Htut, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar to the United States. Ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut has been the Myanmar Ambassador to the United States since September 2013. Prior to that he served as Ambassador of Myanmar to the United Kingdom (2011 to 2013) and in this role played a crucial part in the lifting of the European Union's sanctions on Myanmar.

Ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut aims to promote trade and strengthen bilateral ties with the United States. An essential part of his job is to push for more U.S. investment in Myanmar while addressing human rights issues. In that regard, he works towards re-allowing the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) for trade with Myanmar, which Congress stopped extending in July 2013.

In his role as Ambassador, U Kyaw Myo Htut also serves as an economic facilitator and regularly advises U.S. investors and companies wishing to enter the Myanmar market. U Kyaw Myo Htut takes a strong stand toward the improvement of human rights in Myanmar and shows continuous efforts to encourage the United States to acknowledge ongoing reforms.

Since 2011, the Myanmar government has strongly welcomed private and foreign investment. The Myanmar government revised several outdated laws, granted licenses for airport construction and telecommunication projects and began to rebuild its infrastructure in a bid to attract foreign capital. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates that the current growth rate of 6.5% could triple per capita income by 2030 on the grounds that Myanmar will overcome the challenges ahead. These figures are supported by the McKinsey Global Institute, which estimates that Myanmar's economy will quadruple by 2030 to over USD 200 billion.

Being a resource-rich country with a single market of 60 million people and a developed private sector and middle class, Myanmar's economy suffers from an outdated financial system and banking sector. In 1990 the Central Bank Law reestablished the country's own Central Bank. Although new commercial banks were established, Myanmar was affected by Western sanctions. Due to these sanctions, the banking system could not be connected to the rest of the world at that time.

In 2013, President U Thein Sein signed a new Central Bank Act giving the Central Bank more independence while local banks expanded their branches and services rapidly. The opening up of the financial sector was further strengthened by the country's decision in September to grant a provisional banking license to nine institutions, providing them with the authorization to deal with foreign companies, local banks and—in cooperation with a local institution—with Burmese companies. Among the nine banks that have been selected from a total of 25 applications are the three major Japanese houses: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking and Mizuho Bank. Singapore is also well represented with the OCBC and UOB. Further banks taken into account are Australia and New Zealand Banking (ANZ), Malaysia's Maybank, the Bangkok Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). American banks did not participate in the application process.

The Myanmar government hopes that the admission of international financial institutions will provide an important impetus to the expansion of direct investment, as the nine selected institutions represent the major investor countries. This is important considering the many challenges faced by the banking sector. The country is still struggling to recover from

the 2003 banking crisis, which had a lasting impact on the now mainly cash-based economy. It will require a strong regulatory framework, updated information technology infrastructure and skilled personnel to be ready for the challenges ahead.

Much more could be said about the work of Nobel Peace winner Aung San Suu Kyi, about President U Thein Sein's policy of openness, and about the country's positive developments in regard to religious freedom, healthcare and education. However, the policy of openness is not irreversible and the international community must do all it can to ensure that Myanmar's course is set right for sustainable development. It is essential that stability is achieved through economic and social prospects for all people, and I commend all who are working towards this goal.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J.
MASSONI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael J. Massoni who is retiring as Police Chief after 35 years of outstanding service at the South San Francisco Police Department. Mike is an exceptional law enforcement officer and human being and I have had the great privilege of working closely with him to combat human trafficking in San Mateo County.

Mike started as a police officer in August 1979, was promoted to police corporal in 1983 and to police sergeant in 1988. In his four years in that capacity, he served as traffic and planning liaison sergeant, acting commander of the investigations division, and acting watch commander and in the patrol and criminal investigation divisions. In 2001, Mike became police lieutenant and served as patrol watch commander and training manager. Three years later he rose to police captain and was the commander of the operations and services divisions. And finally in May of 2009, he rose to the top of the department and became Police Chief. Over the course of three decades, Mike has served on the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, the San Mateo County Commanders Association, the San Mateo County Training Managers Association, the Police Athletic League and the Police Association—on most of them as president. As if that wasn't enough responsibility, he agreed to also serve as the Public Safety Chief this last year. What that really means is that he served as both Police and Fire Chief.

You will never hear Mike complain. He just gets the work done quietly, and with a smile on his face. However, I have heard him say over the last few months leading up to his retirement that he is looking forward to relaxing and spending time with his wife Lexann who has lots of plans for him.

Mike was born in South San Francisco in 1955 and attended South San Francisco High School. He received his Associates of Art in Administration of Justice from the College of San Mateo in 1975. He continued his education at Notre Dame De Namur University

where he earned his Bachelors of Sciences in Human Services in 2001 and his Masters of Public Administration in 2004.

Mike has completed a long list of professional classes and certificates, including the Supervisory Leadership Institute, Executive Development and the Role of the Police Chief. He also served on several regional committees such as the North San Mateo County Gang Task Force, the San Mateo County Commanders Subpoena Process Revisions Committee and the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Committee, which Mike and I co-founded in 2012. He was an incredible partner in taking on an issue that nobody in San Mateo County law enforcement knew existed. Human trafficking on the San Francisco Peninsula is indeed a serious problem because of high demand and an infrastructure that easily supports it with freeways, an airport and a large number of hotels. We brought together law enforcement on the local, state and federal level to combat this modern version of slavery. Mike took the lead in developing and implementing the San Mateo County Human Trafficking Protocol for Law Enforcement which lays out in detail how to best deal with trafficking cases. The protocol should serve as a model for communities across the country and the world.

Mike's thoughtful approach to law enforcement has been appreciated and published on many occasions. He is a prolific writer. One of his articles was published in the FBI Law Enforcement Journal and the South San Francisco Municipal Code includes several of his city staff reports on issues such as regulating adult related businesses, side shows, curfew violations and commercial alarms.

His dedication and work have been noticed and recognized throughout his career; he was awarded a Certificate of Commendation in 1981, the South San Francisco Police Department Chief's award in 1995 and the South San Francisco High School Community Service Award in 2007.

Mike firmly believes in giving back to the community, so in addition to his job obligations, he volunteers as a guest lecturer and advisory committee member at Notre Dame de Namur University, and is a member of the South San Francisco Rotary Club, a member of the Sitike Counseling Center and co-chair of the Interact Club for South San Francisco High School. He also participated in the annual Senior Citizens Breakfast, Tip-A-Cop and Day in the Park events organized by the police department for the community.

As mentioned earlier, Mike's wife of 32 years, Lexann McKay Massoni, will be his travel and social manager in his retirement. He will no doubt enjoy spending extra time with their two children, Heather and Steven, and watching San Francisco Giants games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to honor the long and meaningful law enforcement career of South San Francisco Police Chief Mike Massoni whom I'm proud to call a friend and colleague. He has touched and saved countless lives and leaves behind giant shoes to fill. Mike will be deeply missed, but his impact on our community will be felt for years to come. He will no doubt go down as one of the finest police chiefs to serve in the history of San Mateo County.

TRIBUTE TO THE MCFADDEN
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and staff of the McFadden School of Excellence in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for the leadership they have shown in promoting recycling and environmental stewardship.

In acknowledgment of their hard work, the McFadden School was selected as a winner of the 2014 Good Sports Always Recycle Award sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, the University of Tennessee, Waste Connections, and Food City. This selection, made by the nation's largest stadium recycling program, recognizes ten schools annually as having the best recycling programs throughout Tennessee.

As Tennesseans, we are truly blessed to live in a beautiful state with an abundance of natural resources. Therefore, I commend the McFadden School for their efforts in protecting our natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.

On behalf of the people of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate the students, faculty and staff of the McFadden School of Excellence for their leadership in promoting environmental stewardship.

RECOGNIZING JMU'S CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION
AND RECOVERY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

Founded in 1996, CISR's mission is to help post-conflict communities by promoting recovery, rebuilding, and resilience. CISR achieves this goal in a number of ways including training and education, publications, conferences, and workshops. The center undoubtedly improves lives around the world by providing unequalled support to populations struggling with the lingering effects of war. Staff members, under the direction of Ken Rutherford, deploy worldwide to support their ongoing mission.

CISR produces The Journal of ERW and Mine Action which provides a platform to educate and discuss issues related to explosive remnants of war. It also produces To Walk the Earth in Safety which documents the government's commitment to conventional weapons destruction. The center makes these publications and many other reports, studies, and tools available to the public via its website. CISR is dedicated to sharing this critical knowledge with the communities that most need it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Superintendent Barbara Jenkins and the teachers and staff of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) for being chosen as a co-winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education. This year, OCPS will be awarded \$500,000 to provide college scholarships to high-achieving, low-income high school seniors.

OCPS students have made remarkable gains in recent years. Among them, the Broad Foundation cites narrowed income and minority achievement gaps, improved college-readiness and academic improvements among low-income middle school students.

Educating America's youth is an investment in our nation's future, and it is imperative that all students have access to quality education. By equipping our students with the tools needed to become successful employers and employees, we fuel technological innovation, wealth creation, and economic growth.

Again, congratulations to Orange County Public Schools for being chosen as a winner of the 2014 Broad Prize. I sincerely appreciate their leadership and dedication to educating the students of Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEE LEARNING WEEK—DECEMBER 1–5, 2014

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Employee Learning Week, which will be celebrated the week of December 1–5, 2014. A national campaign, Employee Learning Week strives to emphasize the importance of the link between employee education and achieving exceptional results within an organization.

Established by the American Society for Training & Development, the campaign brings awareness to the necessity of professional training and workplace education for employees and organizations alike. Each year, Employee Learning Week recognizes and lessens the growing skills gap in today's highly competitive economy. An important facet of Employee Learning Week, the Niagara Frontier Chapter is an independently-incorporated, nonprofit organization affiliated with the American Society for Training & Development.

With over 140 members hailing from diverse industries across the region, the chapter has been successful in making a meaningful difference in the area of professional growth.

Through these efforts, the Niagara Frontier Chapter has demonstrated a significant commitment to developing the region's workforce, a noble investment in Western New York's economy. Mr. Speaker, please join me in identifying December 1–5, 2014, as Employee

Learning Week, and congratulating the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the American Society for Training & Development on their endeavor.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the National Institutes of Health and the vital importance of continued investment in medical research. The National Institutes of Health is one of the world's leading medical research centers and represents our best hope for improving treatments and finding cures for diseases that affect millions of Americans.

Today, more than 30 million Americans suffer from rare or incurable diseases. The research conducted by the National Institutes of Health is critical for success in the fight against these diseases. Particularly troubling among these is Alzheimer's disease, for which there are no preventative measures, palliative treatments, or cure. While we have seen reduced incidence of some common diseases—like heart disease and some cancers—deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased over the last 30 years.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease affects more than five million Americans. Families suffer both financially and emotionally as they care for loved ones with the disease, and it places a staggering burden on our health care system at a cost of over \$200 billion per year. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 270,000 seniors suffer from Alzheimer's—13 percent of all senior citizens in the state of Pennsylvania. These numbers only underscore the importance of investing in public health research, which might yield valuable treatments and cures.

Mr. Speaker, continued support for the National Institutes of Health is a critical step in meeting the health care challenges currently facing our nation. I urge my colleagues to consider the far-reaching and long-term benefits of investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health and the positive effect it will have on our nation's health and economy.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2014 ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX
COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In FY14, the Arts Council awarded over \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances and 2,600 arts programs which were attended by more than 1 million people. In addition, The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been a strong supporter and sponsor of the 11th Congressional District High School Arts Competition and has been instrumental in making this program one of the most successful in the nation.

The Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Impact Award, the Arts Education Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Arts Awards Recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: The 2014 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Bill Reeder and Richard Kamenitzer of George Mason University. Together they have built one of the nation's most respected higher education programs for the arts and arts management, training hundreds of artists and arts administrators, helping young professionals create new arts programs, and sustaining local arts organizations in Fairfax communities.

The 2014 Arts Impact Award will be presented to the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Over the past 40 years, GRACE has enriched the Reston community with art exhibitions, arts education programs, and the annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, which has become one of the region's largest arts festivals with tens of thousands of attendees. Since its inception in 1974, GRACE has mounted more than 250 exhibitions, presenting the work of local, regional, and national artists.

The 2014 Arts Education Award will be presented to Cappies of the National Capital Area (Cappies NCA) for its innovation and impact in arts education. Cappies—the Critics and Awards Program—engages high school students in a comprehensive theatre education program. Each year, Cappies NCA involves approximately 3,200 students from 56 schools as theatrical performers, production managers and technicians, and critics. Since its inception in 1999, thousands of high school students have experienced the breadth and depth of the theatre, with many becoming actors, theatre professionals, arts educators, and journalists.

The 2014 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Pat and Steve Macintyre for their outstanding support of initiatives that strengthen the arts in Herndon and Reston. Through their generosity over the past three decades the Macintyres have founded or supported organizations including the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts, Council for the Arts of Herndon, League of Reston Artists, Initiative for Public Art—Reston, Herndon's Art in Public Places initiative, and Technology and the Arts scholarships. Additionally, Pat has served on the boards of many of these organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2014 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

URGING SUPPORT FOR
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUNDING

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the inclusion of additional funding for Alzheimer's research in the National Institute of Health's (NIH) budget. This disease affects over 5 million Americans, and every 67 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's. The impact on these patients and their families is immense, and Congress must act now to ensure needed funding is available to researchers working to better understand, treat, and cure Alzheimer's.

As the Appropriations Committee drafts spending legislation for the current fiscal year, it is critical that the NIH budget include an additional \$200 million for Alzheimer's research. The requirement for this funding was validated by the National Alzheimer's Plan, a comprehensive Congressionally-directed initiative which serves as a blueprint to ensure that taxpayer dollars are carefully invested in medical research.

One in three seniors who die each year have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, and the Center for Disease Control notes that it is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. In addition to the terrible toll on individuals, the cost of treating Alzheimer's will cost over \$214 billion this year. With so much at stake, an investment of \$200 million in 2015 is clearly justified, and we must also continue to provide funding for Alzheimer's research in future years.

On behalf of South Texas families affected by Alzheimer's, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

IN HONOR OF PAMELA VON NESS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Ms. Pamela von Ness on the occasion of her retirement from thirty eight years of federal civilian service with the Department of Defense. I have had the great pleasure of working with Pam during her tenure as the Deputy Garrison Commander of the Presidio of Monterey. The Presidio garrison plays host to several thousand students and faculty of the Defense Language Institute as well as several other Army missions. Pam effectively served as the city manager of these dynamic communities. And it is in that capacity that I and my staff came to understand and

rely on Pam's deep professionalism and problem solving skills. I would like to share with the House an excerpt from the Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award given to Pam in recognition of her service:

"During the period of August 2003 to November 2013, Ms. von Ness distinguished herself while serving as the Deputy Garrison Commander, United States Army Garrison, Presidio of Monterey California. Throughout Ms. von Ness' outstanding 38 years of Civil Service, she has had a long-standing record of exceptionally distinguished performance. The culmination of her remarkably outstanding career has resulted in innumerable contributions to the local Presidio of Monterey community and significant contributions to the Department of the Army. Her dedicated efforts resulted in numerous groundbreaking accomplishments, which set examples for cost savings and effectiveness, while delivering first class support to tenant organizations at the Presidio of Monterey and the fifteen functions and sub-installations the Presidio supports on the California Central Coast. Her extensive knowledge, expertise, and experience, coupled with her dedication to mission accomplishment, have directly provided immeasurable benefit to the Installation Management Command and the United States Army."

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Pam for her years of skilled, intelligent, and dedicated service to our nation's defense. We wish Pam success and happiness in the next chapter of her life.

HONORING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Daughters of Penelope on its 85th Anniversary and to recognize the organization's civic contributions and commitment to public service in the United States and abroad.

Since its founding in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope has become a preeminent international women's organization and affiliate of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's leading association of American citizens of Hellenic heritage. Today there are 250 Daughters of Penelope chapters around the world.

I am especially proud to recognize the Daughters because I believe the organization embodies the spirit of *philotimo*; a conviction for civic duty and deep honor in volunteerism that all Hellenes strive to uphold.

The Daughters of Penelope was first established with the mission of improving the lives of all women and providing them the opportunity to make significant contributions to American society. Today, the organization strives to promote the ideals of ancient Greece: education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Through this enduring commitment to the *philotimo* ethic, the Daughters of Penelope

has achieved remarkable accomplishments: providing educational opportunities for youth, tirelessly caring for the elderly and victims of domestic abuse, and raising funds for important civic causes and medical research. Demonstrating strong character, determination, and hard work, it's no surprise that Daughters of Penelope members often rise to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts.

On this 85th Anniversary, I congratulate the Daughters of Penelope for its tremendous accomplishments and thank the organization for its enduring commitment to public service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JAMES
M. BOLES, ED.D.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community and my friend, James M. Boles, Ed.D. Dr. Boles's work and unwavering dedication to better the quality of life for those who need it most—the disabled, children, seniors, and their families—is a model and an inspiration.

Dr. Boles served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of People, Inc., the largest non-profit human services agency in Erie County. On October 1, 2014, after thirty-three years spent growing this impressive organization, he retired.

When Dr. Boles began his tenure with People Inc. in 1981, the organization staffed 200 people. Under his leadership, People Inc.'s budget has grown from \$2 million to over \$144 million, an impressive feat in Western New York's non-profit community. At his time of retirement, Dr. Boles had the responsibility of overseeing more than 3,200 staff that assist over 12,000 individuals.

A lifetime student and advocate for those with disabilities, Dr. Boles received his Doctor of Education and his Masters of Education degree from Columbia University, and his Masters of Arts degree from Goddard College in Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Boles has been a member of countless groups such as Commissioner's Advisory Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, the National Conference of Executives of Associations for Retarded Citizens, National Rehabilitation Association, and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. He was appointed to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities by President Bush in 2006, a committee that I had the pleasure of nominating him for once again.

During my years as an elected official I have worked closely with Dr. Boles and People, Inc. The work they do is incredible and necessary. From creating and maintaining group homes across Western New York, easing the pain of families and individuals that need their care, to advocacy for the human services on local, state, and national levels, Dr. Boles was consistently at the forefront. As

stigma surrounding the disabled decreases and awareness of conditions and care needed rises, it is in no small part due to the work of Dr. Boles.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the amazing accomplishments of James M. Boles Ed.D. during his career and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement. I am certain his advocacy for those with disabilities will not cease with his retirement from People Inc., and his enduring legacy will impact our community for years to come.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MICHAEL D. MIRALLES

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Miralles and to recognize his lifetime of service to our country.

On April 1, Lt. Colonel Miralles retired from the United States Air Force Reserve after twenty-nine years of sacrifice and service to this great nation.

Prior to his service as an American airman, Lt. Colonel Miralles was as a Petroleum Engineer and Polymer Chemist in Oil-Field Exploration and Drilling Operations. In 1985 he graduated from OTS and has since served our country in many different capacities. In his last assignment, he worked as the Deputy Commander of the 403rd Maintenance Group, Air Force Reserve Command, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

For his distinguished leadership and meritorious service throughout his career, Lt. Colonel Miralles has been awarded the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2 M devices and Bronze Hourglass device.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, I extend my deepest thanks to Lt. Colonel Miralles for devoting his life to upholding the Constitution of the United States and to the protection of its citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 MVLE
ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2014 MVLE Annual Award Recipients.

MVLE is a not-for-profit corporation that provides employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities. For 43 years, MVLE has partnered with commercial businesses as well as with government agen-

cies and other not-for-profit organizations to allow the individuals it serves to live in dignity and as independently as possible. In the last year, MVLE assisted more than 600 individuals, and its workforce can be proud that it is making a positive difference in someone's life every day.

Each year, MVLE honors individual participants, as well as business and community partners, who exemplify MVLE's ideals. I am pleased to enter the names of the 2014 award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The President's Award is presented to individuals who have shown outstanding progress toward gaining independence and self-sufficiency through participation in employment and community services. The 2014 President's Award recipients are Alfred Dews, Celeste Whalen and Rachel O'Donnell.

The Chairman's Award is presented to an outstanding business partner who has shown excellence in hiring practices, creating supportive work environments, and supporting the mission of MVLE. The 2014 Chairman's Award recipient is Embassy Suites Springfield. The hotel has employed Wounded Warriors, hosted Working Warrior Nation's First Annual Career Fair, launched an internship program for military veterans, supported MVLE's annual Golf Classic, and supplied volunteers for other MVLE activities.

MVLE presents four Community Awards in honor of the four components of our community: Government, Employment, Social Responsibility, and Integration.

The Government Champion Award recipient is SourceAmerica in recognition of its support of the AbilityOne program and its work to create jobs throughout government agencies for individuals with disabilities and military veterans.

The Employment Partner Award recipient is Capitol Office Solutions in recognition of its partnership with Digital Stream, MVLE's document scanning business division, which pairs Capitol Office Solutions' software management with Digital Stream's document management services and creates more employment opportunities for MVLE's Individuals.

Booz Allen Hamilton is the recipient of the Advocacy Champion Award in recognition of a decade-long partnership with MVLE. MVLE also honors Booz Allen's commitment to diversity in its workforce and promoting community integration for individuals with disabilities.

Greenspring Village is being honored with the Social Responsibility Award in recognition of its continued support of MVLE and our local community. Greenspring has been a longtime employment partner with MVLE and also supports MVLE's annual golf tournament and volunteer activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending MVLE for its success in helping individuals with disabilities achieve independence and in congratulating the 2014 MVLE Annual Award recipients.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARCIA A.
DAVID

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding individual, Mrs. Marcia A. David of Novi, Michigan, for her more than 37 years of service with Hormel Foods. She is the first woman in the company's 123-year history to retire from the sales division. She has probably sold more SPAM luncheon meat than any other woman in America during the course of her career.

Marcia started with the company immediately following graduation from The Ohio State University in 1977 and during her 37 and a half years there she has progressed into positions of increased responsibility to her current post as Customer Business Manager.

Marcia started as a trainee in Chicago, and her first sales assignment was in Flint, Michigan. After seven years in the field she transferred to the corporate office in Austin, Minnesota, as an associate product manager. One year later she advanced to product manager—the first woman in company history to hold this position.

After three years in Austin, she returned to field sales in the Michigan district managing the Kroger account. In May 1995 she took over Kmart, advancing to customer team leader while also taking on the additional responsibility of the Target account in 1997. In 2003 Marcia was named the Detroit Grocery Products district manager. Finally, in 2004 she was promoted to the position she holds today, Customer Business Manager of the East Central District where she is responsible for leading a team covering accounts in three states.

Marcia has led several top-to-top meetings with one of the company's largest accounts, Meijer, and achieved a goal of being chosen by them as a joint business planning partner, an honor bestowed on only a handful of Meijer's most important collaborators.

Marcia is a two-time Chairman's Inner Circle award winner. She has been instrumental in increasing Hormel Food's support of and advocacy for the Network of Executive Women. Marcia has been a consistent and energetic mentor for many of the young men and women who have joined Hormel Foods as interns, sales trainees, and account managers.

Her retirement is a milestone within the company, as she will be the first woman to ever retire from the Consumer Products Sales team since the company was founded back in 1891.

I join with her colleagues, friends and family in congratulating Marcia David as she completes her remarkable career with Hormel Foods, and wish her well as she shifts gears to an active and rewarding life after retirement with her husband, Rob.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF
HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and the impact of Helios Education Foundation on the success of all students in Arizona and Florida. I also want to congratulate Helios Education Foundation on celebrating 10 years of changing lives and strengthening our communities through education.

Helios Education Foundation was created in 2004 through the sale and conversion of Southwest Student Services Corporation led by a visionary President and CEO, Vince Roig, and Board of Directors. At the time of the sale, Southwest Student Services was the eighth largest holder of federally-insured student loans in the country. The net proceeds of that sale were used to create the Foundation's initial endowment of \$525 million.

Since that time and in perpetuity, the Foundation has and continues to be focused on its ultimate goal of creating opportunities for every individual in Arizona and Florida to succeed in postsecondary education. Helios is investing its knowledge, expertise and resources to advance student academic preparedness and to foster college-going cultures in both states.

It's through a decade of strategic partnerships and investments that Helios has identified Early Grade Success, College and Career Readiness, and Postsecondary Completion as the three most critical reform priorities needed to ensure student success. In Early Grade Success, Helios is working to ensure that all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and read at grade level by the end of third grade. In College and Career Readiness, the Foundation strives to ensure that all high school graduates are prepared to enter the workforce or credit-bearing college courses. And, the organization's work in Postsecondary Completion is focused on helping more traditionally underserved students access, persist and attain a high-quality postsecondary certificate or degree.

Helios Education Foundation believes that education is an investment and not an expense and has invested over \$155 million in educational initiatives across the full education continuum. To that end, the Foundation has supported the college-going aspirations of more than 135,000 students, provided more than 8,000 scholarships for postsecondary education and provided professional development and training for more than 16,000 educators. Through these and future investments, Helios is laying the foundation for the ongoing economic viability of our communities and paving the way for our students to compete and succeed in a global workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Helios Education Foundation for serving our communities, and in particular, I commend its Founder and Chairman, Vince Roig, for his passion and commitment to this work. In addition, I congratulate Helios Education Foundation's Board of Directors and

Staff for the tangible and critical impact the Foundation has had over the past 10 years. Most importantly, I am excited about the long-lasting and transformative change Helios Education Foundation will have on our community in perpetuity through education.

HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AC-
CEPTED INTO THE WAUKEGAN
TO COLLEGE PROGRAM

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Jazmin Bahena, Luz Cruz, Roberto Flores, Vanessa Flores, Maria Gaytan-Martinez, Marelly Guadiana, Hansel Lopez, Mirian Lopez, Deshawn Mitchell, Stephanie Pakula, Victor Solano, Mauricio Sosa Cardenas, Fernando Tovar and Magruiio Zuniga for their admittance into the Waukegan to College program.

Launched in 2009, W2C seeks to advance local students' intellectual and emotional development, cultivating a strong commitment to community and a profound belief that they can build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. By establishing high academic expectations and counseling students and their families on the college application process, W2C helps students realize their full potential by making the dream of college a reality.

All first-generation college students, these young people were selected for the W2C program because of their impressive academic achievements as well as their contributions to their communities. As leaders in the classroom, these students demonstrated tremendous resolve in overcoming difficult obstacles as well as dedication to positively contribute to society.

In order to revitalize our communities, we must dedicate ourselves to rebuilding the ladders of opportunity so that all Americans are assured the prospect of personal advancement. This requires providing each and every child, regardless of zip code, access to a high quality, affordable education.

When our nation's talented young people pursue their passions and follow their dreams, they accomplish far more than personal growth. By applying to college and achieving individual success, these young leaders embody and advance an ethos that permeates into all aspects of society. Their efforts inspire hope and promise among their families, friends and neighbors, igniting a social transformation that has the potential to dramatically reshape our local communities and our nation.

These students truly are Champions of Change. I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING EMERGING BUSI-
NESS LEADERS UPON RECEIVING
THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 2014 YOUNG PROFES-
SIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the founding members of Emerging Business Leaders on receiving the 2014 Young Professional Leadership Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. This award acknowledges a group of young professionals that demonstrate commitment to the Buffalo Niagara Region.

Originally called the Creative Class Consortium, Emerging Business Leaders is a network of over 500 smart and dynamic professionals under the age of 40. Four years ago, Chamber President Colleen DiPirro adopted a non-traditional business model, and reached out to local firms and invited employees under the age of 40 to create a dialogue that encourages their engagement. These members come from different industries, have different ideas, but are all committed to innovation. With the creation of the Emerging Business Leaders, these professionals were given a network to become community stewards.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the enormous contribution that comes with the foundation of Emerging Business Leaders to the Buffalo Niagara region. This group of young and progressive individuals will keep the Amherst Chamber of Commerce relevant, benefitting the entire region.

RECOGNIZING VICE ADMIRAL WIL-
LIAM D. FRENCH ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE UNITED
STATES NAVY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vice Admiral William D. French on his retirement from the United States Navy after 35 years of Federal service. Vice Admiral French retired as the Commander, Navy Installations Command.

Admiral French earned his commission as an officer in the United States Navy through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program in 1979. In addition to his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, Admiral French holds a Master of Science degree from Naval Postgraduate School in 1986 and a Master of Arts from the Naval War College in 1999.

He served at sea on a number of submarines including as Executive Officer on the USS *Helena* (SSN 725) and commanded the USS *Salt Lake City* (SSN 716). Admiral French also served as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron 11; as Chief of the Strategy and Policy Division at U.S. Strategic Command and Commanded Submarine Squadron 3 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Throughout his distinguished naval career, Admiral French has worked tirelessly to defend his nation and develop strong community relationships wherever he was stationed. Admiral French's commitment to community was readily apparent in his second flag officer assignment serving as commander, Joint Region Marianas and concurrently serving as U.S. Defense Representative to Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau. Admiral French was one of the most popular and effective Admirals to have served on Guam.

In particular, he advocated, prepared for and assisted in the military buildup on Guam, and he did it through establishing strong relationships within the community. He also worked closely with then Brigadier General Doug Owens, Commander 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, on implementing the Joint Region concept on Guam. There were many unique and difficult challenges in implementing this requirement from the 2005 round of BRAC but their framework endures to this day.

Moreover, he prioritized direct and open lines of communication with our community at all the Navy regions he served. On Guam, he demonstrated a keen understanding of the Chamorro culture that is an important part of understanding Guam and relating to our local community. Admiral French demonstrated a model of leadership that should be emulated by any military officer. He established ground rules on Guam which are still in place today.

I also commend Vice Admiral French for his leadership as Commander, Naval Installations Command. He provided leadership of the shore-based Navy installations at a time of budget constraints. He has been able to ensure that the sailors and marines are provided with shore facilities that support their mission and their families. Despite the budget challenges he ensured that the Navy continued to invest in improving the housing and facilities that support Marines and sailors.

Despite his tremendous accomplishments, Vice Admiral French and his family suffered an unimaginable tragedy earlier this year. On January 24, 2014 Admiral French's daughter, Teresa was tragically killed. Admiral French and his family stood strong in the face of adversity and were an example for us all to follow. In the days following Teresa's passing there was a tremendous outreach to his family from any community in which Admiral French served or where his family lived. That was a clear demonstration of the strength of his personal bonds and leadership wherever he served his nation.

I have enjoyed working with Admiral French when he was on Guam as well as during his tenure as Commander, Navy Installations Command. On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful nation, I commend Vice Admiral French for his many years of dedicated service to our country. I wish him the best in his retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SARDAR GANGA SINGH DHILLON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Mr. HONDA, rise today to commemorate the distinguished life of Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon, who passed away on September 24, 2014 at the age of 86.

Ganga Singh Dhillon was born in the Sheikhpura area of West Punjab. He received his early education at Chak 19 and the Guru Nanak Khalsa High School Nanakana Sahib. He later joined the Sikh National College Lahore.

This was a time of great political and religious turmoil throughout the Indian sub-continent. The region was on the verge of being divided, and the interests of the Sikh community were not being addressed. S. Dhillon became one of the foremost original leaders of the Sikh struggle. In 1947, he was arrested in Lahore along with several other students for promoting Khalistan, a Sikh nation. That same year, his father was shot and killed by the Pakistani army while trying to resolve an issue between the Sikhs and Muslims.

Ganga Singh Dhillon then moved with his family to India where he was mentored by S. Joginder Singh Mann, an old family friend. While in India, S. Dhillon began his battle to preserve Sikh holy sites, especially the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev, and to allow Sikh pilgrims the right to visit these sites. However, his cause was considered far too radical, and he was taken into custody and held in the Nabha jail for a year and a half. It would take fifty years for this battle to be won; in 1999 the President of Pakistan finally granted the Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee the right to maintain Sikh shrines and began granting more visas so that Sikhs abroad can visit them.

With the help of S. Mann, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon moved to the United States in the 1960s where he continued his advocacy on behalf of Sikh concerns. S. Dhillon was committed to improving relationships and understanding between Sikhs and other cultures and religions. He discussed issues with patience, logic, and advocacy for peaceful solutions, even with his most bitter adversaries. In 1965, S. Dhillon founded the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hockey Tournament. The core mission of this tournament was to build friendship and stronger bonds through sport, and to develop better understanding and mutual respect for people of all countries, rich and poor, through competition and sportsmanship. This tournament is now one of the largest international hockey tournaments in the United States.

In 1981, S. Dhillon returned to India to deliver a Presidential Address entitled "Sikhs Are a Nation" at the 54th All India Sikh Educational Conference. Reaction to his speech was overwhelmingly hostile, forcing him to leave India immediately. He was banned from ever travelling to India as a result.

S. Dhillon was also a leader on other issues of importance to the international Sikh commu-

nity. He along with others established the Nanakana Sahib Foundation, the purpose of which was to bridge the gap between Sikhs and their Pakistani Muslim brothers. This foundation is jointly funded and run by Muslim and Sikh private individuals, to support a library, a guest house, and hospital where free medical care is provided to the poor.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that our colleagues join us in commemorating and celebrating the life of our friend, Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon and in expressing sincere condolences to his family. Sardar Ganga Singh Dhillon rightfully belongs in a select group of very rare individuals who, through peaceful means, have truly changed the world. His efforts on behalf of the international Sikh community and the improvement of relationships between cultures will be his enduring legacy.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope. This fine organization was founded on November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, with the mission of improving the well-being of Greek women and providing them with opportunities to make significant contributions to American society. Over the past 85 years, Daughters of Penelope has grown into a leading international organization of women of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes, recognized and respected worldwide for its scholarship programs and public advocacy.

Today, the Daughters are instrumental in promoting the ideals of ancient Greece, with a focus on education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism. Most recently, through their 250 chapters around the globe, they have supported efforts to end domestic violence in the United States and Greece by sponsoring domestic violence centers, shelters, and hotlines.

I am proud to work with them on these important issues and look forward to continuing our partnership to empower the next generation of female Hellenic leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CLEM- ENT PRICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rutgers University Professor Clement Price, who passed away earlier this month.

Dr. Price was born in Washington, DC, but adopted Newark as his beloved home. He became one of Newark's most ardent supporters and an esteemed author, historian, and humanitarian.

He moved to Newark shortly after the 1967 riots, and earned his Ph.D. from Rutgers University, later becoming a professor there.

Dr. Price was a very thoughtful man, and he was always supportive of me, often providing guidance. I will forever be grateful for his help and dedication to our shared beloved city. Newark is without a doubt a better place to live because of Dr. Clement Price.

The last time I saw Dr. Price was just days before his passing. He was being honored by the Newark YMCA.

He had told me before that when he was a youngster, he was a server in the Members Dining Hall. Unfortunately, though, because of the color of his skin, he was never able to dine there. So, I had invited him down to dine with me.

He reminded me of my offer that day, and the last thing he said to me was "We're going to keep that date; and we're going to taste that bean soup." I only wish we could have kept that date. It would have been my absolute pleasure.

To his wife, Mary Sue, I extend my deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers.

RECOGNIZING CCS ONCOLOGY
UPON RECEIVING THE 2014 INNOVATION
AWARD FROM THE AMHERST
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize CCS Oncology as the recipient of the 2014 Innovation Award presented by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes a firm that goes beyond the industry standard to advance their service through the integration of technology.

Located in Williamsville, Kenmore, Lockport, Niagara Falls, Hamburg, West Seneca, and Dunkirk, CCS Oncology provides comprehensive cancer services to Western New York. With over 30 board certified physicians and 200 professionals, CCS Oncology is dedicated to providing the most advanced technology and personalized treatment plans to their patients. Their services include chemotherapy, hematology, radiation therapy, general surgery, and genetic screening, and numerous others.

To better serve their patients, and all of Western New York, CCS Oncology provides the highest quality clinical services, giving hope for all stages and types of cancer. It is with great honor, Mr. Speaker, which I stand here today to recognize CCS Oncology on the receiving of the 2014 Innovation Award.

REMEMBERING U.S. NAVY COM-
MANDER CHRISTOPHER E.
KALAFUT

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and celebrate the life of

U.S. Navy Commander Christopher E. Kalafut, of Acworth, GA, and honor his service to this great nation.

Commander Kalafut passed away in late October while serving at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar at the age of 49.

A native of Oceanside, California, Kalafut was a gifted student and athlete. Upon his graduation, he attended the prestigious U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY where he earned a Bachelor of Science and was commissioned into the U.S. Navy in 1987. Chris earned his pilot wings in 1990 and spent 23 years as an Active Duty and Reserve pilot flying the E-2C Hawkeye in support of combat, humanitarian, and disaster relief missions.

Chris also served as a U.S. Customs pilot, flew for Delta Airlines, and was first an officer based out of Atlanta. In 2001, Kalafut and his family settled in Acworth, where they have lived ever since.

Kalafut was a loving father to his 5 children and his wife, Mary Qualls-Kalafut. His unwavering devotion to his family and his country will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Commander Kalafut's family and loved ones during this most difficult of times.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF REVEREND RONALD WINTERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Ronald Winters and to congratulate him on his retirement following 49 years of pastoral service to the Northern Virginia Community.

Rev. Winters is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in June 1950. He served honorably in the United States Navy and then attended Bishop College in Marshall, Texas. In 1969, Rev. Winters received the Bachelor of Theology and Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Baltimore College of Bible and Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland.

Reverend Winters was licensed to the Gospel Ministry by First Baptist Church of North Indianapolis, Indiana in 1954 and ordained to the work of the Gospel Ministry by Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Rockville, Maryland in 1965. He served as Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Herndon, Virginia from 1965 to 1972, Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean, Virginia from 1973 to 1987, and Peace Baptist Church in Dunn Loring, Virginia from 1988 to 1993. In 1994, Reverend Winters organized the Resurrection Baptist Church of Reston, Virginia where he has served as Pastor for the past nineteen years.

Rev. Winters has also been involved in numerous religious and community service organizations. He is the former First Vice Moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association; member of the Board of Directors of One Church One Child of Virginia; Life Member and Past President of the Fairfax County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and member of

the Board of Directors of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation. He is the past President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Northern Virginia and a previous Board member of Food for Others in Northern Virginia.

Reverend Winters' professional experience as a United States Senate Staff member included Special Assistant for Minority Affairs for Senator Vance Hartke (1960–1973); Assistant Chief Clerk for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (1973–1975); Special Assistant to Senator Harrison A. Williams (1975–1982); and Special Assistant to Senator Nicholas F. Brady (1982–1983). In 1970, he offered the convening prayer in the chamber of the United States Senate and in 1968 his "Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." was published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rev. Winters for his service to the church, his community, and our country and in congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

SANDY REINVESTMENT
EXTENSION ACT OF 2014

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, just over two weeks ago marked the second anniversary of Superstorm Sandy's landfall in New Jersey. I toured several areas hit hardest by the storm, meeting with residents and local officials who have been working at the ground level throughout the recovery. Their resiliency is ever-present, and much progress has been made. It remains clear however that as residents and businesses continue to rebuild, the federal government can do more to ensure a full recovery by incentivizing continued investment in the hard-hit communities.

Many will never forget the iconic images following the storm of Casino Pier's Jet Star roller coaster standing in the Atlantic Ocean off the shore of Seaside Heights, NJ. Businesses such as Casino Pier would eventually receive insurance payments for their lost or damaged property, a transaction known as an "involuntary conversion" under the U.S. tax code. Once the involuntary conversion occurs, businesses have a two-year replacement period, after which time any gain may be recognized and subject to taxation.

With amusement rides and other costly business assets, full replacement can be impossible within the two-year period. Accordingly, following past disasters—including Hurricane Katrina, the 2007 Kansas storms, and 2008 Midwest storms, floods, and tornadoes—Congress has extended the replacement period to five years, giving businesses the time they need to reinvest the money in the community. The Sandy Reinvestment Extension Act of 2014 would provide the same extension to those affected in the Sandy disaster area, and would apply only where the replacement property is of substantial use in the same area—ensuring reinvestment in the affected communities.

This legislation complements bills I have cosponsored—the Hurricane Sandy Tax Relief

Act (H.R. 2137) and the Mortgage Forgiveness Tax Relief Act (H.R. 2994)—that together provide critical tax relief for homeowners and businesses still struggling to recover from Sandy. As we have learned from many previous natural disasters, recoveries take time, and victims are burdened long after the storm has passed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider the Sandy Reinvestment Extension Act of 2014 and other critical tax relief legislation that will provide homeowners and businesses in the Sandy-impacted region with the assistance and tools needed for a full recovery.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF SAMUEL A. ALLEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the life and dedicated service of Crestview, Florida's beloved Mr. Samuel A. Allen, who passed away on November 5, 2014. Mr. Allen was a veteran, inspirational teacher, committed public servant, and loving family man. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of a great and compassionate individual.

Mr. Allen was born on November 4, 1921, in Tallahassee, Florida, to the late Samuel and Aljonia Allen, who instilled in him the teachings of Jesus Christ at an early age. As a young adult, Mr. Allen honorably served our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946 before "discharging from the military and [falling] head over heels in love with a beautiful girl in Texas," as he would say. He married his beautiful girl, the late Caroline J. Barker, on June 5, 1946.

Mr. Allen enjoyed a long and successful career as an educator. He taught in the Okaloosa County School district for 34 years at Charles Drew High School in Baker, Florida, and at Carver Hill High School and Richbourg Junior High School in Crestview, Florida, until he retired in 1983. Mr. Allen's pride in his teaching was extremely evident by the impression he left on others. In addition to his exceptional work in the classroom, Mr. Allen was also a leader in Northwest Florida's civic society, and on November 4, 1968, Mr. Allen became the first African-American elected as a councilman to the Crestview City Council, on which he served for 11 years.

In addition to his successful career and selfless leadership in the Northwest Florida community, Mr. Allen was also a member of Lebanon Baptist Church of Baker, a member of their Trustee Board, a Sunday School Superintendent-Teacher and Student, the transportation chairperson, and was active in the Progressive District of West Florida Association. From his humble beginnings, Mr. Allen achieved tremendous success throughout his lifetime, and his commitment to service never wavered. To some, Mr. Allen will be remembered as a man of integrity who devoted his life to public service and the shaping of the youth of Northwest Florida. To his family and

friends, he will always be remembered for his loving and caring demeanor, and his dedication to his family.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a privilege for me to honor the life and dedicated service of Mr. Samuel A. Allen. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences to his son, Samuel Jr.; his daughter, Aljonia; five grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; one great-great grandson; and the entire Allen family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMBAT OPERATIONS OF THE 55TH ELECTRONIC COMBAT GROUP

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 55th Electronic Combat Group, the Compass Call mission, and its 25th anniversary of combat operations in defense of our great nation. Compass Call is a United States Air Force mission that uses modified C-130s to fly above contested airspace, jamming enemy command and control communications. By targeting enemy navigation, radar and data systems, Compass Call helps save lives on the ground and in the air.

This Saturday, current and past members of the Compass Call mission will be taking part in a reunion in Tucson, Arizona, my home district. Since Operation Just Cause ended the military dictatorship of Manuel Noriega in Panama, Compass Call has been flying in every major conflict over the past 25 years.

Spanning the last eleven years, Compass Call has provided exceptional electronic warfare protection for the United States and allied forces in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. To date, the mission has amassed 37,000 combat hours and there is a high likelihood that at this moment, there is an EC-130H flying overhead providing coverage for our troops.

I am proud that Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson is home to Compass Call. No state is as fiercely loyal to our service members as Arizona.

It is our honor to celebrate with the 55th Electronic Combat Group as they reunite this weekend.

It is no wonder that the group has been awarded the Air Force's 2014 Electronic Combat Annual Award Program Unit of the Year and the Air Force's Association of Old Crows Outstanding Electronic Combat Unit of the Year.

What these men and women do behind the scenes may not get much attention but it is what wins wars.

RECOGNIZING JAMES P. MORAN'S LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize my friend and colleague, JIM MORAN, for a distinguished career in public service spanning four decades. JIM announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election to Congress, where he has spent the last 24 years as a formidable advocate for Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. For anyone who knows him, JIM's passion for public service is apparent. He wears it on his sleeve like a badge of honor. Throughout his career, he has been a proponent for protecting the environment, a defender of the downtrodden, and a champion for commonsense, responsive government, even if that meant challenging his own party.

I have had the pleasure of knowing JIM since his days serving on the Alexandria City Council, where he was first elected in 1979. He'd already amassed a respectable career in public service by that point, working for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Library of Congress, and the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations. During JIM's tenure on the City Council, Alexandria was experiencing rapid growth along with the rest of Northern Virginia. He was elected Mayor in 1985 and re-elected to a second term.

At the urging of his late friend, Mame Reiley, and others in the community, JIM decided to run for Congress in 1990. He challenged and defeated 5-term incumbent Republican Stan Parris—I know for some it might be inconceivable that a Republican ever represented the 8th District, but it just demonstrates how much the demographics of the district have shifted. JIM did not waste time making his mark on any number of local, national, and international issues. He quickly became a champion for consumers, working to prohibit state motor vehicle agencies from selling personal information to mail order companies and other organizations, and he worked in bipartisan fashion with our former colleagues Dan Burton and Ed Markey to pass legislation that allowed parents to better monitor and control the television viewing habits of their children.

He was an early, outspoken critic of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and has been a consistent advocate for LGBT rights. JIM was one of 67 members to oppose the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. Nearly 20 years later, he can feel a sense of vindication knowing Don't Ask, Don't Tell was repealed in 2011 and 30 states now recognize same-sex marriage, with more likely to join them as the courts continue to question the constitutionality of banning such marriages.

Following one of the worst tragedies to befall our nation on 9/11, JIM was instrumental in the fight to restore air service, which had been temporarily suspended, at National Airport. He also helped lead the charge in questioning the legitimacy of the Bush administration's case in

the build up to the war in Iraq, ultimately voting against the use of military force—something we continue to debate to this day as other conflicts in the Middle East have erupted. It was JIM who later introduced legislative language requiring regular reports to Congress on the Strategy for Success, including performance metrics which have since become benchmark standards.

Through it all, JIM never lost sight of his local government roots. Early in his tenure, he helped secure passage of legislation requiring the CBO and other agencies to analyze and report on the fiscal impacts of federal legislation on state and local governments, capturing the unfunded mandates, something to which I wish more of our colleagues in Congress would pay greater attention. He also partnered with our former colleague Tom Davis, the Clinton administration, and former District of Columbia Mayor Tony Williams to advance D.C. Home Rule and reduce Congressional restrictions on the District. During my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, we worked closely with JIM and the rest of our Congressional delegation on the closure of the D.C.-operated Lorton Prison, and the eventual sale of the 3,000-acre former prison property to the County for use as parkland, public facilities, and limited economic development.

JIM's fingerprints also are visible on most major transportation improvements across Northern Virginia in the last two decades. He worked with the regional delegation and leveraged his position on the Appropriations Committee to help secure the major federal commitment to help Virginia and Maryland replace the aging Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the only federally owned bridge in the nation. Later, JIM worked with Fairfax County and the Commonwealth to convince the Pentagon to help build a new road skirting the outer edge of Fort Belvoir after two popular commuter routes through the base were closed following 9/11. He also was instrumental in securing federal commitments to help the region absorb the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure movements, in which Fort Belvoir saw the largest net increase in military personnel. Richmond Highway provides the primary access point to the base, which has no transit connection, and JIM helped secure funding to widen the already clogged Route 1 to ensure the new workers and visitors to Belvoir could actually get there.

In addition to those road improvements, JIM worked with the regional delegation to secure the long-term capital funding agreement with Metro, in which the federal government has committed to match the contributions from Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. And I was pleased to stand with JIM and our colleague FRANK WOLF, who is also retiring after 34 years in Congress, at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony for Metro's new Silver Line. That one project has been more than 50 years in the making and will have a transformative effect on the National Capital Region, and JIM and FRANK were among those who helped us finally push it over the finish line.

From his days working at the Department of Health to his tenure as chairman of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, JIM has labored to make government work better for our constituents and our

communities and to ensure we have competent and committed public workforce to advance our shared priorities. It is fitting that we use the occasion of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Committee's annual Kennedy-King Dinner, which honors the legacies of Sen. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to celebrate the tremendous record of accomplishment of JIM MORAN. Like others in our generation, JIM stepped forward to accept the baton to carry on Bobby Kennedy and Dr. King's mission to promote a civil, just, and prosperous society. Mame Reiley, who we tragically lost earlier this year to breast cancer, was the impetus behind this annual gathering, and we rightfully take a moment to honor her legacy of service as well.

Though she ran her own communications firm, Mame's true calling was as a political strategist. As noted earlier, she counseled JIM on his first run for Congress and went on to serve as his campaign manager and first Chief of Staff. She was elected to the Democratic National Committee from Virginia, chairing the Women's Caucus. She advised former Gov. Doug Wilder in his Presidential exploratory campaign and went on to serve in political advisory roles for Gov. Mark Warner and Gov. Tim Kaine. She also advised JIM's brother, Brian, in his bid for statewide office. There is no question JIM and Mame were a dynamic political duo, and their collective efforts have touched and improved lives throughout the community.

In closing, let me just say that for me personally, JIM MORAN is first and foremost, a dear friend. When I came to Congress as the junior member of the Northern Virginia delegation, JIM was there for me every step of the way. We've become true partners and have collaborated on hundreds of issues facing our region, and I hope to be able to continue calling on his counsel. I wish him and his family all the best as he begins this new chapter of his life, and I congratulate him on a meaningful legacy of service and accomplishment for which any of us in public life could be proud.

RECOGNIZING BUFFALO SPREE
UPON BEING AWARDED AMHERST
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2014 STEWARDSHIP AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Buffalo Spree, a magazine that showcases Western New York's rich beauty, on being awarded the Amherst Chamber of Commerce 2014 Stewardship Award. Buffalo Spree performs a function that provides measurable value to the community.

The magazine was founded in 1967 by Richard G. Shotell and Johanna Hall Van De Mark as an outlet to celebrate Western New York. Later, under Van De Mark's leadership, the magazine became an outlet for creative writers, along with contributions by local historian Austin Fox and architectural expert John Conlin. Buffalo Spree was bought in 1998 by Larry Levite and David McDuff and published

six times a year. Content was also added, including a focus of arts, entertainment, lifestyles, and featured articles on local projects and issues.

The magazine now publishes an issue once a month, along with yearly supplements. They have been nationally recognized by the City and Region Magazine Association and locally by the WNY chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and the Burchfield Penney Art Center. Buffalo Spree has enhanced its community involvement by relocating their headquarters and by their integration into the digital realm.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize with pride the accomplishment of Buffalo Spree on their commitment to excellence in the Buffalo Niagara region. The publication showcases Buffalo and provides proof of the depth of the Western New York area.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF AIR
FORCE LT. HANK SCIARONI, MR.
GIOVANNI SILVIERO, MR.
FRANCESCO MONTEVANI AND
MR. SERGIO MONTEVANI.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and courage of my distinguished constituent, Air Force Lieutenant Hank Sciaroni, a recipient of the Bronze Star for bravery during World War II.

In 1944, Lt. Sciaroni had to crash-land his B-24 Liberator bomber on an enemy-held beach in Italy. Were it not for the bravery of three Italian fishermen, he and his three Sergeants, Leonard Meton, Olin Houghton and Al Doerwald, would have been captured. Mr. Giovanni Silviero, Mr. Francesco Montevani and his son, Sergio Montevani, endangered their own lives to save our servicemen who they also housed and fed for nearly two weeks. They put themselves at even greater risk in procuring a small boat which the servicemen used to make their escape.

On November 1, 1944, Lt. Sciaroni and his men successfully escaped from enemy territory, setting sail for the Ally-controlled port of Cesenatico, where they would finally receive medical attention. Although he has often thought of the three Italian fishermen, Mr. Sciaroni has not seen the men to whom he and his three sergeants owe their lives since.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Lieutenant Hank Sciaroni who represents the great courage of American soldiers during World War II; his men, Sergeants Meton, Houghton and Doerwald; and equally important, the brave Italians who selflessly protected our countrymen from certain capture by enemy forces, Giovanni Silviero, Francesco Montevani and Sergio Montevani. I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for their remarkable service to our great nation.

CONGRATULATING HARRISON D.
MCIVER III FOR RECEIVING THE
CHARLES H. DORSEY AWARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Harrison D. McIver III of Memphis, Tennessee for receiving the American Bar Association's (ABA) Charles H. Dorsey Award, which is awarded to attorneys who work in legal aid or legal service corporations representing low-income people. He has been at the helm of legal aid organizations from Mississippi to our nation's capital, working to ensure that all people have access to legal representation regardless of their economic backgrounds.

McIver received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia before earning his doctor of Jurisprudence from Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, New Jersey. He began his legal career as a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services and later became a managing attorney for the Southwest Mississippi Legal Services and North Mississippi Rural Legal Services. McIver was Executive Director of the Central Mississippi Legal Services in Jackson, Mississippi before becoming Executive Director of the Project Advisory Group in Washington, DC, which is the national organization for legal service programs. He served in this position when Charles H. Dorsey, Jr. sat on the organization's board of directors.

In 1998, Harrison joined the Memphis Area Legal Services Inc. (MALS) as the Executive Director and gave the program new direction and focus as well as expanded the program's outreach potential. He was responsible for creating the program's first vision and mission statements, and strategic and business plans that were focused around a common purpose. McIver also worked to improve access to services by streamlining the program's delivery system. Additionally, Harrison formed partnerships and collaborations with the private bar to maximize resources. Under his leadership, MALS became the first legal aid organization participant in the Program for Nonprofit Excellence, which is a nationally recognized capacity building program that assists in providing high quality legal service. His dedication to client services has been outstanding and his 15-year leadership at the Memphis Area Legal Services is testament to his work, vision and commitment to providing legal aid services to the Memphis community.

During his 15-year tenure at MALS, Harrison has been involved in legal aid work at the local, state, regional and national levels,

including at the Memphis Bar Association; the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association; the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services; the Tennessee Bar Association; the Southeast Project Directors Association; the National Legal Aid & Defender Association; and the American Bar Association. Harrison has received the Ben F. Jones A. A. Latting Award, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services' B. Riney Green Award, and has been inducted as a Fellow by the Tennessee Bar Foundation, the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Harrison D. McIver has served the Memphis legal community well and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on receiving the American Bar Association's 2014 Charles H. Dorsey Award.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2014 NORTHERN VIRGINIA
LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2014 recipients of the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards presented by Leadership Fairfax.

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training, and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. The mission of Leadership Fairfax is to educate, prepare, inspire, and connect leaders to serve and strengthen our community. Graduates from its programs become part of a fast-growing network of civic leaders. I've always said, "When you walk into a crowded room, it's easy to spot the graduates of Leadership Fairfax—they just stand out!"

Leadership Fairfax alumni and the general public submitted nominations for the 18th annual Northern Virginia Leadership Award, and a panel of community and business leaders made the final selections. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2014 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The recipient of the 2014 Regional Leadership Award is Mary Agee, LFI '91, President and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service, in recognition of her three decades of work to transform the lives of thousands of families in Northern Virginia, her influence on public policy in the region and the Commonwealth, and her service on the boards of directors of a wide variety of human services organizations.

Steve Gladis, PhD, CEO of Steve Gladis Leadership Partners is the recipient of the Trustee Leadership Award in recognition of his

long-standing commitment to civic, academic, and philanthropic leadership and for inspiring others through his role as team builder, coach, and mentor. As an author, professor and organizer, Steve has developed and inspired a new generation of philanthropists and has been among the most visible proponents of development and fundraising in the public and private sectors.

The Non-Profit Leadership Organizational Award is being presented to Homestretch and its Executive Director, Christopher Fay, LFI '12, in honor of Homestretch's commitment to providing comprehensive services to address every aspect of a homeless family's situation. Homestretch engages business, non-profits, and volunteers in the transition of families to self-sufficiency and success.

The Non-Profit Leadership Individual Award is being presented to Rosemary Tran Lauer, LFI '11, for establishing Devotion To Children, a charitable organization committed to providing access to high-quality educational and childcare programs for young children from economically disadvantaged families. Since 1994, Rosemary has worked collaboratively with volunteers and partner organizations to make a difference in the lives of young children and their families.

The Corporate Leadership Award is being presented to Tim Sargeant, Dominion Resources, LFI '03, in recognition of his outstanding corporate citizenship through his representation of Dominion Resources, and his active role in the community. Tim serves on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, the Board of Visitors of Gunston Hall, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Foundation Board, the Northern Virginia Community College Foundation Board, the Board of Leadership Fairfax, Inc., and several area Chambers of Commerce.

The Educational Leadership Award is being presented to Jim Holcombe and Gloria Rubin, from J.E.B. Stuart High School, in recognition of their leadership of the Interact Club and partnership with the community. Each year Jim and Gloria engage 70–100 students from a socio- and economically diverse school and provide them the opportunity to become civic leaders, participate in community service and training sessions, and receive support and scholarship opportunities for college applications.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of these individuals and organizations are one of the reasons why Fairfax is such a sought after community in which to live and work, and this year's honorees highlight the legacy of Leadership Fairfax in preparing our community's future leaders to address the challenges we face. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees and thanking them for their service to Northern Virginia.

SENATE—Monday, November 17, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal Steward, we praise You for being with us this day, for You have embraced our Nation as a prize possession, providing us with protection when we need it most.

Sustain our lawmakers as they seek to do Your will. Empower them to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly this day and always. May they look to You for guidance, claiming Your promise to direct their steps. In challenging times, give them the wisdom to lift their eyes to You to receive Your grace and mercy.

Most Holy God, thank You for Your love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to four rollcall votes in relation to the child care and development block grant bill and the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in that great play "Fiddler on the Roof," Tevye says, among other things, and I quote: Good news will stay, and bad news will refuse to leave.

In Washington we all too often focus on the bad news that lingers instead of highlighting the many good things that are being accomplished.

ObamaCare is a perfect example. The Affordable Care Act is working. Americans who have enrolled in health plans through the Affordable Care Act are happy with their coverage.

There was a very good article in newspapers all over the country today, including in the Washington Post, which I saw. In this article there is a citation of a recent Gallup survey of Americans who have coverage through ObamaCare, and the findings are very positive—and that is a gross understatement. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent. Seventy-five percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. I will repeat that. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent, and 75 percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. That is good news to me.

The Affordable Care Act is working for the American people. It is providing quality, affordable health care to families all across our country.

The Senate has a lot of work to do before the 113th Congress comes to a close. There are a few important priorities in this work period. We have to pass an extension of tax credits for American families and businesses. We have to pass the Defense authorization bill, and the President pro tempore of the Senate is concerned about extending the FISA legislation, the American freedom act. It is so important that we do these things, but also we have to fund our government. That has to be done very soon because early next month the funding expires. We have many nominations that have not been completed. Almost 200 have been held up by my Republican colleagues. John Kerry, the Secretary of State, called me and said he himself had almost 100—well, that is exaggerating a little. He had 60-some; I don't remember the exact number.

We must keep our government funded. I have been having productive bipartisan conversations with Speaker BOEHNER, the Republican leader, and Appropriations chair Senator MIKULSKI. It is clear to me that Republican leaders want to work together to keep the government funded. We have heard there are going to be no government shutdowns from the leaders, but Members of their caucuses are really saying some very scary things.

So the question is whether the Republican leaders will be able to stand up to the radical forces within their own party. It is more than just one or two people; it is a large number of

Members of the Republican caucus in the Senate and, of course, the Republican caucus in the House. Can these Republican leaders stand up to these people who are intent on holding our government hostage? There has been a lot of talk the past 3 or 4 days: So we have a government shutdown; so what?

It has become increasingly clear these last few days that a number of Republicans are looking for an example to use to get their ideas—that are somewhat bizarre in the minds of most people—they are using a number of different things as an excuse: Executive action; the President is not doing enough on making sure the Iranians are held down tightly; and on and on with everything they have as an excuse to derail bipartisan legislation to fund the government.

Sadly, though, we have seen this before. The government has been shut down. The government's debt has been defaulted upon. So how is it possible that there is even talk of not funding our government again by anybody? But that is what they are doing.

Just 2 weeks ago the American people sent us a very strong message: Work together. In the press conferences that followed this month's midterm elections, Republicans were saying all the right things about compromise and bipartisanship. Yet, instead of looking for common ground and working to compromise, some of these Republicans are more interested in threats and ultimatums. Why? Because these radical Republicans object to President Obama using his constitutionally established authority to do what President Ronald Reagan and both George Bushes have done—fix as much of the system as he can to protect families suffering under the broken immigration system. Going back to Dwight D. Eisenhower, every President since then has used Executive authority to fix America's immigration system—every President, Republicans and Democrats. For the Republicans to take issue with President Obama for doing the same thing is hypocritical. Why didn't they complain when the two Bush Presidents did things administratively? Why?

I hope Republicans in Congress will object to this brinkmanship. A scorched-earth policy is no way to go. Instead, responsible leaders in the Republican Party need to work with us to complete the business of funding our government regardless of when the President acts to keep families together.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the distinguished majority leader yield for an observation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Will the majority leader yield to the Senator from Vermont for a question?

Mr. REID. I yield to the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as long as I have served in the Senate—and I have served the longest in this body—I have never seen a time when noncontroversial nominations were being held up, whether we have had a Republican or Democratic President. I would note for the majority leader that we have on the calendar 18 nominees for Federal judgeships that passed unanimously. Every Republican and every Democrat in the Judiciary Committee voted for them. Many of them were recommended by Republican Senators and four of them for judicial emergencies. The oldest one has been pending since June, having gone through the committee unanimously. This is not being responsible to the American people.

The distinguished majority leader talked about the use of Executive orders. Concerns have been expressed by the other side about Executive orders on immigration. I would remind everybody that this body by a 2-to-1 margin—Republicans and Democrats joined together last year to pass a comprehensive immigration bill which covered everything from the people on the borders to those who were already in this country. The Republican leadership in the House has refused to take it up. They complain about the President 1½ years later—during all this time that has passed between the Republican and Democratic votes here, they have refused to take it up. Yet they complain that the President is going to do something.

I say bring it up and vote yes or vote no. Stop this “we will vote maybe.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. To the President pro tempore of the Senate, if the Speaker of the House of Representatives, JOHN BOEHNER, brought up the bill that passed here in the Senate, it would pass overwhelmingly in the House. Virtually every Democrat would vote for it, and I suggest that probably half of the Republicans would vote for it. He won't allow a vote. What is this about? It is beyond my ability to comprehend how they are willing to do everything they can to stop this President from doing what Presidents have done since Dwight Eisenhower.

I would also say this: We have gotten some judges done. That is because we changed the rules to do the outlandish thing of having a majority of the Senate determine whether someone should be confirmed.

If we look at the Constitution of the United States, the people who drafted that Constitution were very smart. We know a number of them were geniuses. And they were very precise in what

they wanted to have supermajority votes on. On judges they didn't want supermajority votes but a simple majority of this body, and that is what we did in changing the rules.

But I say to my friend, in spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of judges done, we are going to wind up—by the time the Judiciary Committee continues to do the good work they do, we will probably have over 20 judges who need to be approved this Congress. Postcloture, under the rules we have, there is only 1 hour of time that can be used, so we can get through the judges very quickly. For sub-Cabinet officers it takes 8 hours, and we are normally willing to yield back our time, so 4 hours on every one of those.

We have scores—we are approaching, counting judges and all of the nominations, well over 150 who have been held up, people who have been waiting and waiting. These are jobs that are needed in our country; these are not new positions we have created.

So I would hope we can get past the bitterness that has been created in this body and get the nominations done. There is no reason a judge-to-be should have to wait for all this time, as the Senator from Vermont has indicated, just to get a vote. Whatever he is doing now has been put on hold, and this is throughout the whole government.

So I would hope we can get a lot of these done. If not, we are going to have to spend a lot of time here because we cannot leave this Congress with all these things undone. I hope we can work together, as I have indicated.

REMEMBERING HOWARD GREENE, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say one thing while my friend is on the floor.

When I came to the Senate, my friend from Vermont had already been here a dozen years. I remember—and I know he does—a man who had been the secretary for the majority and the secretary for the minority who controlled the staff of the Republicans. The Senator remembers Howard Greene—a guy who did not smoke a cigar, he just chewed on it all the time; he chewed on his cigar. That is when the rules were not nearly as strict as they are now about smoking.

Howard Greene was so nice to me as a new Senator. He had a lot of authority. For over three decades he was a recognizable person here on the Senate floor. In fact, specifically, for 28 years he held many positions, including as a doorkeeper, as a cloakroom assistant. He was, as I just indicated, both secretary for the minority and secretary for the majority.

Howard finished his distinguished career as the Sergeant at Arms. He retired in 1996.

I offer my condolences to Howard Greene's family and loved ones during

this difficult time. Although it is of little consolation, I hope they know how grateful we are for Howard's many years of sacrifice to this body. He will be greatly missed, and he was very kind and thoughtful to me as a new Senator.

I say to my friend, you do remember Howard Greene?

Mr. LEAHY. I do.

Mr. REID. I thank the Presiding Officer.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon I wish to say a word about Howard Greene, whose passing we mourn today.

Howard was a leading figure here in the Senate for many years. I know Members of both parties remember his time here with fondness, even though he retired from the Senate nearly two decades ago. And I think that says a lot about Howard.

He began his service here modestly enough as a doorkeeper right outside this Chamber. The year was 1968. Howard was 26, a student at the University of Maryland. He originally intended to become a history teacher, but over time his ambitions changed, from wanting to teach about history to wanting to help shape it—and what a lucky break for the Senate.

His considerable talents were soon put to work in the Republican cloakroom. It was a big promotion, even if

Howard had to first explain to his mother that working in the cloakroom didn't mean he would be hanging up people's coats.

Howard quickly gained the confidence of Senators as he rose rapidly through the ranks. His deep institutional knowledge, strong work ethic, honesty, and sense of humor were appreciated by those who worked with him, and his talents were essential for the many who relied upon him.

After the Reagan landslide of 1980, Howard put his institutional knowledge to work as secretary of the new Republican majority. After so many years out of power, it was a challenging task, but he was up to it.

All told, Howard would serve the institution he loved for more than 28 years, working under Republican leaders such as Howard Baker and Bob Dole, until stepping down from his final position of Sergeant at Arms in 1996.

Senators from both parties had a lot of nice things to say about him back then. The late Senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens, said it could seem like Howard had a crystal ball when it came to counting votes and predicting outcomes, and he praised him for his "careful analysis, knowledge of the issues, understanding of the Members, and . . . hard work" that often made his forecasts correct.

Senator David Pryor from Arkansas, a Democrat, noted that Howard "respected and served and answered to not only the Senators on . . . [the Republican] side of the aisle," but to the Members on his side as well.

It is clear that this man from Lewes, DE, had uncommon talent and ability. We are grateful he chose to share it with us for so many years. We honor him for it today, and we send our sincerest condolences to his family in this difficult time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 579, submitted earlier today; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 579) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CCDBG PROGRAM

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because in just a little over 2 hours we are going to take up the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Let me explain what that is.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Program was created in 1990 to provide a voucher to meet the childcare needs of families at risk of having to make the decision that one or both parents couldn't work because childcare had such a tremendous expense with it. We wanted those parents to be able to participate in the productive part of our economy and society.

I can honestly say this is one of the most successful programs Congress has ever produced. The program, as is the case with every bill, is required to be reauthorized after a certain period of time. It was started in 1995—I might add the year I got here—and it was reauthorized in 1996. This was the last time this bill was ever reauthorized.

Now, let me point out that authorization and funding are two different things. These vouchers have existed in the system but Congress has not reauthorized the program; therefore, we haven't changed the program since 1996. I ask my colleagues to stop for a moment and think about how society has changed since 1996. The world has changed since 1996. Things we took for granted in 1996 we need proof of today. Things we didn't worry about in 1996 we worry about today. Let me suggest that childcare is no different. There is still a need for some type of vouchers for families who are on the bubble, and I dare say that childcare has gotten incredibly expensive since 1996.

I rise today to congratulate this body because this afternoon, in just under 2 hours, we are going to pass the first reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant program since 1996. I will be really very honest; it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for my partner in this endeavor, BARBARA MIKULSKI. Senator MIKULSKI has been tenacious. She has stood by my side, and she has told me when she didn't think we should move forward, because as easy and as common sense as it sounds, it has been really difficult to get to this point. This has been a 3-year process. So for those who criticize Congress, let me assure those people, we have touched every base we can touch.

Several years ago, while we served as chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, Senator MIKULSKI and I promised at that time to address the shortcomings in the CCDBG Program so that children could attend childcare and their families could expect a healthy setting that fostered their development.

Now, for years, we have heard stories about abuse and neglect in many childcare settings—stories that continue to break my heart and, I think,

break the heart of every American. We saw numerous inspector general reports that documented unsafe conditions where children were neglected and Federal tax dollars were misused.

Let me stop here and say this. Everything we do in this bill only applies to a childcare facility that accepts CCDBG money. They can be private institutions. They can be faith-based institutions. Their construction can be a combination of all of the above. If they accept one penny of CCDBG money, they are now required to meet the quality standards and safety standards we set in this bill. Now, in North Carolina, that covers practically every childcare facility. But in every State they don't go to the lengths we do in North Carolina nor that we go to in this piece of legislation. I hope my colleagues will go back to the States they hail from, and they will suggest that things such as background checks for workers at a childcare facility is common sense. To say to a parent who is dropping off a young child, whether the Federal Government subsidized with a voucher or not—that parent should feel 100-percent confident that the worker there is not a convicted felon, that they are not a drug addict, that they have passed the minimal background check that most of us would think is common sense.

I might also take the opportunity to stop and say to the Presiding Officer, who represents Virginia, you might think—gosh, this is a financial burden on all childcare centers. No, this is a \$15 investment in the safety of every child who is housed in their facility.

For a program that in many States represents almost all the funding used for childcare subsidies, Senator MIKULSKI and I knew it was an obligation to act to reauthorize this law so appropriate boundaries were put in place. To continue to ignore these realities would have allowed Federal dollars to keep funding abuse, waste—taxpayers, parents, and children deserved our action.

Since then, between the two of us and our staffs, we have held four HELP Committee hearings. We have 236 hours of negotiations. We have dozens of meetings with 44 advocacy organizations supporting this legislation. The Senate had 18 amendments considered and voted on in this institution, the Senate, back in March when the legislation passed this body of Congress 96 to 2. That was March.

We are here today because the House changed the bill a little bit with our blessings, and this afternoon we are going to take up passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014.

My hope is this is going to be a unanimous vote by the Senate.

Bringing the HELP Committee together, as the Presiding Officer knows, is very difficult because of the diverse

ideology of the makeup of members on the HELP Committee.

It is no small feat we have gotten to this point, and we hold together the support of people who look at the world a little bit differently than I do and may geographically come from a different area than I do.

I wish to publicly say thank you to Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, Ranking Member ENZI before that, because if it wasn't for the leadership on the full committee, Senator MIKULSKI and I would not have had the opportunity to mark it up in committee, to pass it on the Senate floor, to work with the House, and now to have a bill back.

As I conclude, let me just say for the 1.7 million children served nationally by CCDBG and the 80,000 served in my State of North Carolina, safe and quality childcare will now be a priority, ensuring working parents trying to better their lives and those of their children will feel safe using their Federal vouchers.

In short, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this legislation. We waited way too long since 1996 to make the commonsense changes that provide safety and quality in the childcare that we, the taxpayers, provide to those families on the bubble.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Only a few years ago a prominent Democrat firmly and unequivocally rejected the idea that the President of the United States could singlehandedly enact an amnesty for millions of immigrants who entered the country without legal authorization. In 2011, for example, this same person reminded us that "there are laws on the books that Congress has passed" and that therefore it should not be permissible for the President to "suspend deportations through executive order." Then in 2013 this same individual noted that granting a unilateral amnesty for adults who came to the United States illegally was "not an option" because it would amount to "ignoring the law." A few months later this same individual was speaking at an immigration event and was interrupted by a heckler who urged him to stop the deportations by Executive fiat. In response, he said:

If in fact I could solve all of these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we are also a nation of laws. That is part of our tradition.

Of course, you might have guessed who that person was. It was President Barack Obama on numerous different occasions in the past few years saying he did not have the authority to issue a unilateral Executive order granting, in effect, a right to waive the law with regard to illegal immigration. I have to say that our President has a preternatural ability to say one thing and then do another—the opposite.

Now the President is threatening to authorize exactly the type of action he previously said he did not have the authority to order, and he is threatening to do so even after his go-it-alone approach on immigration and so many other issues was so roundly repudiated in this most recent election on November 4. In other words, he is showing contempt for the Constitution, for the voters, and basically anyone who disagrees with him. It is the classic "my way or the highway" approach.

According to press reports, he will act as early as this week and he will unilaterally grant work permits. Under what authority—I have no idea how he can legislate authority to grant work permits for people who illegally entered the country, but he said, apparently, he is going to try. These are the kinds of maneuvers we would expect to see from tin-pot dictators and banana republics, not from the Commander in Chief and the Chief Executive of the world's greatest democracy.

Apparently the President now thinks that he and, I assume by precedent, any future President can simply ignore the laws that he finds inconvenient, that "if Congress hasn't passed the law, that is a good enough excuse for me to go it alone and do it my way," go around it, go against the will of Congress and the American people. This is a dangerous precedent. I hope the President recognizes. If after the next election a President of the other party—my party—is elected, won't this be viewed as a precedent which has been established by this President which could be used on everything from taxes, to regulation, to ObamaCare—you name it. But that is not how our Constitution is written. That is not what the separation of powers doctrine—which is an essential element of our Constitution—provides. Even the Washington Post—not known as being a bastion of conservative thought—has said that failing to get his way in Congress does not "grant the president license to tear up the Constitution."

Unfortunately, the President has shown that he has very little patience with constitutional safeguards, especially when they hamper his agenda or complicate his political needs. After all, this is the same President who has unilaterally rewritten ObamaCare by granting extensions, waivers, and the like and who has unilaterally gutted welfare reform and who has made bla-

tantly unconstitutional appointments to the Federal bureaucracy and to the Federal judiciary, only to be corrected by the courts.

For that matter, the President has already made a number of unilateral changes in U.S. immigration policy with disastrous results. We have seen literally thousands of convicted criminals released from U.S. custody, including those with violent records. And, of course, it wasn't that long ago that we saw what had been called a genuine humanitarian crisis unfold along the southern border in my State as tens of thousands of Central American children made a treacherous journey in order to cross illegally into the United States and take advantage of a loophole in a 2008 law that we tried to correct but couldn't even get a vote on it in the Senate.

At the height of the crisis in early June, the New York Times told the story of a 13-year-old Honduran boy who was detained in Mexico while trying to reach the U.S. border, and his story was pretty typical of what we heard from many people. The Department of Homeland Security conducted interviews with many of the immigrants who came across at that time. "Like so many others across Central America," the Times reported, this boy "said his mother believed that the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy regarding unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across, he would have a better shot at staying."

In other words, the impression that we are not going to enforce our law is a magnet.

I have no idea how this unilateral action by the President will be interpreted—granting legal status presumably to millions of people by the swipe of his pen. Will that be viewed as a green light for people who want to come to the United States from all around the world, saying: Well, if I can just get to the United States, President Obama will let me stay too.

About 1 week later the Washington Post confirmed that the influx of unaccompanied Central American children is "being driven in large part by the perception they will be allowed to stay under the Obama administration's immigration policies."

I mention these stories because they highlight the all-to-predictable consequences of failing to enforce U.S. immigration law.

So much of law enforcement is the deterrent value—in other words, stopping people from breaking the law in the first instance, not just catching them after they actually break it. And sending the message "Get here if you can, and you might too be one of the ones who win the lucky immigration lottery and get to stay in the United States" is a huge magnet for illegal

immigration and it undermines—indeed, it guts the deterrent value of enforcing the law. And for what? The President reportedly, unless he rethinks this misguided strategy, will provide some form of temporary relief that will not even be able to be implemented before he leaves office in 2 years, with uncertainty for these immigrants and their families as to what is going to happen beyond.

How he is drawing the line is beyond me. I read that apparently the reports that have been dribbled out in the press—and, of course, this town is famous for intentional leaks to sort of issue trial balloons to see how people are going to react. Well, if the trial balloons are correct, if the stories are correct, the President's order will cover roughly 40 percent of the people here in violation of our immigration laws—40 percent. So why did he decide to stop at 40 percent and not do 60 percent or 80 percent or 100 percent? What about the people who have been waiting patiently in line, complying with our immigration laws? To have these other millions of people jump ahead of them and be given some form of legal status is not fair to them, and it certainly doesn't encourage people's compliance with the rules or the law.

Then we have to look at who benefits the most. And I am not talking about the immigrants; I am talking about the criminal organizations. This is part of how they operate and their business model. Such criminal organizations will be the biggest beneficiaries of the President's Executive order, which would make it even harder for our friends in Mexico to reduce violence and uphold the rule of law. It would be like a pipeline of additional money and resources into the cartels. And the cartels don't care whether they traffic in children, whether they traffic in drugs or weapons. That is how they make money. That is why they exist. That is what they do. And this ill-advised action by the President would do nothing but ensure that a pipeline of money will continue to flow into these criminal organizations.

Time magazine reported:

Cartels control most of Mexico's smuggling networks through which victims are moved, while they also take money from pimps and brothels operating in their territories.

Yet, again, President Obama just doesn't seem to care.

He also doesn't seem to care that his Executive action would harm our opportunity to reform our broken legal immigration system. Republicans and Democrats alike have ideas for how to reform our immigration system, and many of them have bipartisan support. We do know that a comprehensive bill—we have tried to pass one of those for 10 years, and it hasn't worked, so it makes sense to me to try to break it down into smaller pieces and try to

build consensus for those, get them across the floor of the House and the Senate and on the President's desk—even on a controversial subject such as immigration. Yet the President has now appeared to decide to trample the normal legislative process and to do immigration policy by fiat.

What about the 60 percent who won't be covered by his Executive order? They don't get any relief under his Executive order. They are going to need to look to Congress to know what the rules are.

So in the President's desperate attempt to placate some very vocal activist groups and to make up for years of hollow promises, he has decided to flout the rule of law and end up making real immigration reform that much harder to pass.

I saw a Congressman from South Carolina, TREY GOWDY, who said: During the first 2 years the President had 60 Democrats in the Senate and controlled the House of Representatives. If immigration reform was such a priority for the President, why didn't he do that?

Well, don't just take my word for it that this will make our job much more difficult.

The junior Senator from Maine, an Independent but a Member of the Democratic caucus, said of the President's Executive amnesty: I think it will create a backlash in the country that could actually set the cause back and inflame our politics in a way that I don't think will be conducive to solving the problem.

I mentioned a moment ago that the results of this anticipated action are all too predictable. So I would ask the President: Why in the world would you want to encourage children to make one of the most dangerous journeys from Central America through Mexico and be subject to the tender mercies of these cartels, which care nothing about them? Why on Earth would you want to establish yet another big incentive for people to enter our country illegally? And why on Earth would you want to help contribute to yet another humanitarian crisis on the Texas-Mexico border?

I would urge the President, in the strongest of terms, to respect the rule of law and the democratic process and to give the new Congress that will convene in January a chance to do our job. I don't underestimate the difficulty of dealing with our broken immigration system, but I don't think we have a choice. We do not have a choice. We must. And it will not be something I will like 100 percent; it won't be something any Senator or Congressman will like 100 percent. But that shouldn't cause us to shrink from our duty.

If the President is actually interested in having his last 2 years in office be more productive than simply a lame-duck session, he needs to work with

the Congress rather than go around Congress. I urge him to put the Constitution ahead of his campaign promises and to consider the likely human cost in Mexico and elsewhere of such a lawless policy change.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, a parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak on a legislative matter on which we will be voting later on this evening. I yield myself 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

CCDBG REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, in a few minutes we will be voting on the child care and development block grant reauthorization bill. I am here to urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

This bill is authored by myself, working shoulder to shoulder with Senator RICHARD BURR of North Carolina, under our chair and ranking member, Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER.

On this bill we showed that we can actually work together to get things done. We worked across the aisle and across the dome with our counterparts in the House. Today we have an opportunity to pass a bill that will actually help American families with one of the biggest challenges they face—affordable childcare.

Everywhere I go in Maryland I hear young mothers and not-so-young mothers and grandmothers and actually dads saying that we need childcare that is affordable, accessible, reliable, and safe. This Child Care and Development Block Grant Act will meet those compelling human needs. It focuses on families of modest means—parents who want to work or get ready for work by going to school but can't afford childcare.

I wish to take a second to talk about the process and where we stand. This is a bipartisan bill. It is the result of more than 2 years of work, three hearings on the HELP Committee, hundreds of meetings of stakeholders. The House unanimously passed the bill, and last week the Senate voted 96 to 1 on a cloture vote. It is time now to take the bill over the finish line and vote tonight.

This bill began in 1990, when we created the childcare program as part of

our first step towards welfare reform. Eligible families received vouchers to pay for childcare of their choice, whether it is a large daycare center, a small in-home daycare center or faith-based.

This program is important because childcare for parents is significantly expensive. Childcare is the highest household expense faced by dual-income families. The average childcare for two children is about \$15,000 a year. In some places that is tuition at a prep school—\$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. It is expensive whether you are a two-parent household or a single-parent household. For middle-class families it is really tough, and for those earning the minimum wage it is out of reach, and the costs keep increasing.

Last year, the cost of childcare actually grew eight times faster than the average family income. It is not that childcare alone increased, but of course we believe family income has been stagnant for 8 years. So we have to do something about raising the income as well as raising childcare standards and the ability to provide childcare.

Childcare is important because it helps people. In my own State this bill will give parents the kind of childcare vouchers needed, helping 1.5 million children be able to have childcare. In my own home State of Maryland this bill will help as many as 19,000 families get childcare. This is really a pretty big deal. In Maryland, childcare costs about \$13,000 a year.

I held roundtables across the State. I sat in classrooms, at conference tables, and meetings listening in Baltimore County and Allegany County. I heard from parents struggling to pay childcare in this age of scrimp and save. I have heard from teachers worried about children not being prepared for a lifetime of learning. I heard from the American Academy of Pediatrics that is concerned about children staying healthy. I heard from the good folks at the Maryland Family Network, who are worried about quality, safety, and the certification of childcare.

I believe that many of the best ideas and recommendations come from the people, so I brought those ideas to Washington and sat down across the table with my colleague Senator RICHARD BURR to really talk about these issues and how we could hammer out a bill that was affordable to the taxpayer and yet reliable for parents.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to our kids. What I heard over and over again were concerns about availability, about quality, and also affordability. My bill—the Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, Alexander or whatever order we can put it in—makes childcare better. It makes it safer, it makes it more reliable, and it also focuses on helping children to be school-ready, to be learning-ready.

It requires, first of all, in terms of safety, comprehensive background

checks. Only 13 States require comprehensive background checks for childcare providers. We require more background checks for mall security guards than we do for our own children. This is unacceptable. Parents deserve peace of mind knowing that their children are safe from anyone who could possibly have a criminal record. Under our bill, 50 States will be required to do this.

It also strengthens health and safety standards. Listening to both concerned parents and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will have health and safety standards. Childcare providers will be trained in first aid and CPR, in the prevention of sudden infant death syndrome, and also how to respond to food allergies. This is big. Our children come and some of those little guys and girls really have some significant health challenges.

It also requires inspection of facilities. Currently, many States do not require inspection of all childcare facilities. The Washington Post recently found that 43 children have died since 2004 in unregulated childcare centers in Virginia. We have now corrected that where facilities will actually be inspected to make sure they are safe. It also will make sure that inspectors will be looking for anything that presents a danger to a child—an unsecured swimming pool, unsafe sleeping arrangements, and fire hazards. It will improve reliability and stability of care.

Now, we really focused on improving quality of child care. What that means is we have significant sums, which means that States have to invest in training and professional development of childcare workers. It also will evaluate what is working and what isn't. We developed an improved quality rating system to give parents—the consumer—information to pick the right care.

This bill will provide vouchers to people who are at the minimum wage or lower. In my own State, to qualify for this type of voucher subsidy, it is income-based. In Maryland, for a family of two to be eligible for the CCDBG, their incomes cannot exceed \$24,000. A family of four cannot have an income that exceeds \$35,700. The children must be less than 13 years old, and the children must live with parents who are working or enrolled in an education program that is leading to a job.

This is really good. But this bill—as good as it is—it is only the first step in childcare. It can't be the only step. So while we are looking for how to help parents be able to work, particularly those at the minimum-wage level, we have to be able to look also at our middle-class families. That is why I was happy to join Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND in introducing the childcare tax deduction bill, S. 1975. This bill would allow all families to deduct the cost of childcare as a business expense. Imag-

ine that—to actually be able to do this. So many women in the middle class also find that the cost of childcare is so expensive. With this bill families can deduct up to \$14,000 in child care expenses from the amount of taxes they owe. We have to show that we are on the side of families, that we are on the side of the middle class, by offering a substantial tax deduction for childcare; and we have to show that we are on the side of the people who want to be middle class, who are working harder, going to school to be able to move ahead and move into that middle class, and that they have the childcare bill. This legislation, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, will make a significant step forward. I urge my colleagues to help and support this.

When I worked on this bill, to me it is not about numbers and statistics—19,000 or 1 million children or so on. It is about people in my own home State—whether it is the single mom in Baltimore County who, due to some major changes, found that she was needing to work full time instead of part time but was barely above the minimum wage. She wondered how she was going to have that job at the minimum wage but have childcare that was safe. When she went to the department of social services, she found a childcare subsidy that could help her be able to work today, have her children in daycare today, and lay the groundwork for a better job tomorrow.

Then there was Theresa, a single mom in Prince George's County. She has four children. They were enrolled in a childcare program while she worked in another. She was making \$23,000 a year—again, below the minimum wage. Thanks to the voucher program, she was able to provide her children with childcare, actually work in the field, and begin to get the kind of training that could enable her to move on up to being a childcare worker.

It is about these people who want their child to be safe and secure. They want to make sure they are going to do the best and be able to continue to work in our society, make sure their children are taken care of, and also that we are able to provide this important step.

I hope we pass this bill tonight. I also hope that we develop a comprehensive childcare approach so that we are helping those at the minimum wage and slightly above tonight, but we also want to be able to help the middle class.

Remember what our goal is. We need to focus on the day-to-day needs of our constituents. What does that mean in terms of national policy? What we need to look at is for those who are middle class—through their hard work, their education and determination, however they get to be there—that they have a government and a Tax Code on their

side, and for those who are trying to get to the middle class, that they have an opportunity ladder and the self-help tools that enable them to move ahead.

I really hope my colleagues vote for this bill and we move it to the President's desk for signature.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a CCDBG fact sheet be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CCDBG FACT SHEET

S. 1086—THE CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) ACT OF 2014

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

This bipartisan bill (S. 1086) was introduced by Senators Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, and Alexander. It reauthorizes, refreshes, reforms, and revitalizes the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

What the CCDBG Program Does

The CCDBG program was first signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 to assist working families with the cost of providing child care. It has not been reauthorized since 1996.

CCDBG is the primary source of federal funding for child care assistance. CCDBG is administered to states in formula block grants. States use the funding to help low-income families gain access to quality, affordable child care and after-school programs while parents work, train for work, or attend school. Assistance is administered through vouchers or certificates, which can be used by parents for the provider or program of their choice—whether in a family child care home, with a relative or friend, or in a child care center.

Who the CCDBG Program Serves

CCDBG serves more than 1.6 million children every month.

Eligibility Requirements for CCDBG Assistance

There are certain requirements that must be met for families to be eligible for CCDBG assistance:

Family income cannot exceed 85% of the state median (states have flexibility to adopt income eligibility limits below this federal maximum, and generally do)

Example: In MD, for a family of two to be eligible for CCDBG funds, their annual income cannot exceed \$24,277; a family of four cannot have an income that exceeds \$35,702

Kids must be less than 13 years old

Kids must live with parents who are working, enrolled in school/training, or be in need of protective services

Amount of Subsidy

The CCDBG program generally requires that families contribute to the cost of care on a sliding fee scale basis. Federal regulations do allow states to waive child care fees for families with incomes at or below poverty guidelines. HHS has suggested that a family's fee should be no more than 10% of its income.

In FY12, the average monthly subsidy paid to a family with an infant younger than 1 year was \$467. The average monthly subsidy paid to a family with a child between the age of 5–6 years of age was \$365.

Funding Level for the CCDBG Program

In the FY14 omnibus, the CCDBG program was funded at \$2.36 billion. This is an increase of \$154 million above FY13. This fund-

ing increase will ensure 22,000 additional children will receive child care assistance.

In addition to discretionary funding, mandatory funding exists for child care subsidies (authorized in Social Security Act). In FY14, there were \$2.9 billion in mandatory funds—for a total of approximately \$5.3 billion for child care subsidies.

Cost of Child Care

Child care is the highest household expense faced by dual income households, averaging \$14,872 a year for 2 kids.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to speak in support of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, the bill that is before us. It has taken us a long time to get to this point. I cannot be more pleased that we are on the verge of sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

We know—we know—that learning begins at birth and the preparation for education begins even before birth. That is why I am very excited about my committee's bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. This bill will lead to important reforms and improvements to the early care and education of our Nation's children.

This bipartisan legislation is also a big win for working families. It helps make it possible for over 1.5 million kids to receive quality childcare every month. The last time we reauthorized the child care block grant was 1996. When we did that, childcare was seen principally as a work support activity and only incidentally as something that could have a great impact on the development of children. Today, backed by impressive scientific research, we know that childcare settings can and should be much more. In addition to providing critical work support for the parents, early childhood settings are now widely recognized as a rich early learning opportunity for all children.

So it is not just childcare—we are taking care and watching them so they don't get in trouble—it is now childcare that is part of the learning process. As I said, it begins at birth and even before birth. Because much of a child's intellect and skills development begin before he or she begins kindergarten, we need to give all children every opportunity to reach their full potential at this early stage. This means supporting access to high-quality early learning programs, including

high-quality childcare. That is why reauthorizing the child care development block grant with the array of reforms and improvements is so important.

This bill contains many commonsense improvements to a program that hasn't been reauthorized, as I said, since 1996. That is nearly a whole generation. We have improved the health and safety requirements by asking States to increase the amount of funding they set aside to serve infants and toddlers. We require pre-service training and ongoing professional development for childcare workers. We ask that States inspect childcare providers at least once a year—hopefully more, but at least once a year.

I am particularly excited about the set-aside that we have in the bill to improve access to and quality of care for infants and toddlers. This is something I included for several years in my appropriations subcommittee bill, and I am pleased that it is now an important component of this reauthorization. These are the kinds of commonsense, research-based activities and services that any parent would want for their child, and they deserve it. That is why I am so pleased we are now on the cusp of passing this important reauthorization.

I should note that this legislation passed the Senate in March of this year by a vote of 96 to 2, and after a few changes by the House, it passed that Chamber by acclamation in September. I believe we had the cloture vote last week, and even then I think there was only one vote against it.

I encourage every Member of the Senate to vote in favor of final passage and finally get this bill to the President's desk.

I wish to especially thank Senators MIKULSKI and BURR—two members of our committee and the original sponsors of this legislation—for their persistence and commitment in getting this bill done.

I would also like to thank many of the staff for their years of work on this legislation.

I would like to thank Brent Palmer and Jessica McNiece of Senator MIKULSKI's staff; David Cleary, Peter Oppenheim, and Patrick Murray of Senator ALEXANDER's staff; Chris Topplings and Celia Simms of Senator BURR's staff.

I would like to thank current and past members of my staff: Pam Smith, Derek Miller, Mildred Otero, and Mario Cardona. Of course, I also wish to thank our HELP Committee's ranking member Senator ALEXANDER for his key role in reauthorizing this vital program. And my debt of gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER extends far beyond this particular bill.

This will likely be the last bill originating in the HELP Committee to see floor time in this Congress, and thus, this is the last bill that will come to

the Senate floor out of the committee I so proudly chair.

I wish to take this opportunity to express not only my gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER but my respect and admiration for the senior Senator from Tennessee. In the new Congress in January, Senator ALEXANDER will assume the chairmanship of this HELP Committee, and I know this important committee will be in very able hands.

Throughout my 30 years in the Senate, I have been blessed to share many excellent working relationships with Republican colleagues, both when I served as chair or ranking member on various committees. Senator Arlen Specter was my partner for many years on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. In fact, from 1989 until the day he left the Senate, Senator Specter and I were either chair or ranking member of that important Appropriations subcommittee.

I had great relationships on the agriculture committee with Senator Dick Lugar, Senator THAD COCHRAN, and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Since 2009, as chair of the HELP Committee, I have enjoyed very productive relationships, first with Senator MIKE ENZI, who had been both the chair and then ranking member of that committee, and more recently with Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, with whom I have worked on CCDBG—the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program that we are now authorizing.

In fact, I am proud to note that when this bill is signed into law by the President, this will be the 21st HELP Committee bill enacted into law in this Congress. In a Congress that has been criticized, rightfully or wrongfully, for its lack of productivity, Senator ALEXANDER and I have forged a partnership that has enabled us to chart a different course—a course of bipartisan productivity. To cite several examples, we worked together to pass major legislation to revamp and modernize America's job training system, overhaul and improve America's food safety system, improve drug safety and speed the approval of potentially lifesaving drugs—so 21 bills.

Someone said that our committee really represents probably one of the widest spectrums ideologically in the Senate—both from very conservative to very progressive on our committee. Yet we forged these relationships to get things done. Now, just because these relationships have helped us to get these bills through, it doesn't mean that we always agreed on everything.

The fact is our disagreements have been oftentimes and vigorous. After all, I am a proud progressive and Senator ALEXANDER is a proud conservative, but our disagreements have never been personal and they were never the last word. We have consist-

ently sought areas of agreement, and more often than not, we found them. As a result, we have forged a remarkable record of accomplishment in the HELP Committee with 21 bills in 2 years signed into law.

More importantly, we have accomplished big things for the American people. Thanks to legislation passed by our committee, lives will be improved and lives will be saved. Drugs will be approved faster and they will be safer. Workers will have access to quality job training and retraining opportunities, including young people with disabilities who will now have provisions to support them in school to get them ready for competitive, integrated employment or for higher education or for technical education, which they have not really had before. That is one big part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that we passed that not too many people know about. So from now on, kids in school who have an IEP—an Individualized Education Program—will now have internships, summer jobs, and job coaching that will, again, raise their expectations and hope of what they can do. They will be able to visit colleges and have college internships or college support systems, which they have never had before, to enable them to seek a higher education or perhaps to go to community colleges. Those are a few of the things we have done on our committee. Soon, with this bill, babies and kids across the country will have better access to safe, high quality, and affordable care.

It has been with great pride that I have been chair of this HELP Committee. I still think it is the best committee in the Congress. I remember once Dan Inouye—Senator Inouye—said that I chaired the committee that helped define America. He chaired the committee that defended America, but I chaired the committee that defined America. I would like to think of the HELP Committee as doing that—an America where every kid has the possibility of going up that ladder or ramp of opportunity no matter the circumstances of his or her birth, where health care is a right and not a privilege, where everyone will have affordable health care coverage.

This committee has even helped those who have fallen off of that ladder of opportunity because of an illness or injury to get back on it with job retraining and support services. This committee has ensured that every person with a disability—either through an accident or through birth or illness—can have a full and meaningful and productive life. Our elderly know they are going to have the kind of support systems that will enable them to also be productive in their retirement years—in their golden years, as they say.

The Labor, Education, Health, and Pensions Committee covers a broad

array of how we define America as a caring, compassionate, and productive society. It has been a challenge, but it has also been a great honor and privilege to chair this committee.

As I leave, I can say we are fortunate to have someone of Senator ALEXANDER's depth and breadth of experience. In fact, he has been the Secretary of Education, Governor of Tennessee, and President of the University of Tennessee. He is well qualified, and I know he will do a great job in leading this committee in the future.

I wish to thank all of my committee members, but especially Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from Tennessee, and let him know on the record how much I valued our collaboration and how much I benefited from his counsel and his wisdom.

I urge all Senators to support this new reauthorization—the first time since 1996—of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I see my distinguished friend the Senator from Iowa on the floor. I am here, very simply, to say that we are about to vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a piece of legislation that would provide childcare to 1.5 million children so that their mothers can work or continue their education or training.

I have repeated on this floor several times the story of a young woman in Memphis, TN, who attended LeMoyne-Owen College and received about \$500 a month to pay for childcare for her child so she could get her degree. She then graduated from LeMoyne-Owen with a business degree and was able to work her way up to the position of assistant manager at a local Walmart. The block grant helped her be able to continue her education and obtain a good job so that she can now pay for the childcare costs of her second child on her own.

This bill has strong support on both sides of the aisle, but we Republicans especially like it because it is a block grant to the States. The grant gives States flexibility with minimal Federal rules. It also encourages the use of vouchers allowing that young mother I just mentioned to choose among her various options for childcare.

It doesn't mandate from Washington, it enables from Washington. It recognizes that leaders in States have very good judgment, and what might work in Hawaii might not in Tennessee or

Iowa. Different programs may work better in different jurisdictions, and that mothers themselves ought to be able to make the judgment of where their child receives care.

I wish to thank Senator HARKIN, who is retiring this year, and who is chairman of the committee that has produced this bill. He and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR have worked for years on this piece of legislation. It received a lot of consideration in the Senate and in the House. We all would like to see the Senate function better, and it did function better for this bill. When we first brought this to the Senate floor in March, the majority leader didn't fill the tree or file cloture. We considered 50 amendments and adopted 18 of them. Fourteen of them we agreed to adopt by voice vote, four of them received roll call votes, and then we passed the bill 96 to 2. The House made a few minor changes in it. They did it while consulting with Senator HARKIN and me and others who did work on the bill, and we have come to this point today.

This is a very important piece of legislation, helping 900,000 families, 1.5 million children across the country. In Tennessee alone, 21,000 families will be helped by this. In our society today, worksite daycare is not available to every single mother or father who has a child, and this helps with that.

I thank the Senate for its consideration of this very important bill. I thank the House for working with the Senate and I congratulate Senator HARKIN. I imagine he has mentioned it, but if he hasn't, this will be the 21st piece of legislation the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has produced this year that will become law under his leadership. As Senator HARKIN goes back to Des Moines, IA, and rocks on his front porch and pursues the next chapter of his life, he can say that in the Senate, which didn't always work that well in this Congress, his committee did, and it has benefited lots of families and lots of children.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the bill, and I am glad to see it as a good example of what I hope to see more of as we move into the new year.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

RECOGNIZING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. I'm glad to say that the bill before us today contains a number of provisions intended to facilitate homeless families' access to quality child care. I appreciate the work of my colleagues, particularly Chairman HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI and Ranking Member MILLER, in supporting these important new provisions.

Unfortunately, young children who are homeless are more likely to have developmental delays, and more health and mental health problems, than low-income housed children. At the same time, their mothers are less likely to receive childcare subsidies than are poor mothers at-risk of homelessness. So I believe that this legislation will be important in helping rectify this inequity.

However, I want to ensure there is a common understanding of who we intend to include within the definition of homeless families or homeless children. The most common Federal definition of homelessness is found in the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, at 42 U.S.C. §11434A. That definition applies to public schools, including local educational agency preschool programs, and is used in the Head Start Act, Higher Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, among others. The definition includes children and youth who are staying in motels, or with others temporarily because they have nowhere else to go. Eighty percent of the homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools last year were staying in these situations when they were first identified.

Is it the chairman's intention that the definition of homeless to be applied to the provisions of this bill be the definition from subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I thank the Senator for her important question. Her understanding is correct. The definition of homeless children and youth found at 42 U.S.C. §11434A is the definition we intend to apply to homeless children and families where those terms are used in this bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for that clarification, which will assist States in implementing the provisions of this bill by aligning definitions across Federal programs serving homeless families.

This bill overlaps with the McKinney-Vento Act in another way which I would like to clarify. This bill requires State plans to describe how the State will coordinate childcare services with programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children and children in foster care, in order to expand accessibility and continuity of care and assist children enrolled in early childhood programs to receive full-day services.

The McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is the only education program specifically designed to promote academic success for homeless students. The McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency

to designate a homeless education liaison, whose job includes identifying homeless children and youth and ensuring homeless children and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency. In order for States to expand accessibility and continuity of care for homeless children, it is critically important that McKinney-Vento liaisons are among the professionals with whom States and child care providers coordinate.

Is it Senator MIKULSKI's understanding and intention that McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons be included among those programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children with which States should coordinate child care services?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the Senator for raising the issue of local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. Given their central role and responsibility in identifying homeless children and ensuring they receive education and early childhood education services for which they are eligible, liaisons are important partners in coordinating childcare services. The Senate-passed version of this legislation had called for coordination with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. It is indeed our intention that State plans include a description of how the State will coordinate childcare services with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for clarifying the bill's intent that McKinney-Vento liaisons be part of States' coordination of childcare services.

I would also like to clarify the intent behind two related bill provisions. First, this bill requires State plans to include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements applicable to childcare providers which are designed to protect children's health and safety, including the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. This provision is similar to language found in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Head Start Act. It recognizes that families experiencing homelessness have particular challenges in producing health records and other documents, due largely to their poverty and unstable living situations.

At the same time, the bill requires States to use funds for activities that improve access to childcare services, including the use of procedures to permit enrollment—after an initial eligibility determination—of homeless children while required documentation is

obtained. I would ask the chairman, is it the intent of the bill language that regardless of the procedures States use to permit enrollment while required documentation is obtained, States still must establish a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, again, I thank the Senator for this clarifying question. Under this bill, State plans must include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements that include the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. That requirement stands apart from procedures the State uses to permit enrollment of homeless children while other required documentation is obtained.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, Thank you for that explanation. I am pleased to hear that homeless children will be able to receive services while their families are taking actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.

Regarding enrollment while other required documentation is obtained, the bill language requires that States use procedures to ensure such enrollment occurs after an initial eligibility determination is made. Yet, eligibility documentation is among the required documentation homeless families must produce. However, we know that homeless families struggle to produce documents, due to their poverty and mobility. Can Senator MIKULSKI, please clarify the intent of the phrase "after an initial eligibility determination?"

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, The language calls for procedures to permit enrollment of homeless children, after an initial eligibility determination, while required documentation is obtained. To implement this language and its intent, States will need to implement procedures to make abbreviated initial eligibility determinations of homeless children and enroll them immediately, while required documentation, including some documentation to prove eligibility, is obtained.

For example, a State could adopt a procedure that a child referred by a local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless liaison would be determined to be initially eligible and enrolled in services immediately, while required documentation is obtained. The family then would have to take necessary steps to provide standard documentation to establish eligibility.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI for that important clarification. The intent of the

bill as she describes it will greatly improve homeless children's access to childcare. I appreciate the Senator's dedication to this legislation, which helps expand opportunity for families and enhance the quality of childcare for young people across the country.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I support the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, reauthorization bill, S. 1086, which is now pending before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, which would send it to the President for his signature. I want to congratulate my colleagues, Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership on this bill, and Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator BURR. This reauthorization has truly been a bipartisan effort and illustrative of the Senate HELP Committee's effectiveness this Congress, and I congratulate Senator HARKIN on his leadership of this committee as he retires from Congress next month. Through the HELP Committee's leadership and work with their House counterparts, this legislation will serve to better support working families and children and make a significant improvement to our current childcare programs.

The last time we authorized this program was in 1996. I know that very well because I was serving in the House of Representatives at the time and had the opportunity to be the ranking member on the Human Resources Subcommittee in the House Ways and Means Committee that was considering welfare reform and childcare, and how we could reward families for work, and how our welfare system could become a transitional program rather than a permanent program that would allow people, particularly moms, to be able to get into the workforce, stay in the workforce and climb up the economic ladder.

Today, under CCDBG, there are 1.6 million children eligible for program services. CCDBG provides not only a safe environment for those children, but allows 70 percent of their parents to work and an educational opportunity for the child at the same time. A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, study showed that parents who had their children in childcare for 2 years or more were more likely to remain employed. CCDBG provides stable employment, help for the child, and a positive economic situation for the family.

This bi-cameral, bi-partisan CCDBG reauthorization bill before us makes improvements to this successful program, as it should. It allows the States to develop 13 specific health and safety standards, such as first aid and CPR, and SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome. It is keeping our children safer in childcare by having safety standards that are developed. This legislation requires the States to do annual health,

safety, and fire inspections of nearly all childcare providers; expands comprehensive background checks for those who are involved in childcare; steadily increases the annual authorization of appropriations; phases in a doubling of the annual set-aside for quality initiatives to 9 percent by 2019; makes information available online for parents to make informed childcare decisions; promotes more transparency in the program; and provides additional State flexibility on how they can set priorities within the childcare program. This program is a model of how federalism should operate, with the Federal Government and the States collaborating together to improve the quality of life for many middle-class American families.

This legislation will accomplish our objectives so we can get more people into the workforce and provide access to early childhood education to help children succeed in life. This program will allow us to help American families and strengthen the economic security of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The motion to concur with amendment No. 3923 is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "aye" and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "aye."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Nelson
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johanns	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Chambliss	Kaine	Shelby
Coats	King	Stabenow
Cochran	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Klobuchar	Toomey
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Corker	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Levin	Vitter
Crapo	Manchin	Walsh
Cruz	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	McCain	Warren
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden
Fischer	Merkley	
Flake	Mikulski	

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—11

Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Murkowski	Shaheen
Coburn	Murray	Thune
Hagan	Rubio	

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, while I was unable to vote on the motion to

concur in the House Amendment to S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, I would have recorded a vote in opposition to this bill, just as I did when this bill was originally before the Senate in February. I have three reasons to oppose this bill.

First, the Constitution does not permit the Federal Government to operate this program. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists all the powers given to the Federal Government, none of which includes funding for and oversight of State and local child care programs.

Second, this bill will increase the authorized size of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, program by over \$1 billion without eliminating or reducing a lower priority program elsewhere. At a time when our national debt is over \$17 trillion, Congress continues to spend away the future of the next generation. This reauthorization will exacerbate this problem, and our children will deal with the harsh consequences of our Nation's future fiscal insolvency.

Third, this CCDBG reauthorization does not address previously identified duplication and overlap in existing Federal child care programs and tax expenditures. While it does include a provision for the Department of Health and Human Services to study the issue, I do not believe it goes far enough. The Government Accountability Office has already identified 33 programs for which child care is an eligible use of funds. For example, States often transfer billions of dollars in funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program to use in their child care programs. Ultimately, this kind of overlap and duplication underscores Congress' reckless disregard for our future well-being.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 1050, 898, 961, and 533—these are career ambassadors, in case anyone wants to know—that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be

considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. REID. We expect these nominations to be approved by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote to end Republican filibusters on three district court nominations for Georgia, two of which are judicial emergency vacancies. The Senate should not need to waste our time jumping through these procedural hurdles to confirm nominees who are strongly supported by two Republican home State Senators.

After we vote to invoke cloture and confirm these three nominees, we will still have 17 judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar—11 to serve on district courts and 6 to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Another nine judicial nominees will be recommended by the Judiciary Committee this Thursday. By the end of the week, there will be 26 nominees reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee pending before the full Senate. All but a few of these nominees will have been reported unanimously and several are from States with at least one and sometimes two Republican home State Senators, including: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. These nominees should all be confirmed before we recess in December. As I mentioned last week, I hope that Senate Republicans will work with Senate Democrats to "clear the decks" on pending business before the end of the 113th Congress, as the incoming majority leader has suggested.

So let us work together as we have in past lameduck sessions to get these nominees confirmed and serving their communities. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm all 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm all 14 of President Bush's judicial nominations pending on the Executive Calendar, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. We should do the same now.

Leslie Abrams is nominated to fill a vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. She is currently an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. Prior to

becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, she was in private practice at two nationally known law firms. After graduating from Yale Law School, Ms. Abrams served as a law clerk to Judge Marvin J. Garbis on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Mark Cohen is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He has extensive experience, having practiced for over 30 years in both the public and private sectors. Currently a partner at the law firm Troutman Sanders, Mr. Cohen has also served as counsel to former Georgia Governor, Zell Miller, and spent part of his legal career at the Georgia office of the attorney general.

Eleanor Ross is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She currently serves as a State court judge in DeKalb County, where she has presided over hundreds of cases dealing with both civil and criminal matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she served in various capacities as both a State and Federal prosecutor for over a decade. Throughout her legal career, she has tried over 150 cases to verdict.

All three of these nominees have the strong support of their Republican home State Senators, Senator CHAMBLISS and Senator ISAKSON. All three were also reported unanimously from the Judiciary Committee 5 months ago by voice vote.

If confirmed, Leslie Abrams and Eleanor Ross will be the first African-American women to ever serve as Federal judges in the State of Georgia. This historic moment is long overdue.

In the few remaining days of this Congress, I hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm nominees to their own home States.

I hope that all Senators will vote to end the filibuster of these nominations today and confirm them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Abrams nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Hatch	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Brown	Isakson	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Kirk	Stabenow
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Tester
Coats	Landrieu	Toomey
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Vitter
Cornyn	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wicker
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—28

Alexander	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Blunt	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Burr	Johanns	Scott
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 min-

utes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Cohen nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back time on this side.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time being yielded back, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Ayotte	Coats	Harkin
Baldwin	Cochran	Hatch
Begich	Collins	Heinrich
Bennet	Coons	Heitkamp
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Hirono
Booker	Donnelly	Isakson
Brown	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Cantwell	Feinstein	Kaine
Cardin	Flake	King
Carper	Franken	Klobuchar
Casey	Gillibrand	Landrieu
Chambliss	Graham	Leahy

Levin	Pryor	Udall (CO)
Manchin	Reed	Udall (NM)
Markey	Reid	Vitter
McCaskill	Rockefeller	Walsh
Menendez	Rubio	Warner
Merkley	Schatz	Warren
Mikulski	Schumer	Whitehouse
Murkowski	Shaheen	Wicker
Murphy	Stabenow	Wyden
Murray	Tester	
Nelson	Toomey	

NAYS—29

Alexander	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Heller	Paul
Blunt	Hoeven	Portman
Boozman	Inhofe	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote to invoke cloture on the Ross nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Hatch	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Inhofe	Reid
Cantwell	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	King	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—29

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Johanns	Scott
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Corker	Kirk	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Hagan	Toomey
Coburn	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

NOMINATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NOMINATION OF THEODORE G. OSIUS III, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NOMINATION OF ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

NOMINATION OF KAREN CLARK STANTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates; Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda; and Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

VOTE ON LEAF NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON OSIUS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RUGGLES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON STANTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate con-

sider Calendar Nos. 927, 954, 1047, 1048, and 1052; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in this series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations that I have listed here to be confirmed by voice vote tomorrow.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Doby on his service to the U.S. Senate and the Capitol Hill community. A loving husband and devoted father, Chris has dedicated three decades of his life to the Senate.

Chris began working for the Senate Disbursing Office as a junior auditor in 1983. His honorable character and strong work ethic quickly earned him greater responsibility. Before becoming the assistant financial clerk Chris served as auditor, audit counselor, senior auditor, senior auditor/counselor, financial manager system analyst, systems administrator and IT systems administrator. In 2005 Chris became the financial clerk of the Senate where he has served with distinction.

His discipline and special attention to detail have been remarkable. Chris is best known for his willingness to share his extensive institutional knowledge and for his calm demeanor. When faced with the difficulties of government shutdowns and the challenges of sequestration, Chris remained steadfast, and encouraged others to do the same. He has served this body, our staff and the entire Capitol Hill community with character and conviction and he will be greatly missed.

I join my colleagues in wishing Chris all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend last Wednesday's cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. I was with my family welcoming my new grandson. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported both cloture motions.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHANDLER III

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding soldier who has, for the last three and one-half years, served as the Army Chief of Staff's primary advisor on matters related to the needs and welfare of all enlisted soldiers and their families.

In January, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler will retire after 33 years of distinguished service to the Army and the Nation. Throughout his career, he has been an exceptional leader and has personified the values of duty, integrity, and selfless service in all of the missions to which he has contributed.

SMA Chandler was born in Whittier, CA and enlisted in the Army in September 1981. He attended one station unit training at Fort Knox, KY and graduated as a 19E armor crewman.

SMA Chandler has served in every tank crewman position and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. He also served as the 19th Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, the first enlisted commandant of that academy in its history.

I know that SMA Chandler is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his twelve grandchildren, and I wish he and his wife Jeanne the very best. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler and his family for their many years of commitment, sacrifices, and service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Turner Elementary School of Turner, ME, on being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Turner Elementary was one of only 337 schools across the country and the only school from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant

gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the remarkable progress that Turner Elementary has made over the past several years in closing student achievement gaps. These outstanding improvements can be attributed to the school's emphasis on professional development opportunities for its teachers and to its commitment to educating the whole child. Turner Elementary has strengthened its curriculum initiatives in math, reading, and writing and has also benefited greatly from its talented and dedicated leadership team, which helps students, parents, and educators set and reach their goals.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Turner Elementary School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

RECOGNIZING CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Cedarville Elementary School of Fort Wayne, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as Exemplary High Performing, schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment, or as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics. Cedarville Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

Cedarville Elementary School is dedicated to combining quality education with innovative community involvement. By collaborating with community partners in Fort Wayne, Cedarville imparts on students not only the value of a great education, but

also how to foster strong relationships for the future. These teaching methods have led Cedarville Elementary School to consistently achieve both an A-rating and a four star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. With hard work, Cedarville Elementary will continue to help build a stronger and better Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Bradley R. Bakle of Cedarville Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Cedarville Elementary School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Sprunica Elementary School of Nineveh, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Sprunica Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Sprunica Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was 92 percent for third grade and 93 percent for fourth grade. By giving the student body a variety of tools for early educational development, such as flexibility to pursue their own reading interests and observing the many facets of nature outside of the classroom, the staff at Sprunica Elementary School provides students with an independent and hands on learning environment. Students can be challenged at their own pace. Beyond the classroom setting, the staff dedicates their time

to help the student body develop strategies to become more respectful and aware citizens within the greater town of Nineveh through community service. In addition to its Blue Ribbon School recognition, it is no wonder that Sprunica has also been selected as an Indiana four star school.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Dr. Abbie Suzanne Oliver of Sprunica Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Sprunica Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MERLE SIDENER GIFTED ACADEMY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also applaud Merle Sidener Gifted Academy of Indianapolis, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum, and students are provided a different approach to learning through the incorporation of technology. Students are given the opportunity of choice in their academic development—whether they want to learn a foreign language, learn how to play chess, or even take up karate. This approach helps keep the learning process not only fresh but exciting. In addition, the students at Merle Sidener Gifted Academy are taught to be aware of, not only their surroundings, but of global issues that affect people from different cultures.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tennille Wallace of Merle Sidener

Gifted Academy, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, and I wish the staff and students continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF SHANE CONLAN INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan for being named to the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

On the night of January 2, 1987, more than 52 million Americans were introduced to Shane Patrick Conlan, then the 22-year-old cocaptain of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions. This was the brightest of spotlights—the bowl game between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami still remains the most viewed college football game of all time and Conlan's performance was worthy of the stage. Despite an injured knee and a twisted ankle, Conlan intercepted his Heisman Trophy-winning opponent two times, returning one for 40 yards to set up Penn State's game-winning touchdown. This National Championship victory against a highly favored opponent and the accompanying defensive most valuable player award would be crowning achievements in a storied college career.

Mr. Conlan's origins are much more modest than that memorable night in the desert of Arizona. This son of a State policeman and a grocery store clerk grew up in a western New York town that was too small for even a spotlight. The relative obscurity of Frewsburg almost hid the young Conlan's athletic prowess. Even though he was named Western New York Player of the Year in 1981, Mr. Conlan only had one scholarship offer waiting for him when he graduated high school: Penn State.

In State College Mr. Conlan would evolve from a 6'3", 185 pound, mild-mannered freshman to become one of the most significant contributors to Penn State's cherished legacy as "Linebacker U." A 4-year letterman, 3-year starter, and first-team All-American, Mr. Conlan helped lead a football team that would go 23-to-1 over his final 2 years. In a lasting display of the reverence for Mr. Conlan in Happy Valley, several star linebackers at his alma mater have since donned his No. 31 as a tribute to his success and leadership, while he wore the blue and white. This October 25 his university and fans honored Mr. Conlan once again with a mid game salute by a sold-out crowd of 107,895 at Beaver Stadium.

After graduation from Penn State with a degree in administration of jus-

tice, success would follow Mr. Conlan to the National Football League. There he would be named Defensive Rookie of the Year and earn three trips to the Pro Bowl during a 9-year career. Today, Mr. Conlan resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife Caroline and their four children: Patrick, Christopher, Mary Katherine, and Daniel.

I am privileged to have the opportunity and the venue to offer congratulations to this adopted son of my State and thank him for his significant contributions to college football, the Penn State University community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him all the best as he is inducted as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame this December. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lincoln, NH—a town in Grafton County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Located in the heart of the White Mountains, Lincoln is renowned for its spectacular scenery. Several of New Hampshire's natural wonders are in Lincoln, including "the basin" at Franconia Notch State Park, Indian Head Profile Rock formation, and the Flume Gorge—all examples of the Granite State's unique natural beauty.

The town of Lincoln was named for Henry Fiennes Pelham-Clinton, the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, 9th Earl of Lincoln. It was granted in 1764 by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth to a group of 70 land investors from Connecticut. The grant was so large that today Lincoln remains the second largest town by area in the State.

Lincoln's location near the Pemigewasset River was integral to the development of its logging and paper industries, an important part of the town's history. By the mid-19th century, Lincoln was a center for processing and shipping timber. North Country businessman James E. Henry purchased over 100,000 acres of timber at the turn of the century and constructed a pulp and paper mill to process the wood in what is now the center of Lincoln. Henry also built the Lincoln House Hotel to house the increasing number of tourists eager to experience the beauty of the White Mountains.

Today, the population of Lincoln has grown to over 1,600 residents, and the town has become one of New Hampshire's most popular tourist destinations. Visitors come from across the Nation to ski at Loon Mountain, hike the Appalachian Trail, spot a moose, or take a ride on the Kancamagus High-

way—one of the State's most scenic routes. Families—including mine—also enjoy stopping by Clark's Trading Post to see Clark's famous trained bears perform, and riding through the mountains aboard the Hobo Railroad. Each September, Lincoln hosts the New Hampshire Highland Games, where thousands gather to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lincoln on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE JACOBS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mike Jacobs, who will retire as the Johnson County judge after more than two decades of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Johnson County judge, Mike was a constant advocate for services, programs, and improvements for Johnson County residents. He worked to secure funding to provide a safe source of drinking water for citizens in county, preserving funding for rural schools and protect rural firefighters. After a tornado devastated Johnson County in 2011, Mike fought to ensure FEMA would allow citizens to receive Federal disaster assistance.

Mike's passion for public service extends beyond the borders of Johnson County. As the president of board of directors for the Association of Arkansas Counties for more than 15 years, Mike has shared his efforts, experiences, and examples of success with others. He is a visionary for the State and the Nation as he also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Counties.

I congratulate Mike for his commitment to public service. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Arkansas. I am grateful to be able to call Mike a friend. While he is stepping down as county judge, Mike will continue public service in another capacity. We will be able to rely on his advice and his experience as he serves as justice of the peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Johnson County judge Mike Jacobs on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING JACK CHATFIELD

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to remember Jack Chatfield, a longtime resident of Hartford, CT, who passed away on September 18, 2014. Although Jack was not well known outside Connecticut, he helped create a better history for our Nation. Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1942, he first came to

Connecticut to attend Trinity College. Later, he returned to teach, first at the Watkinson School and then at Trinity.

Jack Chatfield was an incomparable individual who lived a full life. He interrupted his undergraduate career at Trinity in 1962 to volunteer with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC. An article in the New York Times detailed how southern sheriffs had beaten his college roommate Ralph Allen, and without looking back Jack went down to join him in rural southwest Georgia. At the time, SNCC workers faced great personal danger, both from local law enforcement and from vigilantes known as "nightriders." Immediately after arriving, Jack was wounded by shotgun blasts fired by nightriders while he was eating dinner in the house where he was staying. Despite this, Jack's spirit never wavered, and he kept working to register African Americans to vote. He later said that it was during this time that he became "a true student of American history."

Jack returned to Trinity in the fall of 1963 and graduated in 1965. He went on to earn his master's and doctorate from Columbia University. During this time, he turned his attention to teaching, which he found to be his true calling. He returned to Trinity in 1978.

In the classroom, Jack absolutely excelled. He had an exceptional ability to teach history as if it were happening today. He drew his students in, immersing them in history texts that would make them think and question, building knowledge and skills that they would never forget. His love of the subject was equalled by his unwavering dedication to his students. Whether they were interested or not, brilliant or not, Jack wanted to reach them all. He was honored for his ability with Trinity's Hughes Teaching Prize for junior faculty in 1993 and its Brownell Prize for senior faculty in 2002.

Jack was equally concerned with how his students were faring outside the classroom, and he saw part of his job as facilitating their moral development and understanding of life. With another colleague, he started what became known as the "Friday Table." This informal gathering of students and faculty for Friday lunch became a tradition that endured for over 15 years. Around the table, the participants would talk about history and politics, life at Trinity, and other issues of importance. For many of the students who were fortunate enough to participate, this remains one of their most cherished memories.

The world is a little bit emptier today without Jack Chatfield, but his spirit and vision live on. Robert Kennedy once remarked that our actions could send out ripples of hope and that those ripples together can make a significant difference. Everyone who knew Jack Chatfield came away a little bet-

ter for the experience, and each of these people are one of his ripples of hope. Whether consciously or unconsciously, they will continue to carry on his vision, maintaining his legacy and his spirit for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING JANICE HELWIG

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Janice Helwig for her 20 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki Commission. Janice joined the Helsinki Commission as a member of the professional staff just a few years after the watershed changes in Europe in 1989, including the fall of communism, the unification of Germany, and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

While 1989 did indeed mark a transition to peace and prosperity for many countries in Central Europe—a Europe "whole and free" in the words of President George Bush—by the time Janice joined the Commission staff in late 1994 it was clear that the countries of the region still had many challenges ahead.

At the 1994 Budapest Summit, where Janice first joined the U.S. delegation to the OSCE as a member of the Helsinki Commission contingent, she heard Russian President Boris Yeltsin warn that "Europe, having not yet freed itself from the heritage of the Cold War, is in danger of plunging into a cold peace." Unfortunately, Russia's effort to solidify its own sphere of influence and to block the OSCE's ability to advance human rights has been a hallmark of Moscow's approach throughout Janice's tenure.

As the Helsinki Commission's policy adviser attached to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, Janice has worked on almost every aspect of the Commission's mandate. Her expertise and dedication on Central Asia has particularly stood out.

In the aftermath of the crackdown in Turkmenistan beginning in November 2002, Janice was a tireless advocate for the victims of the regime. She has faithfully and continuously pressed to determine the fate of all those who disappeared and been the voice of those who were silenced.

In the wake of the Uzbekistan Government's massacre in Andijan in 2005, she helped put a spotlight on the tragic loss of life there. She also personally went to Kyrgyzstan after the outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict in 2010 and met with survivors. When Kazakhstani human rights advocate Evgeny Zhovtis was imprisoned in Siberia after a sham process, Janice visited him in prison. An international organization is only a means to an end, not an end to itself. In the case of the OSCE, that end is the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Janice has helped to ensure that the OSCE stays focused on those goals.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Janice Helwig for her commitment and service to the Helsinki Commission.●

RECOGNIZING THE USA CANOE/KAYAK TEAM

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team on their outstanding performance at Deep Creek 2014—the International Canoe Federation, ICF, Canoe Slalom World Championships—held at the Adventure Sports Center International, ASCI, in Garrett County, MD this past September.

U.S. paddlers advanced to the semifinals in every event, despite competing alongside more than 400 Olympic-level athletes from 46 countries. I congratulate U.S. team member and Marylander Fabien Lefevre on winning the Gold Medal in C1M—canoe single men—and advancing to the finals in K1M—kayak single men—and to his team members Michal Smolen, K1M; Casey Eichfeld, C1M; Dana Mann, K1W; and the team of Casey Eichfeld and Devin McEwan, C2M, who paddled their way into semifinals. I offer my congratulations to these outstanding athletes and my encouragement to all the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team as they train and compete for a chance to represent the United States at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

U.S.A. canoe/kayak is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the Olympic sports of flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom as well as the paralympic sport of paracanoe. Since 2009, the team has been led by Olympic Gold Medalist, 10-time U.S. National Champion, and 6-time World Cup Medalist Joe Jacobi. Joe has been a major force in energizing the team and developing the vitality of paddlesports in the United States. I wish him all the best as he steps down from this role later this year to pursue new projects and initiatives.

I also offer my congratulations to Garrett County commissioner Gegan Crawford and Maryland Office of Sports marketing executive director Terry Hasseltine who served as cochair for Deep Creek 2014; Deep Creek 2014 executive director Todd Copley; ASCI executive director Mike Logsdon; and the many sponsors and volunteers who worked together to bring this world-class event to the United States and to provide a warm welcome to athletes and visitors from around the world. This was only the second time this prestigious international competition has been held in the United States since its inception in 1949; I am proud that Mountain Maryland also hosted the World Championships on the Savage River in 1989.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with members of the U.S. team

and students in Garrett College's Adventure Sports Institute who are preparing to lead the next generation of athletes and outdoor sports enthusiasts. I commend the region's leaders for recognizing Mountain Maryland's unique opportunity to support the training and development of leaders in this exciting industry, and I look forward to the continued growth of competitive paddle sports in my State and around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO NARVA ROSS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Narva Ross, who will retire on January 2, 2015 from the Department of the Navy, for her completion of 45 years of Federal service.

Ms. Ross is a native of Plummerville, AR where her mother still resides. She has held positions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Navy. Ms. Ross has been a dedicated Federal employee and has served with distinction in a highly professional and exemplary manner for the Department of the Navy for the last 38 years of her career. She has received numerous performance awards including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1990.

Since July 1, 1990 Ms. Ross has been the lead administrative officer for the Sea Warfare and Weapons Department, Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. The Department has an annual budget of approximately \$500 million and has 100 employees. As administrative officer, Ms. Ross has provided leadership for all human resources functions, and for the implementation of personnel policy and procedures. She also serves as the Department's lead for the creation of administrative business rules and processes, and she manages contracts for support personnel.

Ms. Ross has two children, Antoine and Jerri, and two grandchildren. Her husband, who passed away in 2005 after an extended illness, was a Vietnam Veteran serving 17 months in theater. Ms. Ross cared for her husband during his illness while working full time and raising their children.

Ms. Narva Ross has been a valued servant to the people of the United States and Arkansas. We are fortunate to have had such a dedicated Federal employee and I thank her again for her 45 years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD A. MULDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bernard A. Mulder, a veteran of World War II.

Bernard, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bernard's service in the Second World War because no story of bravery and especially not one from our "greatest generation" should ever be forgotten.

Bernard was born in Beaumont, TX, on July 21, 1922. After growing up in Beaumont and Galveston, he graduated from Galveston High School in 1939. Bernard enlisted with the Army Air Corps in San Antonio in May of 1941.

He trained in Texas and Nevada, and soon after, a squadron commander suggested that he put in for flight training. In December 1941, the same month as Pearl Harbor, Bernard was accepted for primary flight training in Santa Maria, CA. Until then, Bernard had never even been near a plane, much less flown one.

Bernard flew training operations until heading overseas in November 1942 to join the war effort. Bernard was stationed with the British Aid Army in North Africa, where he flew supplies to Cairo and the Western Front, and returned the wounded to hospitals.

During the invasion of Sicily, Bernard dropped off the 82nd Airborne. He did it once again on D-day, dropping them at Sainte Mere-Eglise, which became the first town liberated on the Western Front.

While dropping supplies to troops in France, Bernard's plane was hit and he was shot. In July of 1944 Bernard was flown back to the United States to recover.

One good thing did come out of his 9-month hospital stay: Bernard met the love of his life, an Australian nurse named Margaret. Bernard and Margaret married in July 1945, and in January 1946 Bernard ended his service in the military.

Through the GI bill, Bernard attended the University of Colorado and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Bernard and Margaret then moved to Perth, Australia, in August of 1960, where Bernard worked as a machine designer for 15 years. Margaret sadly passed away in 1975.

After returning to the United States, Bernard discovered his love of travel and began to explore the American West. Bernard has lived in Las Vegas; Guadalajara, Mexico; Arizona; and Wyoming. He's been to all 50 States.

Bernard moved to Billings after he read that monthly bus passes for senior citizens were only \$3. Bernard then offered to make Christmas ornaments for a daycare in downtown Billings, and after 6 years, the teachers asked him to join the Foster Grandparent Program.

Every morning since then, Bernard works with 4- and 5-year-olds. They keep Grandpa Bernard young.

While Bernard was in the hospital, two of his medals were stolen from his belongings. He also never received the rest of the medals he earned. This past September, in the presence of his

friends, who claim him as family, it was my honor to finally present to Bernard his Purple Heart, Air Medal with Two Bronze Service Stars, and Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

Bernard also earned the following medals: Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

These medals are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT HICKS HOUSE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the home of civil rights hero, the late Robert "Bob" Hicks in Bogalusa, LA. This month, the State of Louisiana is unveiling a historical land marker on the site where, 50 years ago, Mr. Hicks organized armed men outside his home to protect civil rights workers from Ku Klux Klan violence.

Mr. Hicks, a former paper mill worker, became a key civil rights leader during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s in his hometown of Bogalusa, LA. He earned the respect of others as a courageous organizer, who not only stood toe-to-toe with the Ku Klux Klan, but also fought against the racist political power structure and the city's discriminatory businesses. He filed a landmark civil rights lawsuit in Federal court against the city requiring the police to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to protect those who protested against injustice in the city. His lawsuits also resulted in orders to desegregate Bogalusa's public schools and the prohibition of new public housing in segregated neighborhoods in the city. His lawsuit against his employer, the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, resulted in the prohibition of unfair hiring tests and seniority systems at the city's major paper mill. Mr. Hicks became the first black supervisor at the paper mill, and his work opened doors for others, as his case became the precedent for similar discrimination cases throughout the region.

On the night of February 1, 1965, Mr. Hicks received a call telling him the Klan was coming to bomb his home, because he was accommodating two white civil rights workers there. Mr. Hicks and his wife Valeria found neighbors willing to take in their children and they reached out to others for protection. Soon, a group of armed men gathered to protect the Hicks' home, and there was never a violent confrontation. Less than 3 weeks later, the leaders of a secretive, paramilitary organization called the Deacons for Defense and Justice visited Bogalusa. The organization had been formed in Jonesboro, LA, in 1964 mainly to protect unarmed civil rights demonstrators from the Klan. After listening to

the Deacons, Mr. Hicks took the lead in forming a Bogalusa chapter, recruiting many of the men who had joined him at his house to protect his family and guests.

Mr. Hicks died of cancer at his home in Bogalusa on April 13, 2010, at the age of 81. He was one of the last surviving Deacon leaders. The historical land marker will be unveiled on November 22, 2014, and it will be the first official State marker honoring an African American in Washington Parish, LA.

I am honored to join with the State of Louisiana in recognizing the Robert "Bob" Hicks House.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

H.R. 1233. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks,

announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2141. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4867. An act to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

H.R. 5682. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

H.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2. An act to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers,

and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 17, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-345. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded; and

Whereas the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of their people, particularly for the generations to come, to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under art. V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That under art. V, Constitution of the United States, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully applies to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with art. V, Constitution of the United States,

until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a similar convention of the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of the other 49 states to apply to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.

POM-346. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized"; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report titled "Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court," questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as an unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to au-

thorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-347. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging that health, safety, and planning concerns be addressed and mitigated in the environmental review and all other review processes before project permissions be granted for Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market natural gas pipeline, compressor, and metering stations expansion project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-348. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association requesting that the government of the United States exempt Puerto Rico from the regulations of the Jones Act, also known in Puerto Rico as the Cabotage Act, to allow foreign-flag ships to bring goods to the country, which has previously been done in similar situations with the U.S. Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, and other jurisdictions of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-349. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association reaffirming the historical opposition of the Puerto Rico Bar Association to the death penalty and urging such actions as are necessary to implement that opposition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1804. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-273).

S. 1893. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-274).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4366. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement (Rept. No. 113-275).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2930. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2931. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2932. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2933. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized use of electronic tracking devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2934. A bill to prohibit trespassing on critical infrastructure used in or affecting interstate commerce to commit a criminal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2935. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 579. A resolution relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., former Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 580. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same

manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1086

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Miss- ing in Action on the Capitol Grounds.

S. 2113

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2113, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social

Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2693

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, supra.

S. 2787

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller ID information.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

AMENDMENT NO. 3741

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3741 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year

2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR., FORMER SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. began his service to the United States Senate as a Doorkeeper in January 1968;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. served the United States Senate as Republican cloakroom assistant, Assistant Secretary for the Minority, Secretary for the Minority, and Secretary for the Majority;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. was elected as Senate Sergeant at Arms during the 104th Congress;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr.'s more than 28 years of service was characterized by a deep and abiding respect for the institution and customs of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 580

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 402,378 chil-

dren in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 102,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 62 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 23,000 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that although "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 50 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 39 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 50,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 400 events were held in the United States, finalizing the adoptions of approximately 4,500 children from foster care; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 22, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Hearing on the nomination of Lauren McFerran to serve as a Member of the National Labor Relations Board."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sarah Cupp of the committee staff on (202) 224-5484.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on November 20, 2014, at 1 p.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Why Are Some Generic Drugs Skyrocketing In Price?"

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Billy Gendell of the committee staff on (202) 224-5480.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Summerside, Marcha Chaudry, and Zack Decker, the interns with my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the proponent debate time for S. 2280 be divided as follows: 2 hours under the control of Senator HOEVEN or his designee and 1 hour under the control of Senator LANDRIEU or her designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and

well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2280, as provided under the previous order; and that the Senate then recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, if all debate time is used, there will be up to five rollcall votes at approximately 6:15 p.m. in relation to the Keystone XL Pipeline, confirmation of the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations, and then 30 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the USA FREEDOM Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 579 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Howard O. Greene, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW E. BUSCH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD D. CLARKE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN F. MULHOLLAND, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. AARON T. WALTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID W. LING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. TROY M. SHOEMAKER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD M. HESTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

LAKEEVA B. GUNDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

TRAVIS S. ANDERSON
AARON S. ARKY
JOHN M. BEAR
BENJAMIN J. BERNARD
PATRICK J. BRAY
DAVID M. CAMP
MICHAEL J. CHAVARRIA
JASON H. DAO
PHILLIP E. DAVIS
GREGORY L. DESCOVICH
ANTHONY K. DEVOTO
RIAN Q. EVERETT
ANDREW D. FREEMAN
MICHAEL W. FRITTS
KEVIN L. GARNER
DONALD R. HEAD
JAMES H. HORA
MICHAEL J. HUMARA
DAMIEAN M. JOHNSON
KYLE A. JOHNSON
BRAD W. KASENBERG
SAMEER KHANNA
DOMINIC J. KRAMER
NELS D. LINDBERG
CHARLES A. LONGEWAY
NATHAN M. R. MCCOY
SETH K. POWELL
GRABIELA QUINONES
LUKE RADLOWSKI
ANDREW REGALADO
ERIK S. REYNOLDS
LAURA B. SANTIAGO
KARL Q. SAULT
CHRISTIAN L. SMITH
THAD D. TASSO
RICHARD J. TERRIO II
MICHAEL S. WELLS
JULIAN G. WILSON III

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAREN CLARK STANTON, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

THEODORE G. OSIUS III, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

BARBARA A. LEAF, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, November 17, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 17, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FUNDING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the inclusion of additional funding for Alzheimer's research in the National Institutes of Health's budget. This disease affects over 5 million Americans, and every 67 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer's.

The impact on these patients and their families is immense, and Congress must act now to ensure needed funding is available to researchers willing to understand, treat, and cure Alzheimer's.

As the Appropriations Committee drafts spending legislation for the current fiscal year, it is critical that the NIH budget include an initial \$200 million for Alzheimer's research. The requirement for this funding was validated by the National Alzheimer's Plan, a comprehensive congressionally-directed initiative which serves as a blueprint to ensure that taxpayer dollars are carefully invested in medical research.

One in three seniors who die each year have been diagnosed with Alz-

heimer's or dementia, and the Centers for Disease Control notes that it is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

In addition to the terrible toll on individuals, the costs of treating Alzheimer's will cost over \$214 billion this year. With so much at stake, an investment of \$200 million in 2015 is clearly justified, and we must also continue to provide funding for Alzheimer's research in future years.

On behalf of south Texas families affected by Alzheimer's, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

TERRORIST POACHING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the call of the wild from mammoth African elephants and rhinos has grown meek and blissfully silent.

The culprit: outlaw terrorists who are tracking and hunting down these massive creatures to fund their filthy, lucre terrorist enterprises. Our enemy is sophisticated and well-funded, but their weapons, surveillance equipment and training, food, lodging, and travel cost a lot of money.

ISIS has a terrorist army that has raised billions of dollars through extortion, drugs, bank robbery, kidnapping, and oil smuggling, but there is one source of funding for terrorism that is being overlooked: poaching.

Madam Speaker, the illegal wildlife trade in Africa is a \$7 to \$10 billion a year business. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, a rhino horn sells for \$65,000 a kilogram in Asia. That is more expensive than silver, gold, diamonds, or illicit drugs.

The number one buyer of ivory is none other than China. With big profits and high demand, poaching has risen dramatically.

Madam Speaker, two-thirds of central Africa's forest elephants have been wiped out in the last 10 years. 100,000 elephants were killed in Africa between 2010 and 2012. In just those 10 years, central Africa has lost 64 percent of its elephants, according to National Geographic.

One of those elephants killed was Satao, pictured right here before he was killed. Satao was called by some as the world's biggest and largest elephant. Satao had tusks that reached to

the ground, as you can see, but last June, he was found in a swamp, dead, killed for his tusks. He was 45 to 46 years old. The poachers finally got this old bull.

Terrorists have identified this lucrative industry of systematically killing African animals as another source of cash to fund their murderous enterprises. The al Qaeda affiliate al Shabaab generated between \$200,000 and \$600,000 a month from just tusks, according to the African Elephant Action League. The blood money accounted for as much as 40 percent of al Shabaab's total operating budget.

These terrorist poachers not only kill African animals, but they kill the wildlife wardens guarding them as well.

Other terrorist organizations implicated in the illegal poaching trade include Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army in central Africa and Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Unsurprisingly, these terrorists have also taken advantage of the instability and corruption in African governments. Terrorists sell their bounties under the radar in the illicit market. The penalties for those caught poaching are minimal.

So for terrorists who are looking to avoid detection, make a lot of money, and not face consequences if caught, poaching is their grand bargain.

So what is being done? Our intelligence community has yet to establish a clear understanding of which terrorist groups are the most involved in poaching and who facilitates the worldwide transactions from Africa to other countries.

We need wildlife trackers to track the money trail and the destruction of these creatures. The administration needs to have a plan to stop this eradication of mammoth animals.

Multiple agencies from the State Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others have been involved in efforts to eradicate poaching, but it appears no agency has taken the lead. Talk must turn to action.

Last February, the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking issued a national strategy for combating wildlife trafficking, but there is no implementation plan. Nine months later, we are still waiting for a strategy to go into effect.

Meanwhile, endangered species are being slaughtered, like Satao, and terrorists are being paid from the sales of endangered species' tusks and horns.

Preserving endangered species is a noble goal, but the fact that killers

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

worldwide are using this money to fund terrorism makes it even more urgent we stop this ruthless criminal conduct.

These terrorists kill animals, so they can get money to kill people. The combination of these two evils, the killing of endangered species and innocent civilians to further radical terrorism, is an international threat.

The world cannot allow radical Islamic terrorists to continue the wholesale slaughter of rhinos and elephants to fund their reign of terror. Make terrorists extinct, not these animals. Otherwise, the only rhinos and elephants our grandkids are going to see are the stuffed animals at Toys "R" Us.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL CARE CORPS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise during National Family Caregivers Month to recognize the millions of family caregivers who do incredible work every day and to talk about the future of caregiving in this country.

Right now, the vast majority of care services in the United States are provided by family caregivers. They do this out of love for their loved ones, to restore and maintain respect and dignity, and because the vast majority of disabled adults and seniors rely on Medicare as their primary insurance, and Medicare does not pay for long-term care services, and they are barely ineligible for Medicaid, which might.

Forty-nine million Americans provide more than 520 billion in care to seniors and adults with disabilities every year. They manage a range of really difficult responsibilities because they have a friend or a loved one who is older or who has a disability and is in need of extra help.

I know how tough it is to be a family caregiver because I am one. My mother, who lives with me in New Mexico, relies on me to oversee her care and also provide financial support. These are difficult arrangements for a number of reasons. Having a parent rely on a child when they have spent their life being the caregiver can be a tough transition to make.

But family caregivers navigate that relationship while taking the time to call insurance companies and hospitals to ensure their loved one is getting proper care and while often having to use their own resources to cover many of the costs associated with that care.

They do it out of love, and they do it because they know that their mother or their husband or their friend wants to remain as independent as possible, and they know that they want to live out their lives with dignity. I think they have earned that right.

But these family caregivers cannot do it alone. They need someone to take their sister to her appointment and when they get busy with a day at work or to make sure that their dad takes his medication while they attend a parent-teacher conference.

Already in this country, we have got more than 4 million men and women who have chosen direct care as a career and provide these kind of services on a paid basis, but if you look at the sheer demographics, that is not nearly enough.

As the baby boom generation continues to age, demand for services will increase. The gap between the number of family caregivers and direct care workers and the number of people who need services will continue to grow.

In 2010, there were seven potential caregivers for every person over the age of 80. By 2030, that ratio is projected to drop by almost half, to 4.1.

In the direct care workforce, demand is projected to grow, so that the U.S. will need to add at least 1 million more direct care workers over the next 10 years.

So we face real challenges in growing a workforce that will help meet the needs of our population. At the same time, our economy continues to slowly recover from the Great Recession.

Young people looking to enter the workforce, along with workers who are willing to retrain, want to find jobs in a field that is growing and can provide them with some job security.

So I see two challenges that I think can be solved with one coordinated national effort called Care Corps. My bill, H.R. 5288, creates a national Care Corps that will place volunteers and communities to work with seniors and individuals with disabilities who need a little extra support to live independently.

In return for their services, volunteers will receive health insurance and other benefits, along with a postservice educational award. This award can be used to pay for up to 2 years of attendance at an institution of higher education or to pay back educational loans.

But I want to end with what I think will be the program's legacy if we are able to get this done. Care Corps provides an opportunity for intergenerational relationships, for seniors and our young people to learn from each other, and for us as a country to gain a better sense of our history to the people that lived it.

Anyone who has ever been a caregiver will tell you not just that it was challenging, but that it was incredibly rewarding.

So I want to thank our family caregivers who are already filling a serious void in this country, and I want to urge my colleagues to support them by supporting the National Care Corps Act.

RECOGNIZING LETTER CARRIER MARGARET HUTCHENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Yadkinville Letter Carrier Margaret Hutchens, who delivers mail in the Country Club Road area, the Booneville end of U.S. 601, and the Hamptonville side of Old U.S. 421 West, upon her induction into the prestigious Million Mile Club.

Margaret received this high honor from the National Safety Council in recognition of having driven in the workplace for at least 30 years or 1 million miles without incurring a preventable motor vehicle accident.

Let's think about the magnitude of travelling 1 million miles. That would be two trips to the moon and back.

At the celebration honoring her accomplishment, Margaret thanked the customers on her route and said she knew God was looking out for her during those 30 years of accident-free driving.

This honor illustrates the dedication to excellence that Margaret practices every day, and her customers are fortunate to have such a reliable and hard-working letter carrier.

□ 1215

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Friday, November 14, was the closing of the public comment period for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed "waters of the United States"—WOTUS, as it is known—rule under the Clean Water Act, which would dramatically expand the scope of Federal authority over water and land uses across the United States.

Enacted in 1972, the Clean Water Act was created as a partnership between the States and the Federal EPA in order to better manage identified pollution sources through a range of pollution control programs.

This new proposed rule is a direct threat to this longstanding federalist approach created by the law, which has been long supported by Republicans and Democrats alike for over four decades.

It is through this federalist model, which enables regulators at the Federal, State, and local levels to provide adequate flexibility to address water quality while accounting for local and regional variations and conditions, that Pennsylvania has demonstrated a

track record of success in improving and protecting the ecological health of its waters. Unfortunately, the proposed rule would dramatically expand the Federal authority to the detriment of our economy and at the expense of existing State-Federal partnerships that have been effective in protecting and improving the biological integrity of our watersheds and waterways.

For this reason, I along with Senator PAT TOOMEY and eight additional members of the Pennsylvania delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives voiced our strong opposition to this flawed policy. In comments submitted Friday to the agencies, we outlined concerns specific to our home State and those of our constituents, including private landowners, counties, municipalities, farmers, foresters, among so many who will be negatively impacted if this rule is allowed to be fully implemented.

Mr. Speaker, there is a widespread agreement that the Clean Water Act has been a beneficial tool for the management and the health of our Nation's watersheds and water quality.

While Congressional intent of the Clean Water Act has been limited to "navigable waters," the extent of the law's jurisdiction has been the subject of much litigation and regulatory action. Complicating the issue further are Supreme Court decisions that have not adequately described the scope of Federal authority under the law resulting, at times, in conflict.

While the existing law and the Supreme Court have left uncertainty regarding what constitutes a "water of the United States," previous holdings have made clear that the Federal Government's authority is not limitless. Unfortunately, the proposed rule assumes just that—limitless Federal authority.

Mr. Speaker, the reason this is so concerning is that many of these issues are best regulated at the State level in a manner that recognizes regional differences in geography, climate, geology, soils, hydrology, and rainfall, among other variables. Rather than strengthen the law, the rule creates more confusion—confusion that will most certainly delay permitting and will undermine strong water quality programs that exist in Pennsylvania and in other States. Moreover, this type of uncertainty is susceptible to inconsistent interpretation and application, which holds the potential for substantial implementation costs across the various Clean Water Act programs, and will likely invite more enforcement actions and third-party litigation.

In addition to jeopardizing existing water quality control programs, the economic impact of the proposed rule will be far-reaching. Activities that drive economic development in Pennsylvania, such as highway and road

construction, pipeline projects, energy production, infrastructure projects, farming, flood control, and public works projects will all be subject to Federal permitting if this proposal is finalized.

For example, the rule would make most ditches into tributaries. Routine maintenance activities in ditches and on-site ponds and impoundments could trigger permits that can cost \$100,000 or more. These permitting requirements would likely trigger additional environmental reviews which would add years to the completion time for ordinary projects, which means more costs for landowners and more regulatory burdens upon the States, all with no guarantee or measurable benefits to our waters.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree that managing the Nation's water is critically important, but in this case, the Federal Government has failed to recognize the fundamental role that States play in meeting our shared goals of clean watersheds and water resources. Mr. Speaker, it is time for EPA and the Corps to vacate this proposal, get back to the drawing board, and fix the fundamental flaws within this rule. The American people, including my constituents in Pennsylvania, deserve as much.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to them the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind each Member that it is their work to develop the strategies and plans of achieving those goals and designs being mindful of the prompting of Your spirit.

You have given to each of them and to us all the abilities to do good works, so we pray that we will be faithful in

our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve.

Bless us all, O God, this day and every day to come. And may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING RICHARD FISHER

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Richard Fisher, who will be retiring as the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas this coming spring.

President Fisher's work at the institution for the past 10 years has served our area well. Richard has been a fearless advocate for the low regulation of the Texas economy. Because of his stance, north Texas has experienced tremendous economic growth and vitality during the time of his presidency.

I feel privileged to have known and worked closely with President Fisher during the time he and I worked together on economic development summits in southeast Fort Worth. Those were a huge success and were helpful to the small businesses that were in an economically challenged area. He was always available and helpful to me personally. His stances on preventing banks that are too big to fail from coming to the taxpayer for bailouts was inspiring.

On behalf of the 26th District of Texas, I commend President Richard Fisher on a job well done. I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him every success in the future.

PRESIDENT DECEIVED AMERICANS ABOUT OBAMACARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Charleston Post and Courier, Charles Krauthammer points out the President's deceit when misrepresenting ObamaCare before shoving it through a Democratic Congress.

According to the column, an "October 2013 video has surfaced that shows MIT Professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of ObamaCare, admitting that, in order to get it passed, the law was made deliberately obscure and deceptive. It constitutes the ultimate vindication of the charge that ObamaCare was sold on a pack of lies."

As more is revealed about the truth behind the President's manipulation when passing ObamaCare, "It's refreshing that 'the most transparent administration in history' . . . should finally display candor about its signature act of social change. Inadvertently, of course. But now we know what lay behind Obama's smooth . . . arrogance . . . that rules in the name of the citizenry it mocks, disdains, and deliberately, contemptuously deceives."

It is sad Democratic elitists believe their voters are stupid.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. The President should take action to never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President.

MIZZOU 175TH BIRTHDAY

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my alma mater, the University of Missouri, as it celebrates 175 years of providing quality education, cutting-edge research, and practical extension services to all Missourians.

Mizzou was the first State university established west of the Mississippi and is a school rich with tradition. I am humbled to be a graduate of such a longstanding, esteemed institution.

The University of Missouri was home to the first journalism school in the world and is still recognized as one of the best schools around the world for agriculture, business, and journalism, just to name a few.

The core values of the University of Missouri—respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence—leave a mark on every individual influenced by this institution and have helped shape me as an American citizen and lawmaker.

Throughout my career in education and public service, I have striven to uphold the values of the university and sleep well knowing that all alumni, present and future, will do the same.

I am so proud to be a Tiger, and I wish a very happy birthday to Mizzou. Go Tigers!

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2014

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5069) to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5069

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PRICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP TO FUND ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR MI- GRATORY BIRDS.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act is amended—

(1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 718b(b))—

(A) by striking "1990, and" and inserting "1990,"; and

(B) by striking "for each hunting year thereafter" and inserting "for hunting years 1991 through 2013, and \$25 for each hunting year thereafter";

(2) by adding at the end of section 2 (16 U.S.C. 718b) the following:

"(c) REDUCTION IN PRICE OF STAMP.—The Secretary may reduce the price of each stamp sold under the provisions of this section for a hunting year if the Secretary determines that the increase in the price of the stamp after hunting year 2013 resulted in a reduction in revenues deposited into the fund."; and

(3) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 718d)—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period the following: "in which there shall be a subaccount to which the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer all amounts in excess of \$15 that are received from the sale of each stamp sold for each hunting year after hunting year 2013";

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "So much" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (4), so much";

(C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "paragraph (3)" and inserting "paragraphs (3) and (4)"; and

(D) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

"(4) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—Amounts in the subaccount referred to in subsection (a)(3) shall be used by the Secretary solely to acquire easements in real property in the United States for conservation of migratory birds."

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

Section 4 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718d) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking so much as precedes "The Secretary may" and inserting the following:

"(c) PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.—"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each annual report of the Commission under section 3 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715b)—

"(1) a description of activities conducted under subsection (c) in the year covered by the report;

"(2) an annual assessment of the status of wetlands conservation projects for migratory bird conservation purposes, including a clear and accurate accounting of—

"(A) all expenditures by Federal and State agencies under this section; and

"(B) all expenditures made for fee-simple acquisition of Federal lands in the United States, including the amount paid and acreage of each parcel acquired in each acquisition;

"(3) an analysis of the refuge lands opened, and refuge lands closed, for hunting and fishing in the year covered by the report, including—

"(A) identification of the specific areas in each refuge and the reasons for the closure or opening; and

"(B) a detailed description of each closure including detailed justification for such closure;

"(4) the total number of acres of refuge land open for hunting and fishing, and the total number of acres of refuge land closed for hunting and fishing, in the year covered by the report; and

"(5) a separate report on the hunting and fishing status of those lands added to the system in the year covered by the report."

SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FOR TAKINGS BY RURAL ALASKA SUBSISTENCE USERS.

Section 1(a)(2) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(2)) is amended by striking "or" after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting "; or", and by adding at the end the following:

"(D) by a rural Alaska resident for subsistence uses (as that term is defined in section 803 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3113))."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As author of H.R. 5069, I am pleased that we are considering this bipartisan bill that has been cosponsored by the dean of the House of Representatives, the leadership of the Congressional

Sportsmen's Caucus, and the entire Louisiana House congressional delegation.

The Federal Duck Stamp Act will modestly increase the price of the Federal duck stamp for the first time in 23 years and, by so doing, restore the buying power of this conservation tool which has been used to acquire, conserve, lease, and restore thousands of acres of wetlands.

Wetlands are critical to the survival of not only migratory waterfowl but to the millions of Americans who live along our coastlines. The U.S. Geological Survey has calculated that for every 2.5 miles a hurricane travels across wetlands, the storm surge is reduced by 1 foot. It is therefore likely that wetlands were directly responsible for saving lives and property in the gulf coast that were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

This legislation has been endorsed by Ducks Unlimited and more than 30 national conservation organizations, including the National Rifle Association, Boone and Crockett Club, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

In their support letter, these groups noted that, "In order for us to pass down our hunting heritage from generation to generation, sustain a vital and viable resource for wildlife and people, we must increase the price of the duck stamp this year."

I urge adoption of H.R. 5069, and I want to thank all of the Members who join with me in this effort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5069 would authorize an increase in the price of the Federal duck stamp from \$15 to \$25. Duck stamp revenue funds the purchase and conservation of wetland habitats critical to maintaining waterfowl populations and other wildlife prized by hunters. This increase will restore the purchasing power of the duck stamp dollars to nearly 1991 levels, the last time Congress increased the price of the duck stamp.

The current price of the stamp is \$15, which equates to less than \$9 in 1991. The increase is expected to generate \$5 million in revenue for securing conservation easements on land in the United States.

While I take issue with some of the requirements and restrictions this bill would place on the Fish and Wildlife Service, the opportunity to generate these additional funds for wetland conservation with the support of hunters and other nature lovers is one that we must take advantage of.

I support the passage of the bill and congratulate the author of the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in closing that not only do

we have huge bipartisan support for this bill, but I just want to point out, as an example, in 2012, we spent, essentially, an equal amount of money on both the fee simple land purchase and the easement. Around \$16- to \$17 million each. But look at the bang for the buck we got. We purchased 14,747 acres fee simple, but on easements we got 48,144.

So it is obvious that not only is this a huge savings to the taxpayer, this is a much better deal, but also think about the maintenance costs that are now going to be unnecessary because landowners with the easements will continue to maintain the land rather than taxpayers.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues and I will vote on the Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014. This bill would raise the price of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (more commonly known as "Duck Stamps"), for the first time in 23 years, from \$15 to \$25. I am a proud supporter of this legislation and ask my colleagues to vote in favor.

Ever since Congress created the Duck Stamp program in 1934, hunters have bought duck stamps to help pay for the protection of wildlife habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses the money generated from these sales to acquire new land or preserve existing wildlife refuges for water fowl. Duck Stamps also serve as an entrance pass for any national wildlife refuge that charges admission, so they are in effect a user fee for hunters and bird watchers.

Today, because of rising land prices and inflation in general, the value of the Duck Stamp has fallen by 40 percent, depriving conservation efforts of crucial funds. As an avid hunter, I understand the importance of investing in our wildlife habitats. We need to pass these traditions on to the next generation, so they can learn the importance of being good stewards of the land.

Since the federal government already owns nearly one third of our country's land, this bill prohibits new land acquisition and requires the funds generated from the fee increase to be used solely for acquiring easements for migratory birds. But since the funds collected from Duck Stamp sales are technically classified as revenues, increasing the fees to allow for higher spending on protecting migratory-bird habitats does not comply with the House's "Cut as You Go" rule (Rule XXI, Clause 10).

In the past, we've made exceptions for spending increases that are offset with revenue increases for selected programs when there is a close connection between the revenues and the spending. For example, budget resolutions often include reserve funds that effectively waive the "Cut as You Go" rule for deficit-neutral legislation designed to achieve a specific purpose.

Because the funds generated from this legislation will be user fees, not taxes, and this bill reduces the deficit, I support granting a waiver of the "Cut as You Go" rule for consideration of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5069, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVING A USE RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN LAND IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

The Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center", approved October 31, 1990 (Public Law 101-479), is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any restrictions in the deed, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the parcel comprised of approximately 3.03 acres of land transferred by the United States on April 11, 1989, to the county of Rockingham, Virginia, in deed book number 953 at page 600, together with improvements thereon may be used by the county as if the land had been transferred in fee simple with no use or other restrictions.

"(b) DOCUMENTATION.—As soon as practical after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall take such actions as are necessary to issue a fee simple deed with no restrictions to the land described in subsection (a) to the county of Rockingham, Virginia."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 1989, the Department of the Interior deeded a small parcel of land to Rockingham County, Virginia, for public purpose. This land includes a garage

that had previously been used by the National Park Service.

The County determined a nonprofit childcare center in Broadway, Virginia, would benefit from the use of the garage, and Public Law 101-479 allowed the deed to be changed for the particular use of the childcare center. However, under the terms and restrictions of the transfer, the nonprofit is unable to obtain financing to make improvements and renovations to the property. H.R. 5162 would remove the restrictions on the land so the necessary upgrades may be made to the childcare center.

Congressman GOODLATTE has offered a commonsense bill that will assist the constituents and the community. I urge support for the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5162 removes the use restriction on a 3-acre parcel of Federal land granted in 1990 to Rockingham County, Virginia. The county no longer needs the parcel for child care and seeks to develop it for other purposes.

The 3-acre parcel was given to Rockingham County through the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program. The Federal Lands to Parks Program provides Federal land to counties and to other State and local entities to develop community parks and public spaces. If land granted through this program is no longer needed for its original purpose, the National Park Service has the administrative authority to sell the land at fair market value.

This involves what could be a very lengthy valuation process, but it is important to remember that these assets are owned by the American taxpayers, held in trust by the Federal Government, and they deserve a fair return. In this case, to the best of my knowledge, Rockingham County did not approach the National Park Service to discuss purchasing the land at fair market value. Instead, the county went straight to Congress for this legislative fix.

Revisionary clauses and land use restrictions exist to ensure the fair use of Federal land and a fair return to the American taxpayer. Of course, it is important to look at these on a case-by-case basis, recognizing when Congress should chime in and when it is more appropriate for administrative action. Congress should only get involved when all other options are exhausted.

While there may have been an alternative method to achieving the objective of this legislation, we support the adoption of H.R. 5162.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding the time and the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. HASTINGS, for moving this legislation forward. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona as well for his support and indicate to him that the intention is to continue to use this land for a child care center, but in order to improve the child care center, they need to be able to get financing that is not available with the encumbrance that exists right now.

Mr. Speaker, for over 25 years, a little over 3 acres of land and its associated buildings, previously wholly held by the Federal Government, have been maintained by Rockingham County and the Plains Area Daycare Center in my congressional district.

In 1989, the Federal Government deeded these 3 acres of land to Rockingham County, but prior to this official declaration, Rockingham County had already been maintaining the lands around the facility. The land and building had been used as a garage and maintenance facility for the National Forest Service. However, it was no longer being utilized, and the county was doing upkeep on the land.

The land transfer in 1989 allowed this land to be used for public purposes. The county decided that the nonprofit Plains Area Daycare Center in Broadway, Virginia, which provides child care on a sliding scale and helps many families who otherwise could not afford child care, would benefit from the use of the old garage. Public Law 101-479 allowed the deed to be changed from public use for the particular use of the child care center.

Donations by the community, totaling \$75,000, turned the garage building into a nursery, daycare, and after-school care facility. Additionally, the creation of the daycare center provided for the creation of a playground that the center supports and is open for public use. To be clear, the center and the playground are the sole reason that this previously abandoned government land is being used by the community.

Unfortunately, because of the narrow way Public Law 101-479 was drafted, any extension or maintenance of the physical structures has required approval by the Department of the Interior. In 1998, the county had to obtain permission from the Department to add an addition that was funded through pledges and a county loan, resulting in another \$125,000 worth of improvements by the community.

The building is, once again, in need of repairs, forcing the county to seek approval from the Department of the Interior for repairs. Further, because of the terms of the deed, the daycare center has been unable to get a loan to complete the needed renovations.

I have been pleased to visit the Plains Area Daycare Center on many

occasions. The center is committed to providing high-quality child care on a sliding scale. The center is also committed to making sure children have the skills necessary to enter and thrive in school through early childhood education programs. The investments this center is making in the community are immeasurable. Since opening in 1991, the center has always been at capacity, and it is the only facility of its kind in the community. By passing this legislation and allowing Rockingham County and, in return, the Plains Area Daycare Center more authority over the land, it will ensure that more children and more of the community will be served by this land.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation today is a simple formality. For 25 years, the land has been deeded to Rockingham County but with restriction. It is clear the Federal Government no longer has a vested interest in the land. This property is being used by the county and the community to help those in need. My legislation removes the restrictions on the land to ensure this community investment can continue to thrive.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5162 so that the necessary upgrades may be made to the child care center and so that the community can be better served.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire of the gentleman from Louisiana if he has any more speakers.

Mr. FLEMING. We have no further speakers.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5162.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CAMP PENDLETON MEDAL OF HONOR POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5468) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5468

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAMP PENDLETON MEDAL OF HONOR POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, shall be known and designated as the “Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, of the several postal namings that we are voting on today, almost all of them are honoring members of the military and, disproportionately, members who have given their lives in service to their country, and it is fitting that we should do that. However, H.R. 5468 seeks something very different.

Currently called the “Mainside” Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Post Office, it is not named for anyone. Camp Pendleton has produced more Medal of Honor recipients—most of them posthumously—through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the various gulf wars. Even as we speak today, marines are engaged now in Iraq again, having completed their missions in Afghanistan, and, undoubtedly, the valor they show will someday result in additional Medal of Honor recipients.

It is impossible to name the post office at Camp Pendleton after one marine, no matter how great, or after a few marines, even if they died together in battle—therefore, the unusual naming here at Camp Pendleton, a base that opened in 1942 and that, today, is the largest base of marines anywhere in the world. Over 42,000 marines and corpsmen call Camp Pendleton their home when they are not away from home.

I am humbled and honored to be able to represent Camp Pendleton for my entire nearly 14 years of service in the Congress. As a former Army officer, I have learned a great deal about marines. I have learned even more about their valor. Only in a place like Camp Pendleton would you find that the base band is named after a band leader who earned a Medal of Honor during the Ko-

rean conflict as he, in fact, laid covering fire for his fellow marines from a burning tank.

Therefore, today, we are considering—and I am confident we will name—this post office after all of those who earned America’s highest honor. I envision that the post office will bear the names and, in a book, the recitation of how they each earned America’s highest honor. It has been inspiring to represent them. Those Medal of Honor recipients, I must mention, will include Navy corpsmen, and they will include officers and enlisted men. They will include all of those battles from World War II to tomorrow and the days beyond.

As I ask for this post office to be named, one that I have had the honor of authoring, I might note, for all of those who wonder why we name post offices, I believe, if they come to Camp Pendleton, they will find out why this post office bears the name of a medal and not any one soldier, sailor, marine, or airman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from California. There is nothing I can add, really, to the eloquence of his remarks, and it is fitting that he made them as the person in this body who is representing the men and women of Camp Pendleton.

I have been there, but I don’t serve it. My brother served in the Navy, and I visited him many years ago when he was at Camp Pendleton, and I remember then, as a very young person, being awed by just the incredible display of patriotism that was embodied in that.

The other thing, as I listened to you, Mr. Chairman, what I thought was so good about this is that the whole ethic of the military is that you are in it for everybody else. As for the story about the Medal of Honor winner who was in the band but, before he was in the band, was on a burning tank and provided covering fire at great peril to himself, that is the ethic of the military that, I think, all of us here so admire.

So having a postal naming which doesn’t specifically identify one person but identifies all of the recipients at the highest award that we can give to a military leader is a tremendous idea. In fact, I look forward to my next visit to Camp Pendleton, where, I think, like many Americans who will go visit, I will read this roster and will just stand in awe of the bravery that has been demonstrated by these people throughout our history.

□ 1430

So I really am glad that our remarks are recorded because this statement that the chairman gave, I think, is going to be very good reading for all of us. I do join, of course, in supporting

this naming. I think it is particularly suitable.

Mr. Speaker, 230 years of Camp Pendleton’s existence, think about it. It is just an amazing facility, but more importantly, it has had hundreds of thousands of wonderful Americans who have learned about how to be a patriot, who have gone from there to face very difficult challenges when we needed their bravery to defend our country.

So I join the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) in urging our colleagues to support this naming—it is an especially glorious one—honoring all men and women of the military.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have but two things to say. First of all, I want to thank the California delegation for their unique, bipartisan, unanimous support for this bill.

Lastly, whether it is that bandleader who was a bandleader first, but would have said, “I am an infantryman first,” who served in World War II and died there in Korea, or it is the marines and corpsmen who have given their lives, their blood, their tears, their sweat, whether they were awarded the Medal of Honor, lesser medals, or were not fully recognized for their dedication, all of them, I now know, will have their daily activities, passing the post office or dropping a letter, they will have an opportunity to in fact realize that Congress is grateful for their contributions with the naming of this post office.

I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5468.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLONEL M.J. “MAC” DUBE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5331) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the “Colonel M.J. ‘Mac’ Dube, USMC Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5331

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COLONEL M.J. “MAC” DUBE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, shall be known and designated as the

"Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5331, introduced by my fellow Californian, Mr. PAUL COOK, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the Colonel M.J. "Mac" Dube, U.S. Marine Corps Post Office Building.

First, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, Congressman COOK, the author of the bill, to speak more about this Vietnam war veteran.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5331 would designate the facility that was already mentioned on Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms as the Colonel M.J. "Mac" Dube, United States Marine Corps Post Office Building.

Mac passed away this year, but will always be remembered in Twentynine Palms as a United States Marine and a dedicated public servant.

Mac and I, ironically enough, both served as colonels at the same time, an honor I will always remember and cherish. Mac was a great marine. He served for over 30 years. He earned four Purple Hearts, multiple wars, four Bronze Stars with Combat "V," and a Silver Star.

After a career as the Chief of Staff at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, he retired in Twentynine Palms, where he went to work, ran for office, became the mayor, and became a council member. Then when he was done with that, he served in multiple county offices, oftentimes as a volunteer.

His children grew up there. He was deeply involved and was somebody that, ironically enough, was part of the Marine community on the military side and, obviously, the civilian community and the county side on the other side of the fence.

This is a tribute to a man who dedicated his life to serving his Nation,

serving the Marine Corps, and serving the Twentynine Palms community. He left a legacy for all those who will come after him. He was always in town. He gave so many things to so many people. He was the most generous individual I ever knew, and I think that he will always be remembered in the Twentynine Palms area for his hard work, his dedication, and his patriotism.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am delighted to join in support of this postal naming, and it is just such a pleasure to listen to the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK) talk about a friend he knew who was a fellow colonel and then to see what he did after his life of service in the military, his life of service with his own folks back home, and I look at some of the things he did, and I am just amazed.

He served in 46 combat missions. He earned four Purple Hearts. That means, basically, he dodged death at least four times. How he managed to do this and then put it all behind him—he probably never talked about it; instead, he preferred much more to just find a way to help folks back home when the bullets weren't flying.

But he knew service in the military and service back home were equally important. This is an extraordinary person, and we are very honored that the gentleman is bringing this bill forward and that we will be able to recognize his contributions in the memory of a postal naming.

Mr. COOK. Will the gentleman yield for a comment?

Mr. WELCH. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. COOK. I thank the gentleman.

As I mentioned, I knew Mac very, very well, and I used to joke with him, and I said, "You know, I have two Purple Hearts, and it showed that I was dumb enough to not duck twice, and you have four of them. What does that say about your IQ?"

But he was a true American and would do anything, and I thank the gentleman from Vermont so much for his support of the bill.

Mr. WELCH. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), and Mr. ISSA also thanks you.

It is a tough business we do here, but one of the things about these namings is that it allows us to remind ourselves of what we can aspire to be. I mean, these folks, in war and in peace, who just give themselves to public service selflessly and effectively and then earn the gratitude of the people back home, regardless of party, regardless of politics, they just are trying to do a good thing to make their community a better place and their country a stronger country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I urge strong support for this bipartisan bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5331.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5386) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5386

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, this bill, authored by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER of Missouri, recognizes the last full measure of support for Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan, and I can add nothing more than the author will add, so I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of a great hero.

On June 23, 2007, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a brave young man when United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this young patriot. Daniel Patrick Riordan was born to Rick and Jeanine Riordan on February 17, 1983. He had a twin brother, Nick, and an older sister, Suzanne.

After graduating from St. John Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, Dan attended Southeast Missouri State where he was in the Air Force ROTC program. After graduation, Dan decided to follow his father into the military and joined the U.S. Army, quickly becoming known as "Lieutenant Dan."

Lieutenant Dan became a tank commander, and in 2006, he was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of Demon Company in the First Cavalry Division, Dan served with courage and determination. Despite frequently being outnumbered in enemy territory, Dan was always out on point, leading his platoon into battle. Dan took his leadership responsibilities literally. As he put it, "How can I order my men forward if I'm not willing to go first?"

To those who knew Dan, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was both a fierce and dedicated warrior in the service of our country and a caring and loving gentleman who felt a duty to help those in need.

From a very young age, Dan showed sensitivity beyond his years. At the age of 5 or 6, while attending a funeral, Dan's mom found him sitting with an elderly woman. When she asked him why he was sitting with her, he said, "She looked sad and lonely." It was this kind of compassion that drew him to the U.S. military, his desire to serve, help, and protect those in need.

While at home on leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dan consistently reassured his family that our country's military efforts were truly bringing empowerment and freedom to the people of Iraq. He believed in a cause greater than himself, that of freedom, democracy, and the dignity of all people.

While in the Army, Dan wrote his mother a letter in case he didn't return. One thing he said was, "Don't mourn for me, mom. Celebrate my life." So today, we celebrate First Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan's life by designating the Sappington Branch Post Office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office.

The United States of America owes Dan a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay, but we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on; therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 5386, a bill that names the Sappington Branch Post Office in Missouri's Second Congressional District after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentle lady for her eloquent description of a brave and strong person and a life well-lived, and I am touched by seeing that photograph of the young, strong, healthy, vibrant man who meant so much to his family, as he did to his country, and your story about him as a 5-year-old boy, I found quite touching.

There was just something in him that probably did come from his family that made him, even without knowing why, want to serve, and you can just imagine that that carried forward not only to people in his community and family but to the people of Iraq.

I also was reading about how his original objective in the military was to serve as a pilot. We don't know what the story was as to how he ended up in a tank, but what you know about that story is that his fundamental goal was to serve. How he served was secondary.

□ 1445

He was in a tank, which, as we all know, was one of the most dangerous places any of our men and women in service could be during the war in Iraq.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman for a very inspiring and eloquent statement about a life well lived, about a man who gave his life on behalf of all of us in the United States of America.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WELCH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. I would like to say that I have had the great pleasure and honor of sponsoring several of these post office namings for our fallen heroes, and I have to say it is one of the most moving, touching, and important things that we can do, I think, for our entire community and certainly for the families. So it is a great privilege and honor for me to support the Riordan family today, and I thank the gentleman for his kind words and the chairman for putting all of this forward.

Mr. WELCH. Likewise, we thank you for doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I have no doubt that this will pass, as rightfully it should, but if I can take a moment, looking at that picture of the young lieutenant wearing his cavalry insignia, Army is the only branch that I know of that has two insignias: one when you are stationed when you have heavy armor, one for the cav.

The fact is, in most wars, the enemy is ahead of you and you look for the enemy. In World War II and Korea, people talked about going to the front. In Iraq, there is no front. So every day Lieutenant Riordan knew he was at the

front. Every day he knew in the light-armored vehicle he was riding in that, in fact, an IED could be cranked off either remotely or on his vehicle nearing it at any time.

Our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are not faced by an enemy who has a front. They are faced by an enemy that almost to a person hides behind improvised explosives. More of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen have died because of these devices, not by an enemy at a front, but by a bomb on the road. Lieutenant Riordan was no different.

So when you look at his awards and you look at the way he lived and died, he wasn't fighting a war in which he went to the front to face an enemy; he faced that enemy, and at any moment his life could end, as it did end, by a sneak attack that had no face on it.

The courage of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan is greater in many ways than those who had a reprieve from the front from time to time and who knew when they were going toward their enemy, whether it was toward, if you will, heavy fire or sniper. In Iraq and Afghanistan in the past, the present, and now in the future, our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen face an enemy that they will likely never see, and they are in peril virtually every moment of the day and night. That special relationship is one that I hope the American people understand no generation has faced the way this generation faces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Issa) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5386.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1499) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1499

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, shall be

known and designated as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Army Sergeant Mracek was killed on January 27, 2004, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died of wounds sustained during yet another roadside bomb attack in Iraq. He was only 26 years old, and he had been in Iraq for just 8 days.

Mr. Speaker, loved ones remember Sergeant Mracek as a man who loved Army life and was proud to serve his country. His bravery and his selflessness have inspired us all, and the naming of this post office in his memory is clearly appropriate.

It is my honor to ask the body to honor Sergeant Mracek's service and sacrifice by voting in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting this postal naming bill. I see that we have the sponsor of the bill here.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) to speak directly about this brave American.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I thank the gentleman. Thank you to Senators JOHANNIS and FISCHER and certainly my colleagues here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, under this legislation, the post office building in Chadron, Nebraska, would be named in honor of Sergeant Cory Mracek, a native of Chadron who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq on January 27, 2004.

The son of Jim and Pat Mracek, Cory originally served with the Nebraska National Guard and transferred to Active Duty, where he served with distinction. Sergeant Mracek reenlisted after the September 11, 2001, attacks where he served as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne.

Among other honors, Sergeant Mracek was posthumously awarded the

Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his courage and dedication. Renaming the post office in Chadron in Cory's home town will be a symbol of gratitude to a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Mr. WELCH. I want to thank the gentleman for his remarks and for bringing this forward to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment, too, on how this individual, this man, two times in Korea and then decides he is going to go to Iraq, despite the well-known dangers to his own personal safety, again, another example of a brave American who is willing and did sacrifice his life on behalf of the security of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California, (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1499.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1093) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1093

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1093, introduced by Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another first lieutenant. First Lieutenant Cockrell served his country in World War II. He enlisted in the Marine Corps back in 1937. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Fleet Marine Force. He landed at Guadalcanal. It was his 24th birthday. It was September 18, 1942. First Lieutenant Cockrell led his platoon in assaulting a strongly held enemy position against heavy machine gun fire. During that battle, charging into the face of machine gun fire, something we know all too well for United States Marines, he was killed in action. He died in that engagement.

Mr. Speaker, we often recognize marines because they have given a great deal in this war, along with the other forces. We often recognize Iraq and Afghanistan, and on occasion, we recognize Vietnam veterans as we did today. It is unusual for this body to reach back, as Senator COCHRAN has done, and find such a fitting individual from a war so long ago, the war that gave us America's Greatest Generation, and realize that we have not yet finished thanking those who gave us the freedom to pursue our lives, every person on the floor perhaps having been born after Lieutenant Cockrell died.

So it is altogether fitting that, as we remember the freedoms we enjoy, the opportunity we enjoy, the economy we enjoy, the lieutenant gave his all for that freedom.

With that, I would urge passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague mentioned that it is unusual we reach back. I think he would agree with me that it is wise that we do.

World War II changed the world; and we were so committed to the cause of freedom in World War II, and so many of our predecessors, citizens who served and died before we were born, won a war that would have changed the whole future of the world had we not succeeded. It was individual acts of heroism that made the difference.

Mr. Speaker, this life was a life well lived. His life was one dedicated to service, and First Lieutenant Alvin Cockrell deserves to be remembered. It

is our responsibility to honor all of those who came before us, the members, as Mr. ISSA said, of the Greatest Generation, who won the most brutal but consequential war that has changed the history of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join with my colleagues in fully supporting the naming of this post office after an American who served his country and gave his life, First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there is no question at all, this is, again, another befitting naming.

I would like to thank the Senator for reaching back and finding such a worthy candidate, and I would like to remind all of us, coming off of Veterans Day, that, in fact, this generation of veterans is departing but will be remembered in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California, (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1093.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 885) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 885

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, shall be known and designated as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I am going to defer my comments since the sole House Member from Vermont is available to make his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman. He is up to his usual courteous efforts, and I really do appreciate it. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are pretty proud in Vermont of Thaddeus Stevens, and we are here today in support of the naming of the post office at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, a tiny community, a proud community, in what is called the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, to name the post office there the Thaddeus Stevens Post Office.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont, in 1792. He attended Peacham Academy. It is still there. He went on to the University of Vermont and then graduated from Dartmouth College. That was in 1814.

□ 1500

He then made a big decision and moved to Pennsylvania to study law, but he never left his Vermont values behind. He was elected to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. He served 4 years as a member of the Anti-Masonic Party. In 1849, he was elected to the 34th Congress of the United States, serving as a Whig until 1853—and Mr. ISSA, you'll be happy to know—as a Republican from 1859 until his death in 1868.

As a member of the House of Representatives, he was a very strong voice of opposition to slavery, advocating against the fugitive slave provision in the Compromise of 1850 and actively helping runaway slaves to escape to Canada using the Underground Railroad. We are all proud of that, but in Vermont we are particularly proud that Thaddeus Stevens did this. Our State, Mr. Speaker, was the first State in its Constitution—and we were the 14th State in the Union—to ban slavery. And Thaddeus Stevens took that Vermont point of view and advocated it in the United States House of Representatives.

By 1866, Stevens had helped the Republicans gain control of Congress and set the stage for post-Civil War reconstruction in the South. In his role on the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, Thaddeus Stevens helped draft the Reconstruction Act of 1867 as well as the 14th Amendment, prohibiting States from denying citizens of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law, a constitutional amend-

ment that has done so much to extend the dream in this country of equal opportunity to all of our citizens.

Since Vermont, as I mentioned, was the first State to ban slavery, doing so in its Constitution, I would like to think that Thaddeus Stevens' Vermont beginnings did inform his actions later in life. Today his legacy for promoting and defending equality lives on in Vermont and across the country. I am proud that we are honoring his life's work through the passage of this postal naming bill.

As we prepare to send S. 885 to the President's desk, I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his leadership in working with the Danville community to draft this bill. Senator SANDERS, when he first came to Vermont so many years ago, lived up in the Northeast Kingdom. I also want to thank Senator LEAHY for his very important support. And I want to thank, of course, Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for helping to shepherd this piece of legislation through before the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill to acknowledge Thaddeus Stevens' public service and steadfast dedication to the equality of all citizens regardless of race.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When all speakers have said all that needs to be said and there is only one speaker left, he can't say anything original, so I will simply thank the Congressmen and the Senators for recognizing one of the first Republicans and one of the first Republican principles, one that is no longer owned by any party but in fact owned by all Americans. I move for passage.

I urge support of S. 885, introduced by Senator SANDERS of Vermont which would designate the postal facility located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont on April 4, 1792. He attended nearby Peacham Academy and went on to study at the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College. After graduating from Dartmouth, Stevens moved to Pennsylvania to study law. He practiced law in Gettysburg, and spent four years as a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Thaddeus Stevens served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1853 and from 1859 until his death in 1868. He is best remembered for being a fierce opponent of slavery and discrimination against African-Americans. He was instrumental in the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and fought for African-American rights during Reconstruction.

I ask my colleagues to honor the courageous actions and momentous contributions of this great American by voting in favor of S. 885.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 885.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1512) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1512

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of S. 1512, which was introduced by Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. The bill would designate the postal facility located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office.

Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende died while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was killed on July 27, 2012, when his unit was in the field training and came under enemy attack. During the attack, Specialist Glende was killed by a

mortar round that hit a trailer where he was helping wounded comrades take shelter. A member of his unit said that he saved the lives of five of his fellow soldiers in the attack. Specialist Glende was only 23 years old.

He was a native of Rochester, New York. Theodore graduated from the McQuaid Jesuit High School in 2007 and enrolled at Niagara University. He soon felt the calling to join the United States Army and enlisted. He is survived by his wife, Alexandra, whom he married just months before leaving for his first tour of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to this great American. I ask all of my colleagues to support S. 1512 and the naming of this post office after this brave fallen soldier and hero of our time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of this bill, S. 1512, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office.

As was mentioned, Mr. Glende was born in Rochester, New York. He graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School in 2007 and studied military science at Niagara University. Theodore always knew he wanted to be a soldier and defend his country. A participant in the Niagara University ROTC program, he joined the Army and was assigned to the Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Italy. But after just a few months, Specialist Glende was deployed to Afghanistan.

On July 27, 2012, his unit was attacked and Specialist Glende began caring for five of his fellow soldiers after the unit's medic was injured. Tragically, Specialist Glende was hit by mortar fire. But because of his efforts, the testimony confirms, the five men that he was assisting all survived.

Specialist Glende is survived by his wife, Alexandra, to whom he was only married a short time; his parents; and his younger brother.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the courage exhibited by this young man in the face of overwhelming danger. Because of Specialist Glende's brave actions, five American lives were saved on the battlefield. He deserves our respect for his honorable service. I urge passage of S. 1512.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1512.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHIEF JOSEPH E. WHITE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5142) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5142

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHIEF JOSEPH E. WHITE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 5142, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD). The bill would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building.

Rich Square Police Chief White served in law enforcement for over 30 years. Tragically, Chief White was shot and killed with his own .45-caliber service revolver on July 16, 2000, while investigating a possible gas drive-off or gas station runaway at a local gas station. He was shot after he stopped the vehicle which was wanted in connection with the incident. He is survived by his wife and several of his grown children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Chief White made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We owe a large debt of gratitude for his many years of service. The community and the entire North Carolina delegation support this naming. I support and recommend passage of H.R. 5142.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WELCH for yielding time. Let me also thank Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for bringing my bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5142, a bill that I introduced that will designate the post office in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building. Every Member of the North Carolina House delegation has cosponsored my bill, and I ask my colleagues to join me in passing it today.

Joseph Edward White, Jr., was born on January 12, 1939, in Hertford County, North Carolina, in the town of Ahoskie to Joseph White, Sr., and the former Emma Jane Collins. In 1957, at the age of 18, Mr. White enlisted in the United States Navy and bravely served our country for the next 20 years. After he retired from the Navy, Mr. White and his wife, the former Joyce Risper, moved to Northampton County and settled in the town of Woodland, North Carolina, which would ultimately become home for them and for their three children: Cynthia, Cheryl, and Terrance.

Mr. White found his calling in law enforcement and began his career with the Woodland Police Department in 1980, where he served as an officer and ultimately as chief of police. He later moved to the Northampton County Sheriff's Office and served as a deputy sheriff and also worked as a corrections officer at Odom Correctional Institution, located just outside Jackson, North Carolina.

In 1999, Mr. Speaker, Mr. White became the chief of police for a small town but a town rich in legacy, the town of Rich Square. Sadly, Chief White's stellar career in law enforcement that saw him ascend to the position of chief of police of two North Carolina police departments was tragically cut short.

After just a year of serving as police chief for the town of Rich Square, Chief White was savagely killed in the line of duty. On the afternoon of Sunday, July 16, 2000, Chief White was on duty and was alerted that a vehicle had filled up at a gas station but left the station without paying. Chief White spotted the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. It was during the stop that Chief White's .45-caliber service weapon was wrested away from him by the man that he had stopped. The man used

Chief White's own weapon against him tragically, ending his life just 5 months before his retirement.

It took nearly 3 years, but the man that committed this atrocious crime was identified and he was arrested in Lafayette, Louisiana, on May 1, 2003. He was sentenced to life in prison on September 12, 2005.

Chief White, a brave veteran and dedicated public servant, a beloved husband, colleague, and friend, lost his life in the most tragic of ways, but his memory will live on forever. Naming the post office in Rich Square in Chief White's honor is but a small symbol by a grateful Nation for his life that was dedicated to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Joseph E. White, Jr., by voting "aye" on H.R. 5142.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5142.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5544) to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5544

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a research program on low dose radiation. The purpose of the program is to enhance the scientific understanding of and reduce uncertainties associated with the effects of exposure to low dose radiation in order to inform improved risk management methods.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study assessing the current status and development of a long-term strategy for low dose radiation research. Such study shall be completed not later than 18 months after the

date of enactment of this Act. The study shall be conducted in coordination with Federal agencies that perform ionizing radiation effects research and shall leverage the most current studies in this field. Such study shall—

(1) identify current scientific challenges for understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radiation;

(2) assess the status of current low dose radiation research in the United States and internationally;

(3) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of low-dose radiation research in the United States;

(4) recommend a long-term strategic and prioritized research agenda to address scientific research goals for overcoming the identified scientific challenges in coordination with other research efforts;

(5) define the essential components of a research program that would address this research agenda within the universities and the National Laboratories; and

(6) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of such a program.

(c) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the study performed under subsection (b) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a 5-year research plan that responds to the study's findings and recommendations and identifies and prioritizes research needs.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "low dose radiation" means a radiation dose of less than 100 millisieverts.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to subject any research carried out by the Director under the research program under this Act to any limitations described in section 977(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

(f) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated under this section. This Act shall be carried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5544, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise here today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014.

Humans are exposed on a daily basis to much natural background radiation, and some get additional low-dose exposure from medical procedures or from industrial radiation sources; yet sufficient data is not available for experts to definitively conclude whether there

are health risks associated with low-dose radiation.

This lack of understanding prevents regulatory agencies from setting more precise radiation dose limits, as well as it impairs authorities' decisionmaking capabilities to address potential radiological events and advise patients for medically-based radiation exposures, all of which pose an unnecessary burden on society.

As a medical doctor, as a family doctor, and a true fiscal conservative, I recognize that this major gap in understanding is detrimental to the health and well-being of Americans and will additionally contribute to unnecessary economic burdens if we do not deal with it immediately.

This legislation seeks to address the limited understanding of potential health risks associated with low-dose radiation by leveraging the Nation's current expertise in low-dose radiation while proposing a long-term strategy to address the current gaps of knowledge in this area.

This legislation will be carried out using funds otherwise already appropriated by law and ensure that the Department of Energy is following congressional direction to focus its work on issues of long-term importance.

Passage of this legislation will help resolve what we do not know in the field of low-dose radiation for the betterment of medicine, for emergency response planning, and for industrial safety, not to speak about helping patients and Americans know what this all entails. This will show that we do not take for granted the livelihood of our fellow Americans.

This bill is a commonsense win, and I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014. This bill authorizes an important research program carried out by the Department of Energy's Office of Science to examine the health impacts of exposure to low doses of radiation, such as doses resulting from certain medical tests, nuclear waste cleanup activities, or even terrorism events like dirty bombs.

This bill builds on DOE's unique biological research expertise and capabilities, which actually led to the establishment of the successful Human Genome Project that paved the way toward breakthroughs in modern medicine today.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also authorizes a National Academies study to identify current scientific challenges in this area and to help guide the program's long-term research agenda well into the next decade.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of

2014, cosponsored by every Democratic member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, includes very similar language to what we now see in H.R. 5544, so we have no objection to this bill and support its passage.

We also look forward to working with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and, of course, on the other side of the Capitol—on far more comprehensive, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act, as is strongly recommended by many of the most respected industry and academic leaders and organizations across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership and for his service in the Congress, and of course, we wish him well as that term comes to an end.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my good friend from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS). I heard her comments, and they are very nice comments. She and I have been friends and sometimes on the opposite sides of issues, but she is a very dear friend and a great lady, and I appreciate her well wishes. I thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014, will increase our understanding of low-dose radiation. This research is critical for physicians and decision makers to more accurately assess potential health risks in this area.

I thank my friend, Chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee, Dr. PAUL BROUN, for introducing this legislation.

Many Americans are exposed to a broad range of low doses of ionizing radiation. These range from cosmic background radiation to medically based procedures, which include X-rays and CT scans.

However, our current approach to radiation safety relies on an outdated assumption that because high doses of radiation are harmful that much lower radiation doses are also harmful.

This assumption is not based on a reliable scientific foundation and prevents patients from making informed decisions about diagnostic exams and can lead to overly restrictive regulations.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Low Dose Radiation Research Program within the Office of Science focuses on the health effects of ionizing radiation and resolving the uncertainties in this area that currently exist.

Unfortunately, this program has not been a priority at DOE over recent years and has seen systematic budget cuts.

H.R. 5544 ensures the continuance of this important research program.

This legislation also directs the National Academies to formulate a long-term strategy to resolve uncertainties of whether and to what extent low dose radiation may pose health risks to humans. The bill also stipulates that the Academies must consider the most up-to-date studies in this field of research.

And finally, the bill requires the Department of Energy to develop a five-year research plan that responds to the Academies' recommendations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5544, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FEDERAL CHARTER AMENDMENT

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5441

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REFLECTION OF SERVICE OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FEDERAL CHARTER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ORGANIZATION.—Section 230101(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “men” and inserting “veterans”.

(b) PURPOSES.—Section 230102(3) of such title is amended by striking “widows” and inserting “surviving spouses”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 5441, the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is one of our largest and most lauded veterans organizations. It has successfully fought for veterans' rights for over a century and its members provide millions of hours a year in community service.

Among its goals are to “assist worthy comrades” and to “perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to

assist their widows and orphans." Our veterans from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are in a better place because of activities of the VFW.

Membership in the VFW is open to Korean war veterans and veterans who have "served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States—in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition in service that has been recognized as campaign-medal service; and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the United States Government or in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger."

Membership does not require that a servicemember have engaged in actual combat, only that they served in a combat zone.

Congress provided the VFW with a Federal charter in 1936. Robert Wallace, executive director of the VFW's Washington office, has sent a letter to the Judiciary Committee requesting that its charter be amended to be gender neutral. This is in recognition, Mr. Speaker, of the many female members of the VFW and their invaluable contributions to our military.

Mr. Wallace stated that:

Today, our military consists of both men and women who honorably put duty and service before themselves. Consistent with the growing number of military women who serve at all levels, women are taking leadership roles throughout our organization. The VFW strongly believes that combat service, not gender, determines VFW membership eligibility. That is why we opened our membership to women over 35 years ago. However, our congressional charter does not reflect this reality.

As the Congressional Research Service reported last year, almost 300,000 "female servicemembers have been deployed for contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan." In approximately 12 years of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, over 800 women have been wounded and over 130 have died. Women have been recognized for their heroism, two earning Silver Star medals.

H.R. 5441, introduced by Congressman JEFF MILLER, makes the changes sought by the VFW and is strongly supported by the organization. I commend Representative MILLER for introducing the bill.

The VFW's current charter provides that the VFW is a "national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters."

H.R. 5441 would replace "men" with "veterans." The current charter provides that one of the purposes of the organization is "to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans." The bill would replace "widows" with "surviving spouses."

I urge my colleagues to support this meritorious bill that reflects the valor of women in our Armed Forces.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as has been said, this bill makes a small but important change to the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As has been mentioned, it would amend the charter to become gender neutral by replacing "men" with "veterans" and "widows" with "surviving spouses." I think doing this aligns the charter with the actual makeup of the organization today, and I totally support the change.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been serving veterans of our Armed Forces for over 100 years and traces its roots to the Spanish-American War. Only men were permitted to serve in the military when the organization was chartered in 1936, and of course, we know, since that time, things have changed a great deal.

The role of women in the military has greatly expanded. In fact, two of our colleagues—Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD of Hawaii and Congresswoman TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois—both served with both distinction and honor in our military services and now serve with us as colleagues in the House.

Women serve in varied roles throughout the Armed Forces, and they have made many important sacrifices for the country. Women in fact now make up almost 10 percent of the total veterans population, and the Department of Veterans Affairs predicts they will represent nearly 18 percent of veterans by the year 2040.

In recognition of these facts, the VFW opened its membership to women over 35 years ago, and they certainly deserve our commendation for doing so.

Generally, as has been said many times, it should be up to the organization, not Congress, to decide who may and may not be a member of that organization. That is one of the many reasons why Members on both sides of the aisle have long supported the committee's policy against creating new Federal charters.

Even so, there is no policy against amending existing charters, and if such amendments are needed to align the charter to actual reality, then there is no reason to prevent such an amendment.

In fact, I also support the reason for this change. The Veterans of Foreign Wars seeks this change because it "strongly believes that combat service, not gender, determines membership eligibility." I could not agree more, and I can only applaud the VFW for initiating this change and coming to the Judiciary Committee, seeking out the author of the bill and working with us in a bipartisan basis to get here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the author of the bill, and this was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), a champion for veterans' rights and chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding the time. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and the ranking member for speeding this through the Judiciary Committee.

I rise in support of this piece of legislation, which is a simple bill, Mr. Speaker, designated to update the congressional charter of the VFW to reflect today's active duty and veteran population by changing, as we have already heard, the word "men" to "veterans" and the word "widows" to "surviving spouses."

Women veterans have in fact been eligible as members of the VFW since 1978, but like many things, it sometimes takes a little time for paperwork to catch up. I think VFW Commander in Chief John Stroud said it best in describing why they have requested this change:

We are not changing our congressional charter because it's politically correct. We're changing it because being an eligible veteran is what's important to our great organization, not one's gender, and changing "widows" to "surviving spouses" is more representative of today's military.

Women do in fact comprise over 16 percent of today's military force, and obviously, that means that they are making up an ever-increasing share of America's 22 million veterans as they return to civilian life.

I ask my colleagues to join Chairman GOODLATTE, Ms. LOFGREN, and myself in supporting H.R. 5441.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MILLER for his leadership in this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5441, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, which will amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces.

This legislation is a common-sense update of an 80-year-old charter to better reflect the makeup of the modern military—namely, the inclusion of women in prominent roles throughout several branches of the military. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a premier Veterans Service Organization, with more than 2 million members of all ages across our great country.

All Veterans are heroes regardless of their gender, and this legislation reflects that equality in the formal charter of a remarkably successful organization that exists to support all Veterans, and their spouses.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, which amends the federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

As approved by Congress in 1936, the VFW charter provides that the VFW is a "national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters[.]"

The charter further provides that one of the purposes of the organization is "to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans[.]"

By replacing the terms "men" with "veterans" and "widows" with "surviving spouses," H.R. 5441 modifies the VFW charter to make it gender-neutral and reflect the reality that women have and continue to serve in combat theaters in defense of the United States.

At the time the charter was created, only men were permitted to serve in the military. Today, both women and men are permitted to serve in the military and over the last few years, women have become more involved in combat operations.

For example, between September 2001 and February 28, 2013, 299,548 female service members have been deployed for contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during which time more than 800 women have been wounded and over 130 have died.

As of February 29, 2013, 16,407 female members were currently deployed in contingency operation according to the Department of Defense.

Women have been tested in battle and proved their heroism, earning numerous awards and commendations, including two Silver Star medals.

The expansion of roles for women in the armed forces has evolved over decades.

Under a Defense Department policy promulgated in 1994 policy, women could not be assigned to units, below the brigade level, whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground.

The practical effect of this policy meant that women were barred from infantry, artillery, armor, combat engineers, and special operations units of battalion size or smaller.

On January 24, 2013, however, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta rescinded that policy, thus enabling women to serve in combat units.

The leadership and rank and file of the VFW strongly supports changing the national charter to make it gender-neutral:

Today, our military consists of both men and women who honorably put duty and service before themselves. Consistent with the growing number of military women who serve at all levels, women are taking leadership roles throughout our organization. That is why we opened our membership to women over 35 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, according to the VFW practice, it is combat service, not gender, that determines VFW membership eligibility.

Over 2 million women veterans have courageously served our country and defended our freedoms for over 100 years, and their countless contributions and sacrifices must not be overlooked.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, there are 29,757 veterans, 3,219 of which are women.

Women veterans fortified the crucial role of women in the military, and females currently serving in the military continue to break down barriers, such as:

Admiral Michelle Howard, the Navy's first female four-star admiral; Army General Ann E. Dunwoody, the U.S. military's first female four-star officer; Dr. Mary E. Walker, the only woman who has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

As Anne S. (Sosh) Brehm, 1st Lt., USA NC, a World War II veteran said, "Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom."

Each year, I participate in the Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to honor all women who have defended America throughout history.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial serves as a reminder of the patriotism and bravery of women who have served in the United States Armed Services, and also tells their stories of service, sacrifice, and achievement.

Women veterans have a passion for service and an unfathomable amount of bravery that is truly worthy and deserving of our recognition, admiration, and commendation.

H.R. 5441 modifies VFW's federal charter to reflect current practice and reality and, accordingly, I support the bill and urge all members to do so as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1422, EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4012, SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4795, PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-626) on the resolution (H. Res. 756) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVING A USE RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN LAND IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 1, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

YEAS—378

Adams	Barr	Bentivolio
Aderholt	Barrow (GA)	Bera (CA)
Amash	Barton	Bilirakis
Amodei	Bass	Bishop (UT)
Bachus	Beatty	Black
Barber	Becerra	Bonamici
Barletta	Benishew	Boustany

Brady (PA) Garamendi
 Brady (TX) Garcia
 Braley (IA) Gerlach
 Brat Gibbs
 Bridenstine Gibson
 Brooks (AL) Gingrey (GA)
 Brooks (IN) Gohmert
 Broun (GA) Goodlatte
 Brown (FL) Gosar
 Brownley (CA) Gowdy
 Burgess Granger
 Bustos Graves (GA)
 Butterfield Graves (MO)
 Byrne Grayson
 Calvert Green, Al
 Camp Green, Gene
 Capito Griffin (AR)
 Capps Griffith (VA)
 Capuano Grimm
 Cárdenas Guthrie
 Carney Hahn
 Carson (IN) Hanabusa
 Carter Harris
 Cartwright Hartzler
 Cassidy Hastings (FL)
 Castor (FL) Hastings (WA)
 Castro (TX) Heck (NV)
 Chabot Heck (WA)
 Chaffetz Hensarling
 Chu Higgins
 Clark (MA) Himes
 Clarke (NY) Hinojosa
 Clawson (FL) Holding
 Clay Holt
 Cleaver Honda
 Cohen Horsford
 Cole Hoyer
 Collins (GA) Hudson
 Collins (NY) Huelskamp
 Conaway Huffman
 Connolly Hultgren
 Cook Hunter
 Costa Hurt
 Cotton Israel
 Courtney Issa
 Cramer Jackson Lee
 Crawford Jeffries
 Crenshaw Jenkins
 Crowley Johnson (GA)
 Cuellar Johnson (OH)
 Culberson Johnson, E. B.
 Cummings Johnson, Sam
 Daines Jolly
 Davis (CA) Jones
 Davis, Rodney Jordan
 DeFazio Joyce
 DeGette Kaptur
 Delaney Keating
 DeLauro Kelly (IL)
 DelBene Kelly (PA)
 Denham Kennedy
 Dent Kildee
 DeSantis Kilmer
 DesJarlais King (IA)
 Deutch King (NY)
 Diaz-Balart Kingston
 Doggett Kingzinger (IL)
 Doyle Kirkpatrick
 Duffy Kline
 Duncan (SC) Kuster
 Duncan (TN) Labrador
 Edwards LaMalfa
 Ellison Lamborn
 Ellmers Lance
 Engel Langevin
 Enyart Lankford
 Eshoo Larsen (WA)
 Esty Larson (CT)
 Farenthold Latham
 Farr Latta
 Fattah Lee (CA)
 Fincher Levin
 Fitzpatrick Lewis
 Fleischmann Lipinski
 Fleming LoBiondo
 Flores Loeback
 Forbes Lofgren
 Fortenberry Long
 Foster Lowenthal
 Foxx Lowey
 Frankel (FL) Luetkemeyer
 Franks (AZ) Lujan Grisham
 Frelinghuysen (NM)
 Fudge Luján, Ben Ray
 Gabbard (NM)
 Gallego Lummis

Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Messer
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, George
 Moran
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nolan
 Norcross
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 O'Rourke
 Olson
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Pallone
 Pascarell
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Pocan
 Poe (TX)
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Richmond
 Rigell
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon

Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Sires
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)

Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Speier
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez

Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Sanford

NOT VOTING—55

Bachmann
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blackburn
 Blumenauer
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Campbell
 Cicilline
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Davis, Danny
 Dingell
 Duckworth
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hall
 Hanna
 Harper
 Herrera Beutler
 Huizenga (MI)
 Kind
 Lucas
 Marchant
 McAllister
 McIntyre
 Meng
 Miller, Gary
 Moore
 Negrete McLeod
 Pastor (AZ)
 Price (NC)
 Rice (SC)

□ 1854

Messrs. TAKANO and CARNEY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ASHLAND BREAKWATER LIGHT TRANSFER ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4049) to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4049

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act”.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO INCLUDE LIGHTHOUSE.

Public Law 91-424 (16 U.S.C. 460w et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) In the first section as follows:

(A) In the matter preceding subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “islands and shoreline” and inserting “islands, shoreline, and light stations”; and

(ii) by inserting “historic,” after “scenic,”.

(B) In subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “the area” and inserting “The area”; and

(ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period.

(C) In subsection (b), by striking the final period.

(D) By inserting after “1985.” the following:

“(c) ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT.—

“(1) The Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light generally depicted on the map titled ‘Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light Addition to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore’ and dated February 11, 2014, located at the end of the breakwater on Chequamegon Bay, Wisconsin.

“(2) Congress does not intend for the designation of the property under paragraph (1) to create a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the boundary of that property.”.

(2) In section 6 as follows:

(A) By striking “The lakeshore” and inserting:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The lakeshore”.

(B) By inserting “this section and” before “the provisions of”.

(C) By adding after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) FEDERAL USE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) of the first section—

“(1) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace any Federal aid to navigation located at the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light for as long as such aid is needed for navigational purposes; and

“(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), such Secretary may enter, at any time, the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light or any Federal aid to navigation at the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, for as long as such aid is needed for navigational purposes, without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide advance notice.

“(c) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Pursuant to existing authorities, the Secretary

may enter into agreements with the City of Ashland, County of Ashland, and County of Bayfield, Wisconsin, for the purpose of cooperative law enforcement and emergency services within the boundaries of the lakeshore.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

□ 1900

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light is an operational lighthouse located near Ashland, Wisconsin, and is currently owned and managed by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2007, the Coast Guard announced its intent to give up ownership of the Ashland light, and only the National Park Service expressed interest in maintaining the public access to it.

H.R. 4049 adjusts the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to include the light station, but protects the ability of the Coast Guard to maintain the light as an aid to navigation.

Congressman SEAN DUFFY should be commended for his work on this issue, which also has the support of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 19, 2014, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported without amendment H.R. 4049, the Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act by unanimous consent. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I ask that you allow the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that when the House considers H.R. 4049, it will consider amended text negotiated between the staffs of our two

committees. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4049, the Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. I appreciate your inclusion of changes requested by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as this bill moves forward.

I agree to allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from consideration of H.R. 4049 with the understanding that this discharge does not affect the Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and does not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, I expect the negotiated text to be the text considered on the floor. Finally, as stated in your letter, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I fully expect the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for agreeing to include a copy of this letter in the Committee on Natural Resources filed bill report, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like to commend Representative DUFFY, with whom I share lakeshore on the world's largest freshwater lake and also borders on our district. I tell you, Mr. DUFFY, I found the television commercial with you and your family to be my favorite commercial of the last election, of which there were not many favorable commercials for anyone.

So it is with a fun and joyful spirit that I rise in support of your legislation to prove to those beautiful children of yours that a lot of us really like each other and know how to get along and support the efforts of one another.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, H.R. 4049 transfers ownership and management of the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Thanks to the leadership of the late Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson, Congress established the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970.

The area consists of 21 islands and 70 acres of shoreline in Lake Superior. It is a popular tourist destination in the summer and home to the 35,000-acre Gaylord Nelson Wilderness area.

Apostle Islands already manages eight historic lighthouses which were transferred to the National Park Service in 1986. This bill would add one more to the collection and contribute to the mission of protecting these historic cultural resources. Additionally, the text of this bill ensures that the Coast Guard will continue to maintain historic access to the lighthouse.

We support passage of this bill and look forward to working with the majority to advance more legislation that helps to enhance our national parks.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his kind remarks about my ads, which I know there weren't many positive ads in the Duluth market, but I did have one. So I appreciate that, Mr. NOLAN, and thank you for your support of what is a very important bill for folks in northern Wisconsin.

I have a picture of what this actual lighthouse looks like right off the community of Ashland. This bill, H.R. 4049, is the bill that will transfer the Ashland Breakwater Light from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service.

This lighthouse has stood here for over 100 years, standing strong on the shores of Lake Superior in dark nights and in storms, guarding our ships in their safe passage to our harbor, but also welcoming back travelers who have left the greater Ashland community and on the way home.

I had a chance to live in Ashland for 10 years, raising my children. My second-born son was born there. I think my third, fourth, and fifth were born there as well. I lose count after a while, but it is a great community. This lighthouse is a big part of our identity in Ashland.

Right now, the lighthouse has an uncertain future because the Coast Guard has indicated several times, most recently in 2012, that they are going to give up management of the lighthouse. No public entity, aside from the National Park Service's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have stepped forward and indicated that they would obtain and maintain this very important lighthouse in our community.

Absent this legislation, there is no guarantee that this historic lighthouse would be maintained and continue to operate and be accessible for educational purposes. H.R. 4049 will allow the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to maintain the lighthouse alongside,

as Mr. NOLAN and I think Mr. LABRADOR mentioned, eight other light-houses they maintain.

Just a little trip down history lane: in 1986, the Coast Guard transferred eight of these lighthouses to the National Park Service, but they didn't transfer this one. All we are doing right now is saying let's redraw that line and include this one with the other eight, so the National Park Service can now manage this lighthouse as well.

If I were looking at this bill, I might say, "Well, I have a concern if I am a fisherman or a boater who might use the waters outside the lighthouse." I can guarantee you that the way this is written and the way the line is drawn there will be no additional rules or regulations coming from the Feds that are going to affect your ability to fish or boat right around the lighthouse.

We have adequately addressed that concern in this House by having so many different folks come together, people across the aisle who share a border and a lake, but also share a love for the environment and all it has to offer.

We also have support of the National Park Service who supports this bill; the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Wisconsin DNR; the Wisconsin Historical Society; the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, which is very important; the city of Ashland; and a lot of local outdoor recreational communities.

With that, I would urge passage of H.R. 4049, and I want to thank everyone for their support for what is a very important bill to my community in northern Wisconsin.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4049, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IDAHO COUNTY SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5040

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Idaho County Land Conveyance" and dated April 11, 2014.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO IDAHO COUNTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after notification by the County and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 31 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and generally depicted on the map as "Conveyance Area".

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only as a shooting range.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the County to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (b).

(f) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall agree—

(1) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

(2) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities that may arise from uses carried out on the land described in subsection (b) on or before the date of the enactment of this Act by the United States or any person; and

(3) to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am the author of H.R. 5040, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey a 31-acre parcel of land to Idaho County, Idaho, to use for public recreation.

Idahoans deeply value their Second Amendment rights, and many use firearms for hunting and shooting sports. The safe and proper use of firearms is often a tradition passed down from generation to generation. People need a safe designated area where they may sight in their rifles and teach safe firearms practices.

Nearly 6 years ago, a county in my district, Idaho County, began the process of searching for a suitable location to install a shooting range to serve the needs of the county residents interested in exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Idaho County, which is 83 percent controlled by the Federal Government, began working with the local BLM office in Cottonwood, Idaho, to identify land that the BLM could transfer to the county for use as a shooting range.

The BLM identified a buried landfill in the county as a suitable location because the site is already used casually by recreational hunters and the general public as a shooting range. The land also provides the proper safety barriers because it is situated on an elevated bench, approximately 240 feet above a nearby road and surrounded by hills. The county and the local BLM officials agreed the site was perfect for a shooting range.

The county began the process of seeking an administrative transfer from the BLM, but soon ran into procedural roadblocks. The site of the proposed shooting range is within a portion of the Lower Salmon River, which was identified by the BLM for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Because of existing BLM regulations, the parcel cannot be transferred to the county administratively.

As my staff and I met with the Idaho County commissioners to come up with a solution, we determined the only path forward was to introduce legislation in Congress to convey the land from the BLM to the county. My bill, the Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act, would convey the 31-acre parcel to Idaho County for use as a shooting range.

The BLM has spent a great deal of time and resources studying the proposed site and has determined the land would be perfect for a shooting range. The local BLM office in Cottonwood has been instrumental in gathering necessary environmental data to support the land conveyance, and I am grateful for their ongoing efforts to work with my staff and finally resolve this issue.

My office has also worked closely with the Idaho County commissioners and Idaho County sheriff to develop a

plan to manage the land for public use as a shooting range. Part of the plan includes allowing Idaho County law enforcement to use the range to conduct firearms training and qualifications.

Idaho County has waited nearly 6 years for this process to be completed. Idaho County residents want a safe, remote location to exercise their Second Amendment rights, and my bill will provide a solution that is long overdue.

I urge support for the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Representative LABRADOR for the work he has done on behalf of his constituents and their recreational activities in their future.

H.R. 5040 transfers 31 acres of public land to Idaho County for the purpose of establishing a public shooting range. The county will pay the administrative costs associated with the transfer and release the United States from any future liability.

Historically, a bill of this nature would contain stronger language to guarantee that the transferred land would continue to be used for a public purpose or the ownership would automatically revert back to the United States Government.

These so-called reversionary clauses ensure that, once transferred, the land is not sold or developed in a way not intended by Congress.

It is important for Congress to establish clear and fair expectations when transferring management of an asset owned by the American taxpayer. We encourage Idaho County to use the land as intended by this bill.

With that said, this bill merits our support, and we urge its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5040.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

GRAND PORTAGE BAND PER CAPITA ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3608) to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3608

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. EQUAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PER CAPITA INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

Paragraph (4) of section 7 of the Act of October 19, 1973 (25 U.S.C. 1407(4)) is amended by striking “pursuant to the agreements of such Band” and inserting “or the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, or both, pursuant to the agreements of each Band”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3608 would protect certain funds paid by the State of Minnesota and held by the United States in trust for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians from Federal and State taxation. Under the bill, the tribe may distribute these funds to its members, and these payments won't be counted against the members' eligibility for Federal financial assistance as long as each payment does not exceed \$2,000.

The payments made by the State stem from a 1988 settlement in which two Minnesota Chippewa tribes agreed to forgo the exercise of certain treaty hunting and fishing rights. In 1999, legislation was introduced to protect these State settlement payments from taxation. However, by the time the bill was enacted into Public Law 106-568, only one of the two tribes was granted the tax relief.

The Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 3608. Neither the hearing nor a staff review of the legislative history for Public Law 106-568 reveals any explanation for the exclusion of the Grand Portage Band from the tax relief granted to its sister tribe. Principles of fairness and equity suggest that both bands of Minnesota Chippewa be accorded equal treatment. H.R. 3608 accordingly amends the applicable statute to provide the Grand Portage Band the same tax benefits.

The Committee on Natural Resources ordered H.R. 3608 reported by unanimous consent, and Chairman CAMP of the Ways and Means Committee and Chairman GOODLATTE of the Judiciary Committee have graciously agreed by letter to expedite consideration of this bill by not exercising their jurisdiction. As always, we appreciate their cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, November 5, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3608, the “Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act,” which the Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably on September 18, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 3608 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3608, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 3608.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, November 13, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Ray-
burn HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3608, the Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill on September 18, 2014. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on the Judiciary will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, the Committee on the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill

report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing concerning H.R. 3608, the "Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act," which was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2014 and is scheduled for floor consideration today.

The Committee on Ways and Means received an additional referral on this bill given its impact on federal income taxation and subsequent calculation of benefits under Social Security, which are within the Committee on Ways and Means' Rule X jurisdiction. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3608, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in bill report and the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3608, the Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill on September 18, 2014. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Ways and Means will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman HASTINGS, who has served so well and so honorably in this Chamber—his absence will be missed as he retires—and, of course, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and Chairman YOUNG, whom I had the good fortune to initially serve in this Chamber about 40 years ago, and Ranking Member HANABUSA of the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs for their support of this bill. I also want to thank the staff for their work and their diligent efforts on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in simple terms, this bill corrects a technical mistake in existing law, thereby allowing members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to exclude up to \$2,000 in payments from the State of Minnesota from their taxable income.

By way of background, in 1988, the Grand Portage Band and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa entered into an agreement by which they would relinquish certain harvest rights and privileges accorded under the treaty of 1854 in return for annual per capita payments from the State of Minnesota.

In the year 2000, Congress passed the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, which stipulated that a portion of these per capita payments should not count as income for the band members. The problem was the legislative language included only the Bois Forte Band. The Grand Portage Band was inadvertently, accidentally left out, and, as a result, many members of the Grand Portage Band have been denied financial assistance and other benefits they are entitled to because their income appears higher than the law permits.

So this bill simply corrects the mistake by amending the act of October 9, 1973, to allow members of the Grand Portage Band to exclude up to \$2,000 in per capita income payments from the State of Minnesota from their taxable income. It is the correct and the fair thing to do.

Let me also point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill marks another step toward restoring the letter and the spirit of the 1854 treaty between the Federal Government and the Chippewa of Lake Superior, a treaty marked by serious violations from the very beginning as the waves of settlers were permitted onto the lands the agreement reserved for the Indians in perpetuity.

I often point to my colleagues that the bust of Chief Buffalo of La Pointe greets them, or greets us as we enter into the House Chamber from the west front. Chief Buffalo was recognized as the Head Chief of the Greater Chippewa Nation, and at the age of 92 years of age, he led a tribal delegation to Washington to meet with President Fillmore and paved the way for the treaty of 1854 to stop the removal of Lake Superior Chippewas from their native homes.

It was quite a trip. They left Wisconsin's Madeline Island by birch bark canoe—mind you, a 92-year-old man—traveling all the way to Sault Ste. Marie. From there, they took a steamer bound for Detroit, and then on by steamer to Buffalo, New York. Then the railroad took them to Albany, New York, where they boarded another steamboat to New York, and finally back onto the train to Washington, D.C., where they made their case to the President of the United States.

So, in asking my colleagues to support this bill, I ask them to also remember Chief Buffalo and the diligence and the long, hard work and the long and difficult trail that is often so often required to do the right thing when we are representing people that we have been, in our case, elected to represent.

It is a good lesson in point in a time and life where we have a kind of a fast-food mentality and everybody is expecting things to happen now. The voyage, the extraordinary effort that Chief Buffalo made, is a lesson to us all.

So here we are, 160 years later, still trying to fulfill the results of that important mission that he made. This legislation to restore a small piece of a larger trust relationship is part of that journey.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3608.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, at 1 p.m., Congressman TED DEUTCH and I will convene a subcommittee hearing on the dangers of a nuclear deal with Iran, the dangers that this could pose for the United States and global security interests.

Retired General Michael Hayden, former Director of both the NSA and the CIA, will be testifying to share his concerns about Iran's past weaponization efforts and the guarantees needed to monitor and verify this agreement. In fact, he has warned that, were he still in his role as CIA Director, he "would feel compelled to advise the President that the agreement could not be adequately verified."

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to remain engaged. We need to continue our oversight. We need to use all the tools that we have available to us, including strengthening and increasing sanctions against this regime, in order to ensure that the President does not sign an agreement that is not in our national security interests.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES RESCINDS PROHIBITION ON SPEECH-GENERATING DEVICES UNLOCKING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, currently, more than 113 million Americans are facing long-term disease or disability. Significant policy advancements have recently been signed into law to encourage the development of drugs for those with limited medical options and continued efforts to get advanced diagnostic tests to patients more quickly. Yet a segment of the population remains who are in the midst of an ongoing struggle.

As someone who spent most of my professional career serving those with life-changing disease and disability, a shared goal of health care providers is to improve the quality of life for their patients. This is particularly true when it comes to those with limited speech, whether they have suffered from stroke, trauma, or progressive neurological diseases such as ALS, MS, or Huntington's.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that after years of recommendations, earlier this month the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has lifted prohibitions on unlocking of speech-generating devices from accessing our technologies such as email or Internet access.

Moving forward, our goals should be the continued empowerment of those facing disease and disability, to ensure their dignity, mobility, and communication abilities can be enhanced in our modern world.

THE PLIGHT OF SAEED ABEDINI

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the plight of Iranian American Saeed Abedini, a 34-year-old Christian pastor who was unlawfully arrested by the Islamic Republic of Iran for refusing to renounce his Christian faith.

Saeed, along with his wife, Naghmeh, are prominent in the house church movement throughout Iran, credited with establishing around 100 churches in 30 different Iranian cities.

After the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005, the church move-

ment became the subject of authoritarian crackdown, prompting the Abedinis to return to the United States.

On September 26, 2014, Saeed Abedini returned to Iran to visit family and continue his humanitarian work to establish an orphanage. During this trip, Saeed was arrested and charged with undermining national security. In early 2013, Saeed was transferred from Tehran to the Rajai Shahr prison in the town of Karaj, an institution known for harsher and often life-threatening conditions.

I call on the administration to act swiftly for the immediate return of this American to his family.

AN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM THAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the American people sent a strong message to Washington, one that was apparently not received by the President. His latest threat to unilaterally grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants would not only serve as a massive abuse of power, but also make clear the unprecedented disconnect between this administration and our citizens.

The American people deserve a government that can demonstrate both the ability and the commitment to enforcing our Nation's laws, not a President who continually sidesteps Congress and the American people to advance an agenda which appeals exclusively to one side of the aisle.

I urge the President to end the political ploys to go around the laws we have on the books and start working together toward an immigration system that is in the best interest of the U.S.—not one that endangers our citizens, even takes some of their lives and some of the lives of our law enforcement officers, but truly one that secures our borders, respects the rule of law, stops violent criminals at the border, and prevents future illegal immigration.

I call on the President to work with Congress.

MARCH TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to stand on the House floor and to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, where today we want to discuss some of the issues and challenges confronting this country that we hope this newly constituted Congress will be prepared to take up.

As we move into the 114th Congress, there is still a lot of business that is undone over the remaining few weeks that we have left during this session, but a whole lot of challenges that we have got to confront as we move forward.

□ 1930

One hundred fifty years ago or so, President Abraham Lincoln publicly pondered the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

President Lincoln asked that question at a time when the country was tearing itself apart in the context of the Civil War. Since the conclusion of that war—since President Lincoln publicly pondered that question—year after year, month after month, century after century, we certainly have made some progress, significant progress, here in America, but we still have a long way to go, and it is still relevant for us to ask the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

Where do we go from here?

So I am pleased that so many of my distinguished colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus have come to the floor today to share their thoughts and their insights and their policy prescriptions in our continuing march toward a more perfect Union.

Let me first just yield to the dynamic chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has provided such great leadership to this caucus, to this Congress, and to this country during her career, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, Chairwoman MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Hour. It is an issue that, I think, is important to this entire country, and it should be a priority for all Members, not just members of the Congressional Black Caucus—a discussion on where Congress goes from here in pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, even before the final ballots were counted from the midterm elections, conservatives began sharing their priorities for the upcoming Congress.

Instead of promising to improve our health care system, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle began promising to renew their campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act—a campaign that has wasted millions in taxpayer dollars, with 53 unsuccessful votes.

Instead of searching for common ground, they are still committed to finding a way to impeach President Barack Obama.

Instead of using the next Congress to create more opportunities for the American people, the decision has already been made to continue efforts to obstruct and undermine the President.

None of these actions will move our Nation forward or do what is best for the country. We must do something more than advance a partisan, political agenda. It is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, and is an insult to the very public that gave us this awesome responsibility in the first place. We were elected to represent the American people—all of the American people. Let's write and pass legislation that will make their lives easier and their futures more promising. It is time for this Congress to unite and move forward together. This is not the time for doubling down on the tactics of distraction, obstruction, and confusion.

We have the opportunity now to lay a foundation for the 114th Congress that is built upon bipartisan cooperation and a shared commitment to doing what is best for all of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to join the CBC in doing the people's work.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chair for her observations and, certainly, for pointing out that, while we should be coming together to march toward perfecting our Union, there are some, inexplicably, who want to march toward impeachment before even seeing Presidential action, the same type of folks who, from the moment that Barack Obama was sworn in as President, believe he exceeded his authority just by raising his right hand and taking the oath of office. So let's just hope that we can hit the refresh button on the partisanship, on the obstruction, on the obfuscation and can come together to do the business of the American people.

Certainly, the gentleman who I would yield to next has been a great patriot. He has helped to bring our Constitution to life. For tens of millions of Americans, he is one of this country's greatest freedom fighters, a civil rights icon, and a distinguished Member of Congress. It is my honor and my privilege to now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my colleague, Congressman JEFFRIES, for organizing this Special Order.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for speaking up and speaking out.

Thank you for finding a way to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, our march toward a more perfect Union has been long, hard, and tedious, but we must continue to move forward. I know there are forces that want to stop us, slow us down, and take us back, but as a Nation and as a people, we have made too much progress to turn back now. Through hard work, discipline, and with the blessing of the Almighty, we can—and we will—move to redeem the soul of America and create a more perfect Union.

The American people are ready.

They have grown by leaps and bounds to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities. As their Representatives, will we follow their lead? Can we work together in this body as one people, one family, who live in the same house, one house—the American house? We don't have to be mean to each other. We don't have to put each other down.

My work in the movement taught me—my faith has taught me and many others—to respect the dignity and the worth of every human being. There is some good in the worst of us because everything that is was made by our Creator. That is why we must respect the worth and dignity and that spark of the divine in each one of us.

As A. Philip Randolph—a dean of Black leadership, the visionary who planned the historic March on Washington in 1963 and the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—once said: “We may have all come here on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now.”

My colleagues, my brothers and sisters, we must keep the faith. We must press toward the mark of the public good and put our personal ambitions aside.

As Mr. JEFFRIES did a few moments ago, let me paraphrase the words of a great Republican President who lived in a more divisive time even than in our own.

He said:

Brave men, both living and dead, have consecrated the American soil with their tears, their sweat, and their blood. The world will little note nor long remember what we said here, but it will never forget what we did here. We must be dedicated . . . to the great tasks remaining before us . . . and make sure they did not sacrifice in vain, that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congressman LEWIS, for those very eloquent thoughts and for continuing to really function as the conscience of the CBC as our caucus functions as the conscience of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct honor and privilege to yield to someone who I served with on the Budget Com-

mittee. She is a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives. She is a fighter for the people, for the disenfranchised, and is a voice for the voiceless. It is my honor to yield to the very distinguished gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

First, let me thank the gentleman from New York, Congressman JEFFRIES, for this very important moment and theme tonight of “Where do we go from here?” But also for your leadership in conducting these Special Orders to make sure that the American people really know the truth about what is taking place here in Washington, D.C., and also to hear the voice of conscience from the Congressional Black Caucus, such as we just heard from our great warrior, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Also, I want to thank Congressman HORSFORD for being part of this for the last couple of years in terms of his tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the other night, I had an event with young people in my district. It is a lecture series that is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Freedom Center. Congressman LEWIS knows these young people. They travel with me every year to Selma-Montgomery-Birmingham. We started the center in the nineties, and these young people's mission in life is to make sure that the new generation of leaders understands, one, that violence is not an option and, secondly, that we all are in this together and that we should be united as a country and fight for the American Dream for all.

The topic of the lecture series of two nights ago was “Where do we go from here?” We had White students in the audience. We had African American, Latino, and Asian Pacific American young people, middle-aged people, and old people. It was held at my alma mater, at Mills College. It was really amazing. We had the cofounder of the United Farm Workers, Dolores Huerta, and former State Senator Art Torres. We talked about “where do we go from here?” as a community in Oakland and also throughout the country. What we need to do here is, really, to get back to work for the American people, and that is what we heard over and over and over at our lecture series.

Unfortunately, ever since the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, we see governing through extortion and brinksmanship, including a government shutdown that cost the taxpayers \$24 billion. I hope that is not where we go from here. Now we are looking at—or at least some are saying that they are eyeing—another shutdown and are refusing to act on immigration while planning another series of votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They have even gone so far as to threaten impeachment because

our President has continued to lead where they have failed.

Where do we go from here, Congressmen JEFFRIES? Let's hope not there. I hope we go where the young people in my community talked about the other night.

The threats about a government shutdown over immigration reform are outrageous. My district is a very diverse and dynamic district. That is what makes it, really, a great place for my constituents to live, work, do business, and raise a family. Yet we have many, many pockets of poverty. It is home to a vibrant immigrant community. Families from all over the world, many of them—and they told me again the other night—are feeling the pain each and every day of our broken immigration system. It has been more than 500 days since the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform.

We need to have an up or down vote. Families deserve that. Time is really running out. We have 3 weeks of session left, so we need to get something done. That is where we need to go from here. If Congress fails to act on immigration reform, our President can—and he should—take action to keep families from being torn apart. Just like every President since Dwight D. Eisenhower, our President should act, but as the President has said, immigration reform should come from Congress. It should come from us. That is what my community said in terms of moving forward. Let's get it done in the next couple of weeks. We have a bipartisan bill. Let's come together and have a vote. Our colleagues across the aisle need to put our economy ahead of partisanship. That means stopping their repeated attempts at eliminating access to affordable, quality health care for millions of Americans.

□ 1945

This past weekend marked the beginning of the second year of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Affordable Care Act and its protections for families would hurt all of our constituents. It would make health care less affordable and less accessible; yet every time Republicans vote to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, they make it perfectly clear that they believe charging women more for being a woman is okay, denying victims of domestic violence coverage is okay, and allowing insurance companies to increase premiums to increase profits is also okay. That is not what the American people need.

Where do we go from here? Let's not go there. Millions have been covered, and let's move forward to make sure our country has universal accessible affordable health care for all. It is a basic human right, so we need to get back to doing the work of the American people, the work of forming a more perfect Union.

Finally, I just want to point out an article. There was a recent editorial in *The New York Times* from Nicholas Kristof in which he discusses the historical and structural issues that continue to perpetuate racial disparities between Blacks and Whites today, and I would like to submit that article for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

[From Op-Ed Columnist, Nov. 15, 2014]

WHEN WHITES JUST DON'T GET IT, PART 4

(By Nicholas Kristof)

When I write about racial inequality in America, one common response from whites is eye-rolling and an emphatic: It's time to move on.

"As whites, are we doomed to an eternity of apology?" Neil tweeted at me. "When does individual responsibility kick in?"

Terry asked on my Facebook page: "Why are we still being held to actions that took place long ago?"

"How long am I supposed to feel guilty about being white? I bust my hump at work and refrain from living a thug life," Bradley chimed in. "America is about personal responsibility. . . . And really, get past the slavery issue."

This is the fourth installment in a series of columns I've written this year, "When Whites Just Don't Get It," and plenty of white readers have responded with anger and frustration at what they see as the "blame game" on race. They acknowledge a horrific history of racial discrimination but also say that we should look forward, not backward. The Supreme Court seems to share this view as it dismantles civil-rights-era rulings on voting rights.

As Dina puts it: "I am tired of the race conversation. It has exasperated me. Just stop. In so many industries, the racial ceiling has been shattered. Our president is black. From that moment on, there were no more excuses."

If only it were so simple!

Of course, personal responsibility is an issue. Orlando Patterson, the eminent black sociologist, notes in a forthcoming book that 92 percent of black youths agree that it is a "big problem" that black males are "not taking education seriously enough." And 88 percent agree that it's a big problem that they are "not being responsible fathers." That's why President Obama started "My Brother's Keeper," to cultivate more prudent behavior among men and boys of color.

But we in white society should be equally ready to shoulder responsibility. In past articles in this series, I've looked at black/white economic inequality that is greater in America today than it was in apartheid South Africa, at ongoing discrimination against African-Americans in the labor market and at systematic bias in law enforcement. But these conversations run into a wall: the presumption on the part of so many well-meaning white Americans that racism is a historical artifact. They don't appreciate the overwhelming evidence that centuries of racial subjugation still shape inequity in the 21st century.

Indeed, a wave of research over the last 20 years has documented the lingering effects of slavery in the United States and South America alike. For example, counties in America that had a higher proportion of slaves in 1860 are still more unequal today, according to a scholarly paper published in 2010. The authors called this a "persistent effect of slavery."

One reason seems to be that areas with slave labor were ruled for the benefit of elite

plantation owners. Public schools, libraries and legal institutions lagged, holding back working-class whites as well as blacks.

Whites often don't realize that slavery didn't truly end until long after the Civil War. Douglas Blackmon won a Pulitzer Prize for his devastating history, "Slavery by Another Name," that recounted how U.S. Steel and other American corporations used black slave labor well into the 20th century, through "convict leasing." Blacks would be arrested for made-up offenses such as "vagrancy" and then would be leased to companies as slave laborers.

Job and housing discrimination also systematically prevented blacks from accumulating wealth. The Federal Housing Administration and other initiatives greatly expanded home ownership and the middle class but deliberately excluded blacks.

That's one reason why black families have, on average, only about 6 percent as much wealth as white households, why only 44 percent of black families own a home compared with 73 percent for white households.

The inequality continues, particularly in education. De jure segregated schools have been replaced in some areas by de facto segregation.

Those of us who are white have a remarkable capacity for delusions. A majority of whites have said in opinion polls that blacks earn as much as whites and are as healthy as whites. In fact, black median household income is \$34,598, compared with \$58,270 for non-Hispanic whites, according to census data. Black life expectancy is four years shorter than that of whites.

Granted, race is just one thread in a tapestry. The daughters of President and Michelle Obama shouldn't enjoy affirmative action preference (as their dad has acknowledged), while disadvantaged white kids should.

Yet one element of white privilege today is obliviousness to privilege, including a blithe disregard of the way past subjugation shapes present disadvantage.

I've been on a book tour lately. By coincidence, so has one of my Times Op-Ed columnist colleagues, Charles Blow, who is African-American and the author of a powerful memoir, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones." I grew up in a solid middle-class household; Charles was primarily raised by a single mom who initially worked plucking poultry in a factory, and also, for a while, by a grandma in a house with no plumbing.

That Charles has become a New York Times columnist does not mean that blacks and whites today have equal access to opportunity, just that some talented and driven blacks manage to overcome the long odds against them. Make no mistake: Charles had to climb a higher mountain than I did.

We all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We're in a relay race, relying on the financial and human capital of our parents and grandparents. Blacks were shackled for the early part of that relay race, and although many of the fetters have come off, whites have developed a huge lead. Do we ignore this long head start—a facet of white privilege—and pretend that the competition is now fair?

Of course not. If we whites are ahead in the relay race of life, shouldn't we acknowledge that we got this lead in part by generations of oppression? Aren't we big enough to make amends by trying to spread opportunity, by providing disadvantaged black kids an education as good as the one afforded privileged white kids?

Can't we at least acknowledge that in the case of race, William Faulkner was right: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Ms. LEE of California. Kristof states that he has “looked at Black-White economic inequality that is greater in America today than it was in apartheid South Africa, at ongoing discrimination against African Americans in the labor market, and at systematic bias in law enforcement.”

So young people of color, especially young men, have been left behind in the economic recovery. It is leaving them behind, and far too often, they are marginalized and forgotten. The poverty rate for African Americans is 27.2 percent, more than two-and-a-half times the rate of poverty of White Americans. Nobody in our country should have to live below the poverty line. We are the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world.

The African American unemployment rate is 10.9 percent, nearly twice the national average. Young men of color are stopped and frisked at will. They are more incarcerated than any other group. The jobs that are available don't pay enough to get by while our safety net and nutrition programs continue to be hacked and slashed by House Republicans.

Beyond the lack of opportunity, police misconduct and the criminal justice system are constant reminders of the tragic inequality which is still persistent in the daily life of Black America.

Where do we go from here? Let's move forward, but we have got to remember that the deaths of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner and Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—their deaths are tragic examples of the senseless murder of young Black men.

As the mother of two Black men and two Black grandsons, I have to have many uncomfortable conversations with them, how to walk, how to talk, how to interact with the police.

This is not just my reality, but the reality of millions of other Black mothers and grandmothers and fathers and grandfathers. This is something no parent should have to do. No one should be afraid of the police who are sworn to protect and serve them. These are issues that Members of Congress must take leadership in addressing. This is where we must go from here.

Finally, let me just say the work of building a more perfect Union is not just rhetorical. As Members of Congress, we really do have a unique opportunity to do just that.

To quote our drum major for justice—who Congressman LEWIS had the privilege and honor to work with—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he said, “A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.” We have the privilege tonight to remind this body that we are the molder of consensus.

Thank you again, Congressman JEFFRIES, for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for your very eloquent observations and for laying out a clear pathway as it relates to many of the challenges that we have got to confront here in America and certainly amongst those challenges that you spoke to, the notion that we have got a broken criminal justice system that in far too many communities has placed a target on the back of young African American and Latino men in a way inconsistent with the democratic values of this country and the notion that we were all created equally, and so I look forward to partnering with you on many of these issues, as we all collectively move forward in this wonderful body.

We have also been joined here today by another civil rights champion, someone who has fought for the disenfranchised and to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity under the law, the distinguished gentleman from the Lone Star State of Texas, and I am pleased now to yield to Congressman AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much, Congressman JEFFRIES. I also thank in his absence the gentleman from Nevada, Congressman HORSFORD. The two of you have been almost inseparable when it comes to these Special Order hours. I want to compliment you on the outstanding job that you have done.

I would also like to compliment Congressman HORSFORD for the outstanding job that he has done on the Financial Services Committee. He brought his talents. He brought his brilliance, and he has represented his constituents exceedingly well, and I know that in the annals of history, when they look back through the vista of time, it will be said that he served us well in the Congress of the United States of America.

With reference to the relevant question of the hour, as it relates to a more perfect Union, as we ponder and query where we go from here, it was appropriate, I think, that you introduced this topic by referencing President Lincoln.

It was appropriate because you are eminently correct. It was a time of great turmoil when he announced that he would issue the Emancipation Proclamation, and in January of 1863, when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the country was in the midst of a Civil War, being torn apart.

There was much to be said about his announcement that he would issue the Emancipation Proclamation. There was great debate, and there were many people who said that it should not be done, that it was not worth the paper it would be written on, to be quite candid with you, it was said, because it would only free the slaves in the States that had left the Union, States that, quite candidly, at the time, he had no control over.

But he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and I thank God that he did, because by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, he laid the foundation for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that was in fact executed in December 1865.

But for the Emancipation Proclamation, I don't know that I would be standing here in the Congress of the United States of America tonight. By issuing that Emancipation Proclamation, he changed the course of history.

Dr. King was right, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” However, it doesn't do it on its own accord. It takes the hand of man and women to bend it, so I am pleased that he did so.

I am also pleased that there was another opportunity for a President to forge a more perfect Union. President Harry Truman had the opportunity in 1948 to issue an executive order, as was the case with Lincoln and the executive order for the Emancipation Proclamation. He issued an executive order to desegregate the military.

There was much to be said about it. In fact, that executive order led to the birth of the Dixiecrats. There was a split in the Democratic Party because the Honorable Harry Truman decided that he would issue Executive Order 9981, to desegregate the military.

He issued it, the military was desegregated, and I contend that this was also one of the many reasons why the country itself moved along to desegregation and integration.

These were two outstanding and well-noted executive orders issued by Presidents of the United States. If President Lincoln could issue an executive order—an Emancipation Proclamation—if Harry Truman could issue an executive order—to desegregate the military—surely, President Barack Obama can issue an executive order to liberate many people who are living in the shadows of life, an immigration declaration, if you will. I believe the President should issue this order, notwithstanding all that is being said.

There was much being said and much being done when Lincoln issued his executive order, much said and much being done when Truman issued his, much said and much being done now, but I think the President should do this, and I think he should be bold when he does it because he will be lifting people out of the shadows of life.

I am confident that while many will be angry with him, God will not. I think God will smile on the President for issuing this executive order.

More than 15,000 executive orders have been issued. Not one President has ever been impeached for issuing an executive order, not one. There is talk of impeaching President Obama.

If we didn't impeach Lincoln and we didn't impeach Truman and we didn't

impeach Reagan and we didn't impeach many of the other Presidents who have signed the more than 15,000 executive orders, I don't think that we ought to impeach President Obama.

Finally this, as an aside: there is much talk about the President's legacy and what he has done to form a more perfect Union while being President, if you will, but all of this talk about his legacy misses the mark, in my opinion, because there are many who think that the Affordable Care Act will be the centerpiece of his legacy.

I think it is a great piece of legislation. I supported it. I still support it. There are many who think that saving the auto industry would be his legacy. I think this is significant, exceedingly so. I supported what he did.

There are others who believe that his work in human rights and human dignity, especially as it relates for equal pay for equal work for women, will be his legacy. I think it is a great piece of work, and I commend him for what he has done.

But the President's legacy in the years to come will be that he became President of the United States of America. The mere fact that the Honorable Barack Obama was elected not once, but twice, speaks to our efforts to form a more perfect Union.

I think that his greatest legacy will be his having served as President of the United States of America. That fact alone will be something that we will never, ever erase from history.

I thank you for the opportunity to visit with you, and I pray that the President will be bold and sign the executive order, will lead with the executive order that may lead to comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship for those who are living in the shadows of life. God bless you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for his very thoughtful and eloquent observations.

I think it is so important that you pointed out the President's place in the context of his legacy relating to his election because I believe that also ties into his legitimacy in moving forward with executive action on immigration.

This is the first Democratic President since FDR to be elected to consecutive terms having secured a majority of the vote from the American people, and so he has all of the legitimacy, all of the electoral mandate to act in a bold fashion.

We know that President George W. Bush came into the Presidency under questionable circumstances. He didn't receive a majority of the vote of the American people, and I am not sure what took place down in Florida, but certainly, there were significant questions as to the authenticity of the final result.

He came into office under questionable circumstances; yet there was no

talk of impeachment, even as he proceeded to get us into not one but two wars and jam a reckless tax cut to benefit the wealthy and the well-off down the throats of the American people.

If you just take Iraq, for example, his administration lied their way into a conflict that has cost the American people thousands of lives, billions of dollars; international legitimacy has been jeopardized. No one from this side of the aisle talked about bringing forth Articles of Impeachment in any meaningful way against George W. Bush.

□ 2000

You have a democratically elected President, Barack Obama, overwhelming electoral college landslide. He has got a mandate to act, and there are some Members on the other side of the aisle who just can't help themselves, who are itching to try and delegitimize this President. Shame on you. Let's just hope that we can move forward in a more productive fashion as it relates to how we interact with the executive branch. The whole world is watching, and they expect us to behave responsibly as we move forward.

Now, in terms of how do we move forward, how do we create a more perfect Union, and how do we act potentially in a bipartisan fashion, I think there are at least four areas where there should be opportunity to find common ground. I think we should be able to find common ground as it relates to immigration reform and dealing with our broken immigration system. We should be able to find common ground as it relates to giving America a raise. We should be able to find common ground as it relates to criminal justice reform.

I have been encouraged as a member of the House Judiciary Committee bipartisan task force on over-criminalization by the willingness of Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and progressives, to try to work together to solve this issue of a broken criminal justice system that we have got in America.

There are areas where we should be able to find some common ground. Let me start by dealing with this question of the executive order on immigration, because there is a lot of hysteria in this town now about how some people in the Congress are going to react to the President if he decides to issue some form of executive order on immigration, as if this President would be doing something extraordinary.

The history, in fact, tells us that since President Eisenhower, every single occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has issued executive orders related to immigration. In fact, there have been 39 such orders from Eisenhower all the way through to President George W. Bush related to the topic and subject matter of immigration. In fact, if you look at some of the execu-

tive orders that were issued by President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush related to undocumented immigrants from Central America and the need in their view to try to keep families together, they were some of the broadest executive orders issued by any President in the area of immigration.

Where was the impeachment talk back then? Why are we subjecting this President to such reckless conversations? I thought that we were trying to come together in the aftermath of these elections to see if we can have a productive 114th Congress, because certainly we know that the 113th Congress was or is on track, I should say, to go down as the least productive Congress in the history of the Republic. That is quite a designation. I mean, the least productive Congress?

If we go down memory lane and think about some of the highlights, this is a Congress that brought us a reckless, irresponsible government shutdown that cost the economy \$24 billion in lost economic productivity all because of this clinical obsession with the Affordable Care Act. We flirted with a default on our debt for the first time in our Nation's history, threatening the full faith and credit of the United States of America. It is a Congress that brought us sequestration, \$85 billion in randomly spread out cuts across the government in a way that put hundreds of thousands of jobs in jeopardy. We failed to renew unemployment insurance, leaving millions of Americans on the battlefield of the Great Recession. These are the highlights of the 113th Congress. I don't think that is a record to be proud of as we move forward.

So I think we could all benefit from a reduction in the rhetoric in an effort to try and find common ground. If you don't like what the President may do on the issue of immigration, you are going to control the House of Representatives and you are going to control the Senate. Just act. Do something. Stop talking. Fix our broken immigration system. You have the power to do so.

The Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion last year passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill that was not perfect but certainly was a good faith attempt to try and address the problem. There were 52 Democrats, 2 Independents, and 14 Republicans, if my recollection serves me correctly. They partnered together to pass a bipartisan piece of legislation.

So I am just hopeful that the House will come together and legitimately try to tackle an issue and just stop throwing out the word "amnesty" to apply to everything that you don't like. I mean, in this country's greatest tradition, we have never had dual citizenship, and we shouldn't have dual citizenship moving forward. We should just try to find a way to bring these 11

million undocumented people out of the shadows in a fashion that independent economists have said will be beneficial to the American taxpayer and result in dramatic reductions in our Nation's deficit. That is immigration reform. I am hopeful we can find some common ground in that area.

The second area where I think we should come together in our march toward a more perfect Union has to do with giving America a raise. Right now, the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. In other words, in the wealthiest country in the world, in our great Republic, under that Federal minimum wage, you can have somebody who works full-time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, and at the end of the day, with a family of three, find themselves below the Federal poverty line. That is the classic definition of "working poor." Why would we cement that into law?

So I think that the responsible thing to do is for us to try to figure out how we can come together and raise the minimum wage. We couldn't get a vote in the House of Representatives on H.R. 1010—this Congress—that would have raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour over the next year or so. Let's hit the refresh button and try to get something done next Congress. And this is not just something that Democrats embrace. This is not simply something that blue States embrace. This is not something that progressives simply embrace. If we are going to take a message from the outcome of the election earlier in November, we can't pick and choose what message we want to take.

How about we draw some lessons from the fact that the voters of Alaska came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State; the voters of Nebraska came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State; and the voters of South Dakota came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State. Those are four deeply conservative, deeply red States.

America wants a raise. If we are looking for issues where we can find common ground beyond immigration reform, perhaps we can start there. One of the reasons why I think we should start there is because, if you look at what the minimum wage really means in real terms right now, we are falling behind in terms of where we once were and also in terms of making sure that we are giving the people who are working for the minimum wage a fair shot to pursue the American Dream.

If you were to look at this chart that is before us, you will see that in 1968 only 17 percent of the people who fall

or fell into the category of a low-wage worker had some college experience, but in 2012 that number has shot way up: 46 percent of the people falling into the category of a low-wage worker with some college experience. No wonder there is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty about the future of America amongst the people we represent all across the country when you have got folks with some college experience falling into the category of a low-wage worker.

In 1968, about 48 percent of the people, low-wage workers, had a high school diploma or GED. That number has shot up. In 2012, 79 percent of low-wage workers had completed high school or obtained their GED. Americans are more educated now than we were 45 or so plus years ago in terms of the workforce but earning less. That is a fundamental problem that we have got to confront in this country, and raising the minimum wage is one way in which to do it.

The other thing that we should take a look at related to the minimum wage is the fact that the people who are on it in large measure are actually trying to support themselves on a full-time basis or support their families. One of the most popular myths put forward by those who are determined to do everything possible to stop America from getting a raise like to say, well, people who work for the minimum wage are teenagers, or they work part-time after school and live with their parents. All they are really doing is trying to earn some extra spending money. It is a cute argument, but when you actually evaluate it using some objective factual analysis, you see that these are simply myths designed to undermine the effort to raise the minimum wage for people who are actually struggling to support their families.

□ 2015

Unlike the popular mythology that is put forward that these are teenagers or afterschool workers or people who are trying to get some spending change to go to the movies, the reality is the average age of people who are working for minimum wage numbers in America is 35 years old. Eighty-eight percent of the people working for minimum wage right now are not teenagers, they are 20 years or older. More than a quarter actually have children, and 55 percent of these individuals, as this chart illustrates, work full time. So let's have an evidence-based discussion about the need to increase the minimum wage that is rooted in objective, factual analysis and not hysteria or mythology designed simply to evade the discussion.

And the fact that the minimum wage increase has been embraced by deeply conservative voters in Arkansas and Alaska and Nebraska and South Dakota I think provides us with a start-

ing point to move forward and attempt to find common ground in doing something that makes sense simply for America.

So I have mentioned immigration reform as a possible avenue of trying to identify common ground. I have mentioned the minimum wage. I think we also have to try to deal with the issue of our broken criminal justice system. If you think about the fact that in America there are more than 2 million people incarcerated in our country, that is a tremendous waste of human capital. It is a tremendous waste of our economic resources and results in a dramatic loss of human productivity.

So I have actually been pleased over the last several years that people on the left and on the right, progressives and conservatives, are finding their way toward common ground to deal with a criminal justice system that clearly is broken, and starting perhaps with the notion that we have had a failed war on drugs that has resulted in putting people behind bars far too often, and disproportionately African Americans and Latino men, but putting nonviolent drug abusers behind bars—a dramatic waste of taxpayer dollars in a manner that has proven to be ineffective from a criminal justice standpoint.

As a member of the bipartisanship task force on overcriminalization chaired by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER)—the Democratic leader of the effort was the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), one of the things that was striking as we moved forward with our exploration was the fact that in the Federal system more than 50 percent of the people who are currently incarcerated—more than 50 percent—are there for drug or substance abuse crimes. Only about 8 percent of the current occupants of Federal prisons across America were convicted of violent crimes. Something is wrong with that picture.

I am thankful, actually, that States, particularly in the deep South, conservative States with Republican Governors and Republican-held State legislative bodies, have recognized the failure of the excessive law and order policies brought to us in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, the fact that it was costing their taxpayers dollars, wasting resources, and they have come together to reform the criminal justice system. It has happened in Texas. It has happened in South Carolina. It has happened in Alabama. It has happened in Kentucky. It has happened in Louisiana. It has happened in Georgia. Again, these aren't blue States. These are not traditionally Democratic States, these are traditionally conservative States recognizing the need for criminal justice reform.

So I am hopeful that as we move into the 114th Congress, we can find our way

toward dealing with this issue. We have got Senators from the other side of the aisle who have expressed an interest in tackling this issue. And we have Democratic and Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee and beyond who have indicated a willingness to try to fix our broken criminal justice system: to eradicate mandatory minimums; to restore discretion to judges; to focus less on punishment as it relates to nonviolent drug abusers; and to provide treatment and rehabilitation so we can help people successfully reenter our society.

We have to finish the job as it relates to the disparity between crack and cocaine. It was 100 to 1. This Congress acted; it is now 18 to 1, but there is still no pharmaceutical reason for there to be any disparity between crack and cocaine. And we should make our reforms retroactive so we can free thousands of people unnecessarily behind bars right now for a law that this Congress has deemed to be unjust. So criminal justice reform, a third area where perhaps we can work together.

And lastly, as we prepare to wind down this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order, I also want to express my thanks to my good friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) who throughout the last 2 years courageously stood on the floor of the House of Representatives coanchoring the CBC Special Order, and we know that the best is yet to come for Congressman HORSFORD, but the last issue that we have to perhaps tackle in a bipartisan fashion is fixing the damage that was done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court.

We all should want to encourage Americans to vote and participate in our great democracy. It is that participation that preserves the integrity of the democratic Republic that has been created in this great country. Why anyone would want to suppress the vote is beyond me, with the exception of noting that some view it as a partisan means of maintaining power, a Pyrrhic victory perhaps, because at the end of the day, these efforts to disenfranchise people are bad for America.

This is a chart that illustrates the fact that in the aftermath of the 2010 election, some people interpreted that midterm election as a mandate to suppress the vote. And so in 41 States, 180 voter suppression-type bills were introduced all across America. In every State that is represented with a red color, laws were introduced to suppress the vote. That is how the 2010 elections seem to have been interpreted by some.

I am hopeful that coming out of the 2014 midterm elections that we will actually come together. There is a bill in the House of Representatives—it has Republican support and it has Democratic support—to help Americans who want to vote and undo the damage

that was done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court.

Now, the Voting Rights Act has a great bipartisan history. It was enacted into law in 1965. We are going to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. It was signed and championed by Lyndon Baines Johnson, with the support of civil rights leaders, Dr. King, and of course our own Congressman JOHN LEWIS. But every time the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized, it was reauthorized by a Republican President. It was reauthorized in 1970, signed into law by President Richard Nixon. And then it was reauthorized again in 1975, signed into law by President Gerald Ford. And then the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized again in 1982, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. And then it was reauthorized again in 2006 and signed into law by President George W. Bush. It has a great bipartisan history.

If we are looking for areas where we can find common ground, where there is an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans, for conservatives and progressives to work together, we have got a lot of options. We can fix our broken immigration system. We can deal with criminal justice reform. We can give America a raise, and we can fix the Voting Rights Act on the occasion of our celebrating the 50th anniversary of its passage.

And so I am hopeful that we can put the dysfunction and the obfuscation and the government shutdown and the impeachment talk and the sequestration and the serial flirtation with the debt ceiling and defaulting behind us and come together, find common ground, and march toward a more perfect union in the 114th Congress.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight our Nation's struggle to achieve a more perfect Union. As we look upon the political landscape this fall, it is impossible to ignore the backward steps we have taken.

In years past, elections signaled a time of hope and renewal: Hope that partisan politics would be put aside and renewal of our working relationships across the aisle and across the Capitol.

However, even as election results were being tallied earlier this month the new Republican majority was already highlighting the divisive actions they planned to undertake in the next Congress. Among these plans are efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act, and to shutdown the federal government or impeach President Obama over his immigration reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I see nothing but divisiveness and partisanship in these plans. In fact, investigations into the creation of the Affordable Care Act or the President's immigration policy do nothing to advance the needs of everyday Americans who continue to struggle making ends meet.

I urge my Republican Colleagues to abandon these frivolous efforts and instead focus

on expanding opportunities for every American and creating a more perfect Union.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak to the issues that members of the 113th Congress must address.

I thank my colleagues Representatives STEVEN HORSFORD and HAKEEM JEFFRIES for leading this evening's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on "The March toward a More Perfect Union: Where Do We Go from Here?"

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our a Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

These words are powerful and unforgettable—they are the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America.

What is most striking about these words are the first 3, "We the People." They remind us that we are here in the "People's House" to do the people's business.

The Supreme Courts over the centuries looked to these words for guidance or evidence of what the founding fathers intended for the Constitution's meaning and its ultimate purpose.

This places the preamble in a unique role as time has separated us from the words and thoughts of those who drafted the document, which governs our form of government today.

The Supreme Court, in its decision in *Ellis v. City of Grand Rapids*, looked to the preamble in reaching its decision in this eminent domain case. The Court decided that the use of land to provide additional land for the expansion of a hospital would be in the interest of the people and should be allowed under the constitution.

We the People, two years ago re-elected President Obama to the Presidency of the United States with 57.5 of all eligible voters voting for him to serve a second term in 2012.

He ran on the issues of retaining the Affordable Health Care Act, infrastructure investments, and rebuilding the middle class.

His re-election was no fluke; it was an affirmation by the people of the United States of a decision they made nearly 4 years earlier when he defeated his Republican opponent and become President.

In 2008, President Obama won 53% of the votes in the election that saw voter turnout at 62.3 percent of eligible citizens voting.

During the hard fought campaign then Democratic Presidential Candidate Obama said that he would focus on health care reform, repairing the economy, which was in shambles, and ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and bring our troops home.

Once President Obama entered office in January 2009, he was given the full picture of how bad the economy really was and how much work would be needed to repair the damage and restore economic vitality.

Since 2008, the economy has made tremendous progress, but more work needs to be done and I invite my colleague to commit in earnest to doing the work held to help the people of this nation.

On March 23, 2010, with the stroke of President Obama's pen, the American people received this part of the "Fair Deal." This bill did not become law in the dead of night, but in the full process this body affords serious consideration of legislation. There were committee hearings, staff and member meetings, amendments and a final vote in both the House and the Senate before it was sent to the President's desk.

The Affordable Care Act has been affirmed to be law by every means provided by our nation's constitution:

On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court upheld the ACA, affirming the constitutionality of the law—leaving intact the majority of the incentives to expand healthcare coverage to millions of Americans.

The Affordable Care Act was a central issue in the Presidential election of 2012. President Obama who signed the Affordable Care Act into law won the election by 51.1 percent of the popular vote and 62 percent of the electoral vote.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 WAS NO MANDATE

The voter turnout on November 4 was the lowest voter turnout in 72 years according to the New York Times. National voter participation was 33.9% for the 2014 mid-term elections.

Although some are trying to call the election a mandate, that argument cannot be made if these same people refused to treat as a mandate the victories of Present Obama in two elections with a vote well over 50% and voter participation of 60% or more.

The Affordable Health Care Act is the law of the land; we have 10 million people with health care, who otherwise would not have the financial security that brings to them and their families.

November 15, 2014–December 15, 2014 is open season for the Affordable Care Act, which allows those without health insurance the opportunity to purchase insurance for themselves and their children.

The Affordable Care Act is not going anywhere and if the Republicans want to use taxpayers dollars on continuing to argue over it that is a waste of precious legislative days that the people of this nation cannot afford.

REPUBLICAN THREATS OF SHUTDOWN OVER IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Republicans shut down the government a year ago in October and the consequences were devastating to the American workers and seriously damaged the financial recovery the nation was experiencing.

The Shutdown of 2011 cost the nation \$24 billion.

A CNN poll found that 69 percent of Americans—including 52 percent of Tea Party supporters—thought the Congressional Republicans were "acting like spoiled children," and 46 percent said they would blame Congressional Republicans for a shutdown.

Sixty-eight percent of the American public said the shutdown of a few days would be a bad thing for the country; that number rose to nearly 80 percent for a shutdown lasting a few weeks.

Sixty percent say it is more important for Congress to avoid a shutdown than to make major changes to the new health care law. [9/30]

According to the Office of Management and Budget, the last Republican Government Shutdown hurt the American people.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees immediately and indefinitely furloughed, and many Federal employees and contractors that continued to work were not paid during the shutdown.

Housing loans to low and middle income families in rural communities were put on hold, as would start-up business loans for farmers and ranchers.

SBA stopped approving applications for small businesses to obtain loans and loan guarantees. In a typical month, SBA approves over \$1 billion in loan assistance to small businesses.

All facilities and services in our national parks were closed, along with the Smithsonian, impacting the hundreds of thousands of people that were on or heading to vacations. This had a severe negative impact on the surrounding local communities that rely on the revenue generated by travel and tourism to these destinations.

Important government research into life-threatening diseases, environmental protection, and other areas were halted.

The government stopped issuing permits to conduct drilling operations on Federal lands, and would stop or delay environmental reviews of planned transportation and energy-related projects, keeping companies from working on these projects.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees suddenly did not have a pay-check coming and had no idea when the shutdown would end.

Veterans were left without access to vital services.

It was irresponsible then and it would be far worse knowing what the reality was then for this Congress to do this to the American people again in less than 2 years.

IMMIGRATION REFORM LONG OVERDUE

The immigration reform bill that came out of the Senate does much to improve family immigration, but I am concerned that the bill contains some fundamental changes to our immigration system that move us away from the principle of family reunification.

In my role as a Senior Member of both the House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee and Homeland Security Committee, I will continue working to strengthen the provisions in the bill that impact families and work to restore other important provisions which help families, particularly those immigrants of limited means—every immigrant cannot be a millionaire tech entrepreneur or bear the lineage of some landed gentry—America is the ultimate egalitarian society where opportunity waits for those rich and poor who seek it.

Nearly everyone agrees that our immigration system is badly broken and in dire need of fixing, and the bill that came out of the Senate is a step in the right direction.

What we need is immigration legislation that establishes a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country. We must address the lengthy backlogs in our current immigration system—backlogs that have kept families apart sometimes for decades.

We must grant a faster track to the 'Dreamers' brought to this country as children through

no fault of their own, and to agricultural workers who are an essential part of our communities and work so hard to provide our nation's food supply.

We need immigration legislation that will make important changes to the visas used by dairy farmers and the tourism industry and by immigrant investors who are making investments in our communities.

Dreamers grew up in the United States, but were brought here illegally through no fault of their own. Nearly 300,000 Dreamers have been granted legal status in the past year, giving them the ability to live their lives in our communities by working and going to college without fear of deportation.

Most Americans agree that we need a comprehensive immigration reform plan that includes a pathway to citizenship. Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans (87%) believe that it would be better to offer undocumented workers an opportunity to earn citizenship after they have met the necessary requirements than to deport them.

If the House had seriously considered comprehensive immigration reform it would not be necessary for the President to use his legitimate and lawful Executive authority by the end of this year to minimize the damage caused by Congress' failure to act.

Providing legal status to the undocumented immigrants currently in our country would grow our GDP by a cumulative increase of \$832 billion over 10 years. According to the Center for American Progress, immigration reform would create 121,000 new jobs each year in the next decade. Legalization would increase immigrants' income, an additional boost to our economy.

We must also do something to protect our borders. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1417—the Border Security Results Act of 2013. This bill has received accolades from the Wall Street Journal and The Los Angeles Times as a commonsense approach to protect our borders.

I believe the border security legislation that we put forward can be the solution that allows real immigration reform to move forward because it will provide the security at the border that the American people are demanding and deserve.

The Border Security Results Act would require a comprehensive outcome-based strategy that includes deployment of more surveillance technology for gaining full situational awareness of the border, use of that data to allocate manpower and other resources along the border and the creation of metrics to set progress in achieving border security. Those metrics may be based on the number of apprehensions of illegal aliens relative to the number of illegal crossings.

Over the years I have introduced the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act and much of the Senate passed bill was included in my immigration bill; the Senate bill would address some of the toughest issues on immigration reform and would offer many innovative and considerate solutions that will help to repair some of the most broken parts of our immigration system.

So the passage of the Senate bill is a major leap forward in human rights in America. Now is the time for the House of Representatives to

continue this crucial fight for immigration reform and a secure America.

If we let the immigration reform debate focus primarily on minute elements we lose sight of the broader picture—many other important things we need to do to fix our broken immigration system. It has been estimated that approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States.

The vast majority of them are hard-working and law-abiding persons who have become productive members of our society. It serves no purpose to keep them in the shadows of our society praying for lawful status. It is not good for them, and is not in the best interests of the United States. Comprehensive immigration reform will require leadership from the Administration, the Senate, both parties in Congress with a willingness on everyone's part to work together.

The American people will hold accountable those that stand in the way of making comprehensive immigration reform.

When the House and the Senate passes comprehensive immigration reform the President will sign it into law. This is something that would be permanent and provide the stability America needs as we move toward a more prosperous future.

This special order is an opportunity to make the case for continuing on the course set by the Obama Administration and the need to not take the recent election as a mandate for major changes.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1086) "An Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire, vice Larry Vanderhoef of California.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GARRETT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of

a flight delay due to weather conditions.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2015, AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2015 THROUGH FY 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Mr. Speaker, to facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and for the 10-year period of fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2024. The report is current through November 12, 2014. The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

Table 1 in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and the 10-year period of fiscal year 2015 through 2024 to the overall limits filed in the Congressional Record on January 27, 2014 for fiscal year 2014 and on April 29, 2014 for fiscal years 2015 and 2015-2024 as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2015 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations filed on January 27, 2014 for fiscal year 2014 and the allocations filed on April 29, 2014 for fiscal years 2015 and the 10-year period 2015 through 2024 as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. For fiscal year 2014, "action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth on January 27, 2014. For fiscal years 2015 and the 10-year period 2015-2024, "action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth on April 29, 2014.

This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Tables 3 and 4 compare the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2014 and 2015 with the "section 302(b)" sub-allocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations

subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) sub-allocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending caps allowed under section 251(b) of the Budget Control Act.

Tables 5 and 6 give the current level for fiscal year 2015 and 2016, respectively, of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 601 of H. Con. Res. 25. This list is needed to enforce section 601 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

In addition, letters from the Congressional Budget Office are attached that summarize and compare the budget impact of enacted legislation that occurred after adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Restuccia at (202) 226-7270.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND 2015 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

(Reflecting action completed as of November 12, 2014—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2014 ¹	Fiscal Year 2015 ²	Fiscal Years 2015–2024
Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	2,924,837	3,031,744	n.a.
Outlays	2,937,044	3,026,369	n.a.
Revenues	2,311,026	2,535,978	31,206,399
Current Level:			
Budget Authority	2,943,968	3,037,383	n.a.
Outlays	2,955,423	3,041,694	n.a.
Revenues	2,311,761	2,535,984	31,206,465
Current Level over (+) / under (–) Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	+19,131	+5,639	n.a.
Outlays	+18,379	+15,325	n.a.
Revenues	+735	+6	+66

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2016 through 2024 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

¹ Section 111(b) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 required the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the House of Representatives to file aggregate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2014 for purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The spending and revenue aggregates for fiscal year 2014 were subsequently filed on January 27, 2014. The current level for this report begins with the budgetary levels filed on January 27, 2014 and makes changes to those levels for enacted legislation.

² Section 115(b) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) required the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the House of Representatives to file aggregate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2015 and for fiscal years 2015–2024 for purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The spending and revenue aggregates for fiscal year 2015 were filed on April 29, 2014. Those levels were subsequently adjusted on November 12, 2014 pursuant to BBA section 115(e) to reflect the budgetary effects of deficit reduction enacted in the Highways and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. The current level for this report begins with the budgetary levels filed on April 29, 2014 as adjusted, and makes changes to those levels for enacted legislation.

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

(Reflecting action completed as of November 12, 2014—Fiscal years, in millions of dollars)

House Committee	2014		2015		2015–2024	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	+3,243	+2,124	0	0	–19	–19
Difference	+3,243	+2,124	0	0	–19	–19
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES—Continued

[Reflecting action completed as of November 12, 2014—Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2014		2015		2015–2024	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current Level	+4	+4	0	0	0	0
Difference	+4	+4	0	0	0	0
Education and the Workforce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	+6,159	+6,157	+2	+2	+24	+24
Difference	+6,159	+6,157	+2	+2	+24	+24
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	–34	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	–34	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	–1	–1	0	–2	0	0
Difference	–1	–1	0	–2	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science, Space and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	–1	–1
Difference	0	0	0	0	–1	–1
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	–15	–3,542	–4,777
Current Level	+9,760	+9,745	+25	+20	–3,519	–4,739
Difference	+9,760	+9,745	+25	+35	+23	+38

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Figures in millions] ¹

	302(b) Allocations ¹		302(b) for GWOT ¹		Current Status General Purpose		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20,880	22,092	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Commerce, Justice, Science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51,600	60,756	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Defense	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	486,851	528,707	85,191	43,140	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Energy and Water Development	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	34,060	39,652	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Financial Services and General Government	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	21,851	23,054	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Homeland Security	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	39,270	46,045	227	182	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Interior, Environment	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	30,058	32,154	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	156,773	159,953	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Legislative Branch	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,258	4,192	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	73,299	76,278	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
State, Foreign Operations	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	42,481	45,818	6,520	1,885	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation, HUD	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	50,856	116,465	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,012,237	1,155,166	91,938	45,207	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) Allocation ²									General Purpose		GWOT	
									BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation									1,012,237	1,154,816	91,938	45,207
Total Appropriations									1,012,237	1,155,166	91,938	45,207
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation									0	+350	0	0
Memorandum												
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories					Amounts Assumed in 302(b) ¹		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
					BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA					n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science					n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense					n.a.	n.a.	225	150	0	0	0	0

Memorandum	Amounts Assumed in 302(b) ¹		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories								
Energy and Water Development	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	5,626	281	0	0
Interior, Environment	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	924	832
Legislative Branch	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation, HUD	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	n.a.	n.a.	225	150	5,626	281	924	832

¹ The original 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations contained in H. Rpt. 113-17 for the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget-Fiscal Year 2014 (H. Con. Res. 25) was revised on January 14, 2014, consistent with section 101 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The House Committee on Appropriations did not file revised 302(b) allocations after the final 302(a) allocation was provided—hence there are no valid 302(b)'s in force for fiscal year 2014.

² Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown above.

TABLE 4—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Figures in Millions] ¹

	302(b) Allocations		302(b) for GWOT		Current Status General Purpose ¹		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	20,880	21,716	0	0	20,880	21,716	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,200	61,518	0	0	51,200	61,518	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	490,944	522,774	79,445	36,839	490,908	522,751	79,445	36,839	-36	-23	0	0
Energy and Water Development	34,010	37,831	0	0	33,991	37,811	0	0	-19	-20	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	21,285	22,750	0	0	20,133	21,593	0	0	-1,152	-1,157	0	0
Homeland Security	45,658	44,712	0	0	45,658	44,712	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interior, Environment	30,220	30,191	0	0	30,220	32,740	0	0	0	+2,549	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	155,702	159,922	0	0	20,230	115,274	0	0	-135,472	-44,648	0	0
Legislative Branch	4,258	4,219	0	0	3,323	3,491	0	0	-935	-728	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	71,499	76,100	0	0	71,499	76,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	42,381	42,319	5,912	3,142	42,137	43,653	5,912	1,275	-244	+1,334	0	-1,867
Transportation, HUD	52,029	118,732	0	0	52,029	118,678	0	0	0	-54	0	0
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	1,020,066	1,142,784	85,357	39,981	882,208	1,100,037	85,357	38,114	-137,858	-42,747	0	-1,867

Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) allocation

	General Purpose		GWOT	
	BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation	1,020,066	1,142,784	85,357	39,981
Total Appropriations	882,208	1,100,037	85,357	38,114
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation	-137,858	-42,747	0	-1,867

Memorandum	Amounts Assumed in 302(b)		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories								
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0
Energy and Water Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security	6,438	322	0	0	6,438	322	0	0
Interior, Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legislative Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation, HUD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6,438	322	0	75	6,438	322	0	0

¹ Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown in this table.

TABLE 5—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2015 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 25 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Budget Authority in Millions]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2015
Appropriate Level	55,634
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	45,016
Medical Support and Compliance	5,880
Medical Facilities	4,739
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	55,635
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit	+1
Section 601(d)(2) Limits	2015
Appropriate Level	28,852
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Payment to Postal Service	71
Employment and Training Administration	1,772
Education for the Disadvantaged	10,841
School Improvement Programs	1,681
Special Education	9,283
Career, Technical and Adult Education	791
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	4,000
Project-based Rental Assistance	400
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	28,839

TABLE 5—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2015 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 25 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014—Continued

[Budget Authority in Millions]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2015
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit	-13
Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations ²	2,015
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	445
Total, enacted advances ¹	84,919

¹ Line items may not add to total due to rounding.

² Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113-6.

TABLE 6—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2016 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 115(c) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Budget Authority]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2016
Appropriate Level	58,662,202,000

TABLE 6—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2016 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 115(c) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014—Continued

[Budget Authority]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2016
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	0
Medical Support and Compliance	0
Medical Facilities	0
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	0
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit	-58,662,202,000
Section 601(d)(2) Limits	2016
Appropriate Level	28,781,000,000
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0
School Improvement Programs	0
Special Education	0
Career, Technical and Adult Education	0
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	0
Project-based Rental Assistance	0
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	0

TABLE 6—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2016 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 115(c) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014—Continued

(Budget Authority)	
Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2016
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit	—28,781,000,000
Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations	2,016
Corporation for Public Broadcasting ²	445,000,000
Total, enacted advances ¹	445,000,000

¹ Line items may not add to total due to rounding.² Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113–76.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2014 budget and is current through November 12, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the

technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 25, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014, as approved by the House of Representatives and subsequently revised.

Since my last letter dated September 9, 2014, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following act that affects budget authority for fiscal year 2014: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113–183).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,310,972
Permanents and other spending legislation ^b	1,849,079	1,778,854	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	504,662	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	–707,692	–707,792	n.a.
Total, previously enacted	1,141,387	1,575,724	2,310,972
Enacted Legislation: ^c			
Authorizing Legislation:			
Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–28)	14,400	12,670	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–37)	–1	–1	0
Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–40)	–16	–58	0
An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas (P.L. 113–42)	2	2	5
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113–66)	66	68	0
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013/Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–67)	–3,207	985	49
Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79)	3,243	2,124	5
Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–93)	6,143	6,141	0
Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113–94)	–34	0	0
Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113–97)	0	0	5
An act to amend . . . the Provo River Project Transfer Act . . . and for other purposes (P.L. 113–129)	–1	–1	0
Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–159)	9,765	9,765	725
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113–183)	15	0	0
Total, Authorizing Legislation	30,375	31,695	789
Appropriations Legislation:			
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–46) ^d	635	635	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–76)	1,869,637	1,421,565	0
Support for Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–95)	0	350	0
Total, Appropriations Legislation	1,870,272	1,422,550	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	1,900,647	1,454,245	789
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–98,066	–74,546	0
Total Current Level ^e	2,943,968	2,955,423	2,311,761
Total House Resolution ^f	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026
Current Level Over House Resolution	19,131	18,379	735
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2014–2023:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,104,656
House Resolution ^g	n.a.	n.a.	31,095,742
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	8,914
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during last session, but before adoption of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (H. Con. Res. 25): an act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the FEMA for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program (P.L. 113–1), the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113–2), the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–5), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113–6), and the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–9).

^b Relative to the House Current Level Report dated October 24, 2013, House Current Level has increased by \$361 million in 2014 because of assumptions related to the interest on the public debt that were revised pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–67).

^c Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2014, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (Sec. 155)	0	50	0
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Resolution, 2014 (P.L. 113–145)	225	150	0
Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–146)	15,000	450	0
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	15,225	650	0

^d Sections 135 and 136 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–46) provide \$636 million for fire suppression activities, available until expended. Section 146 of the act freezes the pay of Members of Congress, which is estimated to result in a reduction in spending of \$1 million in 2014.

^e For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

^f Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	2,769,406	2,815,079	2,270,932
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 603 of H. Con. Res. 25	–14,089	–4,100	40,040
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	6,079	230	0
Adjustment for Technical Correction to the Budget Control Act Spending Caps	549	308	0
Pursuant to section 111 of the Bipartisan Budget Act	162,892	125,527	54
Revised House Resolution	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026

^g Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2014–2023 revenue totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The total shown in the table reflects those revisions.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2015 budget and is current through November 12, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of

section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113-67).

Since my last letter dated September 9, 2014, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect

budget authority or outlays for fiscal year 2015:

Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164);

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183); and
IMPACT Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-185).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted: ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,533,388
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,882,631	1,805,294	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	508,261	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-735,195	-734,481	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,147,436	1,579,074	2,533,388
Enacted Legislation: ^b			
Lake Hill Administrative Site Affordable Housing Act (P.L. 113-141)	0	-2	0
Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-159)	0	-15	2,590
Emergency Afghan Allies Extension Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-160)	5	5	6
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (P.L. 113-164) ^c	-4,705	-180	0
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183)	0	10	0
IMPACT Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-185)	22	22	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	-4,678	-160	2,596
Continuing Resolution: ^c			
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (P.L. 113-164)	1,027,857	611,709	0
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	866,768	851,071	0
Total Current Level ^d	3,037,383	3,041,694	2,535,984
Total House Resolution ^e	3,031,744	3,026,369	2,535,978
Current Level Over House Resolution	5,639	15,325	6
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2015-2024:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,206,465
House Resolution ^f	n.a.	n.a.	31,206,399
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	66
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before publication in the Congressional Record of the statement of the allocations and aggregates pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-67): the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), the Homeowner Food Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-89), the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113-94), and the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113-97).

^b Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2015, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Resolution, 2014	0	75	0
Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-146)	-1,331	6,619	-42
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	-1,331	6,694	-42

^c The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-146) provides funding through December 11, 2014. Sections 136 and 137 provide \$88 million to respond to the Ebola virus, which is available until September 30, 2015. Section 139 rescinds funds from the Children's Health Insurance Program. Section 147 extends the authorization for the Export-Import Bank of the United States through June 30, 2015. The amounts for sections 136, 137, 139 and 147 are shown in the "Enacted Legislation" portion of this table.

^d For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

^e Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April, 29, 2014, pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113-67).

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	3,025,306	3,025,032	2,533,388
Revisions:			
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	6,438	322	0
Pursuant to section 115(e) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013	0	1,030	0
Adjustment for the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014	0	-15	2,590
Revised House Resolution	3,031,744	3,026,369	2,535,978

^f Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2015-2024 revenue totals printed in the Congressional Record on April, 29, 2014 pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113-67).

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED
TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 16, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 120 Approving the location of a memorial to commemorate the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for independence in the American Revolution.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7719. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Text Implementing 10 U.S.C. 2323 (DFARS Case 2011-D038) (RIN: 0750-AH45) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7720. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051, Sequence 5] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7721. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0052; Sequence No. 5] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7722. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Program — Rehabilitation Specialty Areas [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0068] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7723. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection — IDEA Data Management Center [CFDA Number: 84.373M.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7724. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Reha-

bilitation Services Administration — Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program [CFDA Number: 84.224D.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7725. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities; Rehabilitation Services Administration — Capacity Building Program for Traditionally Underserved Populations — Vocational Rehabilitation Training Institute for the Preparation of Personnel in American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0024; CFDA Number: 84.315C.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7726. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection — IDEA Fiscal Data Center received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7727. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Violence Against Women Act [Docket ID: ED-2013-OPE-0124] (RIN: 1840-AD16) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7728. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Excepted Benefits [CMS-9946-F] (RIN: 0938-AS16) received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7729. A letter from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report on export and reexport license requirements for integrated circuits, seismic detection systems, helicopter landing system radars, and technology for infrared up-conversion devices; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7730. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-079, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7731. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-117, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7732. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide immediate military assistance to the Government of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7733. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter regarding commitments in the Joint Plan of Action; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7734. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on employment of U.S. citizens by certain international organizations during 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276c-4; Public Law 102-138, section 181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7735. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7736. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a formal response to the GAO report "Combating Terrorism: U.S. Efforts in Northwest Africa Would Be Strengthened by Enhanced Program Management"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7737. A letter from the Administrator, TSA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Administration's certification that the level of screening services and protection provided at Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB) will be equal to or greater than the level that would be provided at the airport by TSA Transportation Security Officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

7738. A letter from the Chairman, National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting a letter regarding the National Health Care Workforce Commission; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5441. A bill to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States (Rept. 113-620). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4049. A bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-621, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5069. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113-622). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5040. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-623). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5162. A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a

certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-624). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3608. A bill to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chipewya Indians (Rept. 113-625, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 756. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014 (Rept. 113-626). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3608 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4049 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend the Defense Base Act (42 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) to require death benefits to be paid to a deceased employee's designated beneficiary or next of kin in the case of death resulting from a war-risk hazard or act of terrorism occurring on or after September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself and Mr. PETERS of Michigan):

H.R. 5722. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5723. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5724. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide funding for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 5725. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5726. A bill to allow for energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H. Res. 757. A resolution providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States with respect to the implementation of the immigration laws; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 5722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3, giving Congress the Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 5725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which reads, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United

States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 140: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 630: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 676: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1015: Mr. FARR and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1074: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1094: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1274: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1507: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1652: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1666: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 1812: Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 1852: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1981: Mr. TONKO and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 2116: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2366: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 2384: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 2529: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2778: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 2785: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2901: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2918: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 3050: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3118: Ms. HAHN, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 3133: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3398: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3485: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3717: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 3747: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 3836: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3877: Mr. KIND and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 3930: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 4226: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4333: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4351: Mr. NADLER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 4427: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 4594: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 4612: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4727: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 4872: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4901: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4920: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 4963: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5012: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 5082: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DENT, and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 5226: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 5241: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 5267: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 5343: Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 5441: Ms. SINEMA and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5484: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. ROHR-ABACHER.

H.R. 5644: Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 5656: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 5662: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5686: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H. Res. 281: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. KIND, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCKINLEY,

Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. PETRI, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H. Res. 536: Mr. NOLAN.

H. Res. 716: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 728: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Ms. CHU.

H. Res. 730: Mr. HOLT.

H. Res. 735: Mr. ROSS.

H. Res. 755: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SABLON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr.

GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. VARGAS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative MCNERNEY, or a designee, to H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Los Angeles City College (LACC) upon its eighty-fifth anniversary.

LACC's site is one of the most significant locations in Los Angeles' education history, as it was not just the first community college in Los Angeles, but also served as the initial campus for both the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Cal State University Los Angeles. Its storied history began with the Normal School in Los Angeles, which provided graduates with credentials to teach kindergarten through twelfth grade. In 1919, to address the city's request for a local university, the Normal School transitioned into serving as the southern branch of the University of California Berkeley (UC Berkeley) for classes only; and in 1925, UC Berkeley permitted the southern branch, now UCLA, to award degrees.

In 1929, after UCLA purchased their own land and moved west, the Los Angeles Board of Education bought the campus and turned it into the Los Angeles Junior College, now called Los Angeles City College. On September 4, 1929, LACC welcomed 1,350 students to its first fall semester, at the time the fourth largest academic institution in the country. Under new president Dr. William Henry Snyder, LACC's mission was twofold: to provide two years of transfer education, and to provide career training with general education via vocational programs such as civil engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, civic health, aeronautical engineering, secretarial science, social arts, and general business.

The Depression era saw enrollment grow in 1933 from over 4,000 students to nearly 7,000 students in 1940. Enrollment dropped significantly during World War II, and during this time, the college assisted the war effort by conducting courses for the Aviation Ground School, Civilian Pilot Training Program, the Army Specialized Training, and the Naval Reserve. After the war's end, many students attended LACC under the G.I. Bill, when enrollment went from 3,000 to 8,000 and half of the students were veterans. In 1947, an experimental four-year school was formed on the campus, called the Los Angeles State College of Applied Arts and Science, which while an admirable idea, proved to be impractical; so in 1955, the four-year school moved east to become California State University Los Angeles. During the 1950's, LACC received its first accreditation as a junior college, classes covering remedial instruction and new occupational programs including computer technology, human services, dental assisting, and

nuclear medicine technology were offered, and an American Cultures Department was formed.

The 1960's saw increased diversity among the student body, and new programs such as community service and non-credited classes in recreational areas, and the 1970's brought its first woman president, Dr. Stelle Feuers and an enrollment of 22,000 students. Today, some of LACC's programs and developments include the addition of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Academy, a Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) for current and former foster youth, and the LACC Alumni Association Foundation which includes a database of over 500,000 alumni. Famous LACC alumni include composer John Williams, musicians Leonard Slatkin, Les McCann, and Odette, actors Donna Reed, Morgan Freeman, Clint Eastwood, Esther Williams and Robert Vaughn, and producer Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek. The college is currently thriving under the guidance of President Renee D. Martinez.

I ask all Members to join with me in commending Los Angeles City College for eighty-five years of educating the greater Los Angeles community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL EVANS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SKYTOWER COMMUNICATIONS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bill Evans. Considered to have pioneered FM radio in Hardin County, Bill is set to retire as Owner and President of Skytower Communications.

Bill previously served as president of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, even receiving the Kentucky Mic Award. He was also active with the National Association of Broadcasters, serving as a board member for the Kentucky and West Virginia region. Bill also served as President of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, in addition to receiving the Big E award and being named the Small Business Person of the Year.

Anyone who knows Bill knows that he's only one-half of a team. That other half is his wife, Marilyn. Together, they have served as chair of the United Way Committee and are very active at Severns Valley Baptist Church, where Bill has served three terms as a deacon and is currently chairman of the deacons. Marilyn has also been instrumental with her work on the Hardin County Fair Board and in leading the creation of a free children's fair for the community. Marilyn has also served as President of the Junior Women's Club. A real fixture in the community, Bill and Marilyn make quite the team.

I wish Bill well in his retirement, but know he will continue to be a driving force in Hardin County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR JESUS (JESS) Q. TORRES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Jesus "Jess" Q. Torres. Mr. Torres served as a Senator in the 16th Guam Legislature. Senator Torres passed away on November 10, 2014 at the age of 72.

Senator Torres was born on August 14, 1942 to Jose Pangelinan and Felecita Quinene Torres. He graduated from George Washington High School. He attended the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

Mr. Torres served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. After his time in the Army, Jess became a staff assistant to the late Governor Carlos G. Camacho. Jess went on to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land Management and then as the Administrative Director of the 15th Guam Legislature.

Jess was then elected to the 16th Guam Legislature where he served from 1981 to 1982. After his time at the Guam Legislature, he was appointed by Governor Joseph Ada to be the Executive Manager of the Guam International Airport Authority from January 1987 to January 1995. During his term, he oversaw the construction of the current terminal at the GIAA, which was designated as the Antonio B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority, in honor of Guam's first Delegate to Congress.

In 2003, Jess was chosen by Governor Felix Camacho to serve on the GIAA's Board of Directors and he chaired the Committee on Personnel. In 2004, he was appointed to a second term as GIAA's Executive Manager. During this term, Jess is credited for turning around five consecutive years of losses and reducing the expenditures of the GIAA. He was also recognized for his efficiency and management skills that led to vast improvements at the Airport Authority.

Mr. Torres has also served on the Board of Directors of the Guam Economic Development Authority. He played an active role in politics on Guam and served as the Chairman of the Republican Party of Guam, where he was instrumental in the party's success and maintaining party unity.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Senator Jess Torres, and I join the people of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Guam in celebrating his life and recognizing his dedicated service to Guam. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones and friends. He will be missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

A TRIBUTE TO LEWIS MACADAMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis MacAdams, Jr. whose life's work and 70th birthday are being celebrated at the Friends of Los Angeles River's (FoLAR) Fandango on October 12th, 2014.

The project that would most define Lewis's extraordinary life, and ultimately redefine the landscape of Los Angeles, began in 1985 when he co-founded the Friends of Los Angeles River. Lewis says that he asked the Los Angeles River if he could speak for it, and the river, in his words, "didn't say no."

Lewis has described the revitalization of the Los Angeles River as his "forty-year artwork." He began this work with a series of community clean-ups, performances and protests. His early efforts blossomed into a social movement that has given Los Angeles a renewed sense of its own possibility for ecological transformation. Using poetry as well as politics, Lewis fought back against projects that would have extinguished the last glimmer of life out of the river, organizing broad community coalitions and winning the support of officials at every level of government.

Over the past three decades, Lewis's leadership of FoLAR has given Angelenos a vision of the river as a 51-mile greenway from the mountains to the sea. FoLAR's annual "La Gran Limpieza" has drawn thousands of volunteers to clean up the river, has trained dozens of educators, and has introduced thousands of students to the river's existence and ecology. He has led countless ecological studies, vastly enriching the region's understanding of the river's abundant and diverse habitats. In 2014, FoLAR's vast library of environmental work was acquired by the special collections of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) archive.

Most recently, Lewis MacAdams, Jr. helped win the Army Corps of Engineers' support for the habitat restoration and redevelopment of the Los Angeles River to return it to its pristine state generations ago. Without Lewis MacAdams' passion, commitment and drive, the cultural and ecological health of the Los Angeles River would be unimaginably diminished. In celebration of the FoLAR Fandango, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in commending Lewis MacAdams, Jr. for his great accomplishments and contributions.

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE
ROBERTS JOHNSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Clarence Roberts Johnson. The New Haven, KY, native was elected mayor in 2010 and held that post until he passed away on August 28, 2014.

A fixture in his community, "Bobby" wore many hats throughout his career. He was a licensed barber and a small business owner in the community. Bobby was committed to providing quality emergency services in Nelson County, both by establishing the Rolling Fork Fire Department and working to provide ambulance services. In addition, Bobby also served 18 years as the Police Chief in New Haven and was elected City Commissioner, serving two terms before becoming mayor.

It is easy to see that Bobby had an eye for public safety. When concerns of flood waters arose in New Haven, Bobby walked the banks of the river and ultimately saw that the river course had changed. This discovery, which he ultimately shared with my office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will lead to a safer community.

Bobby was always proud of living in New Haven and I know the city's residents were proud to call him their mayor. We will miss him and are thankful for his service.

YUMA COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Yuma County, Arizona. Established in 1864 as one of the four original counties of the Territory of Arizona, Yuma County has been a cornerstone for Arizona commerce, agriculture, development, and culture throughout its history.

Celebrating 150 years since being formally organized, the area of Yuma County has a history which extends back much further. It is a history closely intertwined with the long and deep Colorado River which stretches along the county's western border. Not only did the Colorado bring the area's first European visitors—Spanish explorers who sailed up the river in 1540 and discovered a thriving Native American village on its banks—it also has served as the lifeblood for the region's commerce and agriculture.

Yuma County leads the state and is third in the nation for vegetable production. In fact, Yuma County is the "winter lettuce capital of the world" and supplies 90% of our country's lettuce between November and March. The County is also the world's top producer of gourmet Medjool dates.

Yuma County has influenced the culture and identity of Arizona and the United States: the gradual taming of the Colorado River which

unlocked some of the world's best agricultural harvests, the famous Yuma Territorial Prison which housed some of the frontier's most nefarious criminals, and the booms and busts of bountiful ore and mineral mines that populated the desert. These are the stories of the Wild West that have shaped the independent and determined spirit of the County and its proud residents.

From its original Native American settlers to its Wild West days to its rich agricultural history, Yuma County's story is an integral part of the American identity. On November 10, 2014 we celebrate 150 years for Yuma County; let us look forward to 150 more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD R. FORD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Donald R. Ford Sr., 83, who passed away on November 1st, 2014.

Donald was very active in community and youth programs throughout his lifetime. He earned his B.A. in 1953 from Bethany College, Cum Laude with Honors. While a student at Bethany College, he served as President of the Student Body and was elected Commander of his chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Donald continued his education at the University of Michigan Law School where he received his J.D. degree in 1956. While attending the University of Michigan Law School, he was a quarter finalist in the Campbell Moot Court competition and was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Legal fraternity.

After completing his education, Donald continued to use his natural and proven leadership skills in the Warren community. For over fifteen years, Donald practiced law in Warren before assuming the position of Judge of the Warren Municipal Court in 1972. He was the first attorney and Judge from Trumbull County to serve on all four levels of the Ohio Judicial System, and also was Trumbull County's longest serving jurist for over 35 years. Apart from his service to the city of Warren, Donald was an assistant Professor at the Trumbull Branch of Kent State University, where he taught courses in criminal law and criminal evidence for over twenty-eight years. For his outstanding service and leadership, Donald received many distinguished awards including Trumbull County Democratic Man of the Year, Distinguished Citizen Award from the Warren Urban League, and Ohio Elks Hall of Fame Award.

Donald is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years Janet L. Ford; his son, John A. Ford; his daughter Leslie J. Ford; daughter Ann Ford and daughter-in-law Sharon Ford. He leaves seven grandchildren, Rory Ford, Devin Ford, Jaclyn Ford, Bryan Ford, David Ford, Zoe Crane and Cole Shepherd. He was preceded in death by his parents and son Donald R. Ford Jr. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to his entire family. Trumbull County, the City of Warren, and the State of

Ohio are much better places because of Donald's leadership and selfless contributions. He and his service will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MARVIN
SCHACHTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marvin Schachter of Pasadena, California, upon receiving the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California Bill of Rights Award.

Born on May 17, 1924, Marvin grew up in Brooklyn during the Great Depression as the youngest of four children. The hard-hitting Great Depression years had enormous influence in determining Marvin's life direction. At the young age of 15, he became involved in student activism and joined the national board of the American Student Union, a progressive organization of college students known for its protests against militarism. In 1943, Marvin was drafted into the Army and served in military intelligence until February, 1946 when he was discharged. Shortly after his discharge, he received his bachelor's degree at Brooklyn College, married Doris Donnally and began his graduate work in economics at Columbia University. During this time, he was actively involved in the civil rights movement organizing marches and establishing statewide student organizations against segregationist laws. He completed his master's degree in economics at the University of Colorado, and in 1951, he was admitted as a graduate student at Cambridge University, England.

When Marvin returned to the United States as a trained economist, he wanted to pursue a career in academia, but was prevented from doing so due to unwarranted concern over his history of student activism. He became a market researcher for Hallicrafters, a company that specialized in constructing electronic equipment for the Air Force, but was let go when an executive learned of his activism in leftist organizations. This turn of events led Marvin to go into retail and merchandising.

In 1954, tragically, his wife Doris passed away. In 1956, Marvin met and married Esther Adler. The Schachters moved to Los Angeles for Marvin to take a job offer by the Mays Department Stores Company. At that time, Marvin joined the American Friends Service Committee in Pasadena and the ACLU's board of directors. He became president of the ACLU of Southern California, and served on the national board for 17 years. In the 1980s, Mr. Schachter hosted a weekly radio program on domestic and foreign policy issues on KPFF, and became one of the founders of the Pasadena Weekly, for which he continues to write an occasional column. Marvin left a successful retail career to establish a real estate business, but continued his social and political work. He was the Vice Chair of the Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race, a leader in the California nuclear freeze movement, and chaired a steering committee that organized and united California's disabled communities.

In the 1990s, Marvin expanded his volunteer service to include the senior community, serving as a Governor's appointee to the California Commission on Aging, chair of the Senior Advocacy Council of Pasadena, and President of the L.A. County Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Recently, he has worked with the International Criminal Court Alliance, the United Nations Association, the California Commission on Aging, and the Center for Healthcare Rights, among many other organizations. He is also documenting his life through the Pasadena Historical Society's Oral History Project. Marvin and Esther have two daughters, Pamela and Amanda, and two grandchildren, Emma and Max.

I ask that all Members of Congress please join me in recognizing the extraordinary lifetime contributions of Marvin Schachter, a true guardian of our civil liberties.

IN TRIBUTE TO 1SG. GERALD B.
WRIGHT (RET.) ON HIS INDUC-
TION INTO THE CONNECTICUT
VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in America's veterans we regularly see many of the most prized attributes of American spirit. Our men and women in uniform are frequently called upon to create innovative solutions to complex problems in the most dangerous of environments. Through such harrowing experiences, our veterans develop skills and knowledge that frequently lead them to find new ways to continue serving and supporting their communities long after they take off the uniform. Few exemplify these qualities more than First Sergeant Gerald B. Wright (Ret.), who will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame next week.

I have known Gerry for over 15 years, during which time I have witnessed his dedication to service both in and out of uniform. A tireless advocate for service members, their families and veterans from all branches and components of our Armed Forces, Gerry's advocacy and devotion to those who have served demonstrates the qualities that make him a revered member of his community, state and nation.

Gerry first enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 1968, and was deployed to Vietnam less than a year later. He served with the 19th Combat Engineers Battalion, 18th Engineering Brigade where he was responsible for road work, mine sweeps, security, and reconnaissance. In 1970, he was attached to the Seventh Special Forces Group, before returning to the United States to attend Pathfinder School, becoming an expert in land navigation.

After completing his second tour in November 1971, Gerry retired from active duty and returned to Connecticut to start his family and found his own business. Still fulfilling the call to serve, Gerry joined the Connecticut Army National Guard, with whom he would serve for 17½ additional years, during which he was part of Operation Desert Storm, and also led

soldiers from Connecticut to Southern California to assist in constructing fencing and obstacles at our nation's border. There, he was commended by his commander for being the first rotation to not have a single heat or accident casualty due to the extreme temperatures of the region.

Gerry's care for his comrades and brothers-in-arms has not shown the slightest signs of fading since his retirement from the National Guard in 1999. Gerry has consistently supported his fellow service members by storing the possessions of deploying soldiers, repairing and donating vehicles to veterans unable to afford their own, or helping place transitioning soldiers in civilian jobs, sometimes at his own business. Since 9/11, Gerry has been a regular, consistent attendee at "Send Off" and "Welcome Home" events at the Hartford Armory for Connecticut National Guard units deployed to the Middle East. In August of 2010, Gerry also completed the grueling "Legacy Run to Reno", a fundraiser to benefit military children who lost a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Gerry is an invaluable asset to eastern Connecticut's veteran community, and a shining example of every honorable quality we see in our service members. Next week, he will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame—the latest in a long list of honors and awards for which he is more than deserving.

CONGRATULATING EHCMA WORK-
FORCE DEVELOPMENT COM-
MITTEE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) Workforce Development Committee for being awarded the Visionary Award from the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Board of Directors.

This award honors individuals and organizations whose work on key regional issues has expanded economic and social opportunity in our community. The Workforce Development Committee has raised \$100,000 in scholarship funds for Lee College and San Jacinto College. These scholarships will help train tomorrow's petrochemical and manufacturing leaders. Strong investment in the future of these industries creates opportunity and prosperity that will benefit the entire American economy in the long run.

I thank the Workforce Development Committee for their investment in our community that supports future opportunities for so many businesses and families. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the EHCMA Workforce Development Committee for receiving the Economic Alliance's Visionary Award.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA RIVKA
CHERRY AND DANIEL JOSEPH
CHAVIN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THEIR WEDDING

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in recognizing Miss Jessica Rivka Cherry and Mr. Daniel Joseph Chavin, as they celebrate their dedication to each other and to their future together.

Jessica and Daniel celebrated their commitment to each other on Sunday, November 16, 2014, in the greatest city in America, my hometown, Chicago, IL.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both families share in the happiness of this union. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them the best as they begin their new life together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR
J. HILL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Arthur J. Hill, who passed away on November 4, 2014 at the age of 99. Arthur was a successful businessman, war hero, and community volunteer who made his community and country a better place through his dedication to his service.

Arthur was born in Coos Bay, Oregon where he attended local schools, and then continued on to study engineering at the University of Oregon. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, at the age of 27 he volunteered for the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 146th Engineers Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander, which is a position that he kept until the end of the Second World War when he retired with the rank of Captain.

During his campaign in World War II, Arthur worked tirelessly for the U.S. Army. Arthur's battalion built and operated an assault training center consisting of exact duplications of German fortifications, which was replicated from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the Normandy landing beaches. He also participated in four additional European Campaigns in Northern France, Ardennes and Alsace, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

In recognition of his efforts in training 65 civil engineers to assist in the reconstruction of the town of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, the Czech Government awarded Arthur the Czech Military Medal. He was also awarded the Czech Presidential Medal on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, and was chosen as the recipient of the first annual "Hero of the Valley Award," which is given to a distinguished military veteran in the San Joaquin Valley.

Upon returning home from serving our country, Art met and married his wife, Betty Jane

"BJ"; the couple enjoyed over 50 years of happy marriage until she passed away in 1998. After the war, Arthur went on to work in the oil industry until 1980, when he retired as president of Hill Oil Company. He then worked at the Veterans Memorial Museum from 1992 until 2011 where he served as Director for ten years. The Veterans Memorial Museum is considered by many to be one of the finest military museums in the country. Art was also a member of the Fresno Rotary Club for over 50 years and was Commander of the American Legion in Fresno.

Arthur loved to spend time with veterans, and cared for them so much that in 2010, he established the "Veterans of the Central Valley Fund" at the Fresno Regional Foundation. This fund supports the Veterans Memorial Museum and other projects benefitting veterans. Apart from serving the community, Arthur and his wife Betty Jane loved to spend their time traveling the world. Arthur is survived by his son Brad and his wife Audrey, and their daughter Carly and her husband Keith Berry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHAISTA
MAHMOOD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a great Virginian, an 8th District constituent and my dear friend, Shaista Mahmood.

It's been decades since Shaista first came to our country from Pakistan with her new husband Rafat (Ray), her commitment to her adopted home is matched by none. All throughout Northern Virginia, life is improving thanks to the work of the Mahmoods. From their humble beginnings starting at the age of 23 with their first business in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, they've been important members of the small business community in the 8th District.

But it has been Shaista's charitable work for causes around the world that is most profound. In fact, the organizations to which she has devoted her time are too numerous to list. Whether it's supporting children recovering from life in war-torn regions of our globe at Seeds of Peace or securing positive change for women as worldwide economic drivers at Vital Voices, Shaista's commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and children is unmatched.

I've been honored to share this commitment to so many of these causes, but none more so than her devotion to improving women's and children's rights around the globe. Hers has been a silent hand at the wheel driving forces for change all around the globe, demanding equal rights for the many who are treated unjustly as a matter of course and tradition every day.

These are the very issues that have inspired so many of us to devote decades of our life to public service. But while we are welcomed and honored in DC and throughout the country as public servants, Shaista asks for no such recognition. She is proud to let her good work

stand as testament alone to the countless hours of commitment she has spent advancing these global issues.

Since we first met years ago, thanks in small part to her delicious Pakistani cooking, the roots she has planted in Northern Virginia are deep and wide. Along with Ray, Shaista has opened her home to countless organizations, including elected officials at every level from across the political spectrum. We are all fortunate to call Shaista our friend, and for many, our inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me today in celebrating Shaista's commitment to making this world a better place for all within it. I'm honored to call her a constituent and even more honored to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL
LOW INCOME HOUSING COALI-
TION ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Low Income Housing Coalition, or "NLIHC," on its 40th Anniversary.

NLIHC is the only national advocacy organization solely focused on the housing needs of extremely low income households—that is, households with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income.

While numerous organizations concentrate on federal housing policy, NLIHC is unique because of its sole focus on the needs of extremely low income people, the only population experiencing an absolute shortage of affordable housing. NLIHC remains firm to its mission, even at times when doing so is not popular.

Since its inception, NLIHC has been a leader in the effort to address the housing needs of those with the lowest incomes. From the time that Cushing N. Dolbeare founded the Ad Hoc Low Income Housing Coalition, a predecessor to NLIHC, the organization has worked to better educate constituents about when and how to make their voices heard.

Ms. Dolbeare authored or co-authored dozens of articles, books and reports, most notably a widely-cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and the wages of low income people. This publication continues to be relied upon on Capitol Hill, and the data included in it are instrumental in making the case for continued federal support for housing programs that reach those in our society with the very lowest incomes.

NLIHC has found through its research that for every 100 extremely low income renter households, there are only 31 affordable and available units. This shortage worsens every year and exists in every state in the country. The need is particularly acute given current funding for HUD programs, which is only enough to reach one in four eligible households. Households who cannot get assistance, even though they are eligible, must spend the majority of their meager incomes on housing, leaving very little for other expenses. Often, something like a medical emergency or job

loss leaves a household at risk of experiencing homelessness or another unstable housing situation.

To address the housing shortage, NLIHC's most notable achievement to date has been its work towards creating a National Housing Trust Fund in 2008. The NHTF was initially to be funded by contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The contributions were temporarily suspended in 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. The Trust Fund, once it is capitalized, will provide the largest investment in over 40 years for the production, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing for extremely low income households. It would jumpstart construction in our communities—providing both jobs and sustainable housing opportunities to moderate and low-income people.

I have been eager to see the Housing Trust Fund funded, and I call on my colleagues to find additional sources of funding from outside of the appropriations process, to capitalize it. The NHTF, funded to scale, is the most promising way for our nation to end the affordable housing shortage which exists in every state in the country, and advance on the progress we are already making as a country towards ending homelessness.

In addition, NLIHC has been a leading voice in assuring that the rights of renters and extremely low income households are protected as Congress addressed foreclosures.

With hundreds of members across the country, and consistently incisive research and policy analysis, NLIHC is a respected voice in Washington, D.C. that has helped produce policies impacting the lives of millions. I congratulate NLIHC on its 40th Anniversary, and I look forward to working with NLIHC in the future to address the housing needs of the very poorest Americans. There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but I have no doubt that with NLIHC as a partner, we are up to the task.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR JOHN KIRIAKOU

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for a Presidential pardon for John Kiriakou. Mr. Kiriakou is an American hero. A 15 year CIA veteran, he was decorated and recognized more than a dozen times for his outstanding work in the always-demanding intelligence world, served in dangerous Middle East posts and helped lead the team in Pakistan that captured our first high value Al Qaeda target during the biggest coordinated operation in Agency counter-terrorism history.

John Kiriakou is also a devoted family man to his wife and five children, a church-going member of the Greek-American community, a best-selling author and a serious-minded former Congressional foreign policy aide.

John Kiriakou is a whistleblower, as well. The first American intelligence officer to officially and on-record reveal that the U.S. was in the torture business as a matter of White

House policy under President Bush. In confirming what the American media and policy-makers were hearing whispered—that waterboarding and other enhanced interrogation techniques were a matter of standard military and intelligence procedures—he helped begin an intense and overdue debate over whether torture violated international law, tarnished our higher American principles and undetermined the critical need for reliable, actionable information.

And John Kiriakou is a convicted felon, serving a 2½ year plea bargained sentence in a Pennsylvania federal prison. The charge against him is violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, whereby John answered a question from a U.S. reporter who was duplicitously fronting for lawyers defending Al Qaeda prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and in the process unintentionally confirmed the classified identity of a CIA colleague. A colleague who, by the way, was being erroneously labeled as an enhanced interrogation techniques torturer.

All four of these realities about John are intertwined. He is not a spy nor a turncoat, he did not sell secrets to an enemy or act to hurt U.S. national security. But John did shine a critical spotlight on a CIA practice that many wanted kept in the shadows and he did challenge the authority of those who authorized, oversaw, and encouraged the use of waterboarding and other acts of torture. And he did this with the moral authority of someone who served inside the intelligence world, refused an invitation to be trained in waterboarding and other like methods, knew and loved the rank-and-file men and women who sacrifice family life, safety, and prosperity for the mission of gathering and assessing secrets that might threaten American interests and lives.

The real issue here is the extremely selective prosecution of John and the ongoing efforts to intimidate him from talking about our intelligence community's misfires. Even former CIA Director Leon Panetta now concedes he accidentally revealed classified information to the writer of Zero Dark Thirty, but faces no legal ramifications. Jose Rodriguez, the CIA's former head of the Clandestine Service, admits to deciding without any legal authorization to erase videotapes of torture sessions so they could never be used in U.S. courts, but has never been forced to answer for this destruction of evidence.

Whatever John's misdeeds—and he admits that answering that reporter's questions was ill-advised and naïve—he has more than paid for them. After fifteen years of service to his country, the personal risks and costs of a life in the intelligence world, the legal double-standard applied, and now two years in prison John Kiriakou deserves a Presidential pardon so his record can be cleared, just as this country is trying to heal from a dark chapter in its history.

HONORING ALFONSO J. ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alfonso J. Ortiz, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

Alfonso's New Mexico roots run deep—he is a direct descendent of a Conquistador during the time of Diego De Vargas who served as Spanish governor for the New Spain territory of Santa Fe de Nuevo México. Alfonso would carry on this legacy. From the beginning, Alfonso displayed an impassioned sense of duty, pride and commitment to those he loved, his community and our country. At 17 years old, Alfonso proudly enlisted in the United States Army serving with honor and distinction in World War II.

Alfonso would embark on a 30-year career as a Civil Service Employee with the United States Post Office (USPS). Starting out as a Rural Route Letter Carrier, Alfonso ascended through the ranks and at one point supervised all the mail carriers in Santa Fe. Alfonso was a man of great integrity and revered by his employees. Whenever a letter carrier passed by, they would remind his children of what a wonderful boss he was; they would do anything in the world for him because they knew he never asked of them anything he would not do himself.

After World War II, Alfonso returned to New Mexico to marry the love of his life Anne Rodriguez. They would live out their life together in Santa Fe, New Mexico with their 6 children and 8 grandchildren. Alfonso's unconditional and everlasting love for his family was boundless and when his wife Anne developed cancer he was her main caregiver, always at her side, even as she drew her last breath.

Alfonso represents the best of our country—kindness toward others, respect for everyone and limitless love. He lived his life with ardor, zeal and enterprise; striving to create a better life for his family and community. Alfonso is a spectacular new Mexican who moved and inspired individuals not with rhetoric but through actions, leading by example. Today, Alfonso is not with us but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he met. May the memory of Alfonso live on in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2014 I travelled to El Salvador to commemorate the assassination of six Jesuit priests 25 years ago. As a result, I was absent for rollcall votes 518 and 519. If I were present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 518 and "no" on rollcall 519.

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Daughters of Penelope, who for 85 years have been working to improve the status and well-being of women and their families in this country and around the world.

By promoting the ideals of ancient Greece including civic engagement and good citizenship through community service and philanthropy, the Daughters of Penelope have helped to raise awareness for a number of civic and humanitarian causes.

From its financial support for breast cancer research to its assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters to its work in support of affordable and dignified housing for this nation's senior citizens, the members of the Daughters of Penelope have answered the call of those in need for more than a half century.

So it is with great appreciation that I rise to recognize the work and members of the Daughters of Penelope for their commitment to volunteerism, for their charity and for all they have done over these many years to advance the standing of women around the world.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT
BARON RYAN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eagle Scout Baron Ryan on earning all 139 Merit Badges possible during his time in the Boy Scouts.

This feat is even more remarkable since only 242 boys out of the 110 million Boy Scouts who have ever been involved in Boy Scouts have earned every Merit Badge possible. Even then, because the Boy Scouts reissued 4 additional historical Merit Badges in 2010 to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary, Baron earned a total number of Merit Badges that only a handful of Boys Scouts in all of scouting history have accomplished.

But Scouting is not only about achieving Merit Badges. In his time as a Scout, Baron has completed hours upon hours of service to his community through projects such as collecting food for Least of These during Scouting for Food, playing his bugle for numerous Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, cleaning up area rivers, serving our nation's veterans at VFW and American Legion events, and volunteering with charities such as Lost and Found, which serves children and teens in the Missouri Ozarks who are grieving due to the loss of a parent.

Aside from the time Baron dedicated to his community, he also dedicated himself and his time to his troop. During his time as a Boy

Scout, Baron held many important leadership roles, including troop guide, instructor, historian, and chaplain's aide among others. As a Scout, Baron has also spent approximately 150 nights camping with his troop, including participating in high adventure crews at the Boy Scouts' Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Northern Tier in Minnesota, all of which ultimately earned him the Boy Scouts' coveted Triple Crown award.

As if his accomplishments do not already seem vast, for his Eagle Project, Baron produced a 1,022 page book called Lamonga, River of the Seven Spirits that was ultimately donated free of cost to hundreds of Missouri schools and libraries.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baron on all that he has accomplished and wish him well in his future endeavors.

NOVEMBER 15TH MARKED BEGINNING OF OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, November 15th was a big day for all of us. November 15th marked the beginning of open enrollment for quality, affordable health care for millions of Americans.

Because health care should be a right, not a privilege. We need to continue moving our communities from a culture of coping to a culture of coverage.

This Saturday, alongside Executive Director of Covered California Mr. Peter Lee, I relaunched my "Enroll OC" or "Inscribete HOY" initiative to connect Orange County residents with certified, in-person, bilingual health insurance enrollment services.

Despite some bumps along the road last year, Orange County surpassed enrollment expectations by almost three-hundred percent, enrolling over 131,000 people, including more than 2,000 folks who were helped by "Enroll OC."

And believe me, we will do it again. In fact, we have to do it again.

We enrolled one million Californians and cut our uninsured rate in half—the Affordable Care Act is working. It's time to stop repealing and start enrolling and I hope all of my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, will join our effort.

Let's commit to ready, set, enroll.

REMEMBERING TERRENCE P.
ALLEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important

and respected member of the Chicago community, Terrence P. Allen, who recently passed away at the young age of 54. Terry Allen had been a long and outstanding activist for the middle-class, guiding him through a long and distinguished career fighting for workers. Terry passed away on November 11, 2014 after heroically battling cancer.

Terry served for decades as a dedicated leader of working people, taking over the city's largest electrical workers union in 2011 as the Business Manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134. In this role, Terry represented thousands of Chicagoland workers with great distinction. As distinguished as he was on behalf of workers, Terry made many other contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago for which we are all grateful.

Terry's top priority was always his family and the love and support they provided was most important in his life. He married the love of his life, Jean Conrick, and together they raised 3 children; Billy, Amanda and Michael. Terry was the youngest of 8 children born to Thomas and Irene Allen. His loving family included his siblings Barbara (John) Wiemhoff, Nancy (Hon. Tim) Cullerton, Honorable Tom (Jan), Jim (Lin), Tim (Mary), Dan (Sue) and his twin brother, Pat (Laura), along with his wife's family; parents, Bill and Camille Conrick, Mary Ann (Dan) Jordan, Bill Conrick, Joanne (Dan) Lynch, Tom Conrick, and Cathy (Jay) Ek. Uncle and Great Uncle Terry will be fondly remembered by his 46 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Terrence Allen was an inspiration to all who knew him. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering him for his tireless service and dedication. I join his family, friends and IBEW Local 134 to honor his legacy, celebrate his life and remember his illustrious contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and may God bless the Allen/Conrick family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his family, his friends, and his community.

RECOGNIZING MR. HARRY H.
CROHE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize the dedicated service of Harry H. Crohe and his commitment to safety and security as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Training Officer of the Bucks County Emergency Management Agency. Harry Crohe has honorably served for the last 16 years during a period of the Agency's expansion and growth. In addition, he has a long history of volunteer service in his Bristol Borough community, having served for more than 50 years as a volunteer and officer with the Bucks County Rescue Squad and the American Hose Hook and Ladder No. 2, where he continues to serve. Harry Crohe is an outstanding example of the dedication of Bucks County citizens and employees who are counted within the ranks of first responders. I

gratefully acknowledge his leadership and service on behalf of the County of Bucks and his remarkable spirit of volunteerism and wish him a bright and healthy future.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO H.R.
4, THE JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act. H.R. 4 is not a new bill to be considered on the House floor. It is a compilation of bills, many of which have already been passed by Republicans on a partisan basis. Republicans claim the bill would create jobs and strengthen the economy. In reality, H.R. 4 would weaken meaningful reforms and regulations that protect American consumers, families and workers. In addition, the bill would add \$574 billion to the deficit. This bill does a disservice to the American people, the future of our economy and our environment.

H.R. 4 would impose numerous administrative hurdles that would degrade the regulatory process. Agencies would be required to conduct cost-benefit analyses and could be forced to adopt rules that are the least costly, not necessarily the most beneficial. Agencies would also have to calculate often unquantifiable effects of rules on small businesses, another costly and unnecessary use of time and resources. To further delay the rulemaking process, H.R. 4 would require agencies to submit rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review, post rules online for at least six months and seek approval from both the House and Senate before the rules may take effect. Requiring congressional approval on all major rules would allow members of Congress to prevent finalization of rules that have already received extensive public input.

A real life example can help demonstrate the impact of H.R. 4. Congress passed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2010 to improve the ability of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to police the food supply and protect consumers from dangerous contaminants. Foods we never would have imagined to be unsafe, from spinach to peanut butter, have harmed thousands of Americans. FDA has been working hard to comply with the mandate of the new law and is in the process of finalizing a number of rules that would implement some of the key pieces of the food safety legislation. The administrative hurdles that H.R. 4 establishes would severely delay the implementation of these rules, putting Americans at risk of foodborne illnesses, despite the law's obvious merits and public support.

Furthermore, H.R. 4 would undermine existing regulations and laws. The measure would limit the ability of citizens to hold agencies accountable for not adequately fulfilling their regulatory obligations. It would exempt private equity fund advisors from important disclosure requirements, jeopardizing the financial system and protections for investors and the pub-

lic. The bill would threaten existing public land and environmental regulations by allowing increased logging in national forests. It would weaken the employer-sponsored insurance system and hurt American workers by increasing the definition of full-time work week under the Affordable Care Act from 30 hours a week to 40 hours a week. There is simply no evidence that the ACA has led to a shift in part-time work. In fact, since the ACA became law, we have added more than nine million private sector jobs and expanded health insurance coverage through the marketplaces to more than eight million Americans.

Today, the Republican majority brings to the floor a package of bills that have already passed the House and been rejected by the Senate. H.R. 4 would inhibit the ability of federal regulatory agencies to issue necessary health, safety, environmental and financial regulations. The measure does nothing to improve the economy, create jobs or protect Americans; it does everything to threaten the progress we have already made.

I oppose H.R. 4 and I urge my colleagues do the same.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,941,406,575,143.38. We've added \$7,314,529,526,230.30 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING LUKE MAYOCK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Luke Mayock for being named the Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Houston. Mayock is a senior at Clements High School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. This award recognizes Mayock's academic and athletic achievements.

He is among an elite group of high school athletes. In 2014, he recorded 50 receptions, 647 yards and five touchdowns in addition to serving as the team's punt returner and place-kicker. Mayock has also been recognized for his academic strength in English and math. He also coaches a youth league basketball team and supports his church's international retreats to assist underdeveloped communities.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Luke Mayock for receiv-

ing the 2014 Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. We look forward to his continued success both on and off the field.

REMINDING AMERICANS OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS AND CELEBRATING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12–18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 700 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure.

Today, I would like to recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations that operate under the definitions supported by the National Standards for Community Foundations. Indiana is blessed to have a community foundation in every county, including nine in my district: Community Foundation of Howard County; Community Foundation of Grant County; Blackford County Community Foundation; Tip-ton County Community Foundation; Madison County Community Foundation; South Madison County Community Foundation; Legacy Fund; Community Foundation of Boone County; and The Indianapolis Foundation.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. The Legacy Fund, the community foundation serving Hamilton County and an affiliate of Central Indiana Community Foundation, is helping to meet the needs of at-risk students in the county through the Youth Assistance Program (YAP). This innovative program is serving as a critical connector to keep students and their families on the right track. In collaboration with the county judicial system, schools, youth programs, law enforcement, and city leaders, students displaying negative behavior or facing a challenging situation at home or school are referred to YAP. The program in turn connects students to appropriate programs, classes, mentoring relationships, emergency supports, or counseling services, and families may be referred to services as well. All of this leads to an ultimate goal of self-sufficiency for families and keeping youth out of the judicial system at a young age.

This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 700 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize

these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JERRY "JR" MCBRIDE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry "JR" McBride, husband, father, and dedicated public servant.

JR McBride, who represented District 4 on the DuPage County Board, died October 24, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. He was just 47 years old. JR was the perfect definition of a public servant; dedicated to his constituents, above partisan politics, and devoted to doing the right thing for his community. He was chairman of the board's legislative committee and previously chaired the judicial and public safety, public transit, and technology committees.

He was extremely generous with his time and valued his community service. JR was actively involved in various organizations, such as the Metropolitan Family Services of DuPage, Rotary Club, DuPage Chapter of the American Cancer Society, and the Glenbard West High School Booster Club. He was also a founding member of the Jubilee Board which raised funds for Outreach Community Ministries in Wheaton, IL. In short, he was always looking for ways to help improve the communities he served.

JR graduated from Fenwick High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College in Iowa. After graduation he joined his family's business, McBride Insurance Company. He eventually moved to Glen Ellyn in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, and Distinguished Colleagues, JR McBride was a man who understood well his duty to family and community. He is survived by his wife, Becky; four daughters, Lauren, Molly, Abigail and Sara; a son, Marty; his father, Jerry Sr.; two sisters, Kara Brophy and Joy Gibson; and a brother, Bill. Please join me in remembering him as a shining example of how a caring, committed public servant can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO
THE FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, November 11th marks the 90th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). On this day, we should not only honor our veterans for their service and sacrifice, but also honor the FRA for their unwavering commitment to support the needs of our active duty, Reserves, and retired military members, veterans and family members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Founded by Navy Chief Yeoman George L. Carlin and chartered in 1924, the FRA is one of the oldest and largest enlisted organizations and a founding member of The Military Coalition. Its mission has been to serve as the premier "watch dog" group in maintaining and improving the quality of life for Sea Service personnel and their families.

As a veteran myself, I wish to express my immense gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Fleet Reserve Association and their outgoing National President, Mr. Virgil P. Courneya and incoming National President, Mr. John Ippert.

Consistent with their motto, "loyalty, protection and service", for nearly nine decades, commitment to their members resulted in legislation enhancing quality of life programs while protecting rights and privileges.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF LARRY D. MORSE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Larry D. Morse, who passed away on October 28, 2014, at the age of 87. Larry was the founder of Morse, Morse & Morse law firm, and he was a longtime resident of Merced. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who cherished time with his family above all else. Larry was dutifully active and civically engaged in Merced as a Rotarian for more than 50 years, and he was a member on the board of directors of Merco Credit Union, the Merced College Foundation Board, and Merced Boosters.

While attending Hollywood High School in the 1940s, Larry began working as an usher for NBC Studios in Hollywood and was later promoted to supervisor. It was at NBC Studios where Larry met a new employee, Saranne Condon. Larry and Saranne would go on to spend the next 70 years in a romantic, loving, and nurturing relationship. After his time at NBC Studios, Larry attended Southwestern School of Law in Los Angeles and later began his successful career as an attorney and founder of the law firm Morse, Michelizzi & Wright in Lancaster, California. In 1973, Larry was appointed to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court Bench by Governor Ronald Reagan. After serving on the bench, Larry and his family relocated in 1977 to Merced, where Larry began working at Allen, Van Winkle & Ivey law firm.

Larry adored his wife Saranne and their six children. Together, Larry and Saranne placed their children's education above all else, opting to send their children out of state for college so that they could experience life outside of California.

After his sons, Neil and Brian, graduated from law school, they united with their father to found the law firm Morse, Morse & Morse, located in Merced's historic Virginia Smith home. Practicing law with his sons was an immense source of pride for Larry.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife Saranne and the wonderful family they built with their life together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Larry D. Morse. Throughout his life and career, Larry maintained an outstanding character and a commitment to his community. He will be greatly missed by many.

CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF
ELMWOOD PARK CENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Elmwood Park as they celebrate their Centennial. The historic election held on April 8, 1914, established Elmwood Park as an official village and was the catalyst to the village's remarkable transformation.

Thanks to the vision of Mr. John Mills, a Chicago area developer, the 1927 Westwood subdivision in Elmwood Park became one of the early "planned communities" in our nation. Mr. Mills' Westwood project was the largest residential program of its kind ever attempted in the State of Illinois. The \$25 million building program provided paved streets, sewers, sidewalks and plans for 1,679 bungalows spread over 245 acres in Elmwood Park.

Due to the ambitious project, the population increased over 700 percent growing from 1,380 to 11,270 people by 1930, making Elmwood Park the sixth fastest growing community in the nation at that time.

The Honorable Elmer W. Conti was elected Village President in 1953. Under his guidance, Elmwood Park was recognized for honorable mention in the All-American awards in 1954, 1955, and 1958 for its village administration, financial stability, citizen involvement and progress in education. Village President Conti served for 32 years, retiring in 1985.

In the last 25 years the Village of Elmwood Park has had outstanding leaders. Honorable Peter N. Silvestri served as Village President from 1989 to 2013 and the current Village President, Honorable Angelo "Skip" Saviano, was elected in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Centennial of the Village of Elmwood Park. I am truly honored to have such an outstanding community in my district.

CONGRATULATING PATRICE WALKER
POWELL UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Patrice Walker Powell of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). Over her 23 years of service at the NEA, Ms. Powell has worked to broaden and deepen the NEA's reach with diverse and underserved communities across the nation.

At the outset of Ms. Powell's career at the NEA, she was charged with leading their Education and Access Department at the same time that the institution experienced significant cuts to its operational budget, forcing the agency to run with reduced resources. Ms. Powell successfully engaged the philanthropic community to develop bridge funding and protect multidisciplinary art centers that were cultural anchors in communities across the nation.

Ms. Powell developed the Arts REACH program, designed to work with each state arts agency to hold staff-led public seminars on NEA funding opportunities and work with state partners to determine potential applicants for grants. Over a three-year commitment to this program, Ms. Powell's efforts resulted in an overall 350% increase in NEA-supported projects in states that previously received direct NEA grants.

During her tenure at the NEA, Ms. Powell has been the point person for the agency's response to natural disasters across the country. Appointed to the National Coalition on Disaster Planning and Preparedness, an association of public and private funders and national cultural services organizations, Ms. Powell led agency efforts to work with state, regional, and local arts agencies decimated by natural disasters—most notably Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Powell worked to get necessary funding to areas stricken by disaster, and to ensure that Federal grant funding was properly utilized to preserve cultural treasures.

Ms. Powell's leadership at the NEA demonstrates her commitment to public service and dedication to advancing the arts to people and communities across the country. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Powell for her service and wishing her a happy, healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO JOEL AND KIT
MCNALLY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to congratulate Joel and Kit McNally, recipients of the 2014 James Howard Baker Award, established by the Milwaukee Community Brainstorming Conference. Joel and Kit McNally, having been married for more than 45 years, met while attending Indiana University where they both wrote for the college paper.

Kit McNally retired after providing 23 years of distinguished service as Chief Executive Officer of the Benedict Center, a non-profit, interfaith criminal justice agency that advocates for positive change in the criminal justice system. The Center initiated many programs under her watch, including the gender-responsive Women's Harm Reduction Program, utilized by both the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and Milwaukee County judges as a diversion from prison program. Further, under her direction, the Benedict Center was a statewide leader in drafting a model Community Justice Act for Wisconsin designed to return money to

local communities that reduced state incarceration costs through implementation of effective treatment and diversion programs. She has served on various national and local boards, committees and commissions and continues to serve as the citizen representative on the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council which is comprised of top leaders on criminal justice issues in Milwaukee County.

Joel McNally is a national-award-winning Wisconsin journalist based in Milwaukee. Joel worked as a reporter, feature writer and satirical columnist at the Milwaukee Journal for 27 years. While at the Milwaukee Journal, his column was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and he won a National Headliners Award for best local column. Joel is currently teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and as a syndicated columnist, writes for the Capital Times, the Shepherd Express and other newspapers where he provides commentary on issues including racial and class inequities. He is also a television commentator on the weekly INTERchange Program providing the liberal point of view. Joel has served as a panelist at our local Community Brainstorming Forums Community Brainstorming has met monthly as a breakfast forum to discuss and advance the interests of African Americans in particular and Milwaukee in general since 1986. Joel and Kit McNally are regular attendees at Community Brainstorming Forums.

Mister Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel and Kit McNally who both continue to fight for the rights of the poor, disenfranchised and African Americans without the expectation of monetary benefit or public accolades. I value their service and am proud to call them friends. They have contributed greatly to the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN H.
KREBS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my good friend and former Member of Congress, John H. Krebs. John passed away on November 10, 2014 at the age of 87.

John Krebs was an honorable man, and a community leader whose unwavering service will be greatly missed. In addition to his two terms in the U.S. Congress from 1975–1979, Mr. Krebs was a civic and Democratic Party leader in Fresno, an attorney in private practice for over 30 years, an apprentice diamond cutter during his youth in Tel Aviv, and served in the U.S. Army.

While in Congress, he was best known for his authorship and enactment of legislation incorporating the Mineral King Valley into Sequoia National Park, thwarting Disney developers who wanted to turn the wilderness area into a major ski resort. To recognize his accomplishment, in 2009, President Obama signed legislation establishing the John Krebs

Wilderness Area, covering 40,000 acres within the Mineral King Valley.

John Krebs was born December 17, 1926, in Berlin. His parents fled Germany only a few months after Hitler came to power, and he was raised in Tel Aviv. In his teens, he embarked on a career as a diamond cutter and joined the Haganah, a Jewish underground organization opposing the British rule, while also preparing to attend college.

Mr. Krebs moved to the U.S. in 1946 to attend the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated in 1950 and became a U.S. citizen in 1952. Following his two years in the Army, he attended the University of California Hastings College of Law and passed the California Bar in 1957. For the next three decades, he practiced law with the Parichan law firm, specializing in civil defense litigation.

Politics beckoned, and Mr. Krebs became an activist and leader in Democratic politics, playing a key role in local and statewide campaigns. In March 1970, he was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, a post he held until his election to Congress in November, 1974. He was the first foreign-born congressman from California. In a 1978 interview, Mr. Krebs said: "It's a tremendous credit to our system. Here I can come to a community as an immigrant, really not knowing a soul, and 27 years later, I am elected to Congress."

He returned to Fresno after his tenure in Congress, and practiced law until his retirement. Mr. Krebs served on numerous boards and commissions, and was foreman of the Fresno County Grand Jury for two years. He and his wife enjoyed traveling, and relished visiting their grandchildren during the past 23 years. During his life, Mr. Krebs' high values, strong work ethic and caring for others have been an inspiration for his family and friends. His loving guidance as a husband, father and grandfather will be forever cherished.

Mr. Krebs is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hanna Krebs; his son Daniel Krebs of San Anselmo, California, daughter-in-law Susan and grandsons Clay and Peter; his daughter Karen Krebs Wood of New Canaan, Connecticut, son-in-law John and grandchildren Elizabeth, Caroline and Jack; and his 90 year old brother, Shlomo Krebs of Tel Aviv, his sons and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me paying tribute to the life of John H. Krebs. It has been a privilege to have known John. His children, relatives, and friends have an extraordinary role model that they will hold in their hearts forever. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will surely live through those who knew him.

RECOGNIZING BRAD GOLDBERG

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Brad Goldberg, who is being honored by the Humane Society of the United States for his dedication to the animal protection movement.

After a 35-year career in investment management in which Mr. Goldberg became senior vice president of Jennison Associates, a subsidiary of Prudential Financial, he retired to pursue his passion—animal welfare. Since 2001, Mr. Goldberg has run Animal Welfare Trust, an organization he founded, which works to increase grant-making and capacity building for animal welfare groups. He has devoted himself to this organization, which has been involved in numerous animal welfare related initiatives, including support for a Florida ballot measure outlawing gestation crates, as well as the New York Coalition for Healthy School Food, which advocates for a plant-based diet in schools.

Mr. Goldberg is also the Chair of HEART, a charity sponsored by Animal Welfare Trust that educates children to be compassionate and considerate of all living beings. As Chair of HEART, he has also given major gifts to support animal studies and animal law, and has funded fellowships for lawyers to work at nonprofits like the Humane Society. It is for this work in particular that Mr. Goldberg is being awarded the Compassion in Action Award by the Humane Society of the United States.

In his personal life, Mr. Goldberg is a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Activism and volunteerism are priorities for Mr. Goldberg and his wife Sunny, and animal welfare is one of many causes to benefit from their devotion to community and the common good. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Brad Goldberg for his hard work and devotion to the animal protection movement and congratulate him for receiving the Compassion in Action Award.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Each year, observers use the day as a time to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of a road crash. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to the goal of changing behaviors that lead to driver accidents.

The theme of this year's observance is "Speed Kills." Each day around the world, more than 500 children are killed on the way to and from school because of the actions of unsafe drivers. Indeed, road crashes are the leading cause of death for people from ages 15 to 29. This annual World Day of Remembrance provides road traffic victims and their families with an opportunity to remind the world of these troubling statistics and to have their voices heard.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in remembering those who have lost their lives or were injured as a result of a road crash, to console the families of those affected, and to commit ourselves to the goal of making roads safe for everyone around the world.

AT 100, SADIE STRAWN STILL HAS SPUNK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week will not just be a typical Thursday. For 100 years ago this day Mrs. Sadie Strawn was born.

Born and raised in Byhalia, Mississippi, Mrs. Strawn has appreciated the beauty of God's country from day one. She attributes her health to the good food of the South and The good Lord who provides it, never taking for granted all that she has been given.

After high school, Mrs. Strawn left the comfort of her family and moved to Memphis in pursuit of a nursing degree.

This was not her first courageous move, as she is known to have been a bit of a daredevil throughout her early years—riding cows, jumping out of haylofts, and swimming down rivers.

It was in college that she met her husband, Malcolm Strawn, and decided to devote her life to raising a loving family.

Nashville was lucky to have the Strawns for 45 years, after which Mr. and Mrs. Strawn packed up and moved to Houston in order to be closer to their grandchildren.

Upon arrival, Mrs. Strawn became immediately involved in the Republican Party as a delegate at the Texas State Convention. She was the oldest person to vote in this year's Midterm Elections!

Mrs. Strawn is the proud mother of Jim, Bill, and Dave Strawn. She has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom hope to be just like her when they grow up.

According to her sons, her barbecue meatballs are world famous. She would feed them to anyone that asked to be fed after church on Sundays, and still found time to be active in her boy's scouting.

After 100 years, Mrs. Strawn's is still as active as ever. She walks nearly a mile every day without any assistance. She is an active member of her Church at Paradise Springs Independent Living and plans to be for years to come.

The Strawn boys are continuously thankful for the values that their mother instilled in them: responsibility, commitment, and faithfulness.

At 100 years old, Sadie Strawn still has spunk.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING RODERICK M. HILLS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize Roderick M. Hills who passed away on October 29 of this year. Rod served our country through his efforts to strengthen relations between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Thirty years ago, in partnership with Caltex (now Chevron) and IBM, Rod founded what is today the US-ASEAN Business Council, aided by a grant from the U.S. Department of State that was matched two to one by the private sector to establish an organization that would promote and support ASEAN. In 1985, as Chairman of the Council, Rod established its first office. He has played a critical role in supporting the Council ever since, whether providing guidance to subsequent chairmen or advising government officials of the United States and the ASEAN countries or leaders in the private sector.

Today, the Council's members include more than 140 of the leading U.S. companies doing business in Southeast Asia, together representing over \$6 trillion in annual revenue and more than 13 million employees.

ASEAN has become America's fourth largest export market, supporting some 560,000 U.S. jobs through nearly \$100 billion in goods and services exports to ASEAN. U.S. investment in ASEAN is greater than U.S. investment in Brazil, Russia, India and China combined. Investment by ASEAN in the United States has grown over 1,440 percent since 2001, creating new jobs across the country and on track to create even more.

The past 30 years have seen a significant strengthening of ties between the United States and ASEAN. And Rod was there for every one of those years.

Rod served the United States in many capacities throughout his life, including as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Ford Administration, and he had an exemplary career in the legal profession. But his dedication and passion for Southeast Asia and his appreciation for the potential that ASEAN creates is a testament to the difference one person can make.

Significantly, he founded and became chairman of the Hills Program on Governance that established Centers for the Study of Governance in academic institutions around the globe, including at the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines and the University of Indonesia. This initiative aims to identify serious governance problems in both the public and private spheres, and it works to develop a better understanding of the corrupting influences that create such problems and organize efforts to reduce those influences.

Ideas like this help change societies. They build the foundation on which security and opportunity can prosper. They pave the way for growth and resiliency. And Rod Hills created a lasting impact on the way in which the countries all over the world, and in Southeast Asia in particular, are embracing the realities of the 21st century and looking to the future.

Again, I want to recognize Rod Hills for his service to the United States and in particular for his vision for and steadfast support to the US-ASEAN Business Council and the important work they have done for the last 30 years to advance business relations between ASEAN and America.

RECOGNIZING JAKE BORNSTEIN,
CHRIS KIELKOPF, KEELEY
MAHANES, AND AARON SCHMIDT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Bornstein, Chris Kielkopf, Keeley Mahanes, and Aaron Schmidt for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Fall 2014 session of Congress.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jake Bornstein, Chris Kielkopf, Keeley Mahanes, and Aaron Schmidt for their service this fall.

HONORING DAVID BURRELLI

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the area of national defense—David Burrelli, Ph.D. In early January, Dave will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 30 years of faithful service to the legislative branch.

Dave joined CRS in 1985 while a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago. In the years that followed, he's contributed enormously to discussions in the national defense arena, supplying a thoughtful and rational voice on tough issues. One of Dave's many contributions involved helping me write into federal law the definition of gender neutral standards for women in ground combat assignments. His comprehensive knowledge on the issue was impressive and his guidance and steady hand, on something that no doubt was viewed by some as polarizing, produced a bipartisan product that is certain to have a beneficial impact on our military. Most importantly, the provision will ensure we maintain an effective fighting force—which Dave knows something about as a graduate of Marine Officer Candidate School in July 1978.

Dave's time in the Marine Corps was just the start of a long, distinguished record of service. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1979 and received his Master's degree from Maryland in 1981. In 1986, he received his Ph.D. and his dissertation "Evalua-

tion of the Program to Recruit College-Bound Youth into the Army" helped the Army to develop a program which eventually became The New GI Bill. Dave's formal education did not end there. He is a proud 1996 graduate of the National War College where he received a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy.

As a CRS specialist in military manpower policy, Dave worked on military force structure, compensation, health care, and variety of military social issues such as HIV/AIDS, and sexual assault to name but a few. Dave also became CRS's resident expert on military medals and awards and provided exemplary support to Congress on this important aspect of military service.

In March 1993, Dave was a leading witness for the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on "Policy Concerning Homosexuals in the Armed Forces." In a letter to the Director of CRS, Senator Sam Nunn, the committee chairman, noted "During one of the longest hearings we have ever held during my 20 years on the Committee, he consistently provided clear answers to extremely difficult questions about military life and the relationship between the military and civilian society. Dr. Burrelli has assisted the Committee in developing [an] authoritative foundation for the Committee's hearings on this most difficult issue. In doing so, he has performed an important public service." In recognition of Dave's recognized ability to handle difficult and sensitive topics, he continued to serve as the service's lead specialist on a variety of highly sensitive and important military social issues until his retirement. Dave also provided distinguished service to CRS as a supervisor of the CRS intern program for five years and as a Library of Congress docent for ten years. In his capacity as a docent, he was often asked to provide library tours to a variety of distinguished visitors.

And if all of this didn't keep Dave busy enough, his friends and colleagues tell me he's also an accomplished musician and has played in over 125 area theater productions as a bassist.

Dr. David Burrelli leaves behind him not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship to colleagues, congressional staff, and defense policy analysts alike. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his 30 years of service to Congress and our nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Lourdes Maria Castro Ramirez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Therese W. McMillan, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Housing Finance Agency, focusing on balancing stability, growth, and affordability in the mortgage market.

SD-538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2917, Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act, H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the nominations of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine preparedness and response to public health threats, focusing on how ready we are.

SD-342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the link between security and good governance, including a need to build effective institutions and the important role played by civil society in combating corruption.

SVC-203-202

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' mental health and suicide.

SR-418

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the private industry's role in stemming the tide of phone scams.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine protecting our children's mental health, focusing on preventing and addressing childhood trauma in Indian country.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Takata airbag recalls and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recall process.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and the nominations of Jorge Luis Alonso, and John Robert Blakey, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Allison Dale Burroughs, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Amos L. Mazzant, III, and Robert William Schroeder III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Amit Priyavadan Mehta, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robert Lee Pitman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, and Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-226

1 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine the pricing of generic drugs.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SD-562

NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to

which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture.

SD-538

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, David J. Berteau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

POSTPONEMENTS

NOVEMBER 19

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD-226

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, November 18, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THOUGHTS ON AL SHARPTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the recent rumors circulating around Capitol Hill suggest that President Obama may seek advice and counsel from Al Sharpton regarding the identity of our next Attorney General. I hope this is only a rumor.

Al Sharpton seeks out matters that involve conflict, turmoil, and violence. I do not recall Al Sharpton appearing at an event where racial harmony was promoted and encouraged. Permit me to compare Al Sharpton with Loretta Lynch, President Obama's recent nominee to become our next Attorney General.

Mr. Speaker, I was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, and decades later, Loretta Lynch was born in Greensboro. I am about to insert oars into unknown waters to me, that is, Senatorial waters involving judicial nominees. What I know about Loretta Lynch, Mr. Speaker, is limited, but what I do know about her is favorable, and she has been twice confirmed by the United States Senate.

Some have compared Al Sharpton with Dr. Martin Luther King, not a good comparison.

Dr. King was a unifier, a promoter of racial harmony. The good news is Al Sharpton does not measure up to Dr. Martin Luther King. More good news: Loretta Lynch is no Al Sharpton.

LEGALIZING MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the front page of last Sunday's Washington Post had a poignant story about Army veteran Amy Rising, who uses medical marijuana to help her deal with her posttraumatic stress disorder. Now, we weren't told exactly where she lives, just that medical marijuana is legal where she uses it, so she could be in any one of 23 States and the District of Columbia.

Fifty-seven percent of Floridians voted to legalize medical marijuana earlier this month, more votes for medical marijuana in Florida than any statewide politician on the ballot. This is part of a growing trend across the country.

But Amy's predicament is that the Federal Government does not allow physicians in the Department of Veterans Affairs to be able to help their patients with medical marijuana, whether it is right for them; instead, people are forced away from their primary care physician and the veterans' benefits that they have earned.

Why do they have to seek out someone else who doesn't know them as well, doesn't have the same relationship, and then bear that extra cost? This actually should be a terrible embarrassment.

I had a proposal during the appropriations deliberations that would have clarified this policy, which actually isn't based on any law or regulation. It is simply what is termed "guidance." My proposal would have enabled doctors to be able to work with their patients in the VA.

Now, I am not suggesting by any stretch of the imagination the nature of those conversations and what the conclusion should be. Some physicians are strongly supportive of medical marijuana. Others have reservations. Others simply don't know. But it is outrageous that the people who know our veterans best are forbidden to work with them on this therapy.

I will be introducing legislation that would put in law what we had for that budget amendment. This is one of several things that I hope this Congress does something about before we adjourn.

While we are at it, shouldn't we want to stop the lunacy of making marijuana an all-cash business by denying them bank accounts? What about giving people tax justice by repealing an outmoded and unfair provision known as 280E, so that it will allow perfectly legal businesses, hundreds of them across the country, to deduct their legitimate business expenses? Otherwise, these hundreds of small legal businesses will continue to pay punitively high tax rates.

Now, the Obama administration is slowly lurching in the right direction. The President famously said that he had bigger fish to fry than trying to prevent Washington and Colorado from implementing what their voters have approved. Just this last week, we had more approvals from the State of Alaska, the District of Columbia, and in my home State of Oregon. Marijuana got more votes in Oregon than anybody on the Oregon ballot.

While States are still influencing the reform, we need to bring Federal policies out of the Dark Ages. We need to be able to harness the therapeutic power of marijuana. We shouldn't force, for example, families to have to move to another State to be able to get relief for their children who suffer from torturous, violent epileptic seizures, simply because they live in a nonmedical marijuana State when medical marijuana has proven to be one of the few areas of relief for these children.

While the States are moving in this direction, the public is moving in this direction, it is not too late for Congress to move with these small steps that will make a difference.

We should start with our veterans, to give them access to their doctors, to understand what this tool is, to see if it can provide relief for them as it has done for hundreds of thousands of other people, especially veterans with chronic pain and PTSD.

Make no mistake, this is not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue; it is a veterans' issue. It is allowing the public to be able to take advantage of the proven therapeutic value, as over a million Americans are able to do today.

It is past time the Federal Government makes its policies consistent in the States in which our veterans reside. Give them this right, allow them

access to the therapy, give them access to their own doctors.

Here is an opportunity for Congress to catch up with the voters, to catch up with the developments in therapy, catch up with veterans' advocates, and do something far less risky and more beneficial than what is too often inflicted upon them.

States have been showing leadership on marijuana reform and hemp legislation. Now is the chance for Congress to make progress, especially for our veterans.

INTRODUCING THE PATIENT FREEDOM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, once again, the President's health care plan, known to the Nation as ObamaCare, is in the news, both because it is open season for individuals to choose their level of health care coverage, but also because of the now-made-public suggestion by a senior architect of ObamaCare that the administration would have to rely on, in his words, the "stupidity" of the American people to get the President's plan enacted.

Those are shameful words that disrespect every American and have rightfully been condemned by Members on both sides of the aisle. I think the American people know exactly what is in the bill.

We are reminded of it every day that we now live in a country where our government will fine you—fine you—for not having the health care coverage that it deems adequate. It is called the individual mandate, and it is a classic government-knows-best ruse, but this time with the threat of fines and penalties on individuals who don't comply or, in the interpretation of the Supreme Court, with new taxes just for you.

These fines will steadily increase each year. By 2016, it is estimated that 6 million Americans will be subjected to individual fines from their government.

I take a very different view than many in the current administration. First, I think the American people are smart enough to make health care coverage choices for themselves. Second, I don't believe our government should be mandating on individuals the health care coverage that is right for them and their family, particularly under the threat of penalties and fines and additional taxes.

That is why this week I have introduced legislation to rescind the individual mandate in ObamaCare as though it never happened. Unlike the 906-page bill that was ObamaCare, this bill, the Patient Freedom Act, is merely two pages. Every Member of this body can know what is in this bill before we pass it.

Many of us believe that a full repeal of ObamaCare is appropriate and right for the country, but it is foolish for us to think that the President will sign a repeal of his signature legislative achievement. That is why my bill covers only one provision, the individual mandate.

Let's have a government that, again, trusts the people to make their own discussions, that does not suggest, in the terms of this now-famous adviser to the administration, that the American people are too "stupid" to make their own health care coverage choices. Let's empower people with true patient freedom, true health care coverage choice.

This modest compromise is very simple. It says to the American people, "If you like your ObamaCare, you can keep it, but if you believe that you should have different coverage, you are empowered, you are entrusted, you have complete control over the health care coverage discussions for you and your family."

We are entering a period in January when compromise will be required for this Congress and this President to work together. This is a simple two-page bill that says the American people are indeed smart enough to make their own health care decisions for themselves.

I urge my colleagues to consider this commonsense bill. Let's put it on the President's desk and ask him to do what is right for the American people.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN USED EXECUTIVE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated Veterans Day, so naturally, there was a lot of talk about the military, but there was also a lot of talk about President Obama taking executive action on immigration. It got me thinking about Harry Truman.

Like me, Harry Truman was from the Midwest and a plain talker who didn't mince words and sometimes made his fellow Democrats uncomfortable. Like every Republican and Democratic President in modern history, including this current one, Harry Truman was not afraid to use his executive power to fight for justice in the United States, even when Congress failed to act.

In 1946, we had just defeated fascism. We were already locked in a cold war. Black, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American troops had helped deliver that victory against fascism, but when the war was over, they faced the same segregation, discrimination, Jim Crow, and violence that they had before they were deployed, markers of an era from which we continue to feel the lasting effects to this very day.

In response, Truman established a Committee on Civil Rights. One con-

crete step the President wanted to take was to desegregate the military, but President Truman knew that legislation mandating desegregation would not pass through the U.S. Congress, which was dominated by Southern segregationists who, it is worth remembering, were mostly just like Truman, Democrats.

But he pushed forward, and Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948. The last all-Black unit in the United States military was finally abolished years later. Congress caught up with reality and with the President, but it took many years.

I am fairly confident that Democrats from North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, and Louisiana asked Harry Truman not to do a thing, but he did it anyway. I would venture to guess that there aren't too many Members of Congress today who wish that Truman did not desegregate the military or had waited however long it took for Congress to evolve on the issue of segregation. He used his pen, and we celebrate his courage today.

Here is one big difference between what Truman did and what President Obama is considering: President Truman never, ever asked Congress for legislation to desegregate the military, but President Obama, as he contemplates taking executive actions to keep families together and spare certain immigrants from deportation, knows that he did ask Congress repeatedly to act.

□ 1015

He has been judicious in his use of executive actions throughout his Presidency, despite facing a Congress deeply entrenched, well, in being deeply entrenched.

But he did ask this Congress to act. He worked with both parties in the Senate to help shepherd an immigration bill through in June of 2013, and for a year and a half, he has waited, patiently deferring the use of executive action as a last resort. He has held off again and again so that he could give the Republicans in the House of Representatives time to pass a bill, but they never did, never even considered one.

When Republicans in the Senate said gay people can't be included under any circumstances, the Democrats didn't like it. It offended us. But we said, let's keep trying to find a compromise.

When Republicans said they needed 30,000 more Border Patrol agents, the Democrats found a way to include that, too, in the Senate.

When the House said it would not even consider a Senate bill, we Democrats, myself included, said, okay, let's work on a House bill.

And when Republicans said immigrants could not get a special pathway to citizenship and that we would have to pass many separate bills piecemeal,

Democrats and the President never left the negotiating table.

When the Speaker of the House called the President last June to say that, despite all of the Speaker's efforts and all of the President's efforts, the House was not even going to allow a vote, the President said he would do what he said he was going to do all along: use his pen under current law to help this Nation.

Now the Speaker says that the President is picking a fight with Republicans over immigration and that he is vowing to fight back, which is the Speaker's right. But I would advise the Speaker that his fight is not with the President or with Democrats; it is with the American people. It is a fight he will have to deport millions of U.S. citizens' parents; the spouses, husbands, and wives of U.S. citizens; the parents of DREAMers who know no other country but this one. And that is who the Republican Party intends to fight.

But let's be clear: nothing the President does will keep the House from working with the Senate to pass an immigration bill.

Sitting at his desk in the White House, Harry Truman said, "The buck stops here." And he was right then, and he is just as right today about the current occupant of the White House. The President has a responsibility to act, even when Congress refuses to do so.

And just like the 1950s and the 1960s, after Harry Truman desegregated the military, it will be time for this Congress to catch up to the executive branch and to catch up to reality.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we are just 6 days away from the November 24 Iran nuclear negotiations deadline, and as each day passes and we get closer to the impending deadline, we are presented with more and more evidence that Iran is not serious about abandoning its nuclear ambitions.

Here are the reasons why Iran remains the greatest threat to U.S. national security interests:

Iran has been a U.S.-designated State Sponsor of Terrorism since 1984 and has been the foremost supporter for terrorist groups across the world since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Through its proxies likes Hezbollah and Hamas, Iran has targeted America and our ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel, with violent acts of terror for over three decades, including the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis, the 1983 Beirut bombing and Marine barracks bombing, and the 1992 Israeli Embassy bombing and the 1994 AMIA Jewish community center bombing, both in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Iran has been the chief supporter of Hamas' and Hezbollah's terrorist and rocket attacks in Israel like we saw in the year 2006 and 2012 and again just this past summer. In fact, since the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, the United States has been officially in a continued state of national emergency with respect to Iran, a state of emergency that President Obama just renewed last week.

Tehran continues to demand that it has a right to enrich its own uranium. After operating a covert nuclear program for decades, Iran forfeited any so-called right to enrichment. Yet the centrifuges continue to spin and President Obama has seemingly acquiesced to Iran's illegitimate claim to enrichment.

The regime in Tehran also maintains an advanced ballistic missile program, a program that just this week it used to threaten Israel and U.S. military bases in the Middle East. And it is a program that continues to expand in violation of several U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Iran also remains one of the world's worst human rights violators. It is currently designated a Tier 1 Country of Particular Concern, a designation reserved for the world's worst, most egregious violators of religious freedom as stated by our own State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Despite the selection, not a real election, of a so-called moderate last year, Iran's human rights record has only gotten worse as Iran has executed a record number of people under so-called President Rouhani.

And despite all of this clear and indisputable evidence that Iran is led by a dangerous regime that cannot be trusted, these misguided negotiations taking place right now focus solely on Tehran's illicit nuclear program, and none of it is based on its other illicit activities.

So while the President continues to try to reach a deal on Iran's nuclear program at, seemingly, any cost, he has turned a blind eye to the multitude of other threats that Iran poses to us and to global security.

Mr. Speaker, the President and the P5+1 countries are operating as if Iran's nuclear program exists in a vacuum, and, in doing so, it jeopardizes the stability of the Middle East and the security of many of us in the West. There is every reason to believe that these negotiations are just one big ploy by the Iranian regime, and the Obama administration has fallen for it. That is why it is up to us in Congress to be the counterbalance.

Tomorrow, the subcommittee which I chair will be convening a hearing on the Iranian deal with former CIA Director General Hayden as one of our witnesses. The general has said that right now we are not getting the proper

monitoring and verification provisions that we need, and he said were he still advising the President, General Hayden would tell him that this deal could not be adequately verified.

That is why we must take action to ensure that the administration does not agree to a weak and bad nuclear deal, and we must not waver in our resolve. Unless the negotiations result in agreement that ends Iran's other illicit activities and ensures that Iran will stop all enrichment and will dismantle its nuclear infrastructure, then we must act to impose and strengthen and expand sanctions against the regime, and the administration must walk away and abandon these foolish and dangerous talks.

THE CONGRESS OF ABANDONED AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as it stands today, the 113th Congress will go down in history as the Congress of abandoned authority.

With little exception, this Congress has failed to address the issues the American people sent us here to take on: tax reform, immigration, transportation infrastructure, climate change. This Congress has shown little progress, and in so doing, we have ceded more and more of our power as a legislature to the executive. Nowhere has our abandoned authority inflicted greater harm on Congress as an institution than our abdication of leadership in the fight against ISIS.

The Constitution gives Congress, and Congress alone, the power to declare war. But while unilateral Executive action on every other issue has been met with partisan attacks, this Congress seems content with allowing the President to call the shots on military engagement with ISIS.

Mr. Speaker, this abandoned authority must end. Before the end of the 113th Congress, we must restore our constitutional authority over the Nation's war powers. We must commit to a full, open, and honest debate on an authorization for use of military force in the fight against ISIS.

Our brave men and women are risking their lives, and we are afraid to even risk a vote. It is time for Congress to put some skin in the game. It is time for Congress to outline in clear terms the legal authority under which the U.S. will wage this war and, in so doing, future conflicts.

The fact of the matter is that right now the U.S. is at war. From August 8 to November 12, we have spent an average of \$8 million a day and \$776 million in total on military operations to combat ISIS. As of October 23, the U.S. has conducted 632 airstrikes involving 6,600 sorties dropping more than 1,700

bombs. We are at war with ISIS, and we are waging that war without congressional authorization.

No one should doubt the inhumanity of ISIS. They pose a unique threat to the region, our allies, and the innocent civilians of Iraq and Syria. Left unchecked, the threat and reach of ISIS will grow. ISIS has made no secret of its plans to broaden its reach in the region and to attack Western nations, even threatening the homeland of the United States.

The President was right to target and attack ISIS with our military assets and to begin to train local, on-the-ground forces, but this is just the start. As our Commander in Chief, I do believe the President has the legal authority to begin these military operations, but the authority to begin a military operation is not a substitute for the full legal authority required to continue military operations that must be debated here in the United States Congress.

The President has said he welcomes a new AUMF, and we have debated repealing the Affordable Care Act more than five dozen times in this Congress. On ISIS though? On our wartime operations? On sending our brave men and women into harm's way? We continue to sit idly.

We had a debate on the last-minute amendment to a temporary spending bill that authorized only one small piece of a larger overall strategy. That is not a true debate. That is certainly not a substitute for war authorization.

Americans did not send us here for piecemeal amendments to last-minute spending bills. You disagree with the President and think we shouldn't be arming Syrian rebels? Let's write an AUMF.

You think we should be working towards a contingency plan in which American ground forces get involved? Let's write an AUMF.

You think, as I do, that our fight against ISIS should have clear, defined goals and a timeline before we consider further authorization? Then let's write an AUMF.

Mr. Speaker, I call on congressional leadership to take up this task. Your Members are ready for debate. The American people are ready for a debate. We simply have no excuse to let this opportunity pass us by.

Let's step up to the plate. We should not end the 113th Congress without debating and passing an Authorization for Use of Military Force.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR LEROY GOODMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to retiring Mayor of Fernley, Nevada, LeRoy Goodman.

A native of the Silver State, born in Virginia City, Nevada, resident of Fernley for the last 44 years, former educator and high school coach, also a key member of the private sector after that working for Sentex from the Silver State in Nevada, for Nevada Cement, Mayor Goodman had and has a statewide network of friends which helped him serve his native city, his city that he is the mayor of, in an extraordinary manner.

Member of the Association of Counties, Lyon County commissioner for 12 years, he is one of those few folks that the phrase "politician" does not apply to; it is "public servant."

What also applies to him is a word that we see used less and less these days when we talk about people who are elected by those, and that is a "leader." The father of the effort to create Nevada's newest incorporated city, being Fernley, in the legislature during his term on the Lyon County Commission, his leadership was effective and resulted in the creation of that city. The people of Fernley were very well served.

I want to read to you what he said when he was elected to be the mayor after serving a short term as the appointed one:

I am both privileged and proud to be voted in as mayor of Fernley. I shall endeavor to fulfill the role with dignity and purpose. My priorities and mandate will be centered on improving the overall functioning of the council, city operations, and focusing on doing the people's business. Fernley is my home. I am committed to giving the residents of Fernley my absolute best.

Mr. Mayor, your absolute best does us all proud.

I want to add a few more praises to this tribute, and that is "class act" and "true leader."

I want to also thank the first lady of Fernley, your wife, Diana, for her support of you and your endeavors, and say thank you very much on behalf of those folks not only at the home of the Vaqueros in Fernley, but also throughout Nevada.

You are truly, truly a part of the fabric of not only your community, but our State.

□ 1030

GIANTS OF THE SOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen of America, and President Barack Obama, I rise this morning with a heavy, heavy heart at the passing of two great, magnificent Americans from my home State of Georgia, Herman Russell and Governor Carl Sanders—two men, two giants whose lives intertwined at a

most important time in the history of this Nation and especially in the history of the South, for these two men, Herman Russell and Governor Carl Sanders, ushered in and gave birth to the New South, the South away from segregation. It was Herman Russell and Governor Carl Sanders who broke down the barriers of segregation and paved a new way and a new day for this Nation. That is why we are so proud of these two gentlemen.

Every school should look at their autobiographies, because they made it the hard way, against the odds. Herman Russell, born into poverty in south Atlanta, came up and didn't let the ravages of segregation stop him, didn't let his speech impediment stop him, and emerged with the world's largest, most profitable construction and real estate financial firm owned by an African American. But, oh, it wouldn't have happened if he hadn't had a Governor at that time named Carl Sanders, who broke down those racial barriers. I will tell you about him.

As a quarterback at the University of Georgia, he left the University of Georgia and went and volunteered at 19 years old to fight in the military for his country. He came back and ran for the State House of Representatives, against the segregationist party. And this man, because of him being in the right place at the right time, and because of Herman Russell being in the right place at the right time, Major League Baseball came knocking, and there we built Atlanta Stadium. Ivan Allen said: Build it, and they will come. It was Carl Sanders who passed the legislation setting up the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority that made it happen—all of this happening while all around us in the South was racial turmoil, and Herman Russell building his great company and becoming the first African American to sit on the board and a member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Oh, my friends, the world, these are two great trees who were planted by the rivers of waters, and they brought forth their fruit and their season, and none of their leaves withered, and let me tell you that every single thing they touched prospered. They touched me. I wouldn't be in Congress this day if it weren't for Herman Russell, an African American who dared to fight segregation and reach across, and Carl Sanders, a White Governor, who, himself, fought and integrated the schools in Georgia when it was not popular.

When I got ready to run for the State House, it was Herman Russell who I asked, Could you help me?

He said, Yes, I will. Who have you got with you?

I said, I have got Andy Young. I have got Maynard Jackson. I have got "home run king" Hank Aaron.

Then Herman said, Well, where are your White folks?

I went, and the first door I knocked on was that of Governor Carl Sanders, who took me in and gave me a contribution. He didn't stop there. He even assigned two of his lawyers, Norman Underwood and Dale Schwartz, to get out into the community and help me. That is what Carl Sanders and Herman Russell mean. They built Atlanta the right way.

When Pete Rozelle wanted the NFL—all of this while the civil rights movement was churning, but in Atlanta, the NFL was coming—he picked up the phone and called Carl Sanders. Can you get me somebody there, Governor, who has got \$5 million or \$6 million? We will bring an NFL team to Atlanta. Carl Sanders got on the phone and called his old buddy at the University of Georgia.

We thank God for Herman Russell and Carl Sanders. God bless Herman Russell and Carl Sanders, and God bless the United States of America.

IN NOBLE TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY DANNY OLIVER AND DETECTIVE MICHAEL DAVID DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Danny Oliver and Placer County Detective Michael David Davis were wantonly gunned down in one of the most cold-blooded rampages in the history of either county. By all accounts these were exemplary law enforcement officers, fathers, husbands, sons, and neighbors.

Deputy Oliver spoke his last words as he approached a car in a parking lot for the simple purpose of asking if he could help a couple who appeared to be lost.

How is it going? he said.

The gunman and his accomplice next gunned down a bystander who was too slow in turning over his car keys as the couple hijacked his car. Miraculously, the bystander survived a gunshot wound to the head but vividly remembers the smile on the gunman's face as he pulled the trigger.

The next victim was Detective Michael Davis. You may have heard of him. On the very same date 26 years earlier, Michael Davis' father was killed in the line of duty as a Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy. Michael was 16 years old at the time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish there were some words of consolation to offer the grieving families of Danny Oliver and Michael Davis, but there are limits to our language, and words fail us when they are the most needed, but I know this: that the esteem and gratitude that our communities hold for these two officers and the sympathy we feel for the terrible losses their families have sustained could be seen most vividly and

eloquently in the solemn faces of literally thousands of ordinary citizens who lined the funeral route for these officers or who stood silent vigil outside the church where they were mourned.

As I looked at the law enforcement officers from throughout the country who had come to honor these fallen peace officers at their funerals, it occurred to me that Deputy Oliver and Detective Davis and their many brothers and sisters in law enforcement are the business end of all of the highest principles of this amazing Republic of ours—a society that proudly proclaims itself a nation of laws.

We often speak of the rule of law, but who among us is willing to lay down our lives for it? Michael Davis was. Danny Oliver was. Because of their sacrifices, this rampage ended without a single civilian death. They protected us, but did we do everything we could to protect them? Their assailant had repeatedly entered this country illegally. While here, he had been apprehended for committing other crimes and had been repeatedly deported, only to easily recross the border without even being challenged. That is a subject for another day.

On this day, we should reflect on the agony of the Oliver and Davis families, who have lost devoted husbands and fathers. We should reflect on the extraordinary courage of our peace officers who bear growing and mortal risks every day to protect the peace that we too often take for granted.

Michael Davis' brother Jason eulogized his older brother. Jason is also a Placer County Deputy and was on the scene only minutes after his brother had been shot. Their third brother, Christopher, had died in 1998 in an accident as he, too, had been preparing for a career in law enforcement. And Jason, who had been present 26 years before when his mother was told of his father's death, who 16 years ago had informed their mother of Chris' death, and who days before had told her of Michael's death, looked at his grieving mother and asked the question if all of their pain justified their family's commitment to law enforcement. Without hesitation, he answered, "Yes."

I don't know where we get men like Danny Oliver and Michael Davis, but I know what we owe them. Of course, we owe them our gratitude and every honor that we can bestow upon them, but most of all, we owe it to them, to their families, and to their fellow officers to be just as devoted to the rule of law as they were. If we, the people, would do that, then we will have proven Jason Davis right—that their extraordinary devotion to these principles is as justified as it is noble.

ON THE EVE OF A NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on what could be the eve of a nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran as U.S. and European and Iranian negotiators are going back to Vienna for a final round of talks.

With so much of the region in turmoil right now, it seems hard to imagine that we could be on the verge of, arguably, the most important diplomatic achievement in the Middle East in recent U.S. history. The leadership of President Obama, the tenacity of the U.S. negotiators, and the determination of President Rouhani and his team have set the stage for a landmark agreement that would turn the page on decades of distrust, dissension, and cynicism.

Here is what the nuclear deal would mean: a profound reduction in the decades-long tension between Iran, the U.S., and our allies that has set us on a path to war; a contained Iranian nuclear program with verifiable, internationally accepted limits; meaningful sanctions relief that bolsters Iran's flagging economy and allows U.S. businesses access to a potentially vibrant market; finally, an opening for a broader understanding between the U.S. and Iran, as well as an opportunity to work with Iran as an ally in the fight against ISIS.

Like all compromises, there may be parts of this deal that Americans won't like, and there may be parts of this deal that Iranians won't like, but such is the definition of cooperation—working together for something meaningful and building momentum toward a solution even when the easiest option is to get up and walk away.

President Obama deserves enormous credit for his steely resolve in pursuit of a nuclear deal, especially in the face of those hoping he will fail. If we do not reach a nuclear accord next week, if a deal is delayed, or if, heaven forbid, the talks collapse, I believe President Obama is still owed our thanks.

It has become fashionable around these halls and certainly in the media these days to deride the 44th President, to call him "aloof" when he acts methodically or to threaten impeachment when he acts decisively to promote the best interests of the American people. The fact that he has the audacity to try with persistence and openness, in the face of withering doubt from friends and allies, is a mark of a true statesman. Many in this Chamber have already raised their strong objections, as we have recently heard, to a potential deal, and they make no secret of their thinking of President Obama as being on a fool's errand, but I am reminded of what Teddy Roosevelt said of leadership.

He said:

Credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood . . . who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who seek neither victory nor defeat.

President Obama deserves credit for what he is doing, and we wish him God-speed in the negotiations as they come to their near end.

□ 1045

CONDEMNING ISIS ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences to the parents of Peter Kassig, a former Army Ranger, Iraq veteran, and humanitarian aid worker who was murdered in cold blood by mass cowards, representing the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

These barbaric acts are those of cowards who have unleashed terror throughout the desert in western Syria and northern Iraq. They have massacred entire villages, beheaded families, and sold women and children into slavery. ISIS blows up history it does not agree with and sells artifacts to fund its rampage.

Now, I condemn this attack and all attacks against the innocent and call for neighboring countries to become more actively engaged in defeating this threat. Not only is ISIS a threat to stability in the region, acts like these have shown that they are a threat to peace-loving people across the globe.

They have brainwashed thousands of young individuals and have set their eyes on preparing a new generation of terrorists. Last week, ISIS even announced a partnership with al Qaeda.

To quote Ed and Paula Kassig, Peter's parents, "Good will prevail." Fortunately, some have stepped up to fight the spread of ISIS. Our brave men and women in the U.S. Air Force and Navy have led an incredible and efficient bombing campaign against ISIS targets, halting their advance.

Kurdish Peshmerga forces have gained ground and have been an effective fighting force. Iraqi forces have organized and began an offensive to retake lost territory. There has been progress, but more needs to be done to secure the region.

Despite clearly evil acts by ISIS, there are good people pushing back who have risked everything to help those most affected. Aid workers and volunteers have gone into the war-torn portions of Syria and Iraq to help provide assistance and hope to those most affected. These workers have provided food, water, first aid, and support.

Peter Kassig did the right things. He helped the helpless. He aided the deprived. He treated the wounded. Because he did these things, Peter and others became targeted by ISIS.

We should look at the examples set by Peter Kassig and not forget the selflessness he embodied.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow night in Hartford, Connecticut, at the State capital, there will be a solemn annual event, where 10 veterans are inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

This is a ceremony which dates back to 2005 in which 10 veterans are honored by the State of Connecticut. One of the 92 veterans that are on the rolls is President George Herbert Walker Bush who hails, of course, from the State of Connecticut.

Again, it honors not only their service, where they wore the uniform of our Nation, but also for their work after they left the service, to help the over 200,000 veterans that reside in the State of Connecticut.

For the Second Congressional District of eastern Connecticut, it is a particularly proud night because six of the 10 hail from the Second District. I would argue that this is no coincidence.

This is the home of the largest operating military installation in New England with the Groton Submarine Base and, as was recently described by the Hartford Courant, had the highest concentration of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, again, because of the great patriotism and sense of duty that I think is a part of the fabric of that great part of our State.

I would like to briefly describe these six gentlemen and have their names entered into the RECORD. Edward Francis Atkins, known as Bud, from Oakdale, Connecticut, served 40 years in the Navy. A former submariner, he mentors students at the Naval Submarine School. Bud is a respected leader within the submarine force and a command master chief petty officer, retired, and for the last 4 years has been on the selection panel to identify outstanding sailors who are the best of the best in the submarine force.

He is now heading up the Groton Subvets chapter which, again, helps the 8,000 sailors that live in that community. He will be hard at work at Thanksgiving, serving meals to make sure that those sailors have some of the comforts of home while they are serving their Nation.

Samuel Baez of Waterford, Connecticut, served as a Navy chaplain

during Vietnam, conducting the memorial service in Da Nang for the first Marine casualties of the war. Those seven names are still memorialized on the first panel of the Vietnam Memorial here in Washington. Since he retired, he has continued to counsel veterans around the world and serves as a counselor and parental sponsor to Coast Guard cadets who are attending the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Edmond Clark of Madison, Connecticut, served our Nation in Vietnam as a marine, and after earning his law degree, he has provided legal assistance free of charge to help veterans receive the benefits they receive through their service.

It is not well-known that the VA caps legal fees at \$10 for any veteran who challenges a disability ruling. Mr. Clark has brushed aside that restriction and, again, represented veterans free of charge to make sure that they got the benefits they deserved.

Maurice Collin of Coventry, Connecticut, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, served as a veteran service officer in the Office of Advocacy and Assistance in the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. He was selected to serve as acting commissioner for a period of time.

Since his retirement from State government, he has continued to contribute his time to veterans. He provides volunteer driving assistance to disabled veterans in eastern Connecticut to their medical appointments and supervises the clothing donation program at the Newington VA hospital.

Robert Getman of Old Lyme, Connecticut, will be inducted posthumously today. He served 30 years in the Coast Guard. After his retirement in 1984, he went on to serve as the director of the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill, and for 10 years, he worked vigorously to rehabilitate, educate, and place veterans into careers.

Finally, Gerry Wright of Bolton, Connecticut, my neighbor, served two tours in Vietnam in the Army and later, as a member of the Army National Guard, served in Operation Desert Storm. Since retiring in 1999, Gerry has been everywhere, helping veterans all across Connecticut.

He devotes his time to various veterans service organizations helping veterans in many ways, collecting care packages for Connecticut servicemen overseas, and he has faithfully attended every sendoff and welcome home ceremony for the Connecticut National Guard at the Hartford State Armory over the last few years.

The hard work of these men, combined with their unfailing dedication to service, even after leaving the military, exemplifies the greatest attributes of the American spirit. Because of their continued service, the few that stand out in particular are

well-deserving of being honored tomorrow at the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

I want to thank them for their commitment to improving their communities and the lives of their fellow veterans. At a time of an all-volunteer service, it is critical that we have folks like these out there making sure that this Nation respects and honors and provides all the assistance to the 1 percent of the people who stand up to defend our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ARCHBISHOP BLASE JOSEPH CUPICH AND CARDINAL FRANCIS GEORGE OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Blase Joseph Cupich as the ninth archbishop of the archdiocese of Chicago and to thank Cardinal Francis George for all of his years of service to the archdiocese. Archbishop Cupich is being installed today at a mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

After many years of study in the U.S. and in Rome, including a doctorate at Catholic University, in August of 1975, Blase Cupich was ordained to the priesthood. In his first assignment, he served as associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary Church and as an instructor at Paul VI High School in Omaha.

From 1981 to 1987, he served as secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See to the United States here in Washington, D.C.

Cupich was appointed bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, by St. Pope John Paul II on July 6, 1998. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Cupich bishop of Spokane on June 30, 2010, and he was installed as the sixth bishop on September 3, 2010.

Cupich has served as chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on the Protection for Children and Young People since 2008. He has remained a strong advocate for children, saying that the Catholic Church needs to put children first and foremost. In March 2013, he began a 3-year term as chairman of the National Catholic Education Association.

In addition to his dedication to Catholic education, Archbishop Cupich is committed to Catholic social teaching of reaching out to help the poor and others at the margins of society. Yesterday, at the Rite of Reception, he spoke of the challenges that await him, including immigration reform, violence in the streets, drug problems, and staying connected to the real lives of people.

I look forward to working together with our new archbishop as he address-

es these issues and other challenges that we face.

Archbishop Cupich is succeeding Cardinal Francis George, who has been archbishop of Chicago for 17 years. Cardinal George was ordained to the priesthood in 1963 at his home parish of St. Pascal Church in Chicago, Illinois. His older sister, Margaret, remembers a young Cardinal George holding pretend masses in his bedroom as a child.

After earning several degrees, including his masters in theology from the University of Ottawa in 1971, Cardinal George embarked on a journey across the globe as a student missionary. From 1974 to 1986, he served as vicar general of the oblates in Rome.

In this position, he led numerous priests and brothers as they journeyed across the world. Cardinal George then went on to earn two doctorates. In 1997, he was appointed by St. Pope John Paul II as archbishop of Chicago, and in 1998, he was elevated to cardinal.

Despite being diagnosed with polio at age 13 and battling cancer currently, Cardinal George has never slowed down. "Even illness can be a gift in some way," Cardinal George has said.

His spirited demeanor is well-known to Catholics. Bishop Francis Kane has said, "He's involved on so many levels. He's involved nationally. He's involved in our whole archdiocese, and then he loves to go out to individual parishes."

Cardinal George's outreach goes beyond the Catholic community. He is known to convene interreligious discussions and shows deep respect for other faith communities, and he is deeply committed to social justice that reaches to all corners of our society.

On a personal level, the more that I had the opportunity to get to know Cardinal George, the more I have admired him. He is an intellectual powerhouse who has a special ability to communicate great truths in a simple manner.

Every time I hear him speak, I learn something that enriches both my mind and my faith, but his intellect is not a distant intellect of a philosopher in an abstract world, but it is well-grounded in an understanding of the everyday life of his people, and as someone who appreciates straightforwardness, I have always liked his directness. Maybe that is because Cardinal George and I both come from Chicago.

I will never forget the time he took my wife, Judy, and me 2 years ago in Rome on the eve of the installation of Pope Francis. He truly is a remarkable man and a great shepherd.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in welcoming Archbishop Cupich and honoring Cardinal Francis George. I offer both men my prayers as they enter into a new phase of their new calling by God and the Catholic Church to the service of others.

VETERANS' ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe, in the inner sanctum of my soul, that we are the home of the free because we are the land of the brave.

I salute those who are willing to serve their country, who are willing to go to distant places, and who don't always return home the way they left. I highly commend them, and I believe that those who serve us in our military, the men and women who serve us, should always be appreciated for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that we spend a huge amount of money—about \$1 trillion in one circumstance—to put them in harm's way. I believe that if we can spend \$1 trillion to put them in harm's way, we can spend whatever it takes when they return home to make sure they have got the best health care, they get the best housing, and that they get good jobs.

I also believe that we have a responsibility and an obligation in the Congress of the United States of America to make sure that their needs are met. This is why I have introduced certain pieces of legislation to deal with the issues that are confronted by our veterans.

□ 1100

I would like to mention a few pieces of this legislation today. And I rarely use the personal pronoun "I," but in my business, if you don't use the personal pronoun, somebody else will.

I would like to talk about H.R. 384, Homes for Heroes. This piece of legislation would place a person in HUD, who would have the responsibility of filing a report with Congress annually on the status of veterans and who would be there to look out for veterans. There is currently a person there, but the person is not there in a legal capacity such that it would continue beyond this President or ad infinitum.

I also have sponsored H.R. 2362, Transportation for Heroes. We have veterans who need to get to jobs and who need to get to the VA who cannot afford public transportation. I believe that we need to make sure that they get the same opportunity to take a public transportation system, to utilize it, that persons who are senior citizens have and persons who are disabled have. We have to provide a means by which veterans can get to those places that can be a benefit to them.

This is why we have also sponsored H.R. 3876, Burial with Dignity for Heroes. This piece of legislation would allow those veterans who die in poverty, who have family members who are in poverty, who cannot afford to send them to a tribal cemetery once

they die in some place that is distant from a tribal cemetery or a State facility—if you can't send them currently, you have to try to scrape the money up as best you can—I think this country ought to be grateful enough to make sure these veterans cannot only get to these places where they may be buried, but also they should get there and have a casket or an urn. They should have the opportunity to be buried with dignity. No veteran should die in poverty and then find that they can't get a burial with dignity.

I also believe that we should have our veterans who are hurt after they leave the military be accorded the opportunity to have places to live such that they can access them easily and use them efficaciously. This is why we have filed the HAVEN Act, H.R. 3743. The HAVEN Act would accord \$20 million—by the way, that we don't have; I believe that if we can spend money we don't have to put them in harm's way, we can spend money we don't have to take care of them when they get home—\$20 million, \$5 million a year, a pilot program to allow NGOs to match the \$20 million and provide the type of facility that a veteran would need to move efficaciously, to move and have a great degree of functionality within his or her home. This is the kind of thing that a grateful nation ought to do. This piece of legislation is currently in the Senate defense authorization bill, and in that bill this legislation lies. But there is some question as to whether or not it will survive a conference committee. I pray and I hope for this piece of legislation, \$20 million over 5 years to modify homes for disabled veterans, those who are hurt after they have left the military, to help them. There is already a program for those who are hurt while they are in the military. This is not duplicative. This does help veterans who need help.

I believe we are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. I believe that if we are going to continue to be the land of the free, we must make sure we must protect those who are the brave.

God bless you.

VIOLENCE IN THE STATE OF TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the violence in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Last month, three of my constituents were murdered in northern Mexico. Erica Alvarado Salinas, Alex Alvarado, and Jose Angel Alvarado were visiting their father near Matamoros, Mexico, on the other side of my hometown of Brownsville, Texas. The siblings were abducted on October 13 by armed men. Their burned bodies were found on October 29 in a field in northern Mexico.

Today I call on the United States State Department to ensure that the Mexican Government thoroughly investigates these heinous crimes and that those responsible be brought to justice and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. These cold-blooded murders demonstrate the brutal violence in northern Mexico.

In a travel warning dated October of 2014, the State Department warns:

Matamoros, Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo, and Ciudad Victoria have experienced numerous gun battles and attacks with explosive devices in the past year. Violent conflicts between rival criminal elements and/or the Mexican military can occur in all parts of the region and at all times of the day. The number of reported kidnappings for Tamaulipas is among the highest in Mexico, and the number of U.S. citizens reported to the consulates in Matamoros and Nuevo Laredo as being kidnapped, abducted, or disappearing involuntarily in the first half of 2014 has also increased.

For the last century and a half, residents of northern Mexico and south Texas enjoyed a bicultural experience where crossing to work, eat, shop, or visit family and friends was a part of everyday life. This way of life has been ripped apart. We should demand that those whose criminal acts have destabilized Mexico be held responsible.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Our country must ensure that those who murdered Erica, Alex, and Jose be brought to justice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Arne Panula, Catholic Information Center, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Lord of life and death, in this season, as days grow dark and cold, as leaves fall in the sad autumn twilight, so we recall that souls fall each day into eternity, and that one day the falling leaf will be ours.

"For here we have no lasting city, but . . . seek the one which is to come." The true measure of the present is life's end: what excites or exasperates in the moment diminishes in eternity.

And, conversely, these things that seem minute in the present—an act of kindness, a smile, a heartfelt prayer, a small sacrifice—are the grains of sand that accumulate and toward eternity become a mountain, a monument of grace.

Help us, Heavenly Father, never to lose sight of life's end, never to overlook those grains of sand but, rather, collect them for eternity's hour.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING KEVIN HARVICK

(Mr. MCCARTHY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Kern County community, I would like to congratulate Kevin Harvick on winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship at Homestead this weekend.

Sunday's win capped off an incredible season, exemplifying the determination, resilience, and fortitude needed to excel, especially in such a long and competitive racing season.

These attributes that embody Kevin's success are ingrained in our community. Our families get up early, work hard, and put in long hours to get the job done. Kevin's racing is a reminder to the world that the Bakersfield way drives champions.

Your hometown is proud of your achievement, Kevin. For all the kids across Kern County who watched races, like myself, at Mesa Marin and now at the Kern County Raceway Park and dreamed of becoming a NASCAR champion, they now have someone to emulate.

Congratulations again to you, to DeLana and Keelan and your entire family, and to your crew chief, Rodney Childers, and the entire 4 team for an incredible season and championship. Kevin, as you said, not bad for an '08er.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 500 days since the Senate overwhelmingly passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. But House Republicans have done nothing. They refused to act. If the Republicans are unwilling to use their power to act, then the President must act. In fact, recently, 117 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Obama urging him to act now.

Since 1952, every single President, regardless of political party, has used their broad executive authority to shape our Nation's immigration policy. So the President's decision to use executive action is not unprecedented. Neither is it ideal. But, unfortunately, it is necessary.

We can no longer stand by while we separate mothers from their children, throw young people out of this country. The only strategy that the Republicans in this House have had has been deport, deport, deport.

ISRAEL TERROR ATTACKS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the families of the four Israelis, three of whom are also American citizens, who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem during morning prayers in a synagogue.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel who again have to endure another tragedy at the hands of Palestinian terrorists.

It is no coincidence that this latest string of attacks on innocent Israelis comes after the Supreme Leader of Iran urged Palestinians to use violence against Israel and called for Israel's destruction, as did the terrorist group Hamas.

This is another example of Iran's dangerous meddling in an effort to attack our U.S. interests and Israel, and Hamas's continued incitement of violence and terror.

There is now a clear link to terrorism in both the West Bank and Gaza, and there can be no U.S. taxpayer dollars going to support a unity government that is backed by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support increased funding for medical research. In the last decade, funding to the National Institutes of Health has been cut by nearly 25 percent, and America's health, position as global leader, and economy are paying the price.

In 2013, NIH funded 640 fewer competitive research projects than the year before. Fewer opportunities sent a signal to young people to avoid careers in medical research. Meanwhile, as America is falling behind, Japan, Germany, China, and India are dramatically boosting medical research funding.

Underinvestment in medical research is financially shortsighted. Every dollar of NIH funding generates \$2.21 in local economic activity.

We should be investing in ways to alleviate the burden of chronic diseases, such as Alzheimer's, which costs the Nation \$200 billion a year, and cancer, which costs the Nation another \$216 billion.

We cannot afford to wait. I encourage my colleagues to join Congresswoman DELAURO and me in supporting H.R. 5580, the Accelerating Biomedical Research Act. The time to reverse these cuts is now.

NEW GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of the German-American Caucus over the past several years and the great leadership of caucus Cochairman JIM GERLACH.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. GERLACH since before I was elected to Congress, and I am honored to take his place as the next cochairman of the German-American Caucus alongside Congressman BILL KEATING.

Under Mr. GERLACH's leadership, the caucus has grown to nearly 100 members and helped foster a great appreciation for the many ties and connections shared between our two countries.

From meeting with very important government, business, and industry leaders to hosting networking events on the Hill, the German-American Caucus has served as an important medium for the exchange of information.

Pennsylvania is proud of its German heritage. The Commonwealth hosts one of the largest German populations in the country. Accordingly, I look forward to working with Ambassador

Peter Wittig and Congressman KEATING and the leaders of the German American Business Council as we move towards the 114th Congress.

I promise to do my best to live up to the leadership that has been provided by my good friend Congressman JIM GERLACH.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we observe American Education Week, I would like to pay tribute to America's public schoolteachers and administrators for their leadership and service to our communities.

Teachers are proof that you really can change the world if you care enough. That is why so many, even when faced with diminishing resources and budget cuts, work tirelessly to ensure our students receive the education they deserve.

Our promise as a nation depends on our teachers. We all must do our part to support America's educators. That is why I oppose sequestration cuts that threaten school districts and teachers. That is why I worked to pass bipartisan legislation to provide food nutrition programs to schoolchildren during the summer months.

I have donated nearly 1,500 books to schools in my district and was proud to have launched the Robin's Readers program in my district, which is a literacy partnership between my office and Second District schools.

This week, I encourage you all to reach out and get to know your local schools. Offer to volunteer your time and energy to their efforts. But, most importantly, thank an educator.

REAGAN DEFENSE FORUM AND SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, from day one as a Member of Congress, I have always known that our number one constitutional responsibility is to the common defense of this Nation at home and abroad.

We should make the smart financial investments in our men and women in uniform—their readiness, their training, and their weapons—as if our lives depend on it. Because their lives do.

This weekend, I gathered with some of the greatest defense minds in our Nation to discuss the safety and security of our country at the annual Reagan Defense Forum. A common narrative from this forum was that the defense cuts under sequestration are dangerous and undermining our national security.

If so, then why are these dangerous cuts allowed to stand?

The American people, the military, Members of Congress, and even the President recognize the world is not becoming a safer place but much more dangerous. Ronald Reagan's policy of peace through strength worked, and it worked well. The time has come to remove these cuts and restore our Nation's strength so we can live up to our constitutional responsibility.

ACT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that it is up to Congress to overhaul the broken immigration system. However, despite all the talk and promises, there is one thing that is clear: this Republican Congress has done nothing to address immigration reform and has only been an obstacle to this process.

Now is the time for the President to act. His legal standing is solid. It is time for us to act. Now is the time to do what is right, what is fair, what is just, not only for the immigrant community, but for this great country.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this coming Saturday, November 22, is designated as National Adoption Day.

Each year, thousands of families navigate a complicated and expensive adoption process and welcome a much-wanted child into their families and into their lives. This Saturday, we will recognize, honor, and say "thank you" to these families.

We will also raise awareness of the over 100,000 children who are currently in the foster care system who have not found permanent homes or a permanent family to belong to. Sadly, 32 percent of these children will wait over 3 years in foster care before being adopted.

Globally, estimates are that there are 153 million orphans. U.S. families have adopted more than 7,000 of these children in 2013, but that is just the start. It may feel and appear to be overwhelming, but we can make a difference one child at a time.

I am proud to report that adoption rates in west Michigan, my hometown area, are among the highest in the country. Since the beginning of 2014, just one west Michigan adoption agency alone has processed 38 domestic infant adoptions, 26 intercountry adoptions, and helped many others.

We want to say thank you to them for their work.

□ 1215

NEW YORK STATE HUNGER ACTION NETWORK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to families across this country going without or simply scraping by as we enter the holiday season.

Food pantries and organizations like the Hunger Action Network of New York State do a great deal to care for our neighbors who are cold, hungry, or homeless—but they cannot do it alone. These organizations need Washington's help, and the people these organizations care for need it even more.

A uniquely American tradition is helping those in need. In my congressional district, one in 10 households lives below the poverty line. These families live each day with struggles that are reflected across our great Nation. These struggles can be fixed by a Congress that pursues policies that ensure a livable wage, that supports programs that help the less fortunate, and that invests in job creation instead of in cuts to critical programs like SNAP.

It is my hope that this House will work together more than it has in recent years to make progress for all Americans, especially for those whom this Chamber seems to have forgotten about. We do not need to wait for the next Congress to take action. I can think of no better time than this holiday season to make progress on these critical issues.

REMEMBERING GROVE HILL MAYOR LEVON HICKS

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a loyal community servant, Grove Hill Mayor Levon Hicks. Sadly, Mayor Hicks passed away on November 14 after an extended illness.

He devoted his life to serving his family, his church, and his community. He was a dedicated member of Jackson Church of Christ for more than 50 years, serving as an elder and attending several mission trips over the years. He served two terms on the Grove Hill Town Council before becoming mayor. He also served around 40 years as a volunteer fireman and was an active member of the Lions Club. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Grove Hill community and enjoyed fishing, traveling, and the University of Alabama football.

Mr. Speaker, to Mayor Hicks' wife, Helen, and his children and grandchildren, we say thank you for sharing Levon with us. We will miss him greatly.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues against the President's unilateral amnesty plan.

Unlike the President's amnesty, I support an immigration system that is accountable to the American people and the democratic process. Like most Americans, I believe immigrants who work hard, play by the rules, and contribute to our communities are good for our country.

Immigration laws should be properly controlled and strictly enforced, but under President Obama, this is not the case. Just look at the numbers: In 2012 alone, 11.7 million foreign nationals resided in the United States without authorization. Visa overstays are estimated to be up to 57 percent of that unauthorized population.

Unilateral amnesty ignores the will of the American people, it is unfair to legal immigrants, and it hurts U.S. citizens who are seeking jobs. Put simply, those who follow the rules should be rewarded, and lawbreakers should be punished. The President's executive amnesty does the exact opposite.

HUMANITARIAN GENEROSITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I love living in a country, Mr. Speaker, that is known around the world for its humanitarian generosity.

In the State of Texas, there are almost 1.3 million undocumented individuals. They are undocumented, but they are working. They are undocumented, but they are paying taxes. They are undocumented, but they love their children, many of them citizen children who everyday go to school or work or college to try and make a difference.

Mr. President, you do the right thing, and that is to use your executive power vested in article II of the Constitution that allows you to give humanitarian relief as indicated by the Arizona decision in 2012.

This is a time for courage, not politics. It is a time for truth, not misrepresentation. This is not amnesty—this is prioritization; this is saving money; this is keeping families together; this is allowing children to not come home to places where their parents have been thrown from their places of work and taken away from them.

I am excited about the courage of this President. I look forward to America finally understanding the gifts that you are given. Let us not be a selfish nation. Let us be a generous nation, and let us help those who are in this

country who are working every day, including many of our soldiers.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2014 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate adopted a resolution relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., Former Senate Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate S. Res. 579.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1422, EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4012, SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4795, PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 756 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; (2) the further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Stewart of Utah or his designee, which shall be in order without inter-

vention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-57. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order

against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 756 provides for the consideration of three important pieces of legislation to create a more transparent and accountable Environmental Protection Agency, one that works in an open manner for all of America. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate for each of the three bills contained within the rule. Further, amendments were made in order for each of the three bills for a total of five amendments from Members of both parties.

Mr. Speaker, the first bill contained in this rule, H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013, brings greater accountability and greater oversight to the board of appointed advisors which the EPA uses to

review the scientific bases for its official actions. Created in the late 1970s, the Science Advisory Board was intended to be a check on the EPA in order to ensure that the Agency's math and the Agency's statistics were all in order before it promulgated rules or regulations.

In fact, the original authorization for the board made clear that the Science Advisory Board was to report both to the EPA and to Congress on its findings. However, over the course of the past several decades since its inception, the Science Advisory Board has become little more than a rubberstamp for whatever the EPA Administrator wishes to accomplish, with the board members being handpicked by the Administrator, likely being chosen primarily on the basis that they hold the same environmental worldview as whoever the head of the EPA happens to be at any given point in time.

The bill before us would provide for a more balanced representation on the Science Advisory Board, setting out parameters regarding whom the Administrator can choose and ensuring that State and local governments have representation on the board so that they are not simply relegated to environmental activists, which, unfortunately, has been the case for some time now.

□ 1230

Indeed, current regulations exclude industry experts from serving on the Science Advisory Board, but not officials from environmental advocacy groups. The new regulations are necessary to ensure against any appearance of impropriety on the board.

This legislation becomes even more critical when one considers the numerous regulations that the Environmental Protection Agency is currently contemplating, which could have significant impacts upon the Nation's economy.

From proposed carbon regulations to ratcheting down ozone regulations, the Science Advisory Board has been tasked with reviewing the science that will back up some of the most expensive rules in the Environmental Protection Agency's history.

It is critical the American people have confidence in what their Federal Government is doing and confidence that it is justified. I fear that, absent any significant reform to the EPA's process, that is currently not the case.

The second bill contained in this rule, H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, is also intended to make the Environmental Protection Agency's rulemaking process more transparent, a goal that at one time was supposedly shared by the President.

The legislation states that the Environmental Protection Agency may take official action on an environmental regulation only if it has identi-

fied all scientific and technical information upon which the Agency has relied for that particular action, and further, it must use only publicly available studies and can thus be independently peer reviewed. This would bring the EPA's process in line with how many scientific journals operate when they publish peer-reviewed studies.

Further, the bill is prospective and will not interfere with any previously-enacted rules or regulations by the EPA. To address concerns expressed during the Science Committee's consideration of the bill, the legislation spells out that nothing in these requirements would jeopardize any privacy concerns with scientific studies.

The CDC has successfully made its studies available without exposing any of its test subjects' personal information, and the EPA should have no problem similarly complying with these requirements.

Finally, H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, the third bill included in the rule before us today, provides for greater transparency and would cut much of the red tape surrounding the permitting process for manufacturers attempting to comply with the Clean Air Act's requirements.

It would require the EPA to publish guidance on how companies may more efficiently obtain construction permits and navigate what is often a lengthy and arduous process.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are waking up to how much of the United States economy is subject to the EPA and its regulations, from carbon dioxide to ozone, and people are rightly anxious over how these new and, in some cases, unprecedented rules will affect consumers' wallets.

It is reasonable and expeditious to ensure that the science upon which the EPA is relying to craft its regulations will be transparent and available to all and not just a select few who the EPA deems worthy to see its work products.

Even the congressional committees who are charged with legitimate oversight over EPA's actions have had difficulty in obtaining basic scientific justifications for its actions over the past few years. The bills before us today will begin the process of making the EPA accountable to the very constituency the Agency claims to be protecting, the American people.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the underlying bills, and I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thought one of the lessons of this last election was that the American people wanted Washington to work, that they wanted us to work toward passing legislation, sensible legis-

lation, that could be passed in both Chambers, that could go to the White House and be signed into law, and we could move this country forward, but I guess that lesson somehow escaped my Republican colleagues because what we are doing here today is another colossal waste of time.

Now, I rise in opposition to this rule, and I rise in opposition to the underlying legislation. The points of the bills that we are considering today seek to prevent the EPA from protecting public health and the environment. It is that simple.

The White House has already issued three veto threats against these bills. The other body is not going to take these bills up, so here we are in this lameduck session with a lot of work that we should be doing, and instead, we are doing this.

On December 11, this government will run out of money. Maybe we should be spending some time trying to figure out how to avoid another government shutdown or to do the appropriations process in a more thoughtful way, but instead, my colleagues are going to wait until the last minute and bring a bill to the floor that most Members will not have time to read, and then that will be that.

Maybe we should be talking about passing an increase in the minimum wage. We are reading story after story about how income inequality in this country is getting bigger and bigger and bigger. Maybe we ought to make sure that work actually pays a livable wage in this country, or maybe we could pass a pay equity bill so that women can earn equal pay for equal work—we are not doing any of that—and that surely would be signed by the White House.

What about an immigration bill? The United States Senate passed in a bipartisan way a comprehensive immigration bill, dealing with a very important problem in this country. It is supported by labor unions, and it is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and again, it had a bipartisan vote in the United States Senate.

Are we doing that here today? No. We can't even bring that to the floor to have a debate because the leadership in this House runs such a closed process.

We have wasted time in this Chamber debating Republican messaging bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act, to undermine the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, and weaken public health and environmental regulations while failing to consider legislation to help people, to create jobs, to boost the economy and help vulnerable Americans rise out of poverty, so instead of kind of doing the people's business, we are back into Republican messaging bills again.

The three bills that we are talking about here today—H.R. 4795, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 1422—will allow industry to

have a greater influence over the policies developed at the EPA, will weaken our air quality, and prevent the EPA from using critical high-quality and peer-reviewed data in their policy development.

Why in the world would we want to do this? Well, because the Republicans' corporate constituency demand it, so this may be a nice way to thank big Republican donors for their support in the last election, but quite frankly, it is lousy policy.

H.R. 4795, the cleverly named Promoting New Manufacturing Act, does nothing to boost manufacturing and does nothing to help improve the permitting process or create jobs. The bill requires the EPA to issue both regulations and guidance concurrently when issuing national ambient air quality standards. If this requirement is not met, a new or expanding facility must only show it complies with the old insufficient standard.

Not only will this legislation create several new avenues for litigation, but it will also weaken air quality protections and threaten public health. Why in the world would we even contemplate doing that? H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, will prevent the EPA from using the best available scientific data, harm future research, and delay the implementation of public health protections.

Far from protecting transparency and accountability, this bill will limit the body of high-quality scientific research that can be used and will undermine the EPA's ability to function.

The EPA relies on peer-reviewed scientific research that often contains information scientists are legally required to keep confidential, like an individual's health records. How is the EPA supposed to determine the effects of a pollutant on our health if they are not allowed to look at health data?

Individual health records should be highly protected, and I would like to point out that the peer-reviewed studies that form the basis of EPA's actions are already available.

The purpose of this bill is not to create transparency but to create bureaucracy, to make it impossible for the EPA to develop policies to protect our health and our environment. There is no secret science, just science that my Republican colleagues do not like.

I am pleased to see that the amendment to H.R. 4012, submitted by my good friend from Massachusetts, JOE KENNEDY, was made in order. I strongly support this amendment, which would allow the EPA to continue to rely upon peer-reviewed scientific data, even if that data is legally required to be kept private. The EPA must be allowed to continue to use this critical data in their policy development.

Lastly, H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, will slow down the EPA's ability to develop reg-

ulations and effectively force the EPA to include individuals with financial conflicts on the Science Advisory Board, so long as the conflicts are disclosed.

It isn't logical to include an individual on a decisionmaking board if that individual would be financially affected by its decision.

I should note that the legislation limits the participation of academic scientists with relevant subject matter expertise from providing their advice to EPA, which will lead to panels with disproportionately high amounts of industry representation.

This bill would allow the Republicans' corporate constituency a direct route to disrupting the EPA's ability to create regulations designed to protect our health.

I would say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, "I get it. You don't like science, and you don't like science that interferes with some of the interests of your corporate clients."

But we need to rely on science so we can protect the public health and we can protect our environment. One of the main jobs that we are tasked with is to protect our constituencies. So why we would be trying to move ourselves back in a direction that would endanger public health is beyond me.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering three bills to undermine public health, hurt the environment, and tie up the EPA in red tape. I would, again, say to my colleagues, "We are going to have this debate here today. These bills aren't going anywhere. We are wasting our time by doing this today."

I am just going to close with one other issue that we ought to be talking about. In July, a majority in this House supported an amendment that I had offered, saying that if in fact we had sustained combat operations in Iraq, that Congress would vote to authorize, or not, such action.

Well, clearly, we have sustained combat operations going on in Iraq. We are getting sucked deeper and deeper and deeper into war while this Congress sits and twiddles its thumbs and does everything possible to avoid a debate on whether or not we should be involved in another war.

You know what, there are thousands of Americans that have been put in harm's way, and we are not living up to our constitutional responsibility. Surely, we should be spending some time talking about that, whether or not the United States ought to get sucked into another war halfway around the world, a war that will cost American lives and that will continue to cost a great deal in terms of our national treasure, but instead of debating that and other things that really matter to people, we are doing it on a messaging bill.

I regret the fact that here we are in these few days that we have left in this

lame duck session, doing this kind of stuff, when we ought to be doing the people's business.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this restrictive rule, vote against all of the underlying legislation, and I plead to the Republican leadership: let's bring something to the floor that will help the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), and I really appreciated his statement on this rule today.

Mr. Speaker, once again, you would think that we would almost expect that nothing good would happen here, and I am rising with a very heavy heart today because nothing good is happening in my office as well because, today, we are seeing the last rule worked on by my friend Don Sisson, who has been with us here for over 10 years, works extraordinarily well in the Rules Committee, has provided us with outstanding service, and really has an integral part that he is going to be playing over at the White House. This means a significant loss for us.

□ 1245

He has accepted a new job as the Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. And while I really want to wish him well, to be perfectly honest with you, it is breaking my heart to see him go.

Don is not only an expert on the rules and a computer genius, and when anything electrical goes awry, Don can fix it in a moment, but Don is a caretaker. He not only takes great care about the rules, his work, and everyone on the committee whom he really loved and enjoyed working with, he takes care of people individually, and he has certainly done that for me.

I had a pretty bad year this past year losing my husband, and Don was always there. If electricity didn't work or something else didn't happen, Don knew who could fix that for me. So as I speak about it, my personal feelings overwhelm the wonderful opportunity for him as a young man to work in the White House of the United States Government with the President.

I would like to go over his credentials here, but I am not going to. I am simply going to tell you that Don is one of the best people that ever worked in the United States House of Representatives and one of the finest persons on the Rules Committee who understands not only rules, but is a friend

to every single person who works in this House and beyond. He could always be counted on as a friend, as someone with extraordinarily gifted intelligence, and as being able to work his way through the most dangerous Gordian Knot. Don Sisson is a “man for all seasons.”

Mr. Speaker, I wish him the very best of everything, but say to you that, without a doubt, the loss for our side, for our office, and for our friends is profound. Nonetheless, he is going to go. I just want the White House to understand what a jewel they are getting.

Thank you very much, Mr. McGovern, for yielding me the time.

Thank you, Don, for your service, and you will always have a place here in this House. Thank you very much.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to join the gentleman from New York in congratulating Don Sisson for his new position at the White House Office of Legislative Affairs and certainly look forward to working with him. I actually am somewhat comforted to know that there is an Office of Legislative Affairs in the White House and look forward to his occupying that position.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to also join with the ranking member in honoring Don Sisson. As she mentions, this will be his last day on the floor. I think his last day is this week.

Mr. Speaker, Don has been working for the Rules Committee for 10 years under both Republicans and Democrats. He is a native of upstate New York, and he has been around for historic debates in Congress and has been an integral part of the Rules Committee staff for many, many, many years. As Ms. SLAUGHTER pointed out, he will be moving on to the White House, and we are going to miss him dearly.

I think it is important for all of us to take a moment just to recognize that Don represents the best, I think, of the staff that work here. He is up here for all the right reasons. He wants to make the world a better place, and he has shown this great ability to work across party lines and to build things and make things happen. I know he will use those skills in his new position at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee meets an awful lot, and we are together an awful lot, and so we are all family. So when somebody leaves, it is painful because it is like a family member moving on and going someplace else. So we are going to miss Don, but he won't be that far away. We will work with him in a new capacity.

On behalf of everybody on that committee, members and staff included, I think we all owe you a debt of grati-

tude, and we are grateful for your service. You have served this institution with great honor and dignity, and we wish you all the best in your new job. So thank you very much for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to announce to my colleagues that I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question, and if we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to continue the ATTIRE Act. This bill would support textile research and innovation in the United States and will continue to strengthen the Made in America Movement as a conduit for creating American jobs and bolstering our economy. It is the right way to help create American jobs.

To discuss our proposal, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the ATTIRE Act, which we will offer as an amendment to the rule if the previous question is defeated.

The most notable aspect of the majority's so-called manufacturing bills before us is their lack of ambition and vision. They are simply messaging bills.

So we have an alternative to put forward, a bill that already has broad support in this body. The bill would support textile research and innovation in the United States, strengthening the Make It In America movement as an instrument for creating American jobs, bolstering our economy, and improving our international competitiveness.

The ATTIRE Act would establish a Department of Commerce grant program to fund textile research, supporting innovation in the U.S. textile and fiber products industry. The bill is fully paid for. Although our Nation's manufacturing base has suffered major losses over the last 20 years, the American textile industry continues to employ over 500,000 workers across the country and contributes nearly \$60 billion to our gross domestic product annually.

Even in the face of an economic downturn, the industry continues to thrive and adapt to the competitive global marketplace by remaining at the cutting edge of innovations in textile and fiber technologies. Despite all this, there is currently no dedicated source of Federal funding for research into new textile applications and market opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, some of our colleagues may need to be disabused of the notion that the textile industry is old or inflexible or in decline. That is an undeserved reputation. The fact is our Nation's leading textile research universities, research institutes, and textile firms that have been quick to fol-

low up on research findings have made remarkable progress, particularly in the areas of nonwoven fabrics. They have developed innovative technologies and materials with applications in industries as varied as aerospace, biomedical, and alternative energy.

The applications for advanced textiles in the areas of defense and homeland security, notably for first responders, are especially promising. I am referring to major advances in heat-resistant clothing, bacteria-resistant microfibers, and nanofibers able to conduct electricity and capture solar energy.

Additional advances are promised by new manufacturing, processing, and fitting technologies currently under development. Such advances in processing hold the promise of “reshoring” many of those textile jobs lost over the past 20 years to low-wage countries.

Mr. Speaker, Federal support for textile research isn't a new idea. Between 1986 and 2010, the Department of Commerce provided consistent and ongoing annual support for textile research conducted by entities such as the National Textile Center, a research partnership of eight universities, and TC-Squared, a leading industry consortium.

Since 2010, however, the Department has not provided any comparable source of funding for advanced technical research, largely because Congress has not provided that funding. Industry stakeholders as varied as high-end athletic and outdoor apparel companies, aerospace manufacturers, defense contractors, and defense textile manufacturers all recognize the importance of Federal support for advanced textile research.

So instead of spending time on short-sighted legislation undermining the EPA's ability to do its job, we should instead be focusing on forward-thinking manufacturing and economic policy to improve our Nation's international competitiveness. With our support, U.S. manufacturers and workers will dominate the 21st century global economy as they did in the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, if colleagues want to do something serious to help American manufacturers and workers, then we should support this bill. It is as simple as that.

I urge defeat of the previous question.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from the gentleman if he has additional speakers besides himself?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had one other speaker who is not here, but in light of that, I will close.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I am going to ask my colleagues to vote

against the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, we will make in order the ATTIRE Act that Mr. PRICE so carefully described to all of us here today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with the extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say in closing that it is frustrating to be back after the election and to kind of engage in the same old-same old Republican partisan messaging bills that are going nowhere that just waste time. We ought to do the people's business in the next campaign which is about to start in a little while.

The fact that we are back here not debating this conflict that is now going on in the Middle East, the fact that we are not debating an immigration bill, the fact that we are not debating a pay equity bill or a minimum wage bill and we are doing this is very discouraging.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to send a strong statement today and vote "no" on this rule and certainly vote "no" on the previous question. I would also urge, if the rule passes, that we vote "no" on the underlying legislation. We have a lot of work to do. What we are doing here today does not constitute that work, and I regret it very much.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of three important bills to provide for open and transparent rulemaking at the Environmental Protection Agency. I certainly want to thank the authors for their thoughtful legislation. I want to urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 756 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 937) to support innovation and research in the United States textile and fiber products industry. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 937.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 190, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]

YEAS—225

Aderholt	Crawford	Grimm
Amash	Crenshaw	Guthrie
Amodei	Culberson	Hanna
Bachus	Daines	Harper
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Barr	Denham	Hartzler
Barton	Dent	Hastings (WA)
Benishek	DeSantis	Heck (NV)
Bentivolio	DesJarlais	Hensarling
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Herrera Beutler
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Holding
Black	Duncan (SC)	Hudson
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Huelskamp
Boustany	Ellmers	Huizenga (MI)
Brady (TX)	Farenthold	Hultgren
Brat	Fincher	Hunter
Bridenstine	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Brooks (AL)	Fleischmann	Jenkins
Brooks (IN)	Fleming	Johnson (OH)
Broun (GA)	Flores	Johnson, Sam
Bucshon	Forbes	Jolly
Burgess	Fortenberry	Jones
Byrne	Fox	Jordan
Calvert	Franks (AZ)	Joyce
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (PA)
Capito	Gardner	King (IA)
Carter	Garrett	King (NY)
Cassidy	Gerlach	Kingston
Chabot	Gibbs	Kinzinger (IL)
Chaffetz	Gibson	Kline
Clawson (FL)	Gingrey (GA)	Labrador
Coble	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Coffman	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Cole	Gosar	Lance
Collins (GA)	Gowdy	Lankford
Collins (NY)	Granger	Latham
Conaway	Graves (GA)	Latta
Cook	Graves (MO)	LoBiondo
Cotton	Griffin (AR)	Long
Cramer	Griffith (VA)	Lucas

Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (TN)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loreta

Sarbanes	Sires	Veasey
Schakowsky	Slaughter	Vela
Schiff	Speler	Velázquez
Schneider	Swalwell (CA)	Visclosky
Schrader	Takano	Walz
Schwartz	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Schultz
Scott, David	Tierney	Waters
Serrano	Titus	Waxman
Sewell (AL)	Tonko	Welch
Shea-Porter	Tsongas	Wilson (FL)
Sherman	Van Hollen	Yarmuth
Sinema	Vargas	

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann	Engel	Miller, Gary
Buchanan	Fattah	Moore
Campbell	Hall	Mullin
Davis, Danny	Hastings (FL)	Negrete McLeod
Duckworth	Jackson Lee	Smith (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1330

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by a meeting on constituency matters on rollcall vote No. 521 and 522. If I had been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 521 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 522.

EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 756, I call up the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1422

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 8(b) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365(b)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) The Board shall be composed of at least nine members, one of whom shall be des-

ignated Chairman, and shall meet at such times and places as may be designated by the Chairman in consultation with the Administrator.

"(2) Each member of the Board shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information on matters referred to the Board under this section. The Administrator shall select Board members from nominations received as described in paragraph (3) and shall ensure that—

"(A) the scientific and technical points of view represented on and the functions to be performed by the Board are fairly balanced among the members of the Board;

"(B) at least ten percent of the membership of the Board are from State, local, or tribal governments;

"(C) persons with substantial and relevant expertise are not excluded from the Board due to affiliation with or representation of entities that may have a potential interest in the Board's advisory activities, so long as that interest is fully disclosed to the Administrator and the public and appointment to the Board complies with section 208 of title 18, United States Code;

"(D) in the case of a Board advisory activity on a particular matter involving a specific party, no Board member having an interest in the specific party shall participate in that activity;

"(E) Board members may not participate in advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review and evaluation of their own work;

"(F) Board members shall be designated as special Government employees; and

"(G) no federally registered lobbyist is appointed to the Board.

"(3) The Administrator shall—

"(A) solicit public nominations for the Board by publishing a notification in the Federal Register;

"(B) solicit nominations from relevant Federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Health and Human Services;

"(C) make public the list of nominees, including the identity of the entities that nominated them, and shall accept public comment on the nominees;

"(D) require that, upon their provisional nomination, nominees shall file a written report disclosing financial relationships and interests, including Environmental Protection Agency grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance, that are relevant to the Board's advisory activities for the three-year period prior to the date of their nomination, and relevant professional activities and public statements for the five-year period prior to the date of their nomination; and

"(E) make such reports public, with the exception of specific dollar amounts, for each member of the Board upon such member's selection.

"(4) Disclosure of relevant professional activities under paragraph (3)(D) shall include all representational work, expert testimony, and contract work as well as identifying the party for which the work was done.

"(5) Except when specifically prohibited by law, the Agency shall make all conflict of interest waivers granted to members of the Board, member committees, or investigative panels publicly available.

"(6) Any recusal agreement made by a member of the Board, a member committee, or an investigative panel, or any recusal known to the Agency that occurs during the course of a meeting or other work of the Board, member committee, or investigative panel shall promptly be made public by the Administrator.

"(7) The terms of the members of the Board shall be three years and shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than one-third of the total membership of the Board shall expire with-

in a single fiscal year. No member shall serve more than two terms over a ten-year period."

(b) RECORD.—Section 8(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4365(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting "risk or hazard assessment," after "at the time any proposed"; and

(B) by inserting "risk or hazard assessment," after "to the Board such proposed"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting "risk or hazard assessment," after "the scientific and technical basis of the proposed"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: "The Board's advice and comments, including dissenting views of Board members, and the response of the Administrator shall be included in the record with respect to any proposed risk or hazard assessment, criteria document, standard, limitation, or regulation and published in the Federal Register."

(c) MEMBER COMMITTEES AND INVESTIGATIVE PANELS.—Section 8(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4365(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "These member committees and investigative panels—

"(1) shall be constituted and operate in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), in subsection (h), and in subsection (i);

"(2) do not have authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board; and

"(3) may not report directly to the Environmental Protection Agency."

(d) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Section 8 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4365) is amended by adding after subsection (g) the following:

"(h)(1) To facilitate public participation in the advisory activities of the Board, the Administrator and the Board shall make public all reports and relevant scientific information and shall provide materials to the public at the same time as received by members of the Board.

"(2) Prior to conducting major advisory activities, the Board shall hold a public information-gathering session to discuss the state of the science related to the advisory activity.

"(3) Prior to convening a member committee or investigative panel under subsection (e) or requesting scientific advice from the Board, the Administrator shall accept, consider, and address public comments on questions to be asked of the Board. The Board, member committees, and investigative panels shall accept, consider, and address public comments on such questions and shall not accept a question that unduly narrows the scope of an advisory activity.

"(4) The Administrator and the Board shall encourage public comments, including oral comments and discussion during the proceedings, that shall not be limited by an insufficient or arbitrary time restriction. Public comments shall be provided to the Board when received. The Board's reports shall include written responses to significant comments offered by members of the public to the Board.

"(5) Following Board meetings, the public shall be given 15 calendar days to provide additional comments for consideration by the Board."

(e) OPERATIONS.—Section 8 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4365) is further amended by adding after subsection (h), as added by subsection (d) of this section, the following:

"(i)(1) In carrying out its advisory activities, the Board shall strive to avoid making policy determinations or recommendations, and, in the event the Board feels compelled to offer policy advice, shall explicitly distinguish between scientific determinations and policy advice.

"(2) The Board shall clearly communicate uncertainties associated with the scientific advice provided to the Administrator.

"(3) The Board shall ensure that advice and comments reflect the views of the members and

shall encourage dissenting members to make their views known to the public and the Administrator.

"(4) The Board shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure that its advisory activities are addressing the most important scientific issues affecting the Environmental Protection Agency."

SEC. 3. RELATION TO THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as supplanting the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

SEC. 4. RELATION TO THE ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1978.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as supplanting the requirements of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part A of House Report 113-626, if offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), or his designee, which shall be considered read and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 1422.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members of Congress have been asking for greater transparency from the EPA's Science Advisory Board for years, and the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, we believe, addresses those concerns.

Currently, the board is made up of 52 members appointed by the Administrator of the EPA to serve 3-year terms. The large majority of these members are affiliated with academic institutions, while private industry and other interested parties are unrepresented.

The only State governments represented are California and Vermont, while tribal and local governments have no representation on the board. Under H.R. 1422, at least 10 percent of the board members will be from States, local governments, or tribal entities.

The bill reinforces peer-review requirements and reduces conflicts of interest while providing opportunity for disinterested panelists to make their views known.

The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act promises fairness, trans-

parency, and independence to ensure unbiased advice is given to the EPA.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act. I thank my colleagues, Mr. SMITH and Mr. SCHWEIKERT, for their intention to improve the EPA's Science Advisory Board, and I thank them for working with me on other legislation that passed the Science Committee in the House on a bipartisan basis. It is unfortunate that we could not be repeating that bipartisan collaboration today.

My colleagues who support H.R. 1422 may describe this bill as an attempt to strengthen public participation in EPA's scientific review process, improve the process for selecting expert advisers, expand transparency requirements, and limit nonscientific policy advice within EPA's Science Advisory Board. All of these are good government principles that I agree with.

If this bill achieved those goals, I would be here today supporting it. However, on close examination of its provisions, H.R. 1422 would not achieve these good government goals. Instead of improving the Science Advisory Board structure or operation, the bill before us today will likely limit the quality of scientific advice the EPA receives and further delay EPA's regulatory process.

H.R. 1422 would make it easier for industry representatives to serve on a board, even if they have a financial conflict of interest. To be clear, and this is something with which I trust my Republican colleagues would agree, I am not opposed to industry experts participating on the Science Advisory Board or in the peer-review process at the EPA. In fact, their insight into processes and industry can provide valuable guidance to an advisory body.

That being said, Congress should not be endorsing legislation that undermines longstanding ethics requirements and practices with the end result being an overrepresentation of industry voices on EPA's Science Advisory Board, and that is likely to be the result of this bill today.

At the same time this bill eases the way for more industry members, the act also makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the best and brightest from academia to serve because it would exclude from the board anyone who has participated in activities that

were even indirectly reviewed by the EPA.

This provision would disqualify some of the most qualified scientists because academic researchers frequently need to compete for research funds from the Federal Government, and that includes the EPA.

Additionally, it appears H.R. 1422 would also significantly delay the work of the Science Advisory Board with new provisions that would require written responses to significant public comments following new public information-gathering sessions, a requirement that is duplicative because the board meetings are already open to the public and have time set aside for public comment. These provisions would simply result in more work without more resources and unlimited time to halt, derail, or slow EPA actions.

Finally, this bill sets a quota for membership on the Scientific Advisory Board from State, local, or tribal governments, which could very well mean that more qualified experts would not be able to serve.

EPA's science is tied to its mission, to protect public health and the environment through rational regulation. Scientific research, knowledge, and technical expertise are fundamental to EPA's mission and inform its regulatory functions.

The need for that expertise is why Congress created advisory bodies such as the Science Advisory Board in the first place, to provide independent advice on the science underpinning regulation, which in turn allows the EPA Administrator to make sound regulatory decisions.

Instead of undermining the scientific advice EPA receives, we should be giving the Agency the tools they need to strengthen and improve the regulatory process with sound science.

In closing, I want to again thank my colleagues, Mr. STEWART and Mr. SCHWEIKERT, for their efforts.

This bill does not do what it needs to do. I want to quote from a letter I received from a coalition of organizations, including Physicians for Social Responsibility, Clean Water Action, and more. The letter states:

The bill shifts the current presumption against including people with financial conflicts on SAB panels . . . The bill's provisions are inconsistent with a set of nearly universally accepted scientific principles to eliminate or limit financial conflicts.

I agree with this assessment of H.R. 1422, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to also thank the ranking member, my friend from Oregon. We disagree on this bill, as it will become evident through this

debate today, but she has always been respectful and professional, and I appreciate that.

The issues we are debating today are important, and the decisions we will make today are significant. There is a process that is broken, and it is through this bill that we cannot only improve that process, but also restore trust between the American people and the Federal Government.

□ 1345

If I could reemphasize what I just said, the process is broken. This is an opportunity for us to restore trust between the American people and the Federal Government that has fostered so much distrust of late.

Established by Congress in 1978, the EPA's Science Advisory Board, or what we refer to as SAB, is intended to provide meaningful, balanced, and independent reviews of the science conducted and used by the Agency. Its members are selected by the EPA Administrator, and it plays an important role in reviewing everything from the EPA's research budget to individual chemical assessments.

This panel is indispensable in critically reviewing the underlying science of virtually all major EPA regulatory activities. That is a tall order in recent years, especially given the fact that the Agency has pursued an overreaching, economically threatening agenda, creating an environment where politics and policies have taken the wheel from unbiased science.

This bill contains basic, good government changes and draws upon non-controversial provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee handbook, the EPA's own Peer Review Handbook, the National Academies' committee composition and conflict of interest policy, and even recommendations from the Science Committee testimony and other outside groups.

It has widespread support from groups such as the National Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the American Chemistry Council, the American Gas Association, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, Portland Cement Association, the American Forest and Paper Association, and I could go on and on with a long list of councils and associations that support this legislation.

It makes important clarifying changes to the scope of SAB's purview and institutes commonsense reforms. I would like to emphasize this. You are going to hear this again and again today: commonsense reforms to improve transparency. How can you argue against that? It specifically builds upon the bipartisan agreement made to the SAB in the farm bill.

H.R. 1422 would also facilitate meaningful public participation across all of

the standing committees. Once again, let me emphasize that: it facilitates meaningful public participation. And let's be clear. The transparency and the public participation concerns addressed in this bill are not without merit.

For example, in my own experience, during a hearing in the Science Committee last year, I was alarmed to hear from both SAB members and the chair of the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and a State official testify that EPA's science advisers virtually never respond to public comments and, in many cases, they don't even read these public comments. Imagine the arrogance of a government committee that pretends to seek public comment and promises to consider those comments, and then to learn that they don't even read them, let alone consider what has been said. This bill would change that.

This bill also provides clarity to the SAB member selection and disclosure process. Despite an existing requirement that these panels be "fairly balanced in terms of point of view represented," EPA has systematically excluded State, local, and tribal entities and private sector scientists from serving as advisers.

For example, last year EPA announced a new Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel. Even though dozens of people with recent and direct experience with oil and gas technical developments were nominated, the EPA excluded nearly every one of them from serving on the panel.

There are also a number of other unsettling Agency trends about how the EPA selects its supposedly independent advisers. For instance, according to the Congressional Research Service, almost 60 percent of the members of EPA's chartered SAB and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee have directly received grants from the Agency, and that is only since the year 2000. These advisers served as principal or co-investigators for EPA grants, totaling approximately \$140 million. The EPA also frequently chooses panelists whose research is directly or indirectly under review.

And finally, in addition, many of the SAB panelists have clearly taken sides or made public pronouncements on issues they are advising about. For example, roughly 40 percent of the current panel members reviewing the science behind upcoming EPA ozone standards have already made statements that the regulations should be more stringent.

The issues identified in this bill seem to many as too specific and diving into the weeds, but credible peer review is critical to everything the EPA does. We may not be able to control all the EPA's regulatory overreach, but guaranteeing that there is an independent check whose sole focus is to provide

unbiased, independent science is essential to the process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield, I will place into the RECORD letters from various groups opposed to this bill, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, among many others.

In addition, I will place into the RECORD the Administration's Statement of Administration Policy on the bill threatening a veto if the bill were to pass.

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS,

Cambridge, MA, November 17, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The Union of Concerned Scientists strongly opposes the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013, H.R. 1422, set to be voted on by the House as early as November 18. This bill will cripple the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to protect public health informed by the best available science.

When he discussed his proposal last year, Rep. Chris Stewart (UT) revealed the real purpose of his bill. He attacked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for "promulgating air quality regulations that could shut down large swaths of the West, undertaking thinly veiled attacks on the safety of hydraulic fracturing, or pursuing job-killing climate regulations. . . ."

This proposal will make it nearly impossible for the Board to do the crucial independent evaluations of EPA scientific analyses that enable the agency to protect public health. This bill opens the door for more corporate influence on the Board, because the bill directly stipulates that experts with financial ties to corporations affected by SAB assessments are "not excluded." This signal likely will increase the number of conflicted SAB panelists empowering companies to delay the SAB's work for years, if not decades. It strikes at the heart of the whole concept of independent reviews, and at a time when the ability of corporations to influence policy is already high.

At the same time this bill encourages corporate experts to join the SAB, it creates roadblocks for academic experts to meaningfully participate by banning experts' participation in "advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review and evaluation of their own work." This effectively turns the idea of conflict of interest on its head, with the bizarre presumption that corporate experts with direct financial interests are not conflicted while academics who work on these issues are.

The notion that a member of the SAB cannot participate in a discussion that cites the member's own work is counterproductive and goes far beyond the common-sense limits imposed by the National Academies. Of course, a scientist with expertise on topics the Science Advisory Board addresses likely will have done peer-reviewed studies on that topic. That makes the scientist's evaluation more valuable, not less.

The bill offers almost limitless opportunities for public comment, opportunities that only benefit moneyed special interests. For example, for each major advisory activity, the Board must convene a public information-gathering session "to discuss the state of the science" related to that activity.

It is possible, under this requirement, that the Board may find itself repeatedly reexamining “the state of the science” on climate change or the harmful effects of certain toxins—each time it made an assessment that touched on either climate change impacts or reducing air pollution.

In addition, both the EPA, before it asks for the Board’s advice, and the Board itself, would be required to “accept, consider, and address” public comments on the agency’s questions to the Board. As the SAB deliberates, it must also encourage public comments “that shall not be limited by an insufficient or arbitrary time restriction.” In effect, these provisions turn a scientific evaluation into a public hearing, even though EPA must already accept public input on all its regulations.

The Board is required to respond in writing to each “significant” comment. In practice, it is difficult to see how the Board could impose any deadlines on accepting comment. Nor is it a reasonable expectation on the Board’s membership of pro bono experts.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing the law’s mandates will cost the EPA about \$2 million over a four-year period. These are funds that could be put to much better use by a cash-strapped agency.

This bill would not improve the work of the Board, and would make it more difficult for the EPA to receive the independent science advice it needs to do its work. We strongly urge your opposition.

Sincerely,

ANDREW A. ROSENBERG, PH.D.,
*Director, Center for Science and Democracy,
Union of Concerned Scientists.*

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE; CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT; CLEAN WATER ACTION; COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA; DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE; EARTHJUSTICE; ENVIRONMENT AMERICA; ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND; INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA (UAW); LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS; NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL; PUBLIC CITIZEN; SIERRA CLUB; SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (SELC); SOUTHERN OREGON CLIMATE ACTION NOW; UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA (UWUA); WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters we strongly urge you to oppose the trio of anti-EPA bills hitting the floor this week: the “Secret Science Reform Act of 2014” (H.R. 4012), the “EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013” (H.R. 1422), and the “Promoting New Manufacturing Act” (H.R. 4795). Collectively, these misleadingly named bills would radically diminish EPA’s ability to protect public health. Under these bills, EPA would be required to ignore significant science; the Scientific Advisory Board would be required to ignore conflicts of interest; and enforcement officials would be required to ignore pollution emitted in violation of the law. These bills are broadly written and would have damaging impacts far in excess of what their sponsors will admit.

The “Secret Science Reform Act,” H.R. 4012, is based on a faulty premise. Its notion

of “secret science,” based on claims about studies of fine soot pollution conducted almost two decades ago, is unfounded despite lengthy congressional inquiries. The bill would deny EPA the ability to rely upon peer-reviewed medical studies that involve commitments to patient confidentiality, when the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities to safeguard public health and the environment. Further, this bill would effectively amend numerous environmental statutes by forbidding EPA to use certain kinds of studies in setting health standards. It would also make it impossible for EPA to use many kinds of economic models it routinely relies on because those models are proprietary. This marks a radical departure from longstanding practices. Its end result would be to make it much more difficult to protect the public by forcing EPA to ignore key scientific studies.

H.R. 1422 would attack EPA’s scientific process in a different way. This bill would significantly weaken the content and credibility of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reviews—a textbook example of making a government program function poorly to the benefit of polluting industries and at the expense of public health and independent science. The bill will add unnecessary new burdens on the SAB, distorting its mission and altering its process with no benefit to EPA or the public. The worst provision would mandate allowing the participation of scientists with financial conflicts of interest, as long as those conflicts are disclosed. This is inconsistent with a set of nearly universally accepted scientific principles to eliminate or limit financial conflicts. The bill also significantly broadens the scope of the SAB and creates a comment process that will add needless delay to the Board’s work. The result would be further stalling and undermining of important public health, safety, and environmental protections.

Lastly, H.R. 4795 is a substantive attack on our nation’s right to clean air protections. It would grant amnesty from national clean air health standards, create red tape and cause unintended burdens to local businesses. The bill would exacerbate air pollution nationwide, causing harm to public health and making the jobs of state and local officials harder to perform. Newly permitted industrial facilities would be allowed to operate in violation of national health standards, while other local businesses and local communities would have to “pick up the slack” and be penalized for the new facility’s amnesty and pollution. In so doing, the bill repeals a health safeguard in place for nearly 40 years under the Clean Air Act, making it more difficult for states to permit new facilities while also keeping their air clean.

This legislation will obstruct the implementation and enforcement of critical environmental statutes, undermine the EPA’s ability to consider and use science, and jeopardize public health. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

BlueGreen Alliance; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Effective Government; Clean Water Action; Communications Workers of America; Defenders of Wildlife; Earthjustice; Environment America; Environmental Defense Fund; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); League of Conservation Voters; Natural Resources Defense Council; Public Citizen; Sierra Club; Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC); Southern Oregon Climate Action Now; Utility Workers Union of

America (UWUA); WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

NOVEMBER 17, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned individuals and organizations working on public health and science-informed regulation strongly oppose H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, and H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, up for a House vote as early as November 18.

Both bills would severely undermine the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use the best available scientific evidence when making decisions regarding the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

H.R. 4012, the erroneously named Secret Science Reform Act, would tie the EPA’s hands by restricting the information it can use to develop protective regulations. The EPA could only regulate based on publicly available scientific data. This restriction would block the agency’s use of many different types of public health data, such as those for which public release would violate privacy protections, or data from corporations that are designated as confidential business information.

It also would restrict the use of scientific data that is not “reproducible.” This provision seems to adopt a very narrow view of scientific information solely based on laboratory experiments. As major scientific societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have noted, such a restriction would eliminate the use of most epidemiological and public health data, such as those regarding the public health impacts of air pollution, because these data are collected in long-term studies following individuals longitudinally.

Not only do privacy concerns arise, but such studies are not inherently reproduced in the way a laboratory experiment or a clinical trial may be. It would be unethical to deliberately expose adults or children to air pollution merely to determine whether the increased rates of asthma and heart attacks caused by such exposures can be duplicated, or to encourage teenagers to smoke to re-assess the toxic effects of tobacco.

H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would greatly weaken the EPA’s advisory process, ensuring that recommendations from its independent Science Advisory Board (SAB) will be dominated by corporate special interests. While the bill has been improved by several amendments offered by minority members of the House Science Committee, it still remains unacceptable.

This bill opens the door to increased corporate influence on the Board, both by encouraging the EPA to accept more SAB panelists with corporate ties, and disqualifying some of the nation’s leading experts.

The bill’s overly broad restriction that a member of the SAB cannot participate in a discussion that cites the member’s own work is counterproductive, and goes far beyond the common-sense limits imposed by the National Academies. Of course, a scientist with expertise on topics the SAB addresses likely will have done peer-reviewed studies and other work on that topic. That makes the scientist’s evaluation more valuable, not less.

Even worse, the bill requires the SAB to remain in an endless loop soliciting public comment about the “state of the science” touching on every major advisory activity it undertakes and responding to nearly every comment before moving forward, without being limited by any time constraints. At

best, the SAB will be reduced to busy work. At worst, the SAB's assessments will address the concerns of corporations, not the desires of citizens for science-informed regulation that protects public health.

These bills together will greatly impede the ability of EPA, and potentially other agencies, to utilize the best available science, independently reviewed, to inform regulations crucial to public health and the environment.

We strongly urge you to vote No on H.R. 4012 and H.R. 1422.

Sincerely,

Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Annie Appleseed Project; Breast Cancer Action; Center for Medical Consumers; Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies; National Center for Health Research; National Physicians Alliance; Our Bodies, Ourselves; Physicians for Social Responsibility; Public Citizen; The TMJ Association; Woodymatters; Susan F. Wood, PhD, Associate Professor, Director, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health; John H. Powers, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, The George Washington University School of Medicine.

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS,

Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Re Oppose H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795:
An Attack on Scientific Integrity and Public Health.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795.

H.R. 1422, the so-called EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would undermine the ability of the Science Advisory Board to provide independent scientific advice to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This bill would allow industry participation on the Scientific Advisory Board, while preventing subject experts from being included. Additionally, new burdens imposed on the Board would needlessly delay necessary public health and environmental protections.

H.R. 4012, the so-called Secret Science Reform Act of 2014 would endanger public health by preventing the EPA from using the best available science. The bill contains favorable exemptions for industry and would severely restrict the health studies that the EPA is able to use by prohibiting the use of peer-reviewed studies with confidential health information. These types of studies are the basis for the best research on pollution's effects on people. This legislation cripples the EPA's ability to develop effective public health safeguards.

H.R. 4795, the so-called Promoting New Manufacturing Act is an attack on clean air protections. This bill would create unclear procedural requirements and loopholes that could allow newly permitted industrial facilities to be exempted from the most recent national air quality standards set by the EPA. This legislation effectively creates amnesty for new facilities while delaying the permitting process and threatening public health.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795, a collective attack on scientific integrity and public health. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills in the 2014 Scorecard.

Sincerely,

GENE KARPINSKI,
President.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 1422—EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
REFORM ACT OF 2013

(Rep. Stewart, R-UT, and 21 cosponsor,
Nov. 17, 2014)

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 1422, which would affect the ability of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) to form panels and perform its essential functions. The SAB, along with other functions, reviews the quality and adequacy of certain scientific and technical information used by EPA or proposed as the basis for EPA regulations. Therefore, it is imperative that the SAB be composed of the most knowledgeable scientific and technical experts available. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which governs Federal advisory committees such as the SAB, provides for balanced panels and subcommittees that include experts with diverse backgrounds who represent wide-ranging perspectives.

H.R. 1422 would negatively affect the appointment of experts and would weaken the scientific independence and integrity of the SAB. For example, the bill would impose a hiring quota for SAB members based on employment by a State, local, or tribal government as opposed to scientific expertise. Further, it would prohibit a SAB member from participating in "advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review and evaluation of their own work." Determining the practical meaning of "indirect" involvement will be difficult and consequently problematic to implement. The provisions on appointment of experts to the SAB and various other requirements could preclude the nomination of scientists with significant expertise in their fields.

H.R. 1422 also would add burdensome requirements on the SAB with respect to solicitation of and response to public comments, above and beyond those imposed by FACA. These new requirements would saddle the SAB with workload that would impair its ability to carry out its mandate. Further, H.R. 1422 would add an unnecessary, burdensome, and costly layer of requirements for hazard and risk assessments without defining the scope of these requirements and absent recognition that many high profile assessments already are reviewed by the SAB.

If the President were presented with H.R. 1422, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the Science Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the ranking member.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act. H.R. 1422 is a continuation of the majority's anti-science agenda. It benefits no one but the industry, and it harms public health.

The bill before us today "reforms" EPA's Science Advisory Board not for

the better, but for the worse. The supposed intent of H.R. 1422 is to improve the process of selecting advisers to serve on the Agency's advisory board, but, in reality, H.R. 1422 will allow the board to be stacked with industry-affiliated representatives while making it more difficult for the experts from academia to serve on the board.

The role of the board is to provide independent scientific analysis and advice to the EPA, which includes reviewing the quality and relevance of scientific information used as the basis for regulations.

My Republican colleagues seem to have a fundamental distrust of scientists from our Nation's universities because these researchers, the ones with the most relevant expertise to EPA's mission of protecting public health, are denied the opportunity to provide EPA with their advice under H.R. 1422. It is difficult to understand how anyone could object to the most expert academics in the country being called on to offer their expertise to EPA. Who would know better whether EPA had mischaracterized the science on an issue than the people who are leaders in their respective fields?

The board is supposed to be composed of experts, including those who may have, literally, "written the book" on a matter. What is the alternative? Should we find people to serve who are less expert?

Equally troubling, H.R. 1422 goes out of its way to guarantee that industry-affiliated experts are the dominant voice on the board of experts. An expert with an industry association is far more likely to find that the science they are asked to review will have a financial impact on the employer. Academic scientists do not have such financial conflicts of interest with the board's advice or EPA's actions.

To be clear, I am not arguing that industry should have no representation on EPA's Science Advisory Board. Their insight is valuable. But I do not support stacking the board with industry representatives, as would be the outcome if this bill passes.

Another goal of H.R. 1422, as stated by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is to "improve the science that goes into EPA regulations." H.R. 1422 falls short of that goal as well and, instead, weakens and delays the scientific review process, putting the health of every American at risk.

As a former nurse, I cannot support legislation that endangers public health, and I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1422.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this bill came out of committee without a single Democratic vote.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I recognize the gentleman from Texas, I would like to respond briefly, if I could, to the minority

Member, some of her comments regarding this bill.

The bill very clearly does not allow for the SAB to be stacked, to use her phrase, with the industry experts. I have the bill before me. It is only a couple of pages long. It is very simple. I would ask anyone to show me the language where it allows for the SAB to be stacked with industry experts.

All we are asking is that there be some balance to those experts who are asked and that there, further, be transparency, and that we understand who is selected, why they were selected, and why others were excluded from this, just like, by the way, we are not asking that those scientists who have EPA-funded backgrounds be excluded. We are not saying that they are conflicted to the point where they couldn't participate. We recognize that they have expertise that could help in this process.

But we also are asking, on the other hand, that we recognize that there are industry experts who are currently being excluded from this because of their background. Of the 51 members of the current SAB, only three—only three—have any industry expertise, and we are losing valuable insight and valuable guidance because we don't include them in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that some of the things that we are hearing from the opponents of the bill are that the committee is going to be stacked with people from industry, from the States. It is as if the people from industry can't be trusted, people from States can't be trusted.

Then we hear the theme that there was not a single Democratic vote to get this bill out. It almost sounds like the Affordable Care Act to me where people—recent revelations are one of the proponents has said that Americans were too stupid to understand, so that's why the Affordable Care Act had to be passed, and it couldn't have transparency because it would never have passed Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1422. The Science Advisory Board, called the SAB—I guess we would say this is a "sad SAB story"—was established by Congress to review the science behind the EPA's decisions and to advise Congress and the EPA on science and technical matters. Unfortunately, the SAB is no longer functioning as designed, without the impartiality and expertise needed to be an effective arbiter of EPA's use of science in its regulations.

Why no transparency, Mr. Speaker? That is what we have got to ask. The American public deserves transparency. These are taxpayer dollars we are talking about.

The membership of the SAB has excluded individuals from the State agencies and private sector. Again, I would remind us that these are the people who build communities and industries in neighborhoods, in cities, in towns, and in States.

Can you say 10th Amendment?

States have all the rights reserved. They are the building block. Communities, citizens, industry is the building block of this country. This is a country that has a government, not a government that has a country.

So, as the EPA continues its regulatory assault on America's economy, it is critically important that Congress act to improve the quality of EPA's use of science in its decisions. This bill, this legislation, will do just that. It will improve the quality of SAB's membership. It will increase public participation in its scientific reviews. It will allow for dissenting opinions among its members and limit the SAB's activities to questions of science, not policy.

□ 1400

And I want to say thank you to Congressman STEWART and Chairman SMITH for bringing this important legislation to the floor today. It is very important that we get on top of this. The American people deserve transparency, they deserve a seat at the table, and they deserve nothing less.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentleman from California, I just want to respond that, certainly, we on this side of the aisle agree with the goal of transparency. However, transparency does not mean letting industry, people with a financial interest, serve by disclosing it. That is not what transparency means.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), who is not only a physician but a great member of the Science Committee.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Oregon for her leadership on the Science Committee as well as our ranking member from Texas for her leadership.

But I have to rise in opposition of H.R. 1442, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, and here is why: it is absolutely accurate that the best science and the best advice comes from multiple perspectives. You certainly need the perspective of industry, but you have to independently have that perspective of science as well.

You need a board that is unbiased, that is unfettered, that is transparent, that is looking at it from the perspective of advising Congress and giving us the best possible advice because our sole job is to protect our citizens, to provide that best advice to our citizens. That is what the advisory board is designed to do and should do.

But it requires a delicate balance. It can't be stacked in one direction or the

other direction. You have to create that transparency that allows for vibrant, unfettered dialogue.

And I say this as a scientist, as someone who has been on advisory boards.

Now, the importance of what the EPA does and what advice they provide Congress is incredibly important. I will just share: I am a lifelong Californian. I grew up in southern California. I grew up at a time where I could actually see the air that I was breathing, where there were days that they ordered us to stay inside.

It is through legislation, it is through working with industry, it is through looking at science that you cannot only both protect our citizens, protect our environment, but also advance industry.

I applaud the Science Committee and Chairman SMITH for taking up this debate. But let's do it in a way that not only is built on sound science, is built on evidence, but also allows multiple perspectives, not just from one side or the other side, not just from one group or another group, but creates this context where we can have vibrant debate, where we can get the best and most sound science, and we can get the best advice, which is what this group is supposed to do. They are supposed to advise Congress and allow us to do our job, which is to protect the citizens of the United States.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to some of the comments made on the other side of the aisle.

All of us would be concerned if we thought we were getting advice that had been conflicted financially. I share that concern. In fact, that was one of the primary reasons that we wrote this bill. This bill, to say it again, seeks for transparency and it seeks for openness.

If you are worried about industry experts being stacked on the SABs and providing biased opinion and expertise, I would ask you to give me an example of this. Because I can give you an example of exactly the opposite happening.

I will say it once again: 60 percent of the current Members of the SAB have \$140 million in direct government grants. Now, that is a clear conflict. And yet once again, we are still willing to work with that. We are not seeking to exclude those members; we are simply seeking for transparency and openness, and for that same standard to be applied to industry experts as well who could help us with their background and their expertise.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Utah (Mr. STEWART) for introducing H.R. 1442, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act. I rise in strong support of this piece of legislation.

As Mr. STEWART said, this bill will increase transparency and give Americans more opportunities for public

input and participation on Science Advisory Board activities.

I believe this legislation builds on the progress that we have made on improving the Science Advisory Board.

I represent a district where agriculture is the economic driver and a way of life. So it concerns me when I learned that farmers did not even have a seat at the table on the EPA Science Advisory Board.

And the EPA Science Advisory Board, Mr. Speaker, considers rules that impact agriculture.

By working together on the farm bill, my colleague Representative PETERSON and I were able to ensure that farmers have a stronger voice when it comes to EPA regulations.

For the first time, agriculture interests will be represented within the SAB. I can report that EPA has made progress in standing up this ag-related committee, and I believe the voices and input provided by farmers and producers to the EPA will make for more commonsense policy.

H.R. 1422 will provide the public with more access to scientific information and more opportunities to comment on board actions.

This legislation also ensures that State and local government officials would be part of the Science Advisory Board. And as my colleague alluded to earlier, we cannot have a Science Advisory Board made up primarily of individuals who receive grant funding from the Federal Government to make decisions that affect them.

Again, I rise in support of this bill. I thank my colleague from Utah.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time I am happy to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT). I also want to mention that not only is Mr. HOLT a scientist and a great Member of Congress but also has been named, starting in February of 2015, the new CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oregon. I rise in opposition to this legislation, H.R. 1422, as yet another attempt to gut the EPA and to reform it into an advocate for industry.

Now, the proponents make claims that sound noble and virtuous, like increasing transparency and participation.

But make no mistake: the bill is simply a way to increase the role and influence of special interests, to tip the scales in favor of these special interests, and to decrease actual scientific input into the EPA decisions and rule-making.

Let me try to explain what is wrong here. Take, for example, the section in this bill that limits participation of board members who have relevant expertise.

Now, EPA has an advisory board whose job it is to review scientific and

technical information being used as a basis for agency regulations. However, section 2 of this bill states: "Board members may not participate in advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review and evaluation of their own work."

Now, what does that worthy-sounding clause mean? Here is how it has been explained to me. If the EPA board member is a leading scientist in a field and has published works that are well cited by other scientists and works that would be used to establish the scientific findings affecting possible regulations, that board member would be prohibited from reviewing any such materials before the board related to her or his expertise because it draws on the scientific work of that person.

Now, I realize Congress sometimes has trouble dealing with expertise, but this bill is a solution in search of a problem. The EPA advisory board does and should use science; not industry science, not government science—science.

Science works so well and provides the most reliable knowledge because it is based on evidence, the validity of which is determined by other scientists in the free exchange of information. Expertise and influence of a claim in science and its application shouldn't be determined by the highest bidder or the politically most powerful.

The science should be allowed to operate. This restricts it or would restrict it if this were to become law.

Now, to make this bill even worse, while the bill would exclude experts advising in areas of their expertise, it would allow people with corporate or special-interest bias to affect the rule-making if they only state their affiliation.

Now, while it sounds good to say you are increasing transparency, in reality this simply strengthens the role of special interests—biased interests—in the process.

I urge all Members to carefully review the language and think about these implications. I think they will come to a decision to vote "no."

Mr. STEWART. Well, once again, I just have to respond to some of the things that the opposition is saying.

This is essentially their argument: we think it is okay that 60 percent of SAB members have \$140 million in direct government grants, and we think it is okay that those same members are then allowed to provide their own peer review of their own work. That is okay.

I think it is very commonsensical to realize there are inherent objections and inherent conflicts in allowing that sort of structure to continue to exist.

It is not gutting the EPA, as was claimed, to ask to increase transparency. It is not gutting the EPA to ask for balance. That is all this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), my good friend.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah for allowing me to speak on this bill on the floor. As the body may know, the gentleman from Utah succeeded me as chairman of that committee. We had numerous hearings about the EPA Science Advisory Board. So I am glad that one of the results of those years of hearings was H.R. 1422, and I rise to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope America is watching. The opponents of this bill clearly and simply believe that people who work for the government know best.

We have heard 60 percent of the Science Advisory Board works for the government. They received millions and millions of dollars in grants from the EPA. They work for the government. The other side wants America to believe that because they work for the government they know better.

Mr. Speaker, I did science, and I had an academic appointment. You know, the joke was that people who can, do, and people who can't, teach; that people who don't really know how to do something end up in an academic institution and end up teaching. I have got to tell you, there was some truth to that.

What this bill does, it says that the Scientific Advisory Board ought to be made up of more than just academics because that is really who makes up the board now. It actually ought to be made up of people who are in the field.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, you know that some of the corporations who are affected by the EPA hire the best scientists they can because they have to deal with the EPA, and those scientific minds, in fact, work in the private sector. They don't work for government.

What is wrong with a balanced approach? The gentleman from California said we should be unbiased, unfettered, and transparent. That is what the Science Advisory Board ought to be.

How can you be unbiased if you come up with the wrong conclusion, the Science Advisory Board? You are biting the hand that feeds you. Because 60 percent of those scientists derive their grants from the EPA.

There is no way they can be unbiased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. STEWART. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, they are neither unbiased nor unfettered. We know fully and truly, as the gentleman from Texas said, because of the revelations of Mr. Gruber, that transparency is not a major objective of the administration. And I am afraid that has filtered down to the EPA.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1422 makes sense. The best advice is from a balanced

group of advisers. It is unbalanced at the EPA now. This bill will provide some balance. I encourage the body to pass H.R. 1422.

□ 1415

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to respond, with all due respect, to my colleagues who are promoting this bill and asking for balance.

On the contrary, what this bill achieves is not balance because, as explained, under this bill, people who are employed by the industry with a financial conflict of interest can serve as long as they disclose their conflict.

That is in contrast to current practice, which is biased, which is balanced by membership, but people with financial conflicts of interest do not currently serve on this Science Advisory Board.

Just to clarify, it isn't just that people who are employed by industry with a financial conflict of interest will be able to serve; under this bill, people who receive some type of grant cannot participate.

Now, just to clarify, these are not government employees. These are employees of research institutions, universities, who may have received some government grant funding. They are not employed by the government. They are not government employees, and that is a big distinction. They are not beholden to any particular government agency, so that is the big difference.

I agree that we should have balance and transparency, but unfortunately, this bill takes us in the wrong direction.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 11 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to my friend, the gentlewoman from Tennessee, I would very quickly like to make a point. Once again, all we are seeking is fairness and transparency, and the opposition is claiming that it is okay for government-sponsored and -granted scientists to sit on this board.

In fact, it is okay that 60 percent of them have tens of millions of dollars of government funding, but it is not okay for anyone from the industry, and it is completely transparent how unfair that standard would be.

The second point I would make is this: we are not claiming that either of them should be forbidden to serve on these boards. We are just asking that they disclose those financial agreements and let the American people decide, and that certainly seems to be a fair standard and hardly the minimum that we could ask.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), my good friend.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Utah, for the excellent job that he has done in preparing this legislation and bringing it to the body.

If you were to go with me into my district in Tennessee—19 counties, 10,000 square miles—one of the things that you would hear in every community discussion is a certain amount of disdain for Federal agencies.

Now, we all expect we are going to hear about not liking the IRS, but the number one agency in my district to dislike, to be frustrated with, to want to get control of, to reform is the EPA, and that is because whether you are a small business owner or a painter or a manufacturer or a farmer who is growing food to go on the table, you get hassled by the EPA with all sorts of frivolous and nonsensical rules and regulations and interpretations.

Quite frankly, the American people are tired of it, and they look at us and they say, "Tell me what you are going to do about it."

Now, Mr. Speaker, today is a day that, yes, indeed, we can do something about this and a component of it, the Science Advisory Board—isn't it so interesting that these agencies create this tangled web of different boards and advisory capacities, and it is all to insulate their cronies, and it is all to help them shield millions of taxpayer dollars, money coming out of the pockets of hardworking taxpayers, that are going to their cronies, who are receiving these grants.

The American people are saying, "Stop it. Get it under control. Get a handle on this." This is one of the ways that we do it.

The chairman has spoken eloquently about the membership and the makeup of the Science Advisory Board, the cronyism that is taking place there, and the need for it to stop, the ability to have these conflicts of interest brought out of smoke-filled rooms and moved into the transparency of sunlight and knowledge of the American people. It is a great disinfectant. It is time for it to be put on the EPA, and certainly, H.R. 1422 is a great way to go about that.

We wouldn't even be here discussing this today and there would be no need at all for H.R. 1422 if the EPA were to follow their own peer-review handbook, but I guess Grubergate has gone governmentwide. What we are seeing is they are all trying to find ways to squirrel this away and to hide and to not have that transparency.

It is time to pass this legislation. It is time to bring transparency to the process.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude this debate, there are three things that we should keep in mind. The current content or makeup of the SAB is somewhere between 51 and 52 members because there are some in transition as new members come and go. Of those, let's say, 52, only nine are nonuniversity background, and of those, only five and sometimes six represent industry.

The industry experts have much to offer. If you don't think that, say, for example, with the hydraulic fracking board that that technology is changing rapidly, it certainly is, and we need to take advantage of that.

The second thing I would say is public comment. The American people are smart, and the American people are those that are most affected by some of the standards and the rules that the EPA would suggest. We should listen to them, and this bill allows a process where they can be listened to.

Finally, the third thing, we are requesting that 10 percent—a mere 10 percent of these board members come from State, local, or tribal governments. That hardly seems like a bar that is too high to cross in getting input from lay States and localities.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before us today does undertake the laudable goal of improving transparency at the EPA.

However, as I stated previously and as my colleagues mentioned, this bill, as written, does not accomplish that goal; instead, H.R. 1422 will increase the influence of industry on EPA decisionmaking, including industry members with a financial conflict of interest, while reducing the role of qualified academic researchers in helping to guide regulatory action that is based on sound science.

The Union of Concerned Scientists said:

At the same time, this bill encourages corporate experts to join the SAB. It creates roadblocks for academic experts to meaningfully participate by banning experts' participation and advising activities that directly or indirectly involve review and evaluation of their own work.

This effectively turns the idea of conflict of interest on its head with the bizarre presumption that corporate experts with direct financial interests are not affected, while academics who work on these issues are.

Breast Cancer Action wrote:

This bill's overly broad restriction, that a member of the SAB cannot participate in a discussion that cites the member's own work, is counterproductive and goes far beyond the commonsense limits imposed by the National Academies.

Of course, a scientist with expertise on topics that SAB addresses likely will have done peer-reviewed studies and other work on that topic. That makes the scientist's evaluation more valuable, not less.

Mr. Speaker, we can and should work together to improve EPA's approach to reviewing the science underpinning regulations, but this legislation will only damage and delay the process and not bring us the transparency my colleagues seek.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. Could I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), my comrade.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity of coming here and talking about this issue.

My relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency has been infrequent, thankfully, but it has also not necessarily been successful or positive. In an issue that dealt specifically with my hometown and county, to be very honest, the science that was used by the Environmental Protection Agency to make the decision was flawed.

The State clearly showed that it was flawed; yet that did not make a difference in their ultimate decision, which led me to believe that the decision was perhaps more politically motivated than it was scientifically motivated.

I realize this advisory board, though, is in place to try to mitigate against those circumstances taking place, but if that advisory board is going to work, it has to have the balance of input that is necessary for that.

I am frustrated that out of the 50-plus members of this board, only two have backgrounds in State and local governments and those from only specific States. This board desperately needs that kind of input from those entities that have a day-to-day working relationship with these issues.

If that is not there, if that is not remedied, then the board itself is going to be flawed, and it is not going to fulfill the purpose for which it was designed.

I fully support this bill because this advisory board has an effort and a job to fill to mitigate problems before those problems develop, and if it is not an effective board, then we should either reform it, as this bill tries to do, or we should eliminate it, but it can be reformed. It should be reformed. This is a step to actually reform it, to make sure that there is better input for better decisions to be made.

I congratulate the gentleman from my home State of Utah for coming up with a bill that solves a real problem and does it in a fair and professional way.

Mr. STEWART. With that, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, but

before I do, though, I would like to enter into the RECORD the letters from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others that I mentioned in my previous testimony.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 1422, the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013." This bill would help ensure that the Science Advisory Board (SAB), which directly counsels the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on scientific and technical issues, is unbiased and transparent in performing its duties.

The bill would establish requirements that SAB members are qualified experts, that conflicts of interest and sources of bias are disclosed, that the views of members—including dissenting members—are available to the public, and that the public has the opportunity to participate in the advisory activities of the Board and view EPA's responses. Because EPA relies on SAB reviews and studies to support new regulations, standards, guidance, assessments of risk, and other actions, the actions of the SAB must be transparent and accountable. This is a critical safeguard to assure the public that the data Federal agencies rely on is scientifically sound and unbiased.

The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would improve the transparency and trustworthiness of scientific and technical reviews that EPA relies on to justify its actions. The American public must have confidence that the scientific and technical data driving regulatory action can be trusted. Accordingly, the Chamber supports H.R. 1422.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2014.
Chairman LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest general farm organization. We have reviewed H.R. 1422, The Science Advisory Board Reform Act. AFBF strongly supports this legislation and is committed to working with you in pressing for its swift consideration.

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) should be a critical part of the scientific foundation of EPA's regulatory process. Rather than promoting fairness, transparency and independence to ensure unbiased scientific advice, EPA has failed to follow its own Peer Review Handbook and used its position to silence dissenting scientific experts. A weak and partial SAB undermines public trust and hurts the quality of regulatory decisions. American Farm Bureau Federation supports H.R. 1422 because Farmers and Ranchers deserve good governance and regulations based on meaningful scientific review.

H.R. 1422 reforms the SAB process by strengthening public participation, improving the process of selecting expert advisors, reducing conflicts of interest and enhancing

transparency. The legislation draws from EPA's own Peer Review Handbook and recommendations from the Bipartisan Policy Center to urge sensible reforms. H.R. 1422 improves the review process and makes the SAB a more useful tool in regulatory decision making.

H.R. 1422 reinforces the SAB process as a tool that can help policymakers with complex issues while preventing EPA from muzzling impartial scientific advice. This legislation deserves strong, bipartisan support. We applaud your leadership in this effort and will continue to work with you to ensure passage of H.R. 1422.

Sincerely,

BOB STALLMAN,
President.

APRIL 10, 2013.

Hon. CHRIS STEWART,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment Com-
mittee on Science, Space, and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We are writing on behalf of the American Alliance for Innovation (AAI), a large and diverse coalition of trade associations representing a broad spectrum of the American economy.

It is paramount that chemicals and metals producers, manufacturers, distributors, importers, users, and consumers have confidence that there is a transparent federal chemical management system in place that is both grounded in sound science and will deliver timely safety decisions. Oversight of the safe production and use of chemicals affects us all, which is why we support your efforts to improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its committees.

The SAB is a critical part of the EPA's quality control process that was established to ensure that the Agency produces credible information to help guide regulatory decisions at all levels of government. We all agree, therefore, that the SAB must provide meaningful, balanced, and independent reviews of the science conducted and used by EPA, and we support advancing your bill, H.R. 1422 (the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013") in this Congress.

We are encouraged to see that your legislation takes into account public policy recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences and the Bipartisan Policy Council, as well as input that the Committee has received from numerous experts and stakeholder groups. H.R. 1422 will greatly enhance the current peer review process in many important ways by strengthening policies to address conflicts of interest, while at the same time ensuring that a wide range of scientific perspectives are represented on panels. The bill will also increase the utility of SAB panels by improving the process for public engagement and ensuring that scientific concerns are clearly addressed and communicated.

We are committed to working with you and the Members of the Science Committee to move this legislation forward, and we urge all members of Congress to support its passage.

Sincerely,
Adhesive and Sealant Council;
Alkylphenols & Ethoxylates Research
Council; American Architectural Man-
ufacturers Association; American
Chemistry Council; American Coke &
Coal Chemicals Institute; American
Farm Bureau Federation®; American
Fiber Manufacturers Association;
American Forest & Paper Association;

American Gas Association; American Road & Transportation Builders Association; American Wood Council; Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association; Corn Refiners Association; CropLife America; Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association.

Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, Inc.; Institute of Makers of Explosives; National Association of Chemical Distributors; National Association of Manufacturers; National Oilseed Processors Association; National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.; Nickel Institute; Oregon Women In Timber; Pine Chemicals Association, Inc.; Portland Cement Association; Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment; The Fertilizer Institute; The Vinyl Institute; Treated Wood Council.

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SMALL BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL,
Vienna, VA, November 17, 2014.

Hon. CHRIS STEWART,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STEWART: The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) is pleased to support H.R. 1422, the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013."

H.R. 1422 reforms the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) and its subpanels by strengthening public participation, improving the process for selecting expert advisors, expanding transparency requirements, and limiting nonscientific policy advice. The reforms proposed by H.R. 1422 are especially critical given the growing impact of EPA's regulations on America's small business sector, and the self-serving science used as the basis to advance controversial rulemakings.

H.R. 1422 will restore balance and independence to the scientific advisory process at EPA. The bill addresses key concerns with the SAB, such as placing limitations on its members who receive environmental research grants, applying conflict of interest standards, and ensuring balance on the board's membership. These are common sense reforms that will strengthen SAB's integrity and work.

SBE Council and its Center for Regulatory Solutions (CRS) are dedicated to reforming the regulatory system to ensure small businesses and entrepreneurs operate and compete under rational rules. H.R. 1422 is an important step that will enable a more rational and friendly environment for U.S. entrepreneurship.

SBE Council looks forward to working with your office to advance this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

KAREN KERRIGAN,
President & CEO.

—
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 1422 (Rep. Stewart, UT-R), the EPA Science Advisory Act of 2013. H.R. 1422 would modernize the policies and procedures governing the Science Advisory Board (SAB) of the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the SAB is best equipped to provide independent, transparent and balanced reviews of the science the EPA uses to guide its regulatory decisions.

Manufacturers support policies that favor markets, adhere to sound principles of science and risk assessment and are informed by a public rulemaking process that is open and inclusive. The work of the SAB, which serves a quality control function for the science the EPA uses to justify new regulations, must be completely neutral. Any appearance of bias, however slight, could undermine the EPA's mission to protect public health and welfare.

H.R. 1422 would strengthen the SAB by limiting conflicts of interest, encouraging public comment, prohibiting panel members from peer reviewing their own work, and ensuring that the makeup of SAB panels reflects the diversity of views among federal, state, local and tribal experts. H.R. 1422 would implement provisions and recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the EPA's own peer-review handbook.

As the costs of environmental regulations escalate, the scientific justification for those regulations must be sound. H.R. 1422 is a strong step in the right direction. Manufacturers urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 1422.

Sincerely,

ROSS EISENBERG,
Vice President,
Energy and Resources Policy.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, thank you for considering my bill, H.R. 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

To reiterate what has been said multiple times here, this legislation addresses how the EPA is systematically silencing voices of dissent on the Science Advisory Board, ignoring calls for independence and balanced participation, and preventing the board from responding to congressional requests.

Science is a valuable tool to help policymakers navigate complex issues. However, when inconvenient scientific conclusions are disregarded or when dissenting voices are muzzled, a frank discussion becomes impossible, and that is certainly what we have seen.

The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act addresses these shortcomings by strengthening public participation and public comment opportunities and improving the makeup of the Science Advisory Board and its subpanels.

The bill reinforces peer review requirements and reduces conflicts of interest. It provides opportunities for the dissenting panelists to make their views known and requires communication of uncertainties and scientific findings and conclusions.

The Science Advisory Board Reform Act promotes fairness, transparency, and independence to ensure unbiased scientific advice. Surely, that is something that we could ask for the American people. Surely, that is something that the opposition could support. In fact, surely, that is something that the White House would support.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yea" vote on this matter, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHRIS STEWART, former Chairman of the Science Committee's Environment Subcommittee, for his hard work on this important piece of legislation. H.R. 1422, The Science Advisory Board Reform Act, ensures balanced and transparent review of regulatory science.

Specifically, it strengthens the Board's independence so that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot further its regulatory ambitions under the guise of science.

Costly regulations often lead to a loss of jobs and higher electricity bills and gasoline prices for Americans.

The EPA has an extensive track record of twisting the science to justify their actions. Behind the scenes, however, there is a review process that was intended to provide a critical check on the Agency's conclusions.

The EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) was intended to provide a meaningful, balanced, and independent assessment of the science that supports the Agency's regulations. Unfortunately, this vision is not being realized.

The EPA undermines the Board's independence and prevents it from providing advice to Congress. As a result, the valuable advice these experts can provide is wasted.

At a time when the Agency is pursuing the most aggressive regulatory agenda in its 44 year history, it is critical that the Board function as intended.

Despite the existing requirement that EPA's advisory panels be "fairly balanced in terms of point of view represented," the Science Committee has identified a number of problems that undermine the panel's credibility and work product. These include:

A majority of the members of EPA's key advisory panels have received money from the EPA. Often the research they are reviewing is directly related to the money they received. This creates at least the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Many of the panelists have taken very public and even political positions on issues they are advising about. For example, a lead reviewer of EPA's hydraulic fracturing study plan published an anti-fracking article entitled "Regulate, Baby, Regulate." This is clearly not an objective viewpoint.

Public participation is limited during most Board meetings; interested parties have almost no ability to comment on the scope of the work—and meeting records are often kept secret.

The EPA routinely excludes private sector experts while stacking the review panels with individuals who will give the EPA the answer it wants.

H.R. 1422 expands transparency requirements, improves the process for selecting expert advisors, and strengthens public participation requirements.

The bill requires that uncertainties in the Agency's scientific conclusions be communicated and limits the SAB from providing partisan policy advice.

This legislation is pro-science. It restores the SAB as an important defender of scientific

integrity. These common sense reforms will make EPA's decisions more credible and balanced.

I thank the gentleman from Utah, Mr. Stewart for his leadership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1422 is postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1701

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed earlier today, all time for debate on the bill, as amended, had expired.

AMENDMENT PRINTED IN PART A OF HOUSE REPORT 113-626 OFFERED BY MR. STEWART

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 7, through page 9, line 1, redesignate subsections (a) through (e) as subsections (b) through (f), respectively.

Page 3, after line 6, insert the following new subsection:

(a) INDEPENDENT ADVICE.—Section 8(a) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4365(a)) is amended by inserting "independently" after "Advisory Board which shall".

Page 3, line 14, strike "in consultation with the Administrator".

Page 3, lines 18 through 20, strike "select Board" and all that follows through "and shall".

Page 4, line 18, strike "and" and insert "or".

Page 5, line 3, insert "the Interior," after "Energy,".

Page 5, line 5, strike "them" and insert "each".

Page 6, line 17, insert "or draft" before "risk".

Page 6, line 18, strike "and".

Page 6, line 19, redesignate subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C).

Page 6, after line 18, insert the following new subparagraph:

(B) by striking "formal"; and

Page 6, line 19, insert "or draft" before "risk".

Page 6, line 22, insert "or draft" before "risk".

Page 7, line 10, insert "(1)(A)" after "(e)" both places it appears.

Page 7, lines 13, 17, and 19, redesignate paragraphs (1) through (3) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and conform the margins accordingly.

Page 7, lines 22 and 23, strike "by adding after subsection (g) the following" and inserting "by amending subsection (h) to read as follows".

Page 9, lines 2 and 3, strike "by adding after subsection (h), as added by subsection (d) of this section, the following" and inserting "by amending subsection (i) to read as follows".

Page 9, line 11, insert "or Congress" after "the Administrator".

Page 9, line 15, strike "and the Administrator" and insert ", the Administrator, and Congress".

Page 9, line 19, after paragraph (4) insert the following new paragraph:

"(5) The Board shall be fully and timely responsive to Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, this amendment makes a number of technical and conforming changes to address revisions to the existing statute that occurred with the passage of the farm bill. I am pleased to have worked with Representative DAVIS to strengthen the changes to the statute that he was able to secure in passage of the farm bill.

This amendment is critical to ensure that the underlying bill can be properly applied to existing statute. Just this morning, the legislation received the support of the American Farm Bureau, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

I ask for your support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my good friend from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

I want to state again that I have appreciated Mr. STEWART's collaboration on bills that have come through the Science Committee in the past, and I definitely appreciate his intent to strengthen and bring more transparency to the Science Advisory Board.

However, as explained previously and as I will explain, this bill and this amendment do not accomplish what needs to be done.

Although my friend's amendment seems to make mostly minor and technical corrections, there are a few changes that raise concern. One consequence of this bill is the expansion of the scope of the Science Advisory Board's work to include risk or hazard assessments proposed by the Agency. Unfortunately, the amendment offered exacerbates this burden and potential delay by adding draft work being done by the Agency to the board's workload.

A letter from several leading environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund, note that the inclusion of risk and hazard assessments already represents a "dramatic and unnecessary expansion."

It would "increase the burden on the Science Advisory Board and slow the board's ability to complete its tasked objectives." Asking the board to constantly peer over the shoulder of the Agency at this stage is an inefficient and ineffective use of the board.

I am also concerned about another part of the amendment that requires the board "be fully and timely responsive to Congress." This seems inconsistent with language in the underlying bill that requires the board to "avoid making policy determinations or recommendations."

The amendment appears to put the board in a precarious position, making it vulnerable to political interference and placing a shadow over the independence that we all agree the board should have. The Science Advisory Board can provide Congress and the EPA with important scientific advice, but it should not be beholden to Congress or the EPA Administrator.

Finally, it is clear that this bill would have a serious impact on the membership of the Science Advisory Board in a way that will prohibit qualified scientists from providing their advice to the EPA. Unfortunately, this amendment only deepens that impact by increasing the number of prohibited activities.

If this amendment is adopted, the bill would read:

Board members may not participate in advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review or evaluation of their own work.

I want to clearly illustrate what that means. If the EPA were to consider a rule involving gravity, for example, and if Albert Einstein were alive, this bill would prohibit him from offering expert advice, as that is a subject with which he has had "direct" involvement.

That is obviously an absurd result that would result in fewer qualified people serving. We should want the smartest and most knowledgeable scientists advising the EPA; instead, this bill prohibits them from doing so.

Again, I have great respect for my friend from Utah. I am proud that we have worked together in the past and hope we can find areas where we agree going forward, both with the remainder of the 113th and in the 114th Congress.

Unfortunately, regardless of what happens with this amendment, I will have to oppose the bill, but I look forward to continuing to work on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, we have debated these issues throughout the day. I believe that we have made our case. I believe that we have made our case persuasively. I believe our case is complete.

This amendment is technical in nature. I believe that the bill itself is common sense. It will lead to good government. It will lead to better government at least. It will lead to better advice and counsel given to the EPA through these reforms of the Science Advisory Board. I urge all Members to support it. I look forward to the vote.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

The question is on the amendment by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 184, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 523]

YEAS—232

Aderholt	Coble	Frelinghuysen
Amash	Coffman	Gardner
Amodei	Cole	Garrett
Bachmann	Collins (GA)	Gerlach
Bachus	Collins (NY)	Gibbs
Barletta	Conaway	Gibson
Barr	Cook	Gohmert
Barrow (GA)	Cotton	Goodlatte
Barton	Cramer	Gosar
Benishek	Crawford	Gowdy
Bentivolio	Crenshaw	Granger
Billirakis	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Daines	Graves (MO)
Bishop (UT)	Davis, Rodney	Griffin (AR)
Black	Denham	Griffith (VA)
Blackburn	Dent	Grimm
Boustany	DeSantis	Guthrie
Brady (TX)	DesJarlais	Hanna
Brat	Diaz-Balart	Harper
Bridenstine	Duffy	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (TN)	Hastings (WA)
Broun (GA)	Ellmers	Heck (NV)
Buchanan	Farenthold	Hensarling
Buchshon	Fincher	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Fitzpatrick	Holding
Byrne	Fleischmann	Hudson
Calvert	Fleming	Huelskamp
Camp	Flores	Huizenga (MI)
Capito	Forbes	Hultgren
Carter	Fortenberry	Hunter
Chabot	Foxx	Hurt
Clawson (FL)	Franks (AZ)	Issa

Jenkins	Mulvaney	Sanford
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (FL)	Scalise
Johnson, Sam	Murphy (PA)	Schock
Jolly	Neugebauer	Schweikert
Jones	Noem	Scott, Austin
Jordan	Nugent	Sensenbrenner
Joyce	Nunes	Sessions
Kelly (PA)	Nunnelee	Shimkus
King (IA)	Olson	Shuster
King (NY)	Palazzo	Simpson
Kingston	Paulsen	Sinema
Kinzinger (IL)	Pearce	Smith (MO)
Kline	Perry	Smith (NE)
Labrador	Peterson	Smith (TX)
Lamborn	Petri	Stewart
Lance	Pittenger	Stivers
Lankford	Pitts	Stockman
Latham	Poe (TX)	Stutzman
Latta	Pompeo	Terry
LoBiondo	Posey	Thompson (PA)
Long	Price (GA)	Thornberry
Lucas	Rahall	Tipton
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Turner
Lummis	Reichert	Upton
Marchant	Renacci	Valadao
Marino	Ribble	Wagner
Massie	Rice (SC)	Walberg
Matheson	Rigell	Walden
McAllister	Roby	Walorski
McCarthy (CA)	Roe (TN)	Weber (TX)
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Webster (FL)
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Wenstrup
McHenry	Rogers (MI)	Westmoreland
McIntyre	Rohrabacher	Whitfield
McKeon	Rokita	Williams
McKinley	Rooney	Wilson (SC)
McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Wittman
Rodgers	Roskam	Wolf
Meadows	Ross	Womack
Meehan	Rothfus	Woodall
Messer	Royce	Yoder
Mica	Runyan	Yoho
Miller (FL)	Ruppersberger	Young (AK)
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Young (IN)
Miller, Gary	Salmon	

NAYS—184

Adams	Doyle	Levin
Barber	Edwards	Lewis
Bass	Ellison	Lipinski
Beatty	Engel	Loeback
Becerra	Enyart	Lofgren
Bera (CA)	Eshoo	Lowenthal
Bishop (NY)	Esty	Lowe
Blumenauer	Farr	Lujan Grisham
Bonamici	Foster	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Frankel (FL)	Lujan, Ben Ray
Brown (FL)	Fudge	(NM)
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Lynch
Bustos	Gallego	Maffei
Butterfield	Garamendi	Maloney,
Capps	Garcia	Carolyn
Capuano	Grayson	Maloney, Sean
Cardenas	Green, Al	Matsui
Carney	Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	McCollum
Cartwright	Hahn	McDermott
Castor (FL)	Hanabusa	McGovern
Castro (TX)	Hastings (FL)	McNerney
Chu	Heck (WA)	Meeks
Cicilline	Higgins	Meng
Clark (MA)	Himes	Michaud
Clarke (NY)	Holt	Miller, George
Clay	Honda	Moran
Cleaver	Horsford	Nadler
Clyburn	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cohen	Huffman	Neal
Connolly	Israel	Nolan
Conyers	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Cooper	Jeffries	O'Rourke
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Owens
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Crowley	Kaptur	Pascarell
Cuellar	Keating	Pastor (AZ)
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Payne
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Pelosi
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Kilmer	Peters (CA)
DeGette	Kind	Peters (MI)
Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Pingree (ME)
DeLauro	Kuster	Pocan
DeBene	Langevin	Polis
Deutch	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)
Dingell	Larson (CT)	Quigley
Doggett	Lee (CA)	Rangel

NOT VOTING—18

Braley (IA)	Gingrey (GA)	Mullin
Campbell	Gutierrez	Negrete McLeod
Cassidy	Hall	Smith (NJ)
Chaffetz	Hinojosa	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	LaMalfa	Southerland
Fattah	Moore	Tiberi

□ 1733

Ms. HAHN and Ms. PINGREE of Maine changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 523, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 523, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Yes, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1422 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

SEC. 5. PROTECTING TAXPAYERS FROM CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BASED ON PERSONAL PROFIT.

No person shall be a member of the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board if they represent a corporation or a trade association that has a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of decisions based on recommendations made by the Board.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not kill it or send it back to committee. If it is adopted, it will move immediately to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, since 1978, the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board has been tasked with external, independent advice on the scientific and technical aspects of environmental issues to help inform environmental decisions, and this commonsense amendment is critical to protecting the integrity of the SAB.

It simply says:

No person shall be a member of the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board if they represent a corporation or a trade association that has a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of decisions based on recommendations made by the board.

My colleagues, a simple notion, a commonsense notion: if someone has a financial interest, they should not serve on the board.

The Science Advisory Board has some of the most distinguished scientists in their fields, folks like Dr. William Schlesinger, from Dutchess County in the Hudson Valley, in my neck of the woods, who has served as a member of the Science Advisory Board. Dr. Schlesinger is a good example of the kind of people we have on this board. He is the president emeritus of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, an ecological research institute in Millbrook, New York. He has spent 30 years investigating the link between environmental chemistry and global climate change, and his expertise has informed numerous pieces of legislation, such as the Clean Air Act.

America is the world leader in research, with an unprecedented number of scientists like Dr. Schlesinger in academic institutions, not because we politicize science, but because we don't politicize science. Their entire life's work has been devoted to serving the public and to leaving our country a better place. It is why it is imperative that we continue to allow the most knowledgeable scientific and technical experts from our research institutions to serve without conflict, without a paycheck in the offing. So far, scientists on the SAB have been instrumental in creating real reforms to the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Clean Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Science is not political. We shouldn't fear science, and we shouldn't politicize science. We should not monetize science, and we should not make it political today. We should ban these conflicts and trust in our scientists. We must continue to allow the SAB to im-

plement impartial scientific recommendations, and we simply must prohibit scientists who can profit from decisions from making recommendations as part of the board.

This bill now requires a new disclosure requirement for SAB members, but there is a glaring omission. It fails to effectively prevent persons with key financial conflicts from serving. That is why I urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment. We must not allow corporations to influence this process by sending corporation-funded scientists onto the board. We must not allow corporation-funded scientists to drown out genuine scientific debate. My goodness. This amendment would simply ensure that the science board continues its integrity of serving science, not serving itself or any one political agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation, and I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, the motion to recommit offered by the opposition today is one thing and one thing only, and that is an attempt to stop what is a reasonable and commonsense bill.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I was taken aback, but I was not surprised by what I heard during today's debate.

Contrary to what we just heard, no current member of the SAB can be a registered lobbyist. Mr. GRAYSON from Florida offered that as an amendment. We accepted that amendment. It is not a part of this bill. Asking for transparency is not gutting the EPA. Asking for public involvement is not gutting the EPA. You have to twist yourself into a pretzel to object to this bill for anything other than purely partisan reasons.

If 60 percent of the members of the Science Advisory Board are receiving more than \$140 million in direct government grants, then let's recognize that, and let's ask for transparency. If public comments are regularly ignored—if they are not even given the least or the barest of consideration—let's be honest, and let's try to fix that. If State, local, and industry experts are precluded from sitting and participating on these boards, then let's open the door for their participation and their experience. They have valuable expertise. We should take advantage of that.

Transparency, public involvement, accountability—those are the only

things that we are asking for in this bill. Improving balance and transparency in the EPA is not something that should be controversial. We should be able to agree to a balanced, a fair, and a transparent process.

□ 1745

This bill is supported in its current form by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Farm Bureau—I could go on and on. There are more than 20 organizations that are supporting this bill.

To my fellow Members, there are only two very simple choices to make here: stand up now and vote "no" on the motion to recommit and vote "yes" on final passage. Let's make the EPA transparent. Let's make them accountable. Let's make them true to the science that they have vowed to defend.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 225, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 524]

AYES—195

Adams	Cleaver	Frankel (FL)
Barber	Clyburn	Fudge
Barrow (GA)	Cohen	Gabbard
Bass	Connolly	Gallego
Beatty	Conyers	Garamendi
Becerra	Cooper	Garcla
Bera (CA)	Costa	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Courtney	Green, Al
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Green, Gene
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Grijalva
Bonamici	Cummings	Gutiérrez
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Hahn
Braley (IA)	Davis, Danny	Hanabusa
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Bustos	Delaney	Higgins
Butterfield	DeLauro	Himes
Capps	DelBene	Hinojosa
Capuano	Deutch	Holt
Cárdenas	Dingell	Honda
Carney	Doggett	Horsford
Carson (IN)	Doyle	Hoyer
Cartwright	Edwards	Huffman
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Israel
Castro (TX)	Engel	Jackson Lee
Chu	Enyart	Jeffries
Cicilline	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Esty	Johnson, E. B.
Clarke (NY)	Farr	Jones
Clay	Foster	Kaptur

Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng

Michaud
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

NOES—225

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishke
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher

Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Hui zenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance

Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Sanford
Santorum
Schaal
Schick
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner

Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Schaal
Schick
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner

NOT VOTING—14

Campbell
Cassidy
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Fattah
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Hall
Moore
Moran

□ 1752

So the motion to recommit was re-jected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 229, noes 191, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 525]

AYES—229

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishke
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)

Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)

Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Klinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford

Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce

Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Santorum
Schaal
Schick
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner

Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—191

Adams
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart

Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schwartz

Scott (VA)	Takano	Velázquez
Scott, David	Thompson (CA)	Visclosky
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Walz
Sewell (AL)	Tierney	Wasserman
Shea-Porter	Titus	Schultz
Sherman	Tonko	Waters
Sinema	Tsongas	Waxman
Sires	Van Hollen	Welch
Slaughter	Vargas	Wilson (FL)
Speier	Veasey	Yarmuth
Swalwell (CA)	Vela	

NOT VOTING—14

Campbell	Honda	Smith (NJ)
Cassidy	Moore	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	Moran	Stivers
Fattah	Mullin	Young (AK)
Hall	Negrete McLeod	

□ 1801

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 525, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

REMEMBERING FORMER MINNESOTA CONGRESSMAN BILL FRENZEL

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you with the members of the Minnesota House delegation after the sad news reached us that former Congressman Bill Frenzel passed away yesterday. For two decades, Bill Frenzel represented Minnesota's Third Congressional District, epitomizing the very best in public service.

Bill was a visionary and a leader on budget, tax, and trade issues, advocating for new trade agreements to open new markets for American products and services. Just last month, he was given the Order of the Aztec Eagle award from the Mexican Government for his work on the North American Free Trade Agreement. That is the highest award that can be bestowed on a noncitizen.

Bill will be especially remembered, though, for his temperament and kindness that led him to build constructive relationships on both sides of the aisle, a model that we should all continue to work on and reflect in this House. Personally, I will remember him as a great mentor and a friend and for his valuable advice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we rise for a moment of silence in the memory of Congressman Bill Frenzel.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ACTS IN JERUSALEM

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the horrific attacks and murder that happened

in Jerusalem today should be condemned by all people of goodwill. Four rabbis were praying in the synagogue, and in marched Palestinian thugs and murderers with meat cleavers and other weapons and horrifically murdered these four people who were in the midst of prayer.

Three of the four people who were killed were American citizens, and our hearts go out to each and every one of their families.

One of the gentlemen who was murdered is the brother-in-law of a prominent rabbi in my district. The rabbi in my district is Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt. We learned this morning that his brother-in-law was one of the victims.

Mr. Speaker, I favor a two-state solution in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, but Palestinians must know that they will never have their state on the backs of terror. They will never achieve statehood on the backs of terror. The more they use terror to try to achieve their political aims, the more that it will not happen.

So I take the floor today with all people of goodwill in condemning these horrific murders. Terror has no place. These wanton acts of terror and murder need to be condemned by all people of goodwill. There is no justification whatsoever for these barbarous acts.

IN MEMORY OF RICK RICHARDSON

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a great Georgian, a patriot, and a great personal friend, and that is Rick Richardson, who passed away on November 14 from a sudden stroke.

Rick served the Georgia GOP for 25 years as the president and a national board member of the Georgia State Young Republicans and the Fourth District Republican Party chairman. He had a tremendous impact on his fellow staff members and the chairman of the State party and all 159 counties of Georgia through his humble and hard-working attitude.

Rick was not only the party's go-to guy for history on any level, but a great friend to all who knew him. Rick's father and mother should take great pride in raising a son who touched so many lives and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

In return, Rick, who lost his father at a young age, stayed by his surviving mother, who is 92 years of age, whom he cared for and loved.

Today, may we reflect on Rick's singular character and the tremendous work he did for the State of Georgia, the Republican Party, his family, and for the country. Let us not forget him, a proud son, faithful servant, an example of what it means to be a selfless leader.

IRAN AND THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some other colleagues to talk about the important issue of Iran.

As you may know, on November 24, a mere 6 days from now, the Joint Plan of Action expires. And what that means is that the United States and the other P5+1—and that means the permanent members of the Security Council plus another country, six countries—have been negotiating, with the U.S. taking the lead, with Iran to come to some kind of agreement if perhaps Iran would stop its mad quest to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Many of us are concerned, Mr. Speaker, here in Congress that we may not end up with a very good negotiated settlement. Now, the President has said that it is better to have no deal than to have a bad deal, and Secretary of State John Kerry has said the same thing, and that is exactly what we want to see happen.

I am joined tonight by several colleagues who will be talking about this important issue. So I would like to just move right now and yield to a good friend and colleague, a member of the Armed Services Committee, JACKIE WALORSKI of Indiana.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, with a comprehensive nuclear agreement deadline less than a week away, the need to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon has never been greater. With its thousands of gas centrifuges, Iran now has the capability to enrich uranium to a grade suitable for use in nuclear reactors or to a higher grade suitable for use in nuclear warheads.

Iran is the leading state sponsor of terrorism and continues with heinous human rights abuses, oppressing freedom of speech, religion, and press, and more. Additionally, Iran continues to oppose our national security interests and those of our key allies while oppressing their own people.

There is no question that a nuclear-armed Iran would dramatically change the balance of power in the Middle East and threaten freedom and peace for the rest of the world. It could also encourage other Middle Eastern nations to develop nuclear weapons on their own, further reducing our influence in that critical region of the world.

For us to be able to trust Iran, along with the rest of the international community, Iran must change their behavior. A real possibility exists that a deadline extension provides them with an opportunity to build a nuclear bomb. In light of this, the only real solution is to force Iran to make serious concessions and robust sanctions.

We must be especially careful about any decisions to lift or ease sanctions. Once lifted, sanctions cannot easily be restored. The risk of a miscalculation or a misstep in the weeks and months ahead is very real and grave, and the threat of nuclear war is catastrophic. If there is to be any hope of reaching a peaceful deal, and if Iran wants prosperity and success for its people, it must cooperate with the IAEA, stop its pursuit of a nuclear weapon, stop its sponsorship of terrorism, and stop its human rights abuses.

Mr. LAMBORN. I would like to ask the gentlelady, you mentioned an important point. You talked about what would happen if Iran did, God forbid, achieve the ability to have a nuclear bomb.

What would other countries in the region do? What are some of the countries you feel would be compelled to have their own version of a nuclear weapon?

□ 1815

Mrs. WALORSKI. I appreciate the question from my friend from Colorado. I think that as we have served together in many of the committees, especially the Armed Services Committee, and we have looked at the map of that area, knowing that if the door is open to Iran, every single other country in the Middle East that does not have a nuclear weapon will aspire to do so. And let's not forget that in the middle of all of this chaos that is being created by Iran, and unlimited ways that cannot be verified of what they are doing because there is no cooperation whatsoever, let's not forget that our one and only ally that is sitting over there in the Middle East, they just had another terrorist episode of rabbis and American citizens killed. Worshipping in a synagogue is their first target. We know from all of the work that we have done in the committee during this Congress that the United States of America is their target as well.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding, and for the question.

Mr. LAMBORN. I appreciate that, and I think we would agree that of the other countries in the region almost without a doubt Saudi Arabia would want its own bomb.

Mrs. WALORSKI. For sure.

Mr. LAMBORN. Egypt would want its own bomb. Turkey would want its own bomb. And others. Others would aspire, but they would have the money and possibly the technology to actually achieve that, or buy it from another country.

Mrs. WALORSKI. True. And let's not forget, given the culture right now in the Middle East and given what we are looking at right now with all of the other instability, with ISIL, with questions from this administration, with a strength-through-peace policy a long

grasp away, and let's not forget that we have heard time and time again over just the few years that I have been in Congress, from our friends and our allies who no longer trust us—and we know that our enemies no longer fear us—that if we open that door to a nuclear Iran, we will never get back the threat of a nuclear bomb. I appreciate the question.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to invite another Member to speak. RON DESANTIS represents part of the State of Florida, and I am privileged to call him a colleague and a friend. I now yield to Mr. DESANTIS.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, Iran is a totalitarian Islamic state, a state that has been at war with our country since the Iranian revolution in 1979. They chant “death to America” and consider the United States to be the Great Satan. And they have acted on their anti-American beliefs throughout the years.

The revolution was founded, and Iran proceeded to hold more than 50 American Embassy personnel hostage for over 400 days, and they commandeered our embassy, which is itself an act of war. Iran sponsored the massacre of 241 U.S. Marines at the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut in 1983 through their proxy Hezbollah. Iran supported the bombing of the Khobar Towers in 1996 which killed 19 United States Air Force personnel and wounded 372 more. During combat operations in Iraq, from particularly 2006 through 2008, Iranian-backed terror groups killed hundreds of U.S. servicemembers, often via deadly EFP attacks.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and they have been so for an awful long time. And yet, and this is very troubling to myself and certainly to many of my colleagues, the President of the United States recently saw fit to write a secret letter to the Ayatollah Khamenei to stress U.S.-Iran “shared interest” in battling the Islamic State. The idea that defeating a terrorist group requires enlisting the support of the leading state sponsor of terrorism is a complete non-starter. It is naive, and it is also dangerous.

Now, in exchange for Iran's support supposedly against fighting ISIS fighters, will the President in exchange make concessions regarding Iran's nuclear program? Will he green-light a right for Iran to enrich uranium for “peaceful purposes”?

I fear we are heading toward a potentially catastrophic outcome if we pursue this course of action. One, we know that Iran cannot be trusted to have any capabilities that could lead to nuclear weapons. They will not honor their agreements. We cannot even verify all of the facilities that they have, and consistently we have never been able to do that.

So I think Iran will likely only strike a deal in which they can cheat and in which they will develop a nuclear weapon. And, of course, that would be a disaster not only for the region but for the world.

The other possibility alongside that, if you are looking to Iran to help fight terrorism, which is incredible, even if you are successful at defeating ISIS by helping Iran, Iran is going to fill that vacuum. You are going to see a Shia Crescent from the Iran-Afghanistan border to the Mediterranean Sea. Iraq will be an Iranian puppet state. I know they had a lot of influence even before ISIS arrived on the scene, but this will dramatically increase their influence. And, of course, they have reliable proxies in Lebanon, Hezbollah, and they are one of the leading supporters of Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

So we need to fight the Islamic State, don't get me wrong, but our policies should seek to weaken the Sunni extremism that is represented by the Islamic State and ISIS fighters, and we also want to weaken Iran and make Iran less powerful throughout the region. I think the Congress here, we can't allow the President to give away the store in a deal that he says he is not even willing to submit to the Congress for approval.

Now we know that HARRY REID will not allow a vote on increased sanctions against Iran. That means one of the first orders of business of the new Congress in January, a Congress in which REID will be demoted to minority leader, will be to consider and vote on enacting tough new sanctions against the Iranian regime. I think the flaw in this whole process has been as the sanctions started to bite, the administration relaxed the sanctions, gave the Iranian regime a lifeline, and we have been kind of playing this song and dance ever since then.

I think me and many of my colleagues here believe that would have been the time to increase sanctions, make them tougher because ultimately Iran is going to respond to strength and to firmness. So this is no time to stand idly by. We in Congress cannot allow a bad deal to take root that clears the way for Iran to develop nuclear weapons. And let's just be clear: we do not share any interests with Iran's terror state. They are an enemy of our country, and they should be treated as such.

I would say to my friend from Colorado that I appreciate you organizing this tonight. I know that we voted long ago to hold Iran accountable here in the House, and it hasn't gone anywhere in the Senate. It almost seems as if it has kind of fallen off the radar screen a little bit here in the Congress. It is important to get this back on the front burner. I think that under no circumstances can we just sit here and allow the President to strike a deal

which gives Iran too many concessions, and then have him just go around Congress and Congress not have any say in it at all.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman what would happen over in the Senate if HARRY REID were to allow for a vote on, let's say, the Menendez-Kirk language on tougher sanctions if Iran leaves the negotiating table?

Mr. DESANTIS. Well, I think that not only would it pass the Senate—and we already know in the House it is a clear veto-proof majority here—I believe we would see a veto-proof majority. And not just the bare 67 for that, I think you would see over 70 Senators vote for that.

And that is why it is important for us to make our voice heard because look, the President is the President. He has certain foreign policy prerogatives, but he is way out of step with the American people and with the Congress on this issue. And I think this has gone on long enough. I think we need to make our voice heard.

Mr. LAMBORN. It is interesting, it was tough sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. Now the administration had to be drug kicking and screaming to have tougher sanctions that Congress initiated and pushed for. They ultimately relented and enforced those, and I approve of that. But it was not their initiative. It was Congress's initiative.

Today, as you just said, RON, Congress is pushing once again, and the administration for some reason is digging in its heels, and yet tougher sanctions is what brought Iran to the table. If Iran is serious about having a deal, what is wrong with saying if it falls apart we will reimpose tougher sanctions, but if you do an acceptable deal, nothing happens along those lines?

Mr. DESANTIS. Well, part of the problem I see is they have delayed these deadlines. I think on November 20, they may delay it further. To me, that may just be a ruse for Iran to be buying time because ultimately time will be on their side. If they are getting relief from the sanctions, they can then pursue their objectives as they see them. I think it is important that we not allow this to just keep going on. If there is no deal to be had, then let's act and let's hold Iran accountable immediately.

Mr. LAMBORN. Well, I appreciate your comments and thank you for saying that. Also, let me ask you one further question. You talked about Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism and you touched on the fact that they contributed to the death of some of our finest young men and women in this country who died in Iraq. Can you elaborate on that?

Mr. DESANTIS. Yes, absolutely. I think a lot of people know there were

a lot of tough years in Iraq, particularly after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. You had a massive insurgency. That initial insurgency in 2004 in places like Fallujah that reared again in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and was finally defeated by the surge was primarily a Sunni insurgency, and so that is what a lot of Americans think about when they think about what is going on in Iraq. And no doubt, that was huge fighting. We lost very good men and women in that. Eventually we were able to defeat AQI, I might add, in 2007–2008.

In the Baghdad area and some of the parts of southern Iraq where it is overwhelmingly Shia, the groups that would rise up against the United States would be the Shiite militia groups, which are backed and funded by the Iranian regime. In fact, Iran's Quds force of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, that is a designated terrorist organization. Quds force was involved in Iraq. They were known for doing—and we know about the IED attacks, roadside bombs, those were very serious. They did EFP attacks, which are explosively formed penetrators, and kind of the scuttle you would hear in Iraq was that no one wants to get hit by an IED, obviously, but a lot of people could survive that. If you got hit by an EFP, it would blow everything to smithereens. So these were deadly attacks, and you are talking about hundreds and hundreds of U.S. servicemembers, and it was Iran who was funding that, orchestrating that.

And even now today in Iraq, you have Quds forces in Baghdad. Some of these Shiite militias that are fighting ISIS are backed by Iran. I remember Prime Minister Netanyahu made this point several months ago, and he knows the region obviously as well as anybody because he has got to. When you see these Iranian-backed terror groups, and then you see Sunni terror groups like those represented by ISIS, you don't want to pick a side there; you want both of them to eventually fail.

So that strategy in order to make that succeed is going to be different than the President writing a letter to the Ayatollah asking to ally against ISIS. We have no interest with Iran. The idea that we are going to align with them, align with them for what? You fight one terrorist group to reward a state sponsor of terror? That just doesn't make sense, and I think it is dangerous when coupled with what is going on with the nuclear negotiations. There is really potential to have some serious policy miscalculations here that will be detrimental to our national security and to our allies' national security.

Mr. LAMBORN. Thank you so much for your remarks. You have helped enlighten everybody on how important it is that we not have a bad deal with Iran. The President has said that no

deal is better than a bad deal, and yet I am afraid that is what we are tiptoeing to. And in 6 days, if we don't have a deal, I have no doubt that there will be a request for an extension of time. But I haven't seen up to now, and there are only 6 days left, that this joint plan of action has materialized, has produced any kind of solid deal, and that is very troubling.

Representative DESANTIS made a good point about Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism, in fact, the leading worldwide state sponsor of terrorism. That is very troubling. For that reason Congress in the past and the Security Council have said, Iran, you must stop your state sponsor of terrorism. Both the Security Council of the United Nations and Congress have said that you need to stop your ballistic missile program.

□ 1830

Also the Security Council and Congress have said, "You need to stop your nuclear enrichment program." Those three elements are not something that are snatched out of thin air. They have a history. There is a reason why those three things are so troubling to Congress and to the Security Council of the United Nations.

For that reason, I offered an amendment during the discussion of the National Defense Authorization Act on the floor here in the House this summer saying that those three elements need to be part of a comprehensive agreement with Iran. The House went along with that, totally agreed with that.

I want the Senate to act on the NDAA. I hope that they can adopt that same language because, once again—and I will just repeat—that is language that has already been agreed to by the House, by the Senate, by Congress, as well as by the Security Council of the UN.

I want to see, in 6 days, an agreement with Iran where those three elements are dominant, where we have stopping of their nuclear enrichment, stopping of their ballistic missile program, and stopping their state sponsor of terrorism. Anything short of that is going to be very troubling, Mr. Speaker.

I am concerned that we may have an administration that does not enforce those three vital elements of a deal, but they need to be part of a deal.

Our hearts really go out to the families of those who were killed in that sad and tragic terrorist attack in Jerusalem earlier today. It just shows that the Middle East is a very troubled place. There are those who do not want peace, and they will resort to violence and death and destruction. That is a very sad and tragic thing.

When we look at Iran—and we know that Iran wants to destroy Israel—and yet Israel is only the Little Satan, the United States is the Great Satan—so

when we look at containing Iran, it is not just to protect Israel—although that is important and vital as far as it goes—but also Iran is a threat to Europe, to the United States, to the whole Western World.

Iran has a set of values, at least up until today, where they call Israel the Little Satan and the U.S. the Great Satan.

Just recently, the President of Iran came out with a plan how he would go about destroying Israel. This kind of rhetoric is just unacceptable and tragic. I find it very hard, Mr. Speaker, to trust Iran with a negotiated agreement that doesn't have those verified elements, those three vital elements: stopping their nuclear enrichment, stopping their ballistic missile development, and stopping the state sponsorship of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't have a good agreement in 6 days, I am just afraid that we need to reimpose the strong sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place. I know that if the majority leader of the Senate who will be in office for the next 6 weeks or so—HARRY REID—if he were to allow a vote of the Senate, there is no doubt they would agree to stronger sanction language.

The Kirk-Menendez language would do just that. The House previously had passed almost identical language establishing the same doctrine, that if Iran leaves the negotiating table and does not have an acceptable deal with the U.S. and the rest of the P5+1, that we will reimpose tough sanctions.

That obviously was having an effect because that brought them to the negotiating table. We need to have tough sanctions waiting in the wings, waiting in reserve, if Iran does not do the right thing.

I don't understand why the administration is fighting and resisting a vote in the Senate and saying that that will somehow offend or humiliate or drive away the Iranians. It is what brought them to the negotiating table in the first place. They understand strength and force.

Mr. Speaker, there are some people in some countries in this world that view weakness as provocative and they move in and take advantage of that. Iran is one of those countries, history has shown.

If we show strength and resolve and decisiveness to them, then they are more likely to respond in the right way. If we show weakness, then they are more likely to take advantage of that. I think we show strength to Iran during this time of negotiation—we have 6 more days before the deadline—by making a statement that, “Hey, if you don't back off, then we are going to reimpose these tough sanctions, sanctions that have bite to them.” That is what brought them to the negotiating table, and it has to be part of what we do going forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is just really important that we show strength to Iran, and we only have 6 days left. We don't want a bad deal, no deal is better than a bad deal, but I am very apprehensive. You have heard from others as well. Up until now, the prognosis hasn't been good. We haven't heard of breakthroughs or concessions in the negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, with those things in mind, I think that we just need to urge the administration to show resolve, to show strength, to allow Congress, especially the Senate which hasn't yet taken a position because they have been denied the ability to vote, although we have done it here in the House, to say, “Iran, you have to come back to the table and have a serious negotiation where you do agree to stop enrichment, stop ballistic missile production, and stop state sponsorship of terrorism, and if you don't do those things, we will have tougher sanctions come back in force.”

We shouldn't deny the Senate that chance for a vote. We should allow them to have that vote. We have taken that position here in the House. It is the right position.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my colleagues for this time that we have had. We are going to be watching for the next 6 days. I think that it is one of the most vital issues that is hanging out there in world politics today. It affects Israel, but it affects even so much more.

I think the Western World will be totally affected in a negative way if Iran doesn't come clean and have a concession on nuclear enrichment, on state sponsorship of terrorism, and on ballistic missiles.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A ROADMAP FOR PROSPERITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about a roadmap for prosperity of this country.

I think the elections last week, in large part, didn't deal as much with Republicans and Democrats as it dealt with a frustration over the lagging lack of prosperity this country has experienced for the last 7 years. I think that there are ways to solve that, that are complicated, but there is a pathway that we can pursue that involves a lot of common sense.

If you will look at these charts that I have here, Mr. Speaker, what I have here with this blue line that goes up until 2007 and trends down thereafter is median household income. You can see, Mr. Speaker, it drops from a peak of

\$56,000 annually in 2007 down to just over \$51,000 today, a drop of over 10 percent for the median American family.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, this red line represents the cost that these families incur. The red line actually is food cost. You can see that they have risen from an inflation-adjusted basis of 190 to 240, almost 20 percent, Mr. Speaker. At the same time their incomes have declined over 10 percent, their costs for food have gone up over 20 percent.

Then the bottom graph here represents their cost for fuel and utilities, and you can see here that they have risen almost 20 percent as well.

My belief, Mr. Speaker, is that the cause of the decline in the income, as well as the cause of the rise in the cost in fuels and food, is largely from policies that come out of Washington. These are not things that are beyond repair. These are things that we can fix, so what we have to do is lay out a roadmap, a plan, to restore the prosperity that we have enjoyed for over 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, before I forget, I want to credit my good friend, Professor Michael Porter from Harvard, with a lot of these slides that I am using because I am stealing a lot of those from him, but this chart here, Mr. Speaker, is a breakdown of jobs in the American economy.

The red at the bottom is jobs that we have to compete with, with the rest of the world, manufacturing jobs, for example, that can be done anywhere in the world. The top part is jobs that serve local markets, things like health care that have to be delivered here, things like services, like, for example, real estate or tourism services, things that have to be delivered here.

This chart begins at 1998, but you can actually go back even further, and what you would see is in the area of service jobs, things that have to be handled locally, the number of jobs has risen. It certainly dipped around 2007, but it is coming back up.

But in the areas of what we call tradeable jobs, jobs that can be done anywhere in the world, the number of Americans working in those jobs has declined in this chart over the last 16 years, but you could go back even further, a very disturbing trend.

Now, why is that occurring? Why is it that tradeable jobs have left our shores and continue to leave our shores? Mr. Speaker, why is it that we continue to read in the newspapers every month about another American iconic company like Pfizer or like Burger King moving their headquarters out of our country?

□ 1845

Well, there are a number of reasons for that, and the most obvious reason is because we have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. If they

want to be an American company, they have to pay extra for that.

This chart at the top represents the corporate tax rates of the OECD countries, and you can see the red line at the end represents America. The average rate is 25½ percent, and we are at 39 percent.

When the President says things, Mr. Speaker, like, "Our American companies should be willing to pay the highest tax rate in the world to be patriotic," he is missing some real important points.

One is that any company, American or otherwise, doing business in America will pay American tax rates on the profits they earn in our country, but these iconic American companies that are leaving our shores have to compete worldwide, and competition is tooth and nail, and only the strongest competitor will survive.

Mr. Speaker, if you have an iconic American company that has to pay taxes at 39 percent here in this country competing on the same product line with a company that has to pay 15 percent in Ireland or in Canada, in the end, which company will survive? You see, Mr. Speaker, it is not about patriotism. That is nonsense. It is about survival.

Mr. Speaker, how do we end this cycle? How do we convince our iconic American companies, our large employers, to stay in this country and to convince those that have left our country to come back?

Before I came here, I had one other elected office. I was a tax attorney and a CPA for 25 years, and I helped companies structure their business in the smartest way for taxes, for regulatory purposes, and to make a profit.

Once I retired from that, I ran for one other office, and that was as the chairman of Horry County Council in Horry County, South Carolina, where Myrtle Beach is.

Horry County had a problem because most all of its job creation was in the tourism industry, and the tourism industry is great, but it produces an inordinate amount of seasonal jobs and jobs with relatively low pay. They needed to diversify their industry, and many other counties in the State were doing a better job of it.

Once I became chairman of the county council, I started to look at why that was and what we needed to do, and it was obvious that we had many, many assets. The problem was we weren't even in the game. We weren't even trying to compete.

Once we laid out a roadmap to enter the competition to attract industry and jobs, it didn't take very long. Companies responded quickly. Thousands of jobs had been created. All we had to do was enter the competition.

Counties across this country compete with other counties for jobs. States across this country compete with other

States for jobs, States like Texas, which has done a fantastic job. South Carolina has done a fantastic job of creating a favorable business tax environment, favorable regulatory environment, and has done tort reform, and lo and behold, companies come.

Company after company after company leave States like California or Washington State and come to States like Texas or South Carolina, and you can see the result in South Carolina with BMW, Amazon, Boeing, Michelin, Continental, and on and on and on. All they had to do was decide to compete, and industry responded.

You see, before I became chairman of the county council in Horry County, the attitude there was that we were the leader in tourism, and they are great at tourism. We are big, and we have a lot of advantages, and we really don't need to compete for business. But guess what, it wasn't working.

Once we changed our attitude, people responded quickly, and I believe the attitude here in Washington is the same. Look, we are big. We don't have the biggest economy in the world anymore. China overtook us. We have one of the biggest economies in the world. We have great capital markets. We have great consumer markets.

We don't have to try to compete. Business is going to come anyway. But guess what, just like in Horry County, it is not working in the country either, and if we simply decide to compete for industry, with all of the advantages that we have, I believe no one can stop us.

My friend Michael Porter is, as I said, an economics professor at Harvard Business School. He has been there for decades. He has written multiple books on competitive theory. He has come here to Congress with me, and we scheduled seminars with Congressmen from both sides of the aisle to talk about what this country needs to do to be competitive. We have been in front of over 100 Congressmen, and this is the roadmap that he lays out. I am not going to claim authorship. This is the roadmap that he lays out.

His book is, "On Competition," by Michael Porter. It is one of many. Michael Porter sits on the board of public companies. He represents countries around the world. He has written this roadmap for the United States. If we will adopt the attitude that we are going to be competitive in the world, we can expect to see American companies coming back, more foreign investment in the United States, and millions and millions of American jobs created and our economy lifted from its meager growth to above trend and restore our American prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at these things one by one. One of them is lowering the corporate tax rate, and as I pointed out earlier, this one is common sense. We have the highest corporate

tax rate in the world. Does that mean that we have to collect less revenue? No.

Our corporate Tax Code is incredibly complex. It is filled with deductions and credits, many of which make sense but others that don't. It needs to be cleaned up. DAVE CAMP and the House Ways and Means Committee put out a proposal to do it last year.

I agree with, by far, the bulk of it. The House needs to take it up—or something like it—and we need to get it over to the Senate, and we need to get corporate tax reform. The President agrees we need corporate tax reform, but the President thinks we need to raise revenue.

The goal here, Mr. Speaker, is not to increase taxes. The goal here is to make our country more competitive. Why? Because then we will have more business and we will have more jobs and we will raise revenue that way, rather than by raising taxes. If we boost our economy, the revenue will come.

The second item on this menu, Mr. Speaker, is taxing overseas profits earned by American companies only where they are earned. We are the only remaining OECD country with a global tax system. Everywhere else, they pay taxes where they earned the money, and they can bring the money home without paying taxes.

But here in America, our multinational companies—companies like GE, GM, and every alphabet soup company that you can name—if they earn profits overseas and they pay taxes at the lower rate over there, they know if they ever bring that money back to the United States, they have to pay it at 39 percent.

So what do they do? They park that money overseas. It is only common sense. They are competing tooth and nail worldwide. To make any other choice puts them at a huge disadvantage.

So let's say we have an American company that has a billion dollars in profits in India and they need to build a factory and are looking for where to build that billion dollar factory. Do you think they are going to bring that money back and pay 40 percent taxes in the United States to build that factory? No.

What they are going to do is build that factory in India and employ a thousand people there instead of employing a thousand Americans, so we need to change our global tax system.

We need to ease the immigration of highly-skilled immigrants. Mr. Speaker, I am for comprehensive immigration reform, but I am not for the kind of immigration reform the President is talking about.

Mr. Speaker, we have the most liberal legal immigration system in the world. We allow 1.2 million legal immigrants every year. The problem with

our system is that most every OECD country that has looked at this has decided they are going to use immigration as a mechanism to be more competitive. Other countries are already working on this.

So what they do is they say, "Okay. You can immigrate into our country if you have a skill that we need. They allow people with high skill sets and high education to come to the front of the line to immigrate."

Our immigration system is exactly the reverse. It is completely counter-intuitive. Sixty-five percent of the immigration that we allow is not based on skill set but based on family relationship.

Only 12 percent of our immigration is based on skill set, and what is the result? The result of that, as I have read, is that as many as 42 percent of the new applications for Medicaid come from immigrants. At a disproportionately large amount, legal immigrants rely on our social safety net, and that makes us less rather than more competitive.

We need comprehensive immigration reform, but what that means to me is that we need to base our immigration largely on skill set. I am not saying eliminate immigration based on family relationship, but I am saying make that a much smaller piece of the pie.

Another problem with our immigration system is with our student visa program. We have the best universities in the world. People come from all over. In fact, I think I read yesterday that there were a record number of foreign students in American universities.

So the problem is when they get their degree and after their student visa expires, under our immigration system, we require that they go back to their home country. We prevent them from staying here.

They have to go back to their home country for a period of years before they can even apply to come back to the United States. We have given them the best education in the world, and we force them out of this country.

So what does that mean, practically? Let's say we have a gentleman from China who gets an engineering degree from MIT and has the best idea in the world to manufacture whatever it might be, but he can't stay here and do that. He can't even apply.

He has to go back home and do his initial public offering and build his plant there and employ thousands of people there, rather than using the education that our American universities gave him to create thousands of jobs here in this country.

There are so many things about our immigration system and there are so many things about so many areas of Federal law that are clearly counter-intuitive. They are exactly the opposite of what they need to be to make this country competitive.

Next, we have addressing distortions and abuses in our trading system. I am not going to spend a whole lot of time on this, but let me just say that, at one time, we were so advanced, we were so competitive, we were so much far ahead of the rest of the world, that we could adopt trading plans that weren't necessarily to our benefit.

We can't afford to do that anymore. We need to have free trade. We need to have fair trade.

□ 1900

Improving American logistics, communications and energy infrastructure. Everybody knows we need infrastructure to be competitive. We do so many things to hold ourselves up: roads, bridges, pipelines, and everything else. Federal regulation drags out projects for not just years—decades—and drives up cost.

When the Port of Miami has been working on trying to get their environmental permit to deepen their port to 50 feet for post-Panamax ships for over a decade; when the Port of Charleston, in my home State of South Carolina, has been under study for 4 years to determine whether they can go from 46 feet to 52 feet so that they can take these post-Panama Canal ships, and they are hoping that they get that port deepened by the year 2020, in the end everybody knows that port is going to get done. In the end, there will be little or no environmental damage, and what there is will be mitigated, but it is going to take a decade of wrangling to get to where we can deepen our port.

Let me tell you how important that is. Right now, I think one in five families' incomes in South Carolina are related to the use of that port. Companies in South Carolina, shipping or importing or exporting, it takes \$3,000 to ship a container from the Port of Charleston to Shanghai on ships as they exist today. When the Panama Canal opens and the new ships come through, that will drop the cost of transportation by 20 to 30 percent. So instead of it costing \$3,000 to ship a container from Charleston to Shanghai, it will cost \$2,200.

If an importer or exporter in South Carolina or in the Southeast doesn't have access to one of those ports, they start out \$800 per container behind the rest of the world. So there are only two of those ports that can take these ships right now on the east coast: Norfolk and Baltimore. If a manufacturer or an importer or an exporter is looking to where they are going to locate their business, do you think they are going to locate in a place that they are going to start out \$800 per container behind the rest of the world?

And it is going to take us till 2020 to get approvals to get this port deepened?

So many of these environmental rules are just mechanisms to delay

progress. In the end, we know this port is going to get done. Let's get busy and dig this port, and then we can talk about what we need to do to mitigate. But why are we going to hold it up for a decade and put my home State and this country at another competitive disadvantage?

We need to work on infrastructure. We need to find a way to get the highway trust fund funded. We need to eliminate a lot of the uncertainty. So many of these problems that are listed here, because they haven't been solved, they create so much uncertainty in the economy. It makes it very difficult for businesses to invest.

The Federal Government is an incredibly complex organization, yet it hasn't had a budget in 5 years until last year—not even a budget, not even for a year. Any complex organization, to make rational decisions, has to have long-term planning, and we can't even do a budget for a year.

We continually kick the can down the road, things like the highway trust fund, things like the SGR, the doc fix. The Federal Government has got to resolve these things, remove these uncertainties so that people know how to plan and invest.

I skipped over one here: responsible development of our oil and gas reserves. The administration has thrown up every roadblock that you could throw up to development of our reserves. We have had the largest oil and gas boom in history in the last 6 years.

Eight years ago, when President Bush was in, they were talking about something called peak oil theory, where they said we had already discovered all of the recoverable oil and it was going to get lower and lower, and it was going to be harder and harder to recover and that we were at our finite limits.

That shows you how wrong science can be, because in the last 5 years we have had the largest oil boom in history right here in the United States. Yet, at the same time, the day that President Obama was sworn in, gas was \$1.80 a gallon. Google it. It went up as high as \$3.75 a gallon just a few months ago, and it has been gradually backing down because, despite all of the roadblocks and all of the burdens that we have placed on developing this oil, private industry is figuring out how to get it done. We won't let them build pipelines, so they put it on rail. We try to regulate them out of the rail business, and they figure out a way around that.

The administration is using executive orders to broaden the clean air rules and the Clean Water Act to do everything they can to prevent the development of these oil and gas reserves, and the result of that is that the price of fuel is artificially high because they want us off of these fossil fuels and they want us on alternative energy.

You know what? So do I. But I want it when the technology can deliver it

at a competitive price. I don't want to artificially inflate the cost of fossil fuels simply to force us on to alternative energy, because, you see, cheap, reliable energy is another factor that makes us competitive.

How does it make us competitive? Well, number one, it lowers the cost of a company doing business in the United States if they have cheap, reliable energy. That is obvious.

But another problem is we do have the largest consumer market in the world. Two-thirds of our economy is based on consumer spending. And when you have declining income, what does that do to consumer spending? Obviously, it goes down. When you have increasing expenses for fuel and home utilities, with the war on coal, that affects the cost of food, so all these things rise. That takes money out of the consumers' pockets when they already have declining income.

What do you think that does to our economy? What do you think that does to our competitiveness?

So we need low-cost energy because, A, it makes it cheaper for companies to do business here and will bring jobs here, but it also puts more money in consumers' pockets.

When the President was first elected, he said we need a stimulus program, and he put in something called a payroll tax holiday that gave everybody, the average working man, \$90 a month more in his pocket. But at the same time, with his policies for energy, with the war on coal taking our coal plants offline, that increases the cost to the average consumer by about \$40 per household a month.

If putting \$90 a month in his pocket is stimulus, what does taking \$40 a month out of his pocket do? That is "de-stimulus."

Then when his policies forced up the price of gasoline from a \$1.80 a gallon—it was \$3.80 a gallon; now it is \$2.80 or \$3—every dollar a gallon costs the average consumer another \$90 a month. Now the payroll tax holiday is gone. Instead of putting \$90 a month in the consumers' pocket to stimulate the economy, we are taking \$200 a month out of their pocket. What does that do to the economy?

This one is a no-brainer. We need to do everything we can to responsibly develop our fuel reserves; and we need low-cost, reliable energy in this country to, A, encourage companies to come here for the low energy cost and, B, to put more money in consumers' pockets to stimulate our economy.

The last thing on this list is create a sustainable Federal budget, including entitlement reform. I will run through this, but I am about out of time.

Entitlements are on a collision course with bankruptcy. Nobody who understands it will argue that point. These things have got to be done. They create so much uncertainty. They cre-

ate instability in our economy, and they are nothing but future taxes.

The House Budget Committee, of which I am a member, has put out a budget that would balance in 10 years. For the last 2 years in a row that I have been in the Congress, and I believe 2 years before that, they have not even been taken up by the Senate. We need to put our budget on a path to balancing. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office agrees and says that where we are is unsustainable.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience with me. Thank you for allowing me to lay out my road map. I hope that the Republicans and the Democrats and everybody will consider this as a pathway to a prosperous future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1086. An Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on November 17, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1233. To amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4194. To provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7739. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jan-Marc Jouas, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7740. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (McCall, Idaho) [MB Docket No.: 14-69] [RM-11716] received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7741. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination pursuant to Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act to provide commodities and services for immediate assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7742. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7743. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-462, "License to Carry a Pistol Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7744. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "District of Columbia Public Schools' Budget Development and Execution Processes Were Not Sufficient to Avoid Divisional Over- and Under-Spending"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7745. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Improved Oversight of the UDC Land Grant Endowment Fund is Required"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7746. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "District Special Events Processes Can Be Improved"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7747. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Metropolitan Police Department First Amendment Investigations Complied with District Law in 2013"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7748. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Certification of Revised Fiscal Year 2014 Total Local Source General Fund Revenues (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2014A and 2014B)"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7749. A letter from the Clerk, Court of Appeals, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, *United States of America v. P.H. Glatfelter Company and NCR Corporation*, No. 13-2436 & 13-2441, (September 25, 2014); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7750. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Renaming of Express Mail to Priority Mail Express [Docket No.: PTO-P-2014-0045] (RIN: 0651-

AC98) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7751. A letter from the Manager, EP Rulings and Agreements, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-62] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7752. A letter from the Administrator, TSA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Administration's certification that the level of screening services and protection provided at Roswell International Air Center (ROW) will be equal to or greater than the level that would be provided at the airport by TSA Transportation Security Officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 5727. A bill to require certifications by prospective contractors with the United States Government that they are not boycotting persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WALDEN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 5728. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 5729. A bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5730. A bill to make nine month foreclosure and eviction protections for servicemembers permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5731. A bill to extend foreclosure and eviction protections for servicemembers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 5732. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to crack down on fraud in the Medicare program to protect seniors, people with disabilities, and taxpayers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 5733. A bill to require the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to calculate a carbon score for each bill or resolution; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5734. A bill to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East and improve the economic situation for its people; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 5735. A bill to facilitate the expedited review of applications of aliens applying for admission to the United States under section 101(a)(15)(J) who are coming to the United States to participate in a program under which they will receive graduate medical education or training; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5736. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H. Res. 758. A resolution strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

320. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution 26, urging Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states a portion of revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

321. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 22, requesting the Congress of the United States to call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

322. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution 25, urging Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

323. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, relating to certain holiday practices at federal Veterans Health Administration facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

324. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint

Resolution 20, urging the President of the United States and the Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

325. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 15, opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation without approval by the U.S. Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs.

326. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 22, opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 5727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 5728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 as applied to healthcare.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 5732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 5735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 60: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 139: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 471: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 651: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 702: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 713: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 872: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 956: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1070: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1094: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1343: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1563: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1667: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1942: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1953: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 2018: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 2224: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 2312: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2500: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2504: Mr. POCAN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 2591: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 2654: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2673: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2745: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 2788: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2794: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2847: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRIMM, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3116: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 3382: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3398: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3424: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3461: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3543: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. HAHN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3583: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3662: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3708: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 3717: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 3750: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3852: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3877: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 3888: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 4083: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 4407: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 4510: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 4525: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 4608: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4612: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 4748: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 4772: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 4927: Mr. KLINE and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 4930: Ms. NORTON, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 5059: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARR, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 5083: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 5091: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 5110: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 5182: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 5186: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 5241: Mr. TURNER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 5267: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 5353: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5354: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5403: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 5460: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 5475: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 5484: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 5599: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 5617: Ms. TITUS and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 5644: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 5646: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 5655: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5686: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 5700: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5706: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 5710: Mr. BERA of California.

H.J. Res. 26: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. LANCE.

H. Con. Res. 117: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H. Res. 208: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. GRIMM.

H. Res. 596: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Res. 728: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. ESTY.

H. Res. 735: Mr. PEARCE and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H. Res. 738: Mr. ROONEY.

H. Res. 755: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. FATTAH.

H. Res. 757: Mr. TERRY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

SENATE—Tuesday, November 18, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of Love, our lives are open books to You, for You see our thoughts before they are formed and know our words before we utter a single sentence. Your powers astound us.

Today, guide our lawmakers on the path that leads to faith, inspiring them to cultivate a quiet spirit of confidence in Your providential love. Lord, teach them to wait with hope and to endure to the end, believing that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purposes.

God of Grace and Glory, we revel in Your goodness, rejoicing because of Your generous mercy.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2280. There will be 6 hours of debate equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the bill. Senator BOXER will control the opponents' time. Senator LANDRIEU will control 1 hour of the proponents' time, and Senator HOEVEN will control 2 hours.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

At about 6:15 p.m.—give or take a few minutes—this evening the Senate will vote on a bill to approve the Keystone Pipeline.

There will be three rollcall votes on confirmation of the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations, followed by the confirmation of five Ambassadors, which are expected by voice vote.

There will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the USA Freedom Act.

USA FREEDOM ACT

Mr. REID. As I have indicated, this evening we will vote on the motion to proceed to the bipartisan USA FREEDOM Act, which reforms the U.S. Government's domestic surveillance authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, as we have come to call it.

In 2013 the American public first learned that the Federal Government collected telephone and Internet records of ordinary Americans—even when those Americans were not suspected of any wrongdoing. Earlier this year Senator LEAHY introduced the USA FREEDOM Act to end this bulk data collection. This bill has the support of the entire U.S. intelligence community, including the Director of National Intelligence, Gen. James Clapper. It enhances privacy and civil liberties protections, and it continues to give the U.S. intelligence community the ability to gather the information it needs to help keep America safe.

Two weeks ago the American people sent Congress a simple message: Let's work together. The USA FREEDOM Act is an excellent opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to work together to pass legislation that is good for this country.

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee, PAT LEAHY, has done tremendous work in crafting this bill. I hope we will invoke cloture today to allow us to proceed to this matter. Chairman LEAHY will manage the bill on the Senate floor in what I hope will be an open, bipartisan process.

In working to craft this bipartisan legislation, I expect Senators on both sides will want to offer amendments. Everyone should understand that there is not going to be any effort to stop this by the procedural avenue we call tree-filling. Instead, if we get on the legislation, the bill's managers will address amendments as they are offered. So I hope Democrats and Republicans will be able to come to agreements for votes on a number of amendments—hopefully a reasonable number or, of course, we will have no alternative than to try to terminate that by trying to get cloture on the bill itself. I am optimistic that we can work together—I hope so—to forge a compromise and pass this essential legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader is recognized.

FISA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the recent beheading of U.S. citizen Peter Kassig was the latest reminder of the brutal tactics employed by ISIL, a murderous terrorist organization and insurgency that slaughters the innocent and routinely employs suicide bombers and IEDs in its campaign of terror.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant slaughtered Sunni tribe members in Anbar Province, executed prisoners, and captured key terrain in cities such as Mosul.

Americans know ISIL is lethal, but it is also versatile. It has associates and sympathizers in countries across the West, some self-radicalized on the Internet, including not only in Europe and Canada but right here in the United States. The ISIL fighting force continues to grow more numerous—now numbering at least 20,000 strong—with its success on the battlefield having drawn more extremists to the fight from many of the same places, including, again, right here in America.

At its core, ISIL includes many seasoned veterans who once fought under the banner of Al Qaeda in Iraq and either survived the U.S. military detention or eluded our military altogether during the years of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of these fighters are familiar with America's intelligence capabilities, and many are savvy with communications. These are terrorists who know how to use encryption, and they know how to change devices frequently. That is part of the reason I am strongly opposed to legislation offered by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee that would end one of the Nation's critical capabilities to gather significant intelligence on terrorist threats. This is the worst possible time to be tying our hands behind our backs.

The threat from ISIL is real. It is different from what we faced before. If we are going to overcome it, if our aim is to degrade and destroy ISIL, as the President has said, then it is going to require smart policies and firm determination. At a minimum, we should not be doing anything to make the situation worse. Yet that is what this bill would do.

Most damagingly, it would hinder the ability of intelligence community analysts to query a database to determine

links between potential terrorists. Instead, the Leahy bill would have this data be held by telephone companies. It would make it far harder for records to be gathered for a specific selection term. Under the Leahy bill, the telephone companies would face no statutory requirement to even hold the relevant data.

There is a legitimate debate to be had over the proper balance to strike in our democracy. We continue to have that debate, and we should. But the opponents of this collection program have not provided any examples—no examples—of the National Security Agency intentionally spying on innocent civilians—no examples of that. In fact, the NSA, the courts, and the Congress have put in place detailed oversight procedures to protect both privacy and national security. Moreover, the only data captured under this program is the telephone number dialed—the telephone number dialed—the number from which the call was made, and the length of the call. Under section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, the content of the call is not captured. So I think the programs we have in place strike an appropriate balance between protecting our civil liberties and keeping our Nation safe. I think the bill before us would upend that delicate balance completely.

What is more, legislation with such far-reaching effects should be given the closest possible scrutiny, but this bill was never even considered by the Judiciary Committee or the Intelligence Committee. So it is unclear why the majority leader is moving to it now rather than taking up a bipartisan measure such as the FISA Improvements Act that passed the Intelligence Committee on a strong bipartisan vote of 11 to 4.

With the current law not even expiring until next June, it is unclear why the majority leader wants to rush this untested bill through in this lameduck session rather than after a reasonable consideration by relevant committees and by the newly elected Members who will actually be responsible for overseeing the program's operation.

The point is that the authorities we enacted after September 11, 2001, which were crafted to ensure that we integrated intelligence gathered overseas and here in the United States, are acutely relevant right now. We live in a dangerous world. Threats such as ISIL only make it more so. At a moment when the United States is conducting a military campaign to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat ISIL, now is certainly not the time to be considering legislation that takes away the exact tools we need to combat ISIL.

Our intelligence community is working to track foreign fighters returning from fighting in Syria, to prevent others from traveling to the battlefield, and to keep those within Syria from

radicalizing their friends and families back home. It makes little sense to pass legislation that hinders our intelligence community—legislation that has yet to receive any committee consideration.

On that note, today's Wall Street Journal features an excellent opinion piece offered by former Federal judge and Attorney General Michael Mukasey and Gen. Michael Hayden, the former Director of the CIA and the NSA. I recommend their column, "NSA Reform That Only ISIS Could Love." I ask unanimous consent that a copy be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Nov. 7, 2014]
NSA REFORM THAT ONLY ISIS COULD LOVE
(By Michael V. Hayden and Michael B. Mukasey)

For those charged with gathering the information our government needs to keep us safe, the news has been grim. Following the leaks by Edward Snowden beginning in June last year of highly classified intelligence gathering techniques, the former head of the National Counterterrorism Center, Matthew Olsen, disclosed in September that terrorists tracked by U.S. intelligence services have started encrypting their communications in ways that defeat detection, and that the government has lost track of several.

Meanwhile, Islamic State terrorists continue to rampage across Syria and Iraq, even as the group, also known as ISIS, uses sophisticated Internet communications to swell its ranks with recruits bearing U.S., Canadian or European passports who can easily slip back into their native countries and wreak havoc.

In that threat environment, one would think that the last thing on the "to do" list of the 113th Congress would be to add to the grim news. Yet Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has announced that he will bring to the floor the extravagantly misnamed USA Freedom Act, a major new bill exquisitely crafted to hobble the gathering of electronic intelligence.

For starters, the bill ends the National Security Agency's bulk collection of what is called telephone metadata. This includes the date, time, duration and telephone numbers for all calls, but not their content or the identity of the caller or called, and is information already held by telephone companies. The bill would substitute a cumbersome and untried process that would require the NSA, when it seeks to check on which telephone numbers have called or been called by a number reasonably associated with terrorist activity, to obtain a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or FISA court, and then scurry to each of the nation's telephone-service providers to comb through the information that remains in their hands rather than in the NSA's.

Nothing in the bill requires the telephone companies to preserve the metadata for any prescribed period. Current Federal Communications Commission regulations impose an 18-month retention requirement, but administrative regulations are subject to change. It isn't hard to envision companies that wish to offer subscribers the attraction of rapid destruction of these records, or a complainant bureaucracy that lets them do it.

The bill's imposition of the warrant requirement on the NSA would be more bur-

densome than what any assistant U.S. attorney must do to get metadata in a routine criminal case, which is simply to aver that the information is needed in connection with a criminal investigation—period.

Proponents say this change is necessary to allay fears that the NSA could use telephone metadata to construct an electronic portrait of an American citizen's communications, and determine whether that person has, say, consulted a psychiatrist, or called someone else's spouse. However, only 22 people at the NSA are permitted access to metadata, and only upon a showing of relevance to a national-security investigation, and they are barred from any data-mining whatsoever even in connection with such an investigation. They are overseen by a Madisonian trifecta of the FISA court, the executive and committees of Congress. Those people and everyone else at the NSA live in constant dread of failing to detect a terrorist attack. Nonetheless, the sponsors of the USA Freedom Act prefer the counsel of hypothetical fears to the logic of concrete realities.

This sensitivity to abstract concerns doesn't stop at the water's edge. Under the bill, if the FISA court directs any change, however technical, in the gathering of information from foreigners abroad, no information gathered before the change is implemented could be used before any official body in this country—agency, grand jury, court, whatever.

Back in the bad old days, as during World War II and the Cold War, intelligence of all sorts directed at protecting national security was gathered by the executive without supervision by judges who, after all, know nothing about the subject and cannot be held to account for adverse outcomes. After the Watergate scandal and the resignation of President Nixon, the FISA court was established in 1978 to provide oversight for intelligence gathering, in addition to that already provided by the executive and by Congress. Now, there are those who complain that the FISA court accedes too often to requests for government access to information, and does not appear to resemble a true court in that there is no public advocate opposing the government position.

But the nearly uniform success of the government before the FISA court is due both to the government's careful restraint in presenting applications, and to pushback from the court itself—which results in the amendment of applications. Even when the government applies for wiretaps or search warrants in ordinary criminal cases there is no advocate opposing the application.

Nonetheless, this new bill would establish a permanent advocate appointed by the court to oppose the government's applications before the FISA court. This provision has elicited an extraordinary written objection from a former presiding judge of the FISA court. U.S. District Judge John D. Bates points out that the presence of such an advocate, who cannot conceivably be aware of all the facts, would simply add to the burdens of the court and could wind up sacrificing both national security and privacy.

This bill redefines the FISA court, which was never meant to be an adversary tribunal and was imposed simply as an added safeguard in the 1970s, without regard to its history or its purpose. Worse, it is a three-headed constitutional monster: It is a violation of both the separation of powers principle and the Constitution's appointments clause by having judges rather than the president appoint the public advocate, and then it has the advocate litigate against the Justice Department when both executive offices are supposed to be controlled by the president.

The bill is not an unrelieved disaster. It rightly allows for the expansion of metadata gathering to include more calls made by cellphones.

Not surprisingly, the bill has received the endorsement of President Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, and his director of national intelligence, James Clapper, who in a Sept. 2 letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee said they were "comfortable" with the bill's provisions—even as they conceded that the bill may have "additional impacts that we will be able to identify only after we start to implement the new law."

If that calls to mind the Affordable Care Act and the suggestion that we should wait and find out what is in the bill until after it passes, bear in mind that "additional impacts" here may include holes in the ground where buildings used to stand and empty chairs where people used to sit.

There is no immediate or emergency need for this piece of legislation. Current surveillance authorities do not expire at the end of this year, which is fortunate given the current threats we face at home and abroad. The USA Freedom Act should await the attention of the Congress that will actually oversee it. A change to national-security procedures is not something to be rushed through in a lame-duck session.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. On an entirely different matter, later today the Senate will vote on whether to send Congressman CASSIDY's Keystone jobs bill to the President. It is a vote that is long overdue but certainly welcome. Keystone XL is just common sense. It is a shovel-ready jobs project that would help thousands of Americans find work. It would increase our supply of North American energy. It would do all of that with minimal net climate impact. That is why the American people support it. That is why Republicans support it. That is why so many rank-and-file Democrats support it too.

I wish the Senate would have followed the lead of Congressman CASSIDY and his House colleagues in approving Keystone years ago. It is just common sense. Those who took a serious look at the science and the potential benefits reached that conclusion long ago. They understand that the whole drama over Keystone has been as protracted as it has been unnecessary. We hope to turn the page on all of that today.

The reason we are able to have this vote is because the American people sent a strong message earlier this month. They told us they just want Washington to get on with approving serious policies such as Keystone and then move on. That is why after years of delay and so many thwarted attempts to bring Keystone up for a vote, the Democratic leadership is finally, after 6 years, allowing us to vote on passage of the Cassidy Keystone bill. That is a good thing. It is a step forward. Now it will be up to our friends on the other side to vote with us and actually pass the Cassidy Keystone bill through Congress.

The President's remarks opposing this bipartisan legislation are certainly not helpful. Republicans are committed to getting Keystone approved. We want to see those jobs created as soon as possible. That is what the people want. The House already acted long ago, and Congressman CASSIDY and his colleagues, such as Senator HOEVEN, who is here on the floor, deserve recognition for their years of hard work on this issue.

So I would urge a "yes" vote on the legislation to send Congressman CASSIDY's Keystone bill to the President and create more American jobs. If not, then a new majority, after the beginning of the year, will be taking this matter up and sending it down to the President.

I also wish to take a moment to thank the Senator from North Dakota for his persistence on this issue for literally years.

Without his leadership I don't know where we would be. I just want to extend my gratitude to him for his great work on this matter.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Would the Republican leader yield for a question?

The minority leader will not yield for a question, but I would note, based on his concerns about the bipartisan piece of legislation regarding the NSA and others and his concern about ISIL—which we all share—that the NSA and all of our intelligence community had every single tool the Republican leader advocates for, while ISIL built up its strength, while ISIL had Iraq's army flee from them while they went forward. With every single one of those elements the Republican leader advocates for, there was not one single alarm bell that rang. So let's deal with the facts and not hypotheses.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2280, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are 6½ hours of debate equally divided between proponents and opponents of this measure.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I have a parliamentary inquiry. I am confused because Senator MCCONNELL called the bill the Cassidy Keystone bill, and I thought we were debating the Hoeven-Landrieu bill.

Could you tell me which bill it is, because that is very important.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering S. 2280.

Mrs. BOXER. So we are considering the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. I just wanted that to be clear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Today we vote on S. 2280, introduced by myself and Senator LANDRIEU. There are actually 54 sponsors on the legislation with us. So we have a total of 56 sponsors of this bipartisan bill. That is the same bill that has been passed in the House of Representatives. That was passed on Friday—the same version. The prime sponsor in the House was Representative CASSIDY.

The bill we vote on today, S. 2280, is approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. We have actually passed legislation on the Keystone XL Pipeline before. This is not the first bill. In 2012, we passed legislation that required the President to make a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline. We attached it to the payroll tax holiday. At that time the President turned down the pipeline project.

So today we have submitted a number of different pieces of legislation, but this legislation actually has Congress approving the Keystone XL Pipeline.

When the President turned down the project, what we did was we went back and we did the research.

Under the commerce clause of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to oversee commerce with foreign powers, with other countries.

So in this situation, Congress has the authority to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline crossing the border from Canada into the United States, and that is what we crafted in this legislation. So rather than the President making a national interest determination, which he seems to be unwilling to do—and I say that based on his actions—we have now been at this for about 4 years in this Senate trying to get approval. But this project has been in the application process for 6 years.

I was Governor of North Dakota in September of 2008 when the Trans-Canada Corporation applied for a permit to get approval to build the Keystone XL Pipeline. They had already built the Keystone pipeline, so they were applying for approval to build the sister pipeline, the Keystone XL Pipeline. It started in September of 2008, and 2 years went by. We started actually working on it in about 2011 in the Senate, as I say, and we passed legislation, trying to get the President to approve it. But it has now been—and I can show a chart with the time line, but it is a little hard to see—6 years in the permitting process.

The time has come to act. The time has come to act, and that is what this legislation is all about. It provides approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline so

they can move forward and it can be constructed.

We have debated this issue in the Chamber for almost 4 years. So we have gone through all of the merits, and we will do that again today. We have not only come to an agreement on getting a vote, but we have also come to an agreement on the parameters for the debate. It is 6 hours of debate, with 3 hours for the proponents and 3 hours for the opponents.

On the Republican side of the aisle we are taking 2 hours solely on the proponent side because all 45 Republican Senators are in support of the project, will be voting for the project, and will be making the case for the project. On the majority side there will be 3 hours for opponents of the project making their case and 1 hour for the proponents making their case, and we will alternate throughout this debate.

We will be having this debate today and we will make our case. I will continue with my colleagues to make the case for the pipeline. There will be Members of the majority party that will make that case and there will be some Members, obviously, in opposition.

So I will reserve some of my time to speak later, but the point I want to make at the outset is this is really about the American people making this case. When we look at this project, it is about energy, it is about jobs, it is about economic growth. It creates tax revenue to help reduce the deficit and the debt. It doesn't cost 1 penny of Federal money or government money. It is privately funded, and it is about national security. It is about national security by helping us build energy security in this country with our closest friend and ally, Canada, working together with Canada so that we don't have to get energy from Venezuela or from the Middle East or from other parts of the world, and so we can produce at home.

That is not only a vitally important issue in terms of our economy and being competitive in a global economy because energy is truly a foundational sector for all the other industry sectors. When we have low-cost dependable energy, we are more competitive as a country, but it really is a national security issue.

I see the good Senator from Vermont is on the floor. He has a bill that deals with how we handle surveillance and covert information, given the terrorist threat we face. It is important that we do that well.

But one of the ways to truly strengthen our country is to make sure we are energy secure, to make sure we don't have to get oil from the Middle East, to help our friends and allies in Europe so they are not dependent on Russia for energy when Putin engages in the kind of aggression he has. So when we talk about this energy issue,

it is not just jobs, it is not just the energy we get that makes us stronger in a competitive global economy, it really is a national security issue, and it is long past time to act. It has been 6 years.

Today we will have that debate again, and I hope at the end of the day we will have the 60 votes that we need. We will find out this evening when we vote.

Again, it comes back to what do the American people want. We are here representing the American people. Overwhelmingly, in poll after poll when they have been asked, 60 percent, sometimes 70 percent or more say: Build the Keystone XL Pipeline. That is whom we work for.

I hope today, at the end of the day, that is the work we will get done for the American people.

I see my cosponsor on the floor, and I would turn to the good Senator from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank my cosponsor and lead sponsor on the bill, a former Governor and good Senator from North Dakota who has been a great leader and partner with me on this bill.

As the American people have absolutely figured out, Democrats cannot do anything alone and neither can Republicans. It has taken us a while to figure this out in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, but the American people figured this out a long time ago, just as they figure out practical things such as how to keep a roof over their heads, food on the table, and how to keep their kids moving forward even through difficulty.

The American people are very smart. I trust them. I always have. I have been honored to represent the people of Louisiana, 4.5 million people, and I have done my very best to represent them in the time I am in the Senate, and I hope to continue for years to come.

One of the things they know that is not clear to people here is that it takes both parties working together, compromising, to get the job done for them—not for us, for them—and I think we forget that a lot.

I am in a lot of meetings around here where people talk about what is good for the Democratic caucus, what is good for the Republican caucus, what is good for Leader REID, what is good for Leader MCCONNELL. It is kind of interesting to me because the family I grew up in was all about public service—not for ourselves but for the people we represent. That is why I am on the floor today. That is why I have actually been on the floor dozens of times on this bill and on similar bills.

This is the Keystone bill, which I have supported with Senator HOEVEN, literally for years. In fact, I have a let-

ter from 2011 with ORRIN HATCH, who was the lead signer with me. Senator MCCONNELL's signature wasn't on the letter. Maybe he was busy that day and couldn't sign it. But about 15 of us sent a letter in 2011 urging Secretary of State Clinton—this is how far back it goes, and people can hardly remember she was Secretary of State because now John Kerry is Secretary of State—a long time ago saying it was very important for us to get this pipeline built for any number of reasons. The main reason is that it will signal a great sign that America understands that energy independence for our Nation is possible for the first time ever.

When I mean energy independence, I mean energy independence for the North American continent. We might be able to do it in just the lower 48. We might. Hawaii can contribute some. Alaska, clearly, can contribute a lot. So we might be able to do it in the 50 States.

But I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that with our partners in Canada and Mexico, this can be done and North America can be the super energy powerhouse of the planet.

Why is that important? There are so many reasons. I will name two, and then I am going to sit down and re-engage in this debate because BARBARA BOXER, who is the lead opponent, wants and has indicated her time on the floor, and I have more time later today.

But one of the reasons this is so important is because what people in Louisiana want, what people in Texas want, what people in Mississippi want, what people in New Jersey want, what people in South Dakota, Illinois, Kansas, and Vermont want are good-paying jobs.

When a country or a continent, as blessed as we are, uses its resources wisely to create wealth not only for those at the top, which is what is happening now—just at the top—and the people at the top are doing great. In the fancy restaurants I walk by I see—and sometimes I am actually in them myself—people are drinking champagne. They are buying new cars. I see Mercedes, and other people see that. But the people in the middle class in this country are really struggling, and our job as leaders is to have our eyes on them, providing for them.

These energy jobs are not minimum wage jobs. They are not even \$15-an-hour jobs. They are not even \$30-an-hour jobs. They are \$45-an-hour jobs. Our laborers—men and women who represent the middle class—some are unionized, some are not, but all are hard working. I am going to say that again. Some are unionized and some are not, but all are hard working.

How would I know? Because I have stood in line with them at 4 or 5 in the morning during a shift change. I do that a lot during my elections. I do it regularly, but I do it a lot during election time. I have felt their hands. I

know how cold they are in the morning and how rough they are because they work all day. Those people would expect us to work longer than we do here. We have very short weeks—Tuesday through Thursday. We take long lunch hours, long weekends. Most Americans think we have completely lost it because they work hard, from morning until night. Their hands are tough, and so they expect us to stand up for them. That is why I am standing here.

I have been fighting for this because of energy independence for America. I would know something about that because Texas and Louisiana and Oklahoma—our area of the country—we are proud producers of energy. We produce mostly oil, mostly gas, and a little bit of coal. We generate a lot.

Just an FYI to everybody who thinks this pipeline is the end of the world, we already have 2.6 million miles of pipe in America—2.6 million miles of pipe. We are only completing basically 1,000 miles. What is everybody upset about? We have been building pipelines in this country for a long time, and we need to build this one. This is about energy independence, it is about jobs, and that is why I am here. This is what the people want.

I am going to close with this. For the 25th time at least I am going to say this because I want the record of the Congress to reflect the truth, whether people acknowledge it or not. The record of this Congress will reflect this to be the truth. Some of us, not just me, have worked to get this bill to the floor for years, and it was blocked by both majority leader HARRY REID and minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL for their own political reasons. Those reasons cleared up after the election. They just cleared up.

MITCH MCCONNELL couldn't bring this bill to the floor without allowing a vote on the EPA coal regulation. BARBARA BOXER knows this—this is the truth—and she wouldn't allow the vote because she is adamantly opposed to having a vote on EPA. I respect that. I respect her. Everyone here knows that is the truth.

HARRY REID didn't want this vote to come up because there were one or two Members of our caucus who had a serious issue with this being voted on. I knew that. As part of a team—and I try to be part of a team, but I am independent—I knew the results of the election, with Senator MCCONNELL winning and some of our Senators, unfortunately, my dearest friends, losing, that we had an opportunity, and so I took that opportunity and I called for this vote—not HARRY REID, not MITCH MCCONNELL, I called for it, and I think it is worth fighting for.

The last thing I want to say is that Thanksgiving is coming up and Christmas is coming up, and it is a shame this Congress has not delivered more in the last 5 or 6 years for the middle

class. We say we try. I am not sure we are trying hard enough. So I am going to lead by example. It is the way I was raised. We are going to truly try today.

This is one of the first debates I have been in, in 8 years at least, where the outcome is uncertain. All the rest of the stuff we do here is preset, preordained. It is similar to theater for the American people. We usually know the outcome of the vote before we take it because the deals are all cut.

So I brought this bill to the floor, knowing in my heart we have 60 votes. I sure hope we have the courage that supports that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I will be controlling the time in opposition, very strong opposition, to this legislation. Before I yield to the first debater on our side, who will be Chairman LEAHY—and I am very honored that he will be—let me just say before Senator LANDRIEU leaves the floor that Senator LANDRIEU is the only reason we are debating this today. So anyone who wants to play games about this and name this bill the Cassidy bill, that kind of is a joke because I believe I am correct that he introduced it November 12 of this year and the Hoeven-Landrieu bill was introduced in May. But setting politics aside, let the RECORD be clear forever that this debate would not be before this body were it not for Senator LANDRIEU's insistence. I want that to be clear.

Secondly, we will hear today, I think, a terrific debate because the people who support this think not only that this is a good thing for the country—to build the Keystone XL Pipeline—they think it is a great thing for this country. I have great respect for them. On the other side, we have those of us who think it is not a good thing for this country, it is not a good thing for jobs, it is not a good thing for energy independence because it will be exported, all that oil, and it is actually dangerous.

In my case, I was thinking, what does "XL" stand for? They named it the Keystone XL. It has no meaning, but to me it is extra lethal. My debate will show why, as we analyze the tar sands oil that will be coming into this Nation, 45 percent more than we have now, the risky business that it has proven to be and what the health costs are for our people. That is not me speaking, those are nurses and doctors saying so. I haven't even gotten into climate and all the other issues.

At this point I yield 5 minutes to my friend Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know the distinguished Senator from Louisiana has the majority of votes in this body for the Keystone Pipeline, and

that is a compliment to her hard work in getting from a minority of votes to a majority of votes.

I will not be one of them, as she knows, because I represent what is the view of my fellow constituents in Vermont. I strongly oppose the fast-tracking of this process.

This pipeline poses considerable safety and environmental risks here in the United States, and it threatens the natural landscapes that are in the heartland of America. We feel this pipeline is one of the most striking examples of the unquenchable thirst for oil that is destroying our environment. We feel that destruction is going to move forward unless and until we get a comprehensive national energy plan. This pipeline will not lead us towards that. It leads us to an energy policy of the past instead of a sustainable energy future, while simultaneously accelerating our impact on the climate. These tar sands require an energy-intensive process, complete with pollutants and harmful emissions to get them out of the ground, to extract them, and to refine them.

We should not rubberstamp a project like this that poses such serious risks to the Nation's and the world's environment, and to our communities' safety. I was astounded by the fact that in its first year of operation the existing Keystone Pipeline—billed as you recall as the safest pipeline in history when it was built just a few years ago in 2010—spilled 12 times in its first year of operation. That is more than any other pipeline in U.S. history.

The worrisome part about these spills is that tar sands oil is harder to clean up. Ask the communities along the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. It has cost more than \$1 billion so far—\$1 billion so far—to clean up a tar sands spill in 2010. Now, more than 4 years later, it is still a mess, and landowners continue to wait for help in restoring their property and to rebuild the ravaged pipeline.

We do not need more empty assurances from the oil industry. Before the Valdez spill in Alaska, Exxon executives told us their oil tankers were safe. We heard similar promises from BP, which insisted that it could handle an oil spill in a deep-water drilling operation. The images from both of those spills are still fresh in our memories.

I realize that proponents argue that this pipeline will create jobs and will help our energy security here in the United States. But this pipeline will bypass refineries in the Midwest instead of heading to American gas stations to help lower the price of gas here at home. It will head straight for the coast so the oil can be used in export markets, pumped onto ships headed for China. That may be good news for the Chinese, but it is not good news for the American people who are stuck with the safety risks, the health challenges,

future environmental disasters, and the rapid acceleration of our contribution to climate change.

These facts are clear: The Keystone pipeline significantly worsens the problem of carbon pollution, and it is not in our national interest. The Presidential Permit should be denied, not fast-tracked by Congress here today.

So I will not be among the majority who will vote for it today.

USA FREEDOM ACT

On another matter, while I have the floor, the distinguished Republican leader spoke against the USA FREEDOM Act earlier this morning. Unfortunately, he was too busy to respond to a couple of simple questions, even though he was asked to. But I would note that last year, Americans learned that section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act had been secretly interpreted for years to allow the bulk collection of telephone records. Unlike the comments made earlier that there were no hearings on this, the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014 came about after numerous congressional hearings, including six—six—public hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

At least two panels of independent experts have concluded that the bulk collection program has not been essential or even a key part of keeping our country safe. We now have wide bipartisan agreement in the Senate and the House that the bulk phone records collection program is not essential, it violates Americans' privacy, and it has to end. So the question before Congress is not whether to end the program, but when and how.

The USA FREEDOM Act of 2014 ends the NSA's bulk collection program, but does so responsibly. The bill contains key reforms to safeguard Americans' privacy by prohibiting the indiscriminate collection of their data. It also provides for greater accountability and transparency of the government's surveillance programs, and it improves the FISA Court. The bill also ensures that the intelligence community has the tools it needs to keep our country safe.

This legislation is the result of several months of intense discussions and deliberations with the intelligence community and stakeholders across the political and economic spectrum. It has the unprecedented support of the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, American technology companies, and privacy and civil liberty groups ranging from the ACLU and EFF to the NRA and TechFreedom, as well as the Director of NSA and lawmakers from all parts of the political spectrum who support it.

We cannot afford to delay action on these reforms any longer, as the American people continue to demand stronger protections for their privacy. Unfortunately, some would rather use scare

tactics than legislate. Some would have us wait while American businesses continue to lose tens of billions of dollars in the international marketplace. Or we could even wait until we are facing down the expiration of Section 215 in a matter of months, thereby creating dangerous uncertainty and risk for the intelligence community.

The American people have had enough delay; they want action and real reform. It is time to get back to work, to show leadership, and to govern this country responsibly. The USA FREEDOM Act of 2014 is an opportunity to do just that.

Let us get it done now, when it can be done.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD several letters and editorials in support of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Washington, DC, September 2, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY: Thank you for your letter of August 19, 2014, asking for the views of the Department of Justice and the Intelligence Community on S. 2685, the USA FREEDOM Act. We appreciate your extensive efforts to develop a bill in coordination with the Administration, privacy and civil liberties advocates, and representatives from the communications providers that builds upon the good work done by the House in its bill passed on May 22, 2014. As discussed below, the Intelligence Community believes that your bill preserves essential Intelligence Community capabilities; and the Department of Justice and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence support your bill and believe that it is a reasonable compromise that enhances privacy and civil liberties and increases transparency.

The USA FREEDOM Act bans bulk collection under a variety of authorities. In particular, the bill permits collection under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act using a specific selection term that narrowly limits the scope of the tangible things sought to the greatest extent reasonably practicable, consistent with the purposes for seeking the tangible things. Recognizing that the terms enumerated in the statute may not always meet operational needs, the bill permits the use of other terms, provided there are court-approved minimization procedures that prohibit the dissemination and require the destruction within a reasonable period of time of any information that has not been determined to satisfy certain specific requirements. We believe that this approach will accommodate operational needs while providing appropriate privacy protections.

The bill also provides a mechanism to obtain telephone metadata records in order to identify potential contacts of suspected terrorists inside the United States. The Intelligence Community believes that, based on communications providers' existing practices in retaining metadata, the bill will retain the essential operational capabilities of the existing bulk telephone metadata program while eliminating bulk collection.

The bill also increases transparency by expanding the amount of information communications providers can disclose and increasing public reporting by the government. Although balancing national security and the public's legitimate interest in additional transparency can be difficult, we are comfortable with the transparency provisions in this bill because, among other things, they recognize the technical limitations on our ability to report certain types of information.

We note that, consistent with the President's request, the bill establishes a process for the appointment of an amicus curiae to assist the FISA Court and FISA Court of Review in matters that present a novel or significant interpretation of the law. We believe that the appointment of an amicus in selected cases, as appropriate, need not interfere with important aspects of the FISA process, including the process of ex parte consultation between the Court and the government. We are also aware of the concerns that the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts expressed in a recent letter, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to address those concerns.

The USA FREEDOM Act represents the result of extensive discussions and deliberations and has the support of a wide range of interests. Admittedly, it is possible that there are additional impacts that we will be able to identify only after we start to implement the new law. You have our commitment to notify Congress if we determine that the new law is impeding the Intelligence Community's ability to protect national security. Overall, the bill's significant reforms should provide the public greater confidence in our programs and the checks and balances in the system.

Sincerely,

ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General.
JAMES R. CLAPPER,
Director of National Intelligence.

REFORM GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

OPEN LETTER TO THE SENATE: The Senate has an opportunity this week to vote on the bipartisan USA Freedom Act. We urge you to pass the bill, which both protects national security and reaffirms America's commitment to the freedoms we all cherish.

The legislation prevents the bulk collection of Internet metadata under various authorities. The bill also allows for transparency about government demands for user information from technology companies, and assures that the appropriate oversight and accountability mechanisms are in place.

Since forming the Reform Government Surveillance coalition last year, our companies have continued to invest in strengthening the security of our services and increasing transparency. Now, the Senate has the opportunity to send a strong message of change to the world and encourage other countries to adopt similar protections.

Passing the USA Freedom Act, however, does not mean our work is finished. We will continue to work with Congress, the Administration, civil liberties groups and governments around the world to advance essential reforms that we set forth in a set of principles last year. Such reforms include: preventing government access to data without proper legal process; assuring that providers are not required to locate infrastructure within a country's border; promoting the free flow of data across borders; and avoiding conflicts among nations through robust,

principled, and transparent frameworks that govern lawful requests for data across jurisdictions.

Now is the time to move forward on meaningful change to our surveillance programs. We encourage you to support the USA Freedom Act.

AOL, Apple, Dropbox, Evernote, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Twitter, Yahoo.

NOVEMBER 14, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS LEAHY AND GRASSLEY: The USA Freedom Act, now under consideration in the Senate, is broadly consistent with the recommendations we made last year in our report on how to safeguard both liberty and security in a rapidly changing world.

Specifically, we note the close similarity of the bill with our first recommendation, that orders under Section 215 should be issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court about particular individuals and only where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the particular information sought is relevant to an authorized investigation.

Sincerely,

RICHARD CLARKE,
MICHAEL MORELL,
CASS SUNSTEIN,
GEOFFREY STONE,
PETER SWIRE.

[From the Washington Times, Nov. 14, 2014]

BIPARTISANSHIP IN DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION

REINING IN THE NSA IS SOMETHING THAT ALL AMERICANS CAN EMBRACE

(By Chris Cox and Laura Murphy)

Washington politicians are squaring off for another round of confrontation following an election in which millions of American voters demanded an end to the squabbling and a commitment to actually solving the many problems facing the country. There are, of course, issues on which agreement shouldn't be expected, but there are others on which there should be broad agreement, regardless of party and ideology.

As representatives of two organizations, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), with very different perspectives on some issues, we are joining together today because of our belief in the constitutional guarantees of free speech and privacy and our concern that both could be lost unless we rein in governmental surveillance and monitoring that characterizes life in this country.

The NRA last year joined the ACLU in court proceedings aimed at limiting the surveillance of private citizens in the name of national security. While we agree that government should have the power it needs to protect the American people from terrorist threats, those charged with doing so must be accountable and play by the rules set down by the Founders in the Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

Our lawsuit involved the National Security Agency's program to collect what the government likes to call "metadata," including records of phone calls made by every single American. That data can paint an intimate portrait of someone's life—who they talk to, the organizations they support and who their

friends are. However, that same information can be used to target innocent Americans involved in perfectly legal activities that our government doesn't happen to like.

For example, by using metadata, the government can identify and track most gun owners by tracing contacts with gun ranges, firearms retailers and the like, facilitating the establishment of the national firearms registry that gun owners fear and federal law prohibits. It can also be used by government officials to get information on journalists or any activists that are critical of government policies.

In our view, current surveillance practices violate the First and Fourth Amendments and threaten other rights, such as those guaranteed by the Second Amendment, and they are not making us any safer. President Obama's own review panel and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board have found that these call-records programs have not provided any crucial information in even one terrorism case. Even James R. Clapper, the nation's director of national intelligence, supports legislation known as the USA Freedom Act, a modest reform proposal that brings current practices more in line with what the Constitution requires.

While there is much the Senate shouldn't or needn't do during the "lame-duck" session, the USA Freedom Act is badly needed legislation that has bipartisan support and will protect the rights of all Americans. The NRA and the ACLU, along with many members of Congress from both parties, support these reforms and they should be enacted, without weakening amendments, by the Senate and sent to the White House as soon as possible.

Public frustration with Congress is heightened when essential and widely supported legislation such as the USA Freedom Act languishes and dies for reasons that defy common sense. It's happened before. After all the rhetoric and after the case is made, nothing happens. If the Senate can't pass and the president can't sign a widely supported package of reforms to protect the basic constitutional rights of the American people, is it any wonder that Americans of both parties conclude that Washington is simply dysfunctional?

Every day that the Senate fails to vote on these reforms is a day in which law-abiding citizens have reason to fear that the constitutional protections so dear to the Founders and so crucial to the functioning of a free society no longer apply. That is a fear the Senate can begin to correct by passing the USA Freedom Act before the end of this year.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2014]

THE SENATE SHOULD APPROVE A BIPARTISAN PROPOSAL TO REFORM THE NSA (Editorial)

The Senate is set to vote Tuesday on the USA Freedom Act, the most promising National Security Agency reform proposal before Congress. Neither national security hawks nor civil libertarians get everything they want from the legislation, which means it could fail to get the 60 votes it needs to advance, or it could get pulled too far in one direction or another during an open amendment process after that. Either road to demise would be unfortunate: The bill deserves to be approved, reconciled with a House-approved version and sent to President Obama.

The headline of the Senate's bill, sponsored by a varied group of Democrats and Republicans with Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) in the lead, is that it would end the government's

bulk collection of so-called metadata—phone calling records, for example. In its place, the bill would give the government authority to demand calling records from phone companies in specific cases, if the collection is "narrowly" limited. Even then, the government would have to discard information lacking bona-fide intelligence value, and its metadata collection operations would be subject to more oversight.

That's fine, but bulk metadata collection is not the most important issue the bill addresses. The act would bring change to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which helps oversee the NSA's activities. The court, which generally hears only the government's side of any issue, would get balance from a panel of advocates tasked with arguing for civil liberties when the judges are considering important questions of law. The proposal also foresees appeals courts reconsidering more FISA cases, and the bill would press for major court decisions to be released.

The bill would enable a more orderly and informed debate on NSA activities as well. It would require the government to release much more information on how much it is using various authorities and, crucially, on how many people's information it has swept up in the process. It also harmonizes the expiration of many surveillance authorities. Americans, then, would have more information to assess surveillance activities and a single date on which surveillance policy will be up for debate.

Technology companies have come out strongly in favor of the plan, as have many—though not all—civil liberties advocates. So, too, has the Obama administration. Though the intelligence community would have to change its behavior—significantly in certain programs—it would get clear legal authorities that it wants and an extended expiration timeline for some of them. It would also maintain its core, foreign-focused surveillance authorities without much change. Therein lies the bill's careful balance. As the Senate works on the proposal over the coming days, it should preserve that delicate and authentic compromise.

[From the New York Times, Nov. 17, 2014]

A CRUCIAL VOTE ON THE SURVEILLANCE BILL (Editorial)

The Republican Party is so badly fractured that it is impossible to tell what steps it will take on domestic surveillance once it assumes control of Congress in January. Its rising libertarian wing wants to crack down on abuses of Americans' privacy, but many of its leaders express full support for any action the intelligence agencies want to take.

That's why it's important that the Senate break a filibuster on the USA Freedom Act, which would reduce or end the bulk collection of telephone records, in a vote scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. If the bill doesn't pass in the current lame-duck session of the Senate, still controlled by Democrats, it may never get past the 60-vote hurdle in the next session of Congress.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, would require the National Security Agency to ask phone companies for the records of a specific person or address when it is searching for terrorists, instead of scooping up all the records in an area code or city. It would force the agency to show why it needs those records, and to disclose how much data is being collecting.

The bill would also create a panel of advocates to support privacy rights and civil liberties in arguments before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court; currently, there

is no one to offer opposition to government requests before the court. The government would have to issue clear summaries of the court's most significant rulings.

Not every potential surveillance abuse is addressed in the measure. For example, it leaves open the possibility of "backdoor" searches of American data that investigators come across when searching for the communications of foreigners. It exempts the F.B.I. from transparency on searches. And it is not clear whether the government believes there is some other hidden legal authority for bulk collection other than the one addressed in the USA Freedom Act.

Nonetheless, the bill is a good way to begin restoring individual privacy that has been systematically violated by government spying, revealed through the leaks provided by Edward Snowden. It has been supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and other privacy watchdogs. On Sunday, a group of the biggest technology companies—including Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Twitter—endorsed the bill because it allows more disclosure of the demands for information made of them by the government.

In addition to Senate Democrats, the bill is supported by some hard-right Republicans, including Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah. But Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who will soon be the Senate majority leader, has supported the N.S.A.'s spying on Americans. That's a good reason to pass it before a new Senate can water it down.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor, and I thank the distinguished Senator from California for giving me this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his remarks. They mean a lot.

I want to put this vote into perspective. This is a major decision. People sometimes say: Oh, what is the big deal. It is a little pipeline. We build pipelines all the time. Well, it is a major decision, and I know each of us, regardless of our party, before we cast a major vote, thinks about whether our vote is going to make life better for our people we represent, the people who send us here and who count on us every day. I am going to do everything in my power to make the case that building the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is going to make life worse for the people we represent and those generations to follow because I think I will prove today that misery follows the tar sands.

I said before it is called Keystone XL—extra lethal—not extra large but extra lethal. Senators should ask themselves three questions before they cast their vote on the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. First, why does it make any sense for the Senate to force the approval of a project that will bring millions of barrels of the dirtiest pollution you could think of into America? Why do we want to bring barrels of filthy, dirty, dangerous pollution into America? This isn't an ordinary pipeline. This pipeline is carrying tar sands oil, which is, in fact, the most polluting

kind of oil and I am going to tell you why. This isn't hyperbole.

Tar sands oil contains levels of toxic pollutants and metals that are much higher than conventional crude oil. I want to make this case. President Obama said when he became President that he would do everything in his power to make us energy efficient and to make us energy independent, and he has worked on both fronts. We have seen a tremendous rise in domestic oil production. It is not tar sands oil. It is not filthy oil. Conventional crude oil is different than the tar sands. The tar sands have 11 times more sulfur and nickel, 6 times more nitrogen, and 5 times more lead. Let me say that again.

Before we invite a 45-percent increase in this filthy, dirty oil, let's take a look at what this tar sands is. It has got more sulfur and nickel and nitrogen and more lead.

I know my colleague who is sitting in the chair cares deeply about environmental justice, and in the course of my presentation I am going to show what happens in places such as Port Arthur, TX, in minority communities when this oil is refined. We can show that photograph now.

What I am trying to impress on the body today is I am proving the point that I am making. The facts are the facts are the facts. This is what it looks like in Port Arthur, TX. This is what the kids have to put up with. Here is a playground in a low-income community, and I had the activists from Port Arthur, TX, here saying, please, please, please, protect us from this oil.

Now these dangerous pollutants I cited and these metals can be very harmful to human health. Sulfur dioxide penetrates deeply into sensitive parts of the lungs and it causes respiratory diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis. You will not hear a word about that from the proponents, but this needs to be looked at. This is why I stood with the nurses, that is why I stood with the public health doctors, to say time out for a minute here.

What are we doing to our people that we are saying we are helping with the tar sands?

It aggravates heart disease, leading to increased toxic emissions and premature death. Nitrogen dioxide increases symptoms in people with asthma. When I go to the various schools in my State, I ask the kids: How many of you have asthma or how many of you know someone who has asthma? Almost half the class raises their hands, if not more.

Tar sands will exacerbate that problem. We know how dangerous lead is, how long it took us to get lead out of paint. It adversely affects the nervous system, the kidney function, the immune system, the cardiovascular system. Misery follows the tar sands. The Keystone XL—extra lethal—pipeline.

We are talking about huge quantities coming through this pipeline—830,000 barrels of filthy tar sands oil coming across the Canadian border heading down to our gulf coast region every single day—again, a 45-percent increase in the tar sands oil, a 45-percent increase in those heavy metals and those dangerous pollutants. This project could be just the beginning.

We already know again, misery follows the tar sands from the extraction to the transportation to the refining to the waste disposal.

Let me show you a picture of petcoke, petroleum coke.

Again, it is an environmental justice question, because what we have is what is left after the refining, and it gets sent all across the country. This is a picture of petcoke piles in Chicago. Senator DURBIN is going to talk more about this. This is a serious environmental hazard. The poison that is in this residue in a windstorm just blows around and we have stories in the press in Chicago of a Little League game being interrupted because the petcoke was blowing all over the field, and the kids were getting pitch black with the petcoke.

So, yes, I have stood with doctors and nurses and people in these communities who have faced harm along each step of the tar sands oil process. These are cancer-causing pollutants. So when somebody tells you: Oh, this is nothing. This is a pipeline. We have a lot of pipelines. This is nothing. No big deal. Why are you fighting? Why are you standing up here? Why did I demand 3 hours of time in opposition? Because this is a dangerous project.

Why should we vote to force the approval of a project that would bring this dirty, polluted tar sands into the United States when we know it is the most difficult type of oil to clean up in case of a spill?

According to the EPA, tar sands oil creates especially difficult challenges to clean up when the pipelines rupture because it is so heavy it sinks to the bottom of the water. You only have to look at the spill in Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010 which they still haven't cleaned up.

In Mayflower, AK, in 2013, we will show you a picture from there. This is what happened when there was a spill. These spills are not cleaned up. This came right into residential communities. So again, dirty, filthy oil and the toughest to clean up in case of a spill. We know as sure as I am standing here if this is built there will be a spill, because that happens; and it has already happened in 2010 and in 2013.

Of the projected 830,000 barrels of tar sands oil, most of it isn't going to our domestic use. And that is the other question. Why would you want to bring this dirty, polluted tar sands oil that you cannot clean up into our country if practically all of it is going to be exported? And we will have to bear the

burdens of the refining, the filth in the air, the petcoke in our cities, as we see the products being exported to other countries.

Now I could stop here—I am sure the proponents wish I would, but I am not, because if you are not convinced this is an enormous mistake, I have got five reasons—a deeper look at the health of our people. I have already said tar sands is the filthiest oil on the planet. And I have already told you that I have stood with nurses and doctors to make this point. Downwind from the tar sands extraction site and the refineries in Canada there are significantly higher levels of dangerous pollutants and carcinogens have been documented.

People living in the nearby communities are suffering. I have met them. I have talked to them on the phone. They flew down here to stand by my side to call attention to the health impacts. People living in nearby communities are suffering higher rates of cancers linked to toxic chemicals including leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. That is a fact. The big oil companies won't talk about it. The Koch brothers won't talk about it. My Republican friends won't talk about it. But I am going to talk about it and I am going to enter into the RECORD a University of California-Irvine, University of Michigan peer-reviewed study documenting elevated cancer rates near tar sands processing zones. This was a peer-reviewed article dated September 2013.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT—AIR QUALITY IN THE INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND OF ALBERTA, CANADA AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH

(By Isobel J. Simpson, Josette E. Marrero, Stuart Batterman, Simone Meinardi, Barbara Barletta, Donald R. Blake)

HIGHLIGHTS

Alberta's Industrial Heartland is Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing center.

We characterize 77 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted in this region.

Dozens of VOCs, including carcinogens, were enhanced in the industrial plumes.

Sources include propene fractionation, diluent separation and bitumen processing.

Male hematopoietic cancer rates are higher in this region than elsewhere in Alberta.

ABSTRACT

The "Industrial Heartland" of Alberta is Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing center, with more than 40 major chemical, petrochemical, and oil and gas facilities. Emissions from these industries affect local air quality and human health. This paper characterizes ambient levels of 77 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the region using high-precision measurements collected in summer 2010. Remarkably strong enhancements of 43 VOCs were detected, and concentrations in the industrial plumes were often similar to or even higher than levels

measured in some of the world's largest cities and industrial regions. For example maximum levels of propene and *i*-pentane exceeded 100 ppbv, and 1,3-butadiene, a known carcinogen, reached 27 ppbv. Major VOC sources included propene fractionation, diluent separation and bitumen processing. Emissions of the measured VOCs increased the hydroxyl radical reactivity (k_{OH}), a measure of the potential to form downwind ozone, from 3.4 s^{-1} in background air to 62 s^{-1} in the most concentrated plumes. The plume value was comparable to polluted megacity values, and acetaldehyde, propene and 1,3-butadiene contributed over half of the plume k_{OH} . Based on a 13-year record (1994–2006) at the county level, the incidence of male hematopoietic cancers (leukemia and non-Hodgkin lymphoma) was higher in communities closest to the Industrial Heartland compared to neighboring counties. While a causal association between these cancers and exposure to industrial emissions cannot be confirmed, this pattern and the elevated VOC levels warrant actions to reduce emissions of known carcinogens, including benzene and 1,3-butadiene.

1. INTRODUCTION

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted from natural biogenic sources such as vegetation and biomass burning, and from anthropogenic sources such as the production, distribution and consumption of fossil fuels, including vehicular emissions (Guenther et al., 2000; Buzcu and Fraser, 2006). VOCs play key roles in the radiative forcing and chemistry and of the atmosphere, for example producing tropospheric ozone (O_3) and secondary organic aerosol (SOA) (Sillman, 1999; Robinson et al., 2007). VOCs also control concentrations of the hydroxyl radical (OH) (Guenther et al., 1995), the principal oxidizing agent in the troposphere. Several halogenated VOCs are potent greenhouse gases and cause stratospheric ozone depletion, and are regulated under the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments (MPA) (UNEP, 2012).

In addition to their influence on air quality and climate, VOCs are of concern because of their potential health effects. As examples, benzene and 1,3-butadiene are known carcinogens (IARC, 2010). Biological evidence supports the causal linkage between certain pollutants and certain cancers, for example, between leukemia incidence/mortality and exposure to benzene (Snyder, 2002; Forrest et al., 2005) and 1,3-butadiene (Cheng et al., 2007; Kirman et al., 2010). Increased rates of leukemia, melanoma and genotoxic risk have been shown in petroleum workers and populations living downwind of petrochemical facilities such as oil refineries (Wong and Raabe, 2000; Whitworth et al., 2008; Barregard et al., 2009; Basso et al., 2011), although elevated rates and cancer mortality are not consistently observed (Tsai et al., 2004; Axelsson et al., 2010).

Established in the 1950s, the Industrial Heartland of Alberta is currently a large (582 km^2) industrial area with more than 40 companies, including chemical, petrochemical, and oil and gas facilities (<http://www.industrialheartland.com>). It is situated about 30 km northeast of Edmonton ($53^\circ 32'N$, $113^\circ 30'W$; population 812,000) and a few km northeast of Fort Saskatchewan ($53^\circ 43'N$, $113^\circ 13'W$; population 19,000) in an otherwise rural farming area Alberta (Fig. 1 and Fig. S1). The Industrial Heartland is the largest hydrocarbon processing region in Canada, and major land holding include Shell Canada, Dow Chemical Canada, and Provident Energy & Williams Energy Canada (now Pembina Pipeline & Williams Energy Can-

ada) (<http://www.industrialheartland.com>). Their products include ethane, propane, propene, butane, styrene, hexane, benzene, heavy aromatics, synthetic crude oil and condensate (AIHA, 2012). For example, Shell Scotford is the largest land holding in the Heartland and includes a chemical plant, a refinery, and an upgrader that separates diluent and processes bitumen from oil sands mined approximately 450 km to the north, with a current processing capacity of 255,000 barrels/day (AIHA, 2012).

Industrial emissions in the Heartland affect the local air quality, for example causing intermittent odor episodes in the nearby community of Fort Saskatchewan. However, there have been very few independent, peer-reviewed analyses of air quality in the region. Thirty VOCs were measured in the Heartland from 2004 to 2006, and elevated VOC levels were attributed primarily to industry followed by vehicles (Mintz and McWhinney, 2008). Air quality is monitored locally by the Fort Air Partnership (FAP), a multi-stakeholder group with members from industry, government and the public (<http://www.fortair.org>). Though the FAP data have not been published in the peer-reviewed literature, they show several exceedances of Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO) in 2010 for $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2 , NH_3 and NO_2 (FAP, 2010). There were no reported O_3 exceedances in 2010 both for AAAQO standards (82 ppb in 1 h) and for Canada-Wide Standards (65 ppb in 8 h). The annual O_3 average for 2010 was 22 ppb, and a maximum 1-h O_3 value of 72 ppb was recorded in June (FAP, 2010).

Here we present concentrations of VOCs and carbon monoxide (CO) measured in the Industrial Heartland in August 2010, and we discuss potential impacts of industrial VOC emissions on air quality and on human health in the local population.

2. METHODS

2.1. Ground-based air sampling

Previously our group identified VOC emission hot-spots within a $12 \times 12 \text{ km}$ region of the Industrial Heartland, during a grid study on April 10, 2008 ($n = 58$) as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in the Heartland (unpublished data). For example, maximum levels of benzene, ethylbenzene and styrene downwind of the Shell Scotford complex were 1.6, 2.0 and 4.0 parts per billion by volume (ppbv, 10^{-9}), respectively, or 19, 435 and 6070 times higher than local background concentrations measured on the same day. During the 2010 study the sampling strategy focused on these emission hotspots. Speciated VOC measurements were obtained by collecting whole air samples (WAS) into evacuated 2 L stainless steel canisters, followed by analysis at our University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) laboratory using multi-column gas chromatography (see Supplementary material). Individual air samples were collected concurrently at an upwind farm and downwind of several Heartland industries throughout the day and evening of August 12 and 13, 2010 ($n = 80$; Fig. 1). In many but not all cases, strong odors were associated with samples collected downwind of industrial activity. Because the sampling campaign occurred over a limited 2-day time frame, the results are not intended to represent an assessment of conditions over longer time scales.

Based on climate data from 1990 to 2002, the predominant wind direction in the Fort Saskatchewan area (Strathcona County) is from the southwest (SW) quadrant in fall and winter, the northwest (NW) and southeast quadrants in spring, and NW in summer

(McCallum et al., 2003). During this study most of the sampled air masses arrived from the NW—i.e., not from Edmonton to the SW—at a median wind speed of 15 km h⁻¹ or a moderate breeze (Fig. S2). Therefore we do not expect emissions from Edmonton to be a confounding factor in this study. The temperature ranged from 14 to 21 °C (<http://www.casadata.org/Reports/SelectCategory.asp>) and conditions were overcast with occasional drizzle and rain—in other words not ideal for active *in situ* photochemistry.

2.2. Laboratory analysis

Each air sample was returned to UC Irvine and analyzed within 10 days for CO and 77 VOCs, including C₁–C₁₀ hydrocarbons, C₁–C₂ halocarbons, C₁–C₅ alkyl nitrates and C₁–C₂ sulfur compounds. Our analytical procedures and calibration protocols are described in the Supplementary material. The detection limit of our measurements varies by compound and ranges from 0.005 to 100 pptv (Tables S1–S3). The measurement precision and accuracy also vary by compound and are 3% and 5%, respectively, for alkanes, alkenes and aromatics. Rigorous sensitivity tests have shown that most measured VOCs are stable within our canisters, though oxygenated hydrocarbon levels can increase or decrease at a rate of a few percent per day, which is reflected by their more poorly constrained precision and accuracy (Tables S1–S3).

2.3. VOC data analysis

Trace gas concentrations typically vary with factors including season and latitude. During this study the background VOC concentrations showed little diurnal variability for most compounds (Fig. S3), and the upwind farm samples were used to calculate the average local background concentrations for this latitude and time of year ($n = 8$). Because the plume samples were collected outside the perimeter of the industrial facilities, perhaps 500 m or more downwind of the emission source, the extent to which the plumes had become mixed and diluted with background air before being sampled is unclear. As a result the industrial plume averages were calculated as the average of the top 10th percentile concentrations for each species ($n = 8$). We note that these industrial plume values will be less concentrated than stack samples.

2.4. Human health data analysis

To investigate potential impacts of exposure to industrial pollutants on human health, in particular cancer incidences, two memos, tables and figures were obtained from the Alberta Cancer Board (Chen, 2006, 2008) under the Canadian Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. These documents provide limited analyses of cancer incidences in the region, specifically comparing the three-county area of Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County and Sturgeon County (Fig. 1) to the rest of the Edmonton-area health region, and also to the rest of Alberta. Currently Fort Saskatchewan houses 18 major industries, Strathcona County has 16 industries, and Sturgeon County has 9 industries (AIHA, 2012).

Based on surveillance data from 1994 through 2006 (inclusive), Chen (2008) remarks that the age-standardized incidence rates for male hematopoietic cancer and male non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the three-county area are elevated with respect to the two comparison areas. We extended this analysis by computing the mean (\pm Standard error) standardized incidence rate for male

hematopoietic cancers in the three-county region using two five-year periods (1997–2001 and 2002–2006) that help to reduce the year-to-year fluctuations in cancer cases (since the population is relatively small).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. VOC concentrations

Complete results for the 2010 sampling campaign are summarized in Tables S1–S3. With the exception of methane (CH₄), which is long-lived and relatively abundant in the atmosphere, background VOC levels ranged from sub- or low- parts per trillion by volume (pptv, 10⁻¹²) up to low ppbv levels. By comparison, concentrations of many VOCs were clearly elevated in the industrial plumes compared to background values (Tables S1 and S2). Of the 77 measured VOCs, 43 were very strongly enhanced in the plumes, with concentrations spanning roughly 1 to 4 orders of magnitude (Fig. 2a–f and Fig. S4a–c). These compounds include all 14 aromatics that were measured, 12 alkanes, 6 alkenes, 5 oxygenated compounds, 5 halocarbons and ethyne (Table S1). After CH₄, the most abundant VOCs in the industrial plumes were, in descending order, propene (maximum of 107 ppbv), *i*-pentane (103 ppbv), *n*-pentane (97 ppbv), acetaldehyde (74 ppbv) and 2-methylpentane (62 ppbv). By comparison, their average background levels ($\pm 1\sigma$) ranged from 0.031 \pm 0.013 ppbv to 1.4 \pm 0.8 ppbv, or factors of 55–1980 lower. The most strongly enhanced compounds were methyl *tert*-butyl ether (enhanced by up to a factor of 6194), ethylbenzene (6179 \times), 3-methylpentane (4414 \times), *trans*-2-butene (3609 \times) and 2,3-dimethylbutane (3048 \times).

An additional 15 compounds showed small-to-moderate, statistically significant enhancements (up to 1.06–2.8-fold) in the industrial plumes compared to background values (Table S2). These include CH₄, two sulfur compounds (DMS, OCS), three methyl halides (CH₃I, CH₃Br, CH₃Cl), three brominated compounds (CH₃Br, CH₂Br₂, CHBr₃), four long-lived halocarbons (9–26 years; HCFC-141b, HCFC-142b, HCFC-22, CCl₄), and three short-lived solvents (1–5 months; acetone, methyl acetate, CHCl₃) (Fig. S2d–f). With the exception of CH₄, their plume averages remained below 1 ppbv (Table S2). Although carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) is restricted under the MPA, the precision of these measurements is 1% (about 0.8 pptv at the measured mixing ratios), and CCl₄ shows clear and measurable enhancements in industrial plumes downwind of Dow and Shell compared to the background of 89.4 \pm 0.4 pptv (Fig. S2f).

We speculate that these elevated plume concentrations are due to emissions from pre-existing reservoirs.

Carbon monoxide and the remaining 19 of 77 measured VOCs showed similar concentration ranges in both background air and plumes, and were not appreciably impacted by industrial emissions (Fig. S3a–d). This group comprises a number of halocarbons (CFCs, halons, CH₃CCl₃, HFC-134a, 1,2-dichloroethene), biogenic compounds (isoprene, α -pinene and β -pinene) and alkyl nitrates (Table S3). Several of the halocarbons are restricted under the MPA, and their lack of industrial emission is not surprising (Fig. S3a). Although the pinenes have previously shown an unexpected association with industrial emissions from oil sands operations near Fort McMurray (Simpson et al., 2010), an industrial signature was not evident here (Fig. S3b). Carbon monoxide was not enhanced in the industrial plumes (Fig. S3c), showing that combustive sources (including vehicular emissions) did not significantly

impact the measured plumes. Alkyl nitrate levels remained in the low pptv range (Fig. S3d), indicating little evidence of secondary photochemistry. This is most likely explained by a combination of unfavorable conditions for *in situ* photochemistry (Section 2.1) and the short travel time from plume emission to sample collection. For example, an emitted plume could reach the sampling sites in as little as a few minutes based on a wind speed of 10–20 km h⁻¹ (Section 2.1) and a downwind sampling distance of 500 m.

3.2. Emission signatures

Based on linear correlations among the measured VOCs using least squares linear fits (Simpson et al., 2010), the emitted VOCs fell into at least five distinct correlating groups. First, the C₃–C₄ alkenes were strongly correlated ($0.99 \leq r^2 \leq 1.00$), driven by high concentrations measured downwind of the Provident/Williams facility (Fig. 2a), which includes a natural gas liquids and propene fractionation project and produces C₂–C₄ alkanes and C₃–C₄ butenes (AIHA, 2012). Remarkably, the maximum propene level (107 ppbv) was almost double that measured in the Houston-Galveston Bay area (56 ppbv), even though Houston is both a much larger metropolitan area than Fort Saskatchewan and the largest petrochemical manufacturing center in the United States (Nyerson et al., 2003; Gilman et al., 2009).

Second, the C₅–C₇ alkanes and methacrolein were highly correlated ($0.81 \leq r^2 \leq 1.00$), with largest concentrations downwind of Shell Scotford, which separates diluent and processes bitumen (Section 1), and Access Pipeline, which produces diluent and blended bitumen (Fig. 2 and Fig. S4a). The maximum *n*-hexane level (52 ppbv) was 2.5–17 times higher than maximum values measured in some of the world's megacities (Beijing, Mexico City, and Tokyo) (Parrish et al., 2009), although lower than the maximum levels measured during a ship-based study in Houston/Galveston Bay (81 ppbv) (Gilman et al., 2009). Simpson et al. (2010) associated elevated levels of C₄–C₉ alkanes with emissions from oil sands and its products and/or diluent, and this second group of VOCs is consistent with a diluent/bitumen signature. Even though methacrolein and methyl vinyl ketone are both major isoprene oxidation products (Montzka et al., 1993) they were uncorrelated during this study ($r^2 < 0.01$). Because the maximum methacrolein level (20 ppbv) far exceeds the amount that isoprene oxidation chemistry can explain, its excess concentrations are attributed to industrial emissions.

Third, acetaldehyde (Fig. S4b), *i*-butane (Fig. 2c) and *n*-butane were correlated strongly with one another ($0.88 \leq r^2 \leq 0.98$) and somewhat with the C₃–C₄ alkenes ($0.58 \leq r^2 \leq 0.68$). Maximum levels of all three compounds (26–74 ppbv) were measured downwind of Provident/Williams, which produces C₂–C₄ alkanes (AIHA, 2012); Shell Scotford, which lists C₃–C₄ mix as a product; and Access Pipeline. Surprisingly, the maximum butane levels were comparable to those in central Mexico City during the mid-1990s when liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was a major source of butanes and contributed to poor air quality (Blake and Rowland, 1995). The characteristic emission ratio of *i*-butane/*n*-butane is 0.2–0.3 for vehicular exhaust, 0.46 for LPG, and 0.6–1.0 for natural gas (Russo et al., 2010 and references therein). Here the average ($\pm 1\sigma$) ratio in the top 10% of plumes (based on the highest *i*-butane and *n*-butane concentrations) was 0.47 \pm 0.18, similar to that for LPG and to that measured downwind of the oil sands industry (0.42 \pm 0.03)

(Simpson et al., 2010), suggesting that the *i*-butane/*n*-butane ratio for various petrochemical processes resembles that for LPG. The main global source of acetaldehyde is photochemical hydrocarbon oxidation, with a relatively small industrial source (Singh et al., 2004; Millet et al., 2010). Here, however, the very high acetaldehyde levels cannot be explained by secondary photochemical production (Section 3.1) and they are attributed to direct industrial emission from various facilities. For example, the Shell Scotford chemical plant reportedly released 3.9 tonnes of acetaldehyde in 2010 (NPRI, 2012).

Fourth, toluene and the xylenes correlated strongly with one another ($0.79 \leq r^2 \leq 0.98$) and with the second group of compounds ($0.60 \leq r^2 \leq 0.89$). The highest levels of toluene and the xylenes (2.7 ppbv and 0.65–3.4 ppbv, respectively) were measured downwind of the Shell Scotford complex (Fig. S4c), which lists heavy aromatics among its products. The maximum toluene level was 69 times higher than background (Table S1), but lower than maximum values in megacities such as Mexico City, Tokyo and Beijing (~10 ppbv) and near major petrochemical complexes in Texas and Spain (16–77 ppbv) (Gilman et al., 2009; Ras et al., 2009).

Fifth, *n*-octane and the C_9 aromatics (ethylbenzene, trimethylbenzenes, *n*-propylbenzene) correlated strongly ($0.74 \leq r^2 \leq 1.00$), and with highest concentrations downwind of the Shell Scotford complex. The maximum ethylbenzene mixing ratio (23 ppbv; Fig. 2d) was much larger than for other compounds in this group (0.22–0.83 ppbv), indicating clear emissions of this possible carcinogen. The Shell Scotford refinery manufactures a range of products including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, and reportedly released 0.562 tonnes of ethylbenzene in 2010 (NPRI, 2012).

Other chemicals were clearly emitted but did not necessarily correlate strongly with other VOCs. Ethane and propane were moderately correlated ($r^2 = 0.62$), with highest levels measured downwind of Keyera and Provident/Williams (ethane and propane) and Dow Chemical (ethane only). The maximum propane mixing ratio (45 ppbv) was lower than in Houston/Galveston Bay (347 ppbv) (Gilman et al., 2009). Benzene showed some correlation with ethylbenzene ($r^2 = 0.58$) and the highest benzene level (6.6 ppbv; Fig. 2e) was measured downwind of Shell Scotford, which produces benzene and reportedly released 2.5 tonnes of benzene from its refinery in 2010 (NPRI, 2012). The highest 1,3-butadiene level was also measured downwind of the Shell facility (27 ppbv; Fig. 2f), though 1,3-butadiene is not listed in the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) for Shell. The combustion tracers ethene and ethyne were only weakly correlated ($r^2 = 0.52$) and their highest concentrations were measured downwind of Dow, which produces ethene. Ethene/ethyne ratios of 1–3 and 10–30 are characteristic of tailpipe emissions and petrochemical facilities, respectively (Ryerson et al., 2003). Here the ethene/ethyne ratio was 9.7 ± 1.0 , which confirms the industrial rather than vehicular nature of the observed plumes.

3.3 Air quality impacts

The contribution of individual VOCs to O_3 formation is a function of their concentration and their reactivity towards OH, and can be expressed as the total OH reactivity (k_{OH}) (Kovacs et al., 2003; Mao et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2011):

$$k_{OH} = \sum (k_{OH+VOC_i}[VOC_i] + k_{OH+CO}[CO] + k_{OH+NO}[NO] + k_{OH+NO_2}[NO_2] + \dots) \quad (1)$$

Here k_{OH} is used to evaluate the relative contributions of CO and the measured VOCs to downwind photochemistry. Because we did not measure nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which can contribute 15–50% to k_{OH} in cities such as Houston, Mexico City and New York (Mao et al., 2010), the reactivity reported here is likely underestimated and is understood to be only for the measured species, rather than total OH reactivity.

The OH reactivity in background air was 3.4 s^{-1} , similar to clean air values of $1\text{--}3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Kim et al., 2011; Lou et al., 2010). Not surprisingly, isoprene was the primary contributor to k_{OH} in background air, followed by CO, acetaldehyde and CH_4 (Fig. 3a). By contrast, k_{OH} in the top 10th percentile of data with highest VOC loadings was 62 s^{-1} , or 18 times larger than background. Even though we have missing reactivity, this plume k_{OH} value is already comparable to levels in polluted megacities such as Mexico City, Tokyo and Hong Kong/Guangzhou, which typically range from 10 to 100 s^{-1} (Lou et al., 2010 and references therein). Because of their abundance and reactivity, propene, acetaldehyde and 1,3-butadiene were responsible for more than 50% of k_{OH} in the plumes, while alkanes contributed another 23% (Fig. 3b). These results show some similarity to airborne studies in the greater Houston area, where propene and ethene were identified as the two VOCs primarily responsible for rapid O_3 formation (Ryerson et al., 2003; deGouw et al., 2009) and alkene emissions from petrochemical facilities are the primary source of formaldehyde, also an O_3 precursor (Parrish et al., 2012).

Despite the abundance of VOC precursors and strong OH reactivity in the industrial plumes, no O_3 exceedances were measured in the Fort Saskatchewan region in 2010 (Section 1). In general, the highest monthly O_3 averages occur during spring, and the highest 1-h O_3 averages occur during hot summer afternoons when wind speeds are low (FAP, 2010). Ozone levels are lower within the center of the Heartland airshed, likely due to the presence of NO_x which lower O_3 concentrations through titration (FAP, 2010). Simpson et al. (2010) also found relatively low levels of O_3 downwind of the Alberta oil sands because titration with NO exceeded O_3 production on the short time-scale since precursor emission. Overall, it appears that industrial VOC sources in the Fort Saskatchewan area are emitted into a relatively clean background for O_3 , and local O_3 exceedances are not common.

3.4 Gaps in VOC emission reporting

Although 43 of 77 measured VOCs were strongly elevated in the industrial plumes compared to local background concentrations, only 16 were quantified in the 2010 NPRI for the industries discussed in this paper (ethene, propene, 1,3-butadiene, 1,2-dichloroethane, *n*-hexane, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, total xylenes, styrene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, acetaldehyde, carbonyl sulfide, chloroform, trichloroethene, HCFC-22; NPRI, 2012), with individual companies reporting 0–10 VOCs. As a first example, while strongly elevated levels of at least a dozen $C_2\text{--}C_8$ alkanes were detected downwind of several Industrial Heartland facilities (Table S1, Fig. 2b–c and Fig. S4a), only *n*-hexane is included in the NPRI. The VOCs reported in the NPRI include light alkenes and are weighted towards aromatic species, yet our study shows that alkanes are a leading contributor to k_{OH} in the Heartland (Fig. 3b). Second, while 1,3-butadiene is a known carcinogen, emissions of this VOC are reported by only one of the companies considered here.

Even when emission rates are reported, they require verification to ensure that the reporting is accurate. For example, recent NPRI listings of VOC emission rates (including benzene) from an unnamed Canadian refinery were found to be underestimated by 15–18-fold (Chambers et al., 2008). In addition to improved reporting of speciated VOCs in the NPRI or other publically available inventories, especially 1,3-butadiene and light alkanes, we recommend independent air quality monitoring and VOC emission estimates in the Heartland region so that emitted compounds can be externally identified, quantified and reported in the peer-reviewed literature.

3.5 Human health impacts

Of the 77 VOCs measured here, at least 10 are either known human carcinogens (Group 1: benzene, 1,3-butadiene), probable carcinogens (Group 2A: trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene), or possible carcinogens (Group 2B: carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, 1,2-dichloroethane, dichloromethane, ethylbenzene, isoprene, styrene) (IARC, 2010). Of these, 1,3-butadiene and ethylbenzene were the most abundant in the industrial plumes, with maximum levels of 23–27 ppbv, or 3–4 orders of magnitude larger than their background values (Table S1).

An analysis of cancer incidences in the Industrial Heartland shows elevated incidence rates of male hematopoietic cancers in the three-county area where the industries are located (Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County and Sturgeon County) compared to neighboring regions for both 1997–2001 and 2002–2006, although the error bars are large due to small sample sizes (Fig. 4). Several steps would help to confirm such trends and possibly provide a more direct link between these cancers and emissions of toxic VOCs in the Heartland: improved estimates of VOC emissions and exposure estimates that included more detail and historical data; better cancer surveillance that included regular evaluations, breakdown by cancer type (e.g., myelogenous, monocytic and lymphocytic leukemias) and geocoding of cases; collection of potential covariates and confounders (e.g., residence and work history); and use of statistical and epidemiological techniques to investigate spatial, temporal and exposure-related patterns of disease in the community.

Elevated risk of hematopoietic cancers has also been found in other populations living downwind of industrial facilities, even at relatively low VOC exposures. For example, leukemia incidence in an exposed population living near a large Swedish oil refinery known to emit benzene and other VOCs was significantly elevated (33 cases vs. 22 expected cases) compared to local controls (50 cases vs. 56 expected), despite an estimated refinery contribution to annual average VOC concentrations of only 0.63 ppb for benzene and 0.23 ppb for 1,3-butadiene (Barregard et al., 2009). The authors note that risk estimates extrapolated from high-level exposure would not predict an increase of leukemia at low VOC exposures, and they suggest that risk estimates using standard carcinogenic unit risk or slope factors do not adequately represent true risks from much lower exposures. As a second example of a population-based study, higher exposure to benzene and 1,3-butadiene in 886 census tracts surrounding Houston, Texas, was associated with increased incidence of childhood lymphohematopoietic cancers (Whitworth et al., 2008). Some of the highest exposures occurred in the Houston Ship Channel area, which contains a large number of petroleum and chemical industries.

Recommended exposure limits and risk-based criteria evolve as our understanding of the chemical toxicity of carcinogens improves. Using benzene as an example, the recommended exposure limit relevant for occupational settings has decreased from 100 ppm in 1947 to 1 ppm (Wong et al., 1999; McHale et al., 2010; Smith, 2010); the 1-h average ambient air quality guideline in Alberta is 9 ppb (Chambers et al., 2008). However, adverse health outcomes, including hematological changes and gene perturbations, have been reported at exposure levels below 1 ppm (McHale et al., 2010; Qu et al., 2002; Lan et al., 2004; Xing et al., 2010). Indeed, recent literature suggests that there is probably no safe exposure level to benzene because it does not appear to have a functional low-dose threshold, and because the effects of exposure appear to be additive in a linear or supralinear fashion (Smith, 2010). Further, in environmental settings (as compared to workplace), exposure to compound mixtures rather than a single compound at a time is common, and simultaneous exposure to complex mixtures, including multiple carcinogens, may involve interactions and possibly synergistic effects on target organs or systems at low exposure (Basso et al., 2011). Although VOC levels were significantly elevated above concurrent local background values in the Heartland, concentrations remained below existing guidelines for short-term exposure. Guidelines for long-term exposures generally use a risk-based approach, and there is considerable uncertainty regarding the unit risk factors that describe the toxicity of a chemical (or mixture) for the public and susceptible individuals, as well as debate over what is acceptable or protective. (A number of U.S. state and federal rules use individual lifetime cancer risks in the range of 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000,000.)

The elevated incidence of cancers within the Industrial Heartland that are known to be linked to VOCs released in the region raises questions regarding whether ambient levels, emission controls, and risk calculations are adequately protective of public health. In addition, on-site workers may be at increased risk because of their closer proximity to emission sources. While several factors might well explain an observation of increased cancer rates, e.g., variability of a population's genetic makeup, differences in dietary or lifestyle factors, and statistical variability, it is also important and responsible to improve health surveillance and VOC exposure measurements, to utilize epidemiological studies that can better link environmental factors to disease, and to reduce exposures to pollutants that might plausibly be related to adverse health impacts.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Ambient monitoring in the Industrial Heartland of Alberta, the largest hydrocarbon processing region in Canada, showed remarkable enhancements in VOC concentrations. Even though the Heartland is situated within a generally rural area, many maximum concentrations were comparable to those measured in the world's largest cities. Thirty VOCs were present at levels above 1 ppbv, and maximum propene and *i*-pentane levels exceeded 100 ppbv. Some of the largest VOC excesses were measured in samples designated as "no smell", showing that absence of odor does not necessarily indicate good air quality. The industrial plumes showed distinct chemical signatures that varied not only between facilities but also within individual facilities. An analysis of OH reactivity in the plumes suggests that propene, acetaldehyde and 1,3-butadiene have the greatest potential to form downwind O₃.

Excess numbers of hematopoietic cancers were observed in the same region that emits substantial quantities of complex mixtures of industrial pollutants, including several VOCs that are known to cause these cancers. While there are many factors that preclude a causal linkage, including a lack of exposure history for the local population and uncertainties associated with the health impacts of low exposures to multiple compounds, we suggest that immediate reductions in emissions of known carcinogens such as benzene and 1,3-butadiene are warranted and prudent.

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APPENDIX A. SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2013.09.017>.

Mrs. BOXER. Once it leaves Canada and is transported to refineries in the United States, the tar sands would increase the pollution in already plagued communities such as Port Arthur, which I showed you and I will show you again.

Port Arthur is already refining tar sands oil. This is going to greatly increase the amount of tar sands oil they are going to be refining. They are on the EPA's list of cities with dangerous ozone levels, people suffering from asthma, respiratory ailments, skin irritations, and cancer.

The oil companies aren't going to tell you about this and the Koch brothers aren't going to tell you about this and my Republican friends aren't going to tell you about this, but I am going to tell you about this. Tar sands will add another threat to Port Arthur and other communities that are already in distress.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article describing health problems experienced by families living near Port Arthur refineries, and it is entitled "Everyone Deserves Clean Air and Equal Protection From Pollution," dated August 12, 2014.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Chron, August 12, 2014]

EVERYONE DESERVES CLEAN AIR AND EQUAL PROTECTION FROM POLLUTION

EVERY ONE SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO BREATHE CLEAN, SAFE AIR

(By Hilton Kelley and Anne Rolfes)

Would you want your child to live next door to an oil refinery and face an increased risk for cancer, heart or breathing problems?

Millions of Americans live very close to some 150 oil refineries in 32 states, including our home states of Texas and Louisiana, and have an increased cancer risk because of the air pollution coming from refineries. Those most vulnerable to this pollution are disproportionately black, Latino, children and lower income.

Port Arthur, for instance, is home to eight major oil and chemical industrial sites, including oil refineries.

And cancer deaths in Jefferson County, where Port Arthur is located, are 40 percent higher among African Americans than they are for the average Texan, according to the Texas Cancer Registry.

Children in the predominantly Latino Manchester neighborhood of Houston—home to a Valero Refinery—have a 56 percent greater chance of getting leukemia than children who live elsewhere, according to researchers from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

By conservative estimates, oil refineries emit more than 20,000 tons of hazardous air pollutants each year, including cancer-causing benzene, lead and hydrogen cyanide.

This public health and environmental problem must be addressed. Everyone should have an equal right to breathe clean, safe air, including the people who live nearest the country's oil refineries. Now, there's a possibility of meaningful change nationwide. For the first time in nearly two decades, the EPA has proposed updated standards to reduce oil refineries' toxic air emissions. The current federal standards do not require the most recent and up-to-date technology that would limit hazardous air pollution and fail to protect public health. For example, the existing rules do not require refineries to monitor the hazardous pollutants they emit at the edge of the property where refineries are situated—called the fenceline—which would provide a more accurate measure of the pollutants that are really going into these communities.

In recent years, some refineries have adopted new technologies that reduce toxic air emissions and prevent pollution spikes and accidents. These pollution control methods are available and affordable, but they have not been adopted throughout the industry.

Under the EPA's proposed standards, oil refineries would be required to measure benzene, a carcinogen, at the fenceline as it drifts into the local community and then make that data publicly available. This is a significant proposal on a problem that communities living near refineries have been raising for years.

The proposed standards would require tighter controls on emissions from storage tanks and other parts of refineries that are major contributors to toxic air pollution.

The oil industry has objected to the new rules, claiming that they are unnecessary and burdensome. In reality, the EPA's analysis shows that the new rules will reduce toxic air pollution by 5,600 tons each year and that the cancer risk will be significantly reduced for 1 million people.

The costs to the industry will be negligible, according to the EPA, but even if the costs were significant, it would be worth it to save lives. It is not fair for children living near refineries to bear the hidden costs of oil production—in the form of cancer, asthma, birth defects and other serious illnesses—when the industry could fix a lot of problems and reduce the toxic pollution it creates.

The EPA's proposed rules on air pollution from oil refineries are a welcome step forward. The agency should, in fact, make the rule even stronger by doing more to protect people from the real-world health consequences of living next door to an oil refinery, by incorporating a fenceline monitoring requirement that would employ the best current technology to give neighborhoods a real-time, continuous measure of pollution,

not just a snapshot, and ensure refineries quickly fix pollution problems.

[From USA Today, Oct. 20, 2007]

TEXAS TOXIC TOWN LURES INDUSTRY WHILE
RESIDENTS WHEEZE
(By Monica Rhor)

PORT ARTHUR, TX.—There is a quiet battle for the future of this industrial town, one of America's most polluted places.

On one side is ex-mayor Oscar Ortiz, who in the waning days of his administration worried about one thing. But it wasn't the toxic chemicals that spewed from petrochemical plants, the town's richest landowners, through the windows of its poorest residents.

What rattled the white-maned, barrel-chested Ortiz, who ran Port Arthur for nine years, was that someday the petrochemical plants would go away.

"The only money here in the city of Port Arthur that amounts to anything comes from industry, from petrochemical companies," said Ortiz, leaning back in his chair in an office decorated with framed photographs of refineries. "If industry goes away, people might as well go away too because there'll be no money. That's the continued salvation of this city."

Hilton Kelley, like Ortiz born and raised in Port Arthur, is the opposition.

Kelley does worry about the toxic chemicals, the foul-smelling air and the west side residents who suffer from asthma, respiratory ailments, skin irritations and cancer. As the city's most visible environmental activist, Kelley has long campaigned for more restrictions on industrial construction and stricter monitoring of plant emissions.

"I grew up smelling the SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) smell, the chemicals. I remember seeing little kids with sores on their legs, with mucus running in August. It's ridiculous what we've had to deal with," says Kelley, a former actor with the sonorous voice of a radio announcer. "We're not trying to shut doors of industry. We're just trying to push these guys to do what's right."

Ortiz calls Kelley an alarmist who likes to "stir things up" in the minority community. Kelley accuses Ortiz of sacrificing the community's welfare in exchange for slim tax revenue from the plants.

One man represents Port Arthur the way it has always been; the other symbolizes a growing call for change.

But change, especially in a place like Port Arthur, never comes easily.

"This city is not going to change. It is a refinery town—tomorrow, next year, 100 years from now. It will always be a petrochemical area," says Ortiz.

And if its residents are getting sick from the pollution?

Well, says Ortiz: "We've all got to die of something."

Port Arthur, located next to the Louisiana line, sits in a corridor routinely ranked as one of the country's most polluted regions. Texas and Louisiana are home to five oil refineries considered among the nation's 10 worst offenders in releasing toxic air pollutants, emitting 8.5 million pounds of toxins together in 2002.

Yet even here, Port Arthur stands out.

Its skyline is framed by the smokestacks and knotted steel pipes of the refineries and chemical plants clustered along the edges of the town. Flares from the plants glow red against the night sky, as incinerated chemicals filter into the air.

The smell of rotten eggs and sulphur hangs stubbornly over the apartments and shotgun

houses on the west side. Port Arthur, population 57,000, is on the EPA's list of cities with dangerous ozone levels, and the state has flagged its excessive levels of benzene.

Many cities along the Texas Gulf Coast are dotted with refineries. But the companies' high tax bills are used to improve schools, create green space and bulk up city coffers. Port Arthur waives most property taxes to lure industry.

Eric Shaeffer, a former EPA official who runs the Environmental Integrity Project in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit advocacy group, has written two studies on pollution in Port Arthur. "It's one of the worst I've seen," he said.

The Veolia Environmental Services plant in Port Arthur recently alerted incinerating nearly 2 million gallons of VX hydrolysate, the wastewater byproduct of a deadly nerve gas agent.

Besides the pollution the state and EPA allow as part of the cost of doing business, the plants spew more toxins during "upset events"—unpermitted releases caused by lightning strikes, human error, start-ups and shutdowns.

Plant officials cite statistics showing steady progress in reducing some emissions, but Shaeffer cites a continuing hazard.

Around 2 a.m. Thursday, a pipeline explosion sent ethylene-fueled flames shooting 100 feet into the air. The Union Carbide-Dow Chemical pipeline lies about a quarter-mile from the nearest home, Kelley said. No injuries were reported, but officials warned people to stay indoors.

"When you get releases, it really hits people tight in the chest," said Shaeffer. "It's one thing to be driving past the plants on the highway. It's another thing for kids to be out on the swing sets when there's a release."

Jordan, 5, and Justin, 7, play on the swings at Carver Terrace, the public housing project they live in next door to refineries run by Motiva and Valero that produce half a million barrels of oil a day and belch thousands of pounds of pollutants into the air.

Jordan's lungs are so weakened from a life-long battle with asthma and bronchitis that he can't shout or call for help like other children, says their mother, LaShauna Green.

He must inhale medicine every four hours through a plastic mask that swamps his chubby face. Every two hours, he must take one of seven prescription drugs that keep his air passages from tightening.

Justin struggles to breathe after climbing just one flight of stairs.

Those troubles vanished when the Green family left the area for a year following 2005's Hurricane Rita. But two days after their return to Carver Terrace, Justin was rushed to a hospital twice in one day with respiratory attacks.

"When you start getting this kind of toxic chemical soup, we don't really know what the combination of all these things are doing," said Debra Morris, an assistant professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston who studied Port Arthur-area pollution.

Texas oil was first discovered near Port Arthur. For decades, the region nurtured industrial build-up with generous tax abatements. In return, the companies would promise to pay later and to create local jobs.

Ortiz defends the incentives as the only way to keep his city alive.

"The one main substance that keeps the city floating is the refineries," he said.

Refineries and chemical plants contribute about 67% of the city's budget through some taxes, Ortiz said. Still, without the abate-

ments the city would have collected tens of millions of dollars more.

The city of Port Arthur has at least 28 tax-abatement deals with refineries and chemical plants. Surrounding Jefferson County has at least six, including with Motiva, Total, and Valero, which will pay no property taxes for the first two years of a nine-year contract and then pay 10% of the taxes it would owe for the next seven.

Motiva will pay no taxes on a \$3.5 billion expansion project for the next three years. Total taxes rise to \$4.16 million by 2012.

Jeff Branick, assistant to Jefferson County executive Ron Walker, says the Motiva expansion is expected to create thousands of temporary construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs; Valero's project is expected to create 40 to 65 jobs, he said.

"It's going to be pumping a whole lot of money into the local economy," Branick said. "It creates hotel-motel tax revenue and will be attracting people from the outside who will be coming here to work and renting houses."

Ortiz also points to a new development on Pleasure Island, a resort with golf courses, new hotels and bustling shopping centers springing up on the city's south side. All, says Ortiz, spurred by the growth of the industrial complexes.

However, that prosperity bypassed Port Arthur's predominantly black west side and central city neighborhoods where singer Janis Joplin and sports legend Babe Zaharias were raised.

"This town is like a forgotten grandmother. It helped nourish the growth of the area, now all the wealth is moving (out)," said Kelley. "It's not fair to leave this entire community unnourished."

Despite the development Port Arthur is not as prosperous as other refinery towns. Its median household income is two-thirds the Texas average; its homes are valued at less than half the state average. Port Arthur public high school students pass the test required for graduation at about half the state rate.

By comparison, the Houston suburb of Deer Park—home to its own refinery row—collects more taxes from its petrochemical complex. Before the state equalized school funding, its school district was nearly the richest in the state. The median home price is 25% higher than the state average and its median household income is 30% above the state average.

Both cities have roughly the same percentage of residents in chemical or construction fields.

Kelley is not the only one raising questions about how things are done in Port Arthur.

Some city officials have also started to question the benefits of the tax abatement deals.

In most, companies promise to "give Port Arthur residents a fair opportunity to apply for employment" but don't require jobs go to city residents. One company's pledge to use local labor and contractors defined "local" as covering a nine-county region.

Councilman Michael Sinegal says he frequently hears from residents who say they have been rejected for jobs at the plants. Overall unemployment here is about 6%, while among blacks it's 14%, he said; the state rate is 4%.

"The bottom line is that the people of Port Arthur are getting the negative byproduct from the plants, but should be getting an abundance of positive byproduct," Sinegal said.

Valero said the refinery has hired 161 people since Jan. 1, 2005. About 20% live in Port Arthur.

The city council recently ordered a study on contractors' hiring practices so it can devise a monitoring plan.

"We've let the community down," Sinegal said.

In late August a group of 28 state lawmakers joined Kelley and others in urging Texas Gov. Rick Perry to block further shipments of VX hydrollysate to Port Arthur. Perry declined to intervene.

The latest assessment by state environmental regulators of Port Arthur showed that benzene had dropped to acceptable levels for the first time since 2000. Valero officials said they reduced emissions by more than 82% between 1996 and 2005, and had reduced "upset" emissions by 98%. Residents, however, still suffer higher rates of progressive pulmonary diseases than people elsewhere in the state.

Last year, Motiva agreed to give \$3.5 million to help fund medical care, air monitors and a revitalization program for Port Arthur's west side community. The agreement was part of a settlement with Kelley's Community In-Power Development Association, after it challenged the plant's expansion.

And, 50 years after Carver Terrace was built, the Port Arthur Housing Authority plans to demolish the units and move residents to new homes throughout the city.

Was Carver Terrace's proximity to the refinery the authority's prime motivation? No, said authority chief Cele Quesada. "Of course, in the back of everyone's mind, there is awareness that we are on the fence line. We would rather see a green area here than 180 families."

The likely buyer? Motiva Enterprises.

Kelley, who was born in Apartment 1202-E in Carver Terrace, commented: "When you appeal to the conscience of man, how these things are impacting our children, you can get them to see our point. But a lot of the times, the bottom line still wins."

Mrs. BOXER. To get to the gulf coast, tar sands will be transported by pipeline through communities in environmentally sensitive areas in six States. We know from experience how harmful this could be, again, because of how hard it is to clean up after a spill, and we know about the petcoke. I have shown you the petcoke, which is black dust containing some heavy metals.

Open piles of this waste began to appear at unprecedented levels in midwestern communities and it sparked health and environmental concerns in many neighborhoods in Detroit and Chicago.

Let's take this back and show the Chicago picture again.

In this Chicago neighborhood, billowing black clouds of petcoke forced Little League players off the baseball field. The children were forced to seek cover from the clouds of black dust that pelted homes and cars. According to one newspaper, "Kids that were playing ball were sent scurrying away because the stuff was getting into their eyes, on to their faces and into their mouths and everything. They just had to get the heck out of there."

I would like to enter into the RECORD at this time an article that says, "In

Chicago, piles of petroleum coke suggest the future of Canadian tar sands oil," dated November 17, 2014.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD as well.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Marketplace, Nov. 18, 2013]

IN CHICAGO, PILES OF PETROLEUM COKE SUGGEST THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN TAR SANDS OIL

(By Dan Weissmann)

This summer, residents of Chicago's far southeast side noticed mountains of black dust growing in one corner of the neighborhood. It's petroleum coke—pet coke for short. That's what gasoline refineries produce as a byproduct of refining gasoline. It's full of carbon, sulphur and heavy metals.

On August 30, a big wind brought the coke piles to the whole neighborhood's attention. At a baseball field a block or two away, a little league game ended in a hurry.

"Kids that were playing ball were sent scurrying away because the stuff was getting into their eyes and their face and their mouths and everything," says Tom Shepherd, a volunteer with the Southeast Environmental Task Force. "They had to just get the heck out of here."

He calls the 30th "a day that will live in infamy." He says, "People were calling 911 and saying, 'There's a fire! We don't know where the fire is, but the neighborhood's full of smoke.'"

But it wasn't smoke. It was dust from the piles that had been growing throughout the summer.

They're a sneak preview of what's ahead. At least some of the dust came from a local BP refinery. It's across the state line in Indiana, but it can be seen from the neighborhood. And that refinery is about to triple the amount of pet-coke it turns out. BP is finishing a huge upgrade this fall, to process oil from Canada's tar sands.

That oil is "heavier" with elements that get refined out and turned into pet-coke. Post-upgrade, the Indiana refinery will turn out 6,000 tons a day. Eventually, it gets sold as fuel, much of it to countries like Mexico and China. But meanwhile, it piles up.

"It's the most visual part of the success of North American energy independence," says Phil Verleger, an economist who studies energy markets.

That success has both an upside and a downside: Nearby sources of oil should mean lower fuel prices in the Midwest, which has high gas prices. And more piles of pet coke.

"So the question is," Verleger says, "How do we deal with this pile of black stuff that's bringing us this supply of fuel?"

So far, nobody's got an answer.

In early November, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed a complaint in state court. Her office said the dust from the piles violated environmental regulations. Madigan says she doesn't know exactly what it would take to make pet-coke a good neighbor. "Well, you know, if it's not safe where it is, it may have to go somewhere else," she says.

That would be a popular answer on the Southeast Side. Last week, neighbors packed a local church when Illinois EPA officials came to gather input. Again and again, the meeting got stopped by a chant: "Move the piles! Move the piles!"

So far, neighbors have blamed BP and Koch Industries, which owns the yard with Chicago's pet-coke piles. BP and Koch say

there's been a misunderstanding so far. BP says that it wasn't actually sending more pet coke than usual to the Chicago yard this summer.

Koch has its own explanation for the taller piles: It was moving petroleum coke around in the yards to make room for new safety equipment. It installed big water cannons, which are supposed to keep the piles wet so the dust doesn't blow around. Making room meant more activity, and some piles got taller for a while.

Mrs. BOXER. Now when this petcoke started to blow all across the communities, residents felt they could not safely open the windows during the summer for fear the black clouds would trigger their children's asthma, and with good reason. We know this type of toxic air pollution can increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis, or contribute to other diseases.

Asthma. The Federal Government has said that asthma has become a national epidemic. This is a picture of a little girl who is having a hard time breathing.

I say to my friend from Kansas, I have another 15 minutes, just for his information.

This is a photo of a little girl who is having difficulty breathing because she has asthma. The Federal Government has said asthma has become "a national epidemic"—which is that 1 out of every 12 people, or 26 million Americans, and 7 million of these are children. We don't need more asthma. American communities don't need more petcoke. My Republican friends are not going to talk to you about asthma. They are not going to quote the oil companies saying what a great job they are doing preventing it. Ultimately, the Keystone tar sands pipeline decision should be based on whether the project is in the national interest.

Today I ask rhetorically of my colleagues: How are more Americans with asthma in the national interest? How are more Americans with cancer in the national interest? How is it in the national interest when kids playing baseball have to duck and cover from dangerous pollution?

The health of our children and our families is at stake, and we have a right to know how tar sands oil will affect our health. Unfortunately, we don't have all the information we need to have.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and I wrote to Secretary John Kerry and asked for a comprehensive health impact study on the tar sands oil and how the Keystone Pipeline will impact the health of communities across the Nation. We don't have the studies. Again, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I are not physicians. That is why we stood with the nurses and the doctors.

A Gallup poll has found 12 years in a row that nursing is the most trusted profession. So National Nurses United,

which is the Nation's largest professional association of registered nurses—185,000 strong—has joined our call for a comprehensive health study.

I ask unanimous consent to have their letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL NURSES UNITED,
March 13, 2014.

Hon. JOHN KERRY,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY KERRY, On behalf of the 185,000 registered nurses of National Nurses United, we are writing to endorse the request by Senators Barbara Boxer and Sheldon Whitehouse for an immediate, comprehensive State Department study on the human health impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project.

As the State Department must make a national interest determination on whether to approve the pipeline, NNU believes that a project that places the health and safety of Americans at substantial risk cannot possibly be in our national interest.

Therefore, we call on the State Department to issue an affirmative finding, prior to any final decision on the project, that the Keystone XL pipeline will have no adverse health impact on the U.S.

National Nurses United is the largest U.S. organization with 185,000 members in all 50 states, including those along the proposed path of the pipeline. NNU nurses now care daily for patients with health problems, including asthma, other respiratory disorders, cancer, skin diseases, and other ailments associated with environmental pollution.

Our organization has expressed our opposition to the pipeline, in particular to the health hazards already identified with tar sands oil, including tar sands extraction in Alberta, Canada, tar sands pipeline spills, and the effects of tar sands refining.

TAR SANDS HEALTH HAZARDS

In Alberta's Athabasca region, researchers have linked tar sands pollutants to carcinogens, elevated rates of leukemia and other cancers of the lymph and blood-forming systems. Water bodies within the watershed adjacent to tar sands production have been found to be contaminated with chemicals linked to cancer, genetic damage, birth defects, and organ damage, according to a National Academy of Sciences 2012 study.

Tar sands pipeline spills are a significant concern. The 2010 Kalamazoo River spill in Michigan—the effects of which are still being felt by that community—resulted in inhalation of benzene and other chemicals and more than 150 cases of illness. Michigan's Department of Public Health identified cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, neurological, ocular, dermal and respiratory impacts. Similarly, following a 2013 spill near Mayflower, AK, residents reported persistent coughs, headaches, nausea, and respiratory problems for months afterwards.

Refining raw bitumen from the tar sands is also likely to have a negative impact on health. Tar sands contains up to 11 times more sulfur than conventional crude oil with high levels of sulfur compounds linked to serious ailments of the nervous and respiratory systems. Residents of South East Texas, particularly refinery towns like Port Arthur and Houston, already live in known 'cancer zones.' Refining raw bitumen from the tar sands threatens to make a bad situation worse.

Further, the petroleum coke byproduct of tar sands refining dumped in large "petcoke" piles contains high concentrations of mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium, vanadium, and nickel. Black dust clouds from petcoke piles in Detroit and Chicago have led to neighborhood evacuations amidst concerns about accretion in homes and areas where children play. The EPA has said the particulate matter in the dust contributes to such health effects as heart attacks, decreased lung function, asthma and premature death.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

NNU is also concerned about the long term contribution that tar sands oil and the Keystone pipeline will make to the global rise on greenhouse gas emissions and the climate crisis.

In its Fourth Assessment Review (2007) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made a direct connection between global warming and climate instability to a wide range of negative health outcomes.

Higher air temperatures can increase bacteria-related food poisoning, such as salmonella, and animal-borne diseases such as West Nile virus. Ground level ozone contaminants can damage lung tissue, reduce lung function, and increase respiratory ailments. Pediatricians have said they are already witnessing a rise in vector-borne diseases including diarrhea, cholera, gastroenteritis, typhoid, and hepatitis due to environmental factors and the effects of climate change.

For several years NNU has been dispatching teams of RN volunteers to provide disaster relief in response to weather disasters, such as Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, and most recently Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, all of which many experts believe are fueled by climate change. Our members have provided care for thousands of patients who have suffered serious injuries as well as the loss of family members, their homes, and their livelihoods.

WE NEED A CHANGE OF COURSE

NNU concurs with Senators Boxer and Whitehouse that what is known today about the health hazards associated with the expansion of the tar sands could well be just a sampling of a much larger set of significant risks to human health. NNU believes that the health consequences of Keystone XL have been substantially ignored in State Departments FEIS, and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Nurses and their families are also affected by environmental pollution, and the increased harm associated with Keystone XL, greater tar sands operations, and the climate crisis. It is for our patients, our members, our families, and our communities, that we speak out, and urge you order an immediate health impact study and not authorize a pipeline that will harm our planet and our health.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH BURGER, RN,
KAREN HIGGINS, RN,
JEAN ROSS, RN,
Council of Presidents,
National Nurses
United.

Mrs. BOXER. The nurses concur with Senators BOXER and WHITEHOUSE that what is known today about the health hazards associated with the expansion of tar sands is just a sampling. They believe the consequences of Keystone XL have been substantially ignored in the State Department's final EIS, and it needs to be addressed.

The American Public Health Association wrote a letter, and I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD as well.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY & CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS,
April 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN KERRY,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY KERRY: We write in support of the request of Senators Barbara Boxer and Sheldon Whitehouse that the U.S. Department of State conduct a comprehensive study of the health impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, including a review of the available peer-reviewed research on the health impacts from the processing of tar sands.

Our organizations support the concept of "health in all policies" and the consideration of potential health impacts in all decisionmaking. There is an increasing recognition that the environments in which people live, work, learn and play have a tremendous impact on their health. The administration will certainly benefit by having a clear understanding of how the proposed Keystone XL pipeline could impact the public's health, including the health of our most vulnerable citizens.

The full spectrum of health considerations are often overlooked in important decisions and their omission can lead to policies and practices that are unnecessarily harmful to public health. We thank you for your consideration and strongly urge you to respond positively to the senators' request for a comprehensive study of the health impacts of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

GEORGES BENJAMIN, MD,
Executive Director.
ROBERT M. PESTRONK,
Executive Director.

Mrs. BOXER. They say the same thing.

There is an increasing recognition that the environments in which people live, work, and learn have a tremendous impact on their health. The administration will certainly benefit by having a better understanding of how the proposed Keystone Pipeline could impact the public health.

They go on to say: The full spectrum of health considerations are often overlooked, and their omission can lead to policies and practices that are unnecessarily harmful to the public health.

Maybe Senators feel they know more than doctors and nurses. Maybe they do. Good luck. They don't. We should listen to doctors and nurses just like we should listen to scientists when they talk to us about climate change.

This whole thing of saying "I am not a scientist," yes, that is right, you are not, Republicans. Listen to the scientists. This answer is perplexing to me. If you are not a scientist, then be humble and listen to the peer-reviewed scientists. If you are not a doctor or a nurse, be humble. They don't have a

special interest; they have an interest in giving us information on which we should base our decisions.

Now I am going to talk about the environment. This pipeline is going to go through the Ogallala Aquifer—one of the world's largest underground sources of freshwater. It provides water to farms in eight States, accounting for a quarter of the Nation's cropland as well as municipal drinking wells. Remember what I said before: When this oil gets into water, it is the most difficult oil to clean up because it is so heavy. Well, there are 2,537 wells within 1 mile of the proposed pipeline, including 39 public water supply wells, and 20 private wells within 100 feet of the pipeline right-of-way. If the pipeline were to leak near the aquifer, the tar sands oil would quickly seep into the sandy soil and contaminate the water supply for millions of people. I have already shown you a spill in Arkansas. These spills happen. If a spill occurred near any of these aquifers, it would be tragic.

Local residents know the harm the pipeline could cause. I will show you pictures of locals objecting to the pipeline.

In April, a group of ranchers, farmers, and tribal leaders gathered in Washington, DC, for a rally. They wanted to send a strong signal to Congress that they want their way of life protected—their farms, their tribal lands, and their ranches.

You are going to hear from proponents of the tar sands who will say the Keystone Pipeline will be a safe alternative to rail shipment of oil, but experience tells us otherwise.

In 2010 that pipeline ruptured, spilled over 1 million gallons in Michigan. The local health department ordered the evacuation of 50 households, and approximately 100 families were advised not to drink water. One resident living near the Kalamazoo River had to abandon her home because the stench from the spill made her dizzy, nauseous, and sick—classic signs of acute exposure to tar sands. Another resident who was pregnant said she could not breathe. She said:

My eyes were burning, and my nose was burning. It smelled like a diesel tanker had turned over in the front of my house.

You will not hear this from the proponents.

The Michigan spill was the largest inland spill in history, and more than 4 years and \$1 billion later, it is not cleaned up. This summer parts of the Kalamazoo River were closed as dredging efforts continued to remove oil from the bottom of the river.

Earlier I spoke about Arkansas. Residents were exposed to benzene—a known carcinogen—and hydrogen sulfide. People suffered from dizziness, nausea, headaches, respiratory problems—all classic symptoms of exposure to the chemicals found in the tar sands.

There is a section of tar sands that has already been built in the gulf region, and it is already experiencing problems that could result in a pipeline spill, but you will not hear that from the proponents. According to Bloomberg Businessweek, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, found a systemic problem with substandard wells on a portion of the pipeline. In fact, during 1 week when the pipeline was being monitored, regulators found that over 70 percent of the wells were flawed and required repairs.

Senators should pay attention to the facts. People are sick around the tar sands. When it spills, it threatens their way of life and physically harms them. All you have to look to is the evidence to see that “XL” stands for “extra lethal” and misery follows the tar sands.

Now I am going to talk about the climate. I wish to explain that once we begin transporting the dirty tar sands oil through that pipeline, it will unleash more carbon pollution and harm our Nation's effort to address dangerous climate change. The State Department says a barrel of tar sands oil will create at least 17 percent more carbon pollution than domestic oil. The State Department says that compared to average crude oil, burning the amount of tar sands oil from the Keystone “extra lethal” Pipeline could add an additional 27.4 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year. That is a fact. You don't hear the proponents talk about that.

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair).

The Senator from Hawaii has now taken over the Chair. He already knows what climate change is doing to Hawaii. I was in the State, and I took a tour. I was at a conference that he organized, and we know we can't afford this.

If we allow this to happen, we would see the carbon pollution that would come from adding 5.8 million new cars to the road. It would wipe out the carbon pollution reductions we gained from the first round of fuel economy improvements for heavy-duty trucks—wiped out.

I believe this is a fact: If we do this, the damage to the environment will be the equivalent of eight new coal-fired plants, and those are dirty. That is the equivalent of what we would be getting here in terms of the carbon pollution every year.

In August 2014 a study in the peer-reviewed journal “Nature Climate Change” estimated that the increase in oil consumption caused by Keystone XL could result in up to 110 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year. That is four times the State Department's high-end estimate.

I already talked about the eight coal-fired plants. This peer-reviewed study says it is 29. We have two estimates. One says it is the equivalent of build-

ing 8 new, dirty coal-fired powerplants, and another peer-reviewed study said it would be equal to building 29 new coal-fired powerplants here in the United States—29. Think about it in your mind's eye.

All you need to do is look at China to see what happens when you throw the environment under the bus. Is this the kind of world we want to see for our kids? Is this the future? This isn't hyperbole; this is a picture of the pollution in China.

I was in China on a fantastic trade trip for 10 days, and I never saw the Sun except for one day when it sort of peaked out. The guide said: Isn't it a beautiful day? No, it was not at all a beautiful day. There was a semblance of a little Sun behind the cloud.

Why do you think people love the Environmental Protection Agency in our country—70 percent strong? It is because they know this could be America. If you throw the environment under the bus, this is what it will look like here.

Some of my colleagues say they don't want to act on climate change—especially my Republican colleagues. I don't know of one who is ready. They say: Well, China is building coal-fired plants. Well, the President just came back, and the President did have an agreement with China to move forward because the Chinese people can't live like this anymore. The social unrest that is the big fear of Beijing that starts to bubble up has a lot to do with this. We have a breakthrough agreement. Is this the time, in the face of this progress, to approve this pipeline? I say it is ridiculous timing. It is ridiculous.

I remember a time when saving the environment was bipartisan. I remember leaders such as John Chafee and John Warner. Now I don't see one Republican ready to step forward and say: It is time to put a price on this pollution and stop this pollution. My State has done it. My State is doing just great. We have new jobs, and I will put some information into the RECORD on that.

Canada's Natural Resources Minister said:

In order for crude oil production to grow, the North American pipeline network must be expanded. So we know this is just the start.

Now climate. Everyone can say what they will: I am not a scientist; I don't know. Over the past few months we have seen everything from the hottest August, the hottest September on record, and the hottest October on record. We have seen historic droughts and extreme wildfires. I have seen them in my State. We have seen vanishing wildlife habitat in Alaska, toxic algae out of control and contaminating drinking water supplies in Toledo, OH, because the water is getting hot and the algae that couldn't survive in the

colder waters survives in the warmer waters. We see these wake-up calls every day. But instead of confronting that crisis, we have the party of no saying: No, I am not a scientist and, no, I will not listen to them, and we do nothing. This project does the opposite. It makes matters worse.

There is a lot of talk about how we need this oil to become energy independent. Let me tell my colleagues, we are going to see gas prices go up if this goes forward, and I will explain why. This is from economists, not from me. This is not a win for America. Big Oil will be the winner. We have to know that U.S. gasoline demand is on the decline, and economists say it will continue to be through 2040. Since 2011, the United States has exported more gasoline, diesel, and other fuels than it imported. So Big Oil will be the big winner now if this project moves forward, not American workers or families filling up at the gas pump.

The reality is Keystone “extra lethal” will increase the price Americans pay for gas at the pump. It is cheaper to buy gas in the Midwest today than it would be if the pipeline were built. That is because moving tar sand oil to the gulf coast gives it access to international markets, which will increase the price Canadians can charge for it. So right now that oil stays in America. Now it is going to be pumped out, they can get higher prices, and our prices are going to go up. The exports will reduce the supply of gasoline right here in America and drive up the price.

As Bloomberg reported earlier this year, three separate studies have shown Keystone XL Pipeline could raise domestic prices by 20 to 40 cents because it would divert Canadian oil away from refineries in the Midwest where it is easier to export. Gulf coast refiners plan to process the cheap Canadian tar sands crude that would be supplied by the pipeline into diesel and other products for export.

During a congressional hearing at the end of 2011, my Senate colleague, then-Congressman ED MARKEY, who is now a member of our environment committee—Senator MARKEY—asked TransCanada’s pipeline head if the company would commit to keeping the Canadian oil and refine products in the United States “so that this country realizes all of the energy security benefits your company had promised.” Mr. Pourbaix said, No, I can’t do that.

So the head of TransCanada is not promising to keep the oil here or the products here. We know that. So all of this talk of energy independence—let me tell my colleagues how we get energy independence. We produce what we can here, and we have been doing that where it is appropriate, and we also utilize the Sun and the wind and the geothermal and the clean energies of the future that, believe me, when we embrace that clean energy agenda, we

have far more jobs. We don’t have pollution. We have safer communities.

One refinery in Port Arthur owned by Valero is expected to be a major customer for crude oil. Let’s show that picture of Port Arthur. Because that refinery is in a foreign trade zone, Valero can operate tax free. In the first 9 months of this year, Valero has reported a net income of \$2.475 billion. Today we will also hear from tar sands advocates that the tar sands oil will just be shipped by rail even if the tar sands pipeline is not built. It is very expensive to ship it by rail, and the truth is it is not a clear-cut case. In fact, both the rail companies and tar sands producers that pioneered transporting Canadian tar sands oil by rail are on the verge of insolvency because of the high transportation costs. So don’t buy into the argument that if we don’t build the pipeline, we will just ship it by rail. Then they say it is safer, and we know it is not safer.

We just heard the operator of the pipeline say it is 35 permanent jobs. I don’t belittle the 1,900 construction jobs for 2 years we would have. I don’t belittle that. But I can truly tell my colleagues that coming from my State—and later I will talk about the successes—we can dwarf that by the hundreds of thousands if we truly embrace a clean energy economy.

The materials needed for the pipeline—that is not a domestic boon. A 2011 analysis found 50 percent or more of the steel pipe would be manufactured outside of the United States. We need clean energy policies. As we know, it is appropriate to drill for oil in our country where it is safe, where it is appropriate, and if we can get to clean coal, it is appropriate, and it is appropriate if we can get to safe nuclear. The fact is this pipeline is going to bring filthy, dirty oil. It is going to bring misery all across the country.

Let’s look at the wind industry which supports over 560 manufacturing facilities and supported over 50,000 full-time jobs in 2013 alone. So 50,000 full-time jobs compared to 35 full-time jobs for the pipeline? Come on. The solar industry in 2013 employed 142,000 Americans, an increase of 24,000 additional jobs just last year. This is the future, not the misery that follows the tar sands, not communities that have to suffer with the filthiest of oils, dirtiest of oils, and not having this petcoke stored all over the Midwest where it blows on kids so kids get asthma.

Here is the spill in Arkansas. They still can’t clean it up. It happened in 2013. This photograph isn’t what we want the future to look like—not this, having to wear masks. We want the air to be clean and the water to be clean. This is China. This is what happens when we ignore our people who are telling us they are having increased asthma attacks, increased respiratory disease. We are not going to hear a word

about it from my colleagues. They are going to make a jobs argument that falls flat on its face.

Look. We know climate change is real. Whether someone says they are not a scientist—we all know you are not a scientist. I am not a scientist. Climate change is real. Unleashing this filthy, dirty oil unleashes far more carbon and makes the problem worse. We are not going to hear any of that. We are going to hear claims that just aren’t true. We are going to hear about all of these jobs—35 permanent jobs compared to tens of thousands in clean energy. We are going to hear about how this is the greatest project. We are going to hear, Oh, it is better to transport it by pipeline than by rail, when in fact that is not a fact in evidence that they would do that because it is so expensive. They are not going to talk to us about the spills, as shown in this photograph.

We have a very important process to go through before this pipeline is approved. This legislation derails that process, and that process was established by an executive order and was updated by President George W. Bush. Before a finding is made as to whether this should go forward, the President must consult with experts in many Federal agencies to determine whether this pipeline is in the national interest. This includes the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies before a permit is granted. This bill before the Senate short circuits this review. It cuts off expert opinions of our military leaders and others when determining whether the pipeline is safe. Is it in the interests of the country? Is it going to be another target? We need to know, and we don’t have the answers on the full public health implications.

What is also interesting is the tar sands supporters gloss over the fact that this bill tramples States rights—the rights of citizens in South Dakota to have a say in their State’s ongoing proceedings concerning construction of the pipeline. How about this fact. Here we see it. These voices have to be heard. I will tell my colleagues, 2 million people submitted comments on the tar sands project, and passing this bill now does not allow those comments to be given due consideration by our country.

I am very surprised at this, given my colleagues who speak of States rights, public comments, local viewpoints. They want to bypass all of this because they have decided they know better than 2 million people, many of whom have to live side by side with this pipeline and many of whom would have to breathe the kind of air they are breathing in Port Arthur, TX, right now. I will guarantee my colleagues this: Not one Senator in this Chamber will live next to a refinery that refines this filthy, dirty oil—not one. If I have not

spoken the truth, please correct the RECORD. Tell me. I will apologize. We don't live near refineries here. I will tell my colleagues who does: a lot of kids who get asthma, just ask the nurses.

If I told people that if we embrace a clean energy agenda we could create far more jobs, be far more healthy, and save this planet, wouldn't people say yes? I think people would. But, no, not in this Chamber. They listen to Big Oil and the Koch brothers, and these are the people who will profit. They are not going to live next to the Port Arthur refinery. Their children aren't going to live there. Their grandchildren aren't going to live there.

They brush aside that this is filthy, dirty oil—the dirtiest—with the most dangerous pollutants, including lead, including sulfur. When we meet with the citizens of Port Arthur, TX, as I have done, and the activists there who want to protect the kids, they say: Please, we have enough of this stuff; we don't want any more. Misery follows the tar sands, and that is why I call this pipeline the Keystone XL “extra lethal” Pipeline.

The evidence is clear. The Keystone tar sands pipeline will be harmful to our family's health. It will hurt the environment. It will worsen the impact on climate change. It will raise the price of gas. These statements are not made by me. I respect economists, and this is clearly the economists' view. It is just plain dangerous because it will transport the dirtiest oil on the planet.

Forcing the approval of the Keystone when so many concerns remain does not allow for the kind of review our affected communities deserve.

I hope enough of my colleagues will vote no on this. I see the handwriting on the wall. I do. I know what happens in this Chamber. I know the votes will eventually be there. This is an issue which impacts the health and safety of our families and our planet, so if it means I will have to stand up here time and time again to tell the story of the Keystone “extra lethal” Pipeline, I will do it. I will do it for as long as it takes. If I didn't think it was important, I wouldn't do it.

I just hope that if this body does pass this pipeline today, the President will veto this dangerous legislation. I feel so strongly that the way to a prosperous job-producing future is the embracing of clean energy. Yes, we will continue with our coal and make it as clean as we can. We will continue with our drilling here. Yes, we will have an “all of the above” where it is safe to do. We don't need a project that is so harmful to our families and to our communities.

I talked to the people in Canada who live near there. You won't hear that from my friends. It is all in the RECORD. I hope they read the articles I placed in the RECORD about the kinds

of cancers we are seeing around this stuff.

I don't want to see a trail of misery extending from one end of the country that I love to another, so I hope we will vote no on this—enough of us will. But if we can't stop it today, then I hope the President will veto this and tell the story of why this trail of misery should not be put upon the American people.

One of the biggest shocks I think I had when meeting those Canadians who have been putting up with this and then meeting the Americans who live around these refineries and hearing from them what happened and hearing from my friends from Chicago who remember that story—we will close with this—of these kids sitting around getting ready to play Little League Baseball when all of this petroleum coke that is stored all over the Midwest just blew, and it got into the mouths of these kids and it got on their clothes. They ran away. How can anyone believe this is what the future should look like when I can show you case after case on the RECORD, substantiated by the numbers, that clean energy produces far more jobs—far more jobs—and will lead us in the right direction in terms of our health.

People don't want to become like China. They don't want to look like this. They don't want to have their air look like this.

I come from a State where before the Clean Air Act—by the way, it was done by a Republican President; thank you, Richard Nixon—we had dirty, filthy air. You couldn't see a foot in front of you. We cleaned it up because we stood up to the polluters and said: You know what, we know we want to work with you, and we want to have your product. Do it in a clean manner. Do it in a safe manner.

The EPA—again, created by Republicans—came in there and cleaned up the air, along with the local people in our State.

We have rebounded in California from the recession, with clean energy jobs leading the way. We are so proud of it. And our people can still see the sky.

I will tell you, I am not going to go in this direction, if I have to stand on my feet until they hurt. As you know, I have to wear heels because I am very little, but I don't care—I am not going to let us go in this direction. No way.

I hope we defeat this today. If we don't, I hope the President will veto it, and I hope we can move to a positive, bipartisan clean-energy agenda that is really the future of this Nation and this planet.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. I intend to speak under the time reserved by Senator HOEVEN. Could the Presiding Officer tell me how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota has 112 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROBERTS. Splendid. I intend to speak for about 8 minutes.

I admire the commitment, the perseverance, and the oratory skills of my colleague from the State of California. I know how strongly she feels about this issue.

I rise today without a portfolio. I do not have the charts my distinguished colleague has. Senator HOEVEN has six in the Cloakroom. There are 12 over there. I thought at one time I would introduce legislation to ban charts from the floor, but that didn't go very far.

I rise today in support of the bipartisan, bicameral legislation offered by Representative CASSIDY from the House and Senator LANDRIEU from here in the Senate to approve the construction of the Keystone Pipeline.

(Mrs. BOXER assumed the Chair.)

Simply put, my point would be that this project is long overdue. It has been said time and again, but it is worth repeating: 6 years of delays and five separate environmental impact statements, and finally we are voting on this legislation—already passed by the House last week—to grant approval of the project.

Let me repeat myself. Five environmental impact statements have been rolled out since the year 2010, all five concluding that construction of the pipeline would neither exasperate carbon emissions nor increase development of the Canadian oil sands.

Let's briefly take a look at the conclusion reached by each of the five environmental impact statements to see what President Obama's own State Department had to say about whether construction of the Keystone Pipeline is in the national interest.

In April 2010, after a 1½-year review of TransCanada's application to construct the pipeline, the State Department published the findings of its draft environmental impact statement, which concluded that the pipeline's construction would have limited environmental impact and would help reduce U.S. reliance on crude oil imports from other less stable regions of the world. “Less stable” is an understatement as of today. Considering what is going on right now in the Middle East and Russia, it cannot be understated how important this project is from a global security perspective and also from a national security perspective.

A year later, in April 2011, the State Department issued a supplemental environmental impact statement to consider alternatives to the Keystone Pipeline and to address some of the concerns raised by agencies, groups, and individuals who submitted comments on the project's construction. Keep in mind that the State Department did this despite the fact that it believed the original environmental

impact statement sufficiently addressed all concerns.

Four months later, in August 2011, the State Department released its final environmental impact statement concluding yet again that this project should be built. The State Department concluded that construction would “result in a project that would have a degree of safety greater than any typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system under current regulations.”

Despite this conclusion—which under law triggered a 90-day window for the State Department to make yet another final national interest determination—the State Department decided to delay the final decision rather conveniently until after the 2012 elections.

After three earlier reviews, in March of 2013 the State Department issued its draft supplemental environmental impact statement to consider potential impacts of the new route which would avoid the Sand Hills region in Nebraska. Once again, the State Department concluded that this project should be built.

Finally, on January 31, 2014—about a year ago—the State Department issued its fifth and final environmental impact statement. Nevertheless, it concluded that the Keystone Pipeline poses no serious environmental dangers, would create thousands of jobs, and would decrease our reliance on crude from despotic regimes—more of them today—around the world and expand trade with our closest ally, Canada.

We have two options. The first is to finalize construction of the Keystone Pipeline, which will immediately result in thousands of construction jobs all throughout the United States. The second option is we can reject construction of this pipeline and instead transport the crude to the United States by rail or allow Canada to simply export the crude to other countries, such as our good friend China. China is so concerned with the environmental standards that it may—it may, according to the bargain so highly publicized by the administration—begin reducing carbon emissions by 2030 if the leaders of China 16 years from now feel like it or make that decision.

What is the big deal about China’s carbon-reduction commitment, by the way? It is meaningless.

There is simply no option available that would somehow prevent Canada from developing these oil sands. Despite what any Senator says or any charts that may be used, it is happening and it will continue to happen.

Facts are stubborn things. We either move this oil by pipeline, which is the safest way to transport oil, or we allow it to be exported to other countries that will refine it under far less stringent environmental regulations. If CO₂ is a world problem, that is something you ought to really think about.

This project would support 42,000 U.S. jobs, hundreds of those in my home State of Kansas; it would provide over 800,000 barrels of oil per day from our closest trading partner, Canada; and it would have a \$3 billion impact on the U.S. economy.

I have long supported this legislation. Now we need to hear from President Obama, yes or no. No waffling around any longer. If this bill passes today will the President sign it into law or will the President simply continue to straddle the pipeline until after the runoff election in Louisiana? It seems to me the President owes the American people an answer as to whether he supports this project.

The question is—it is pretty obvious—if the President opposed this project from ever being built, then why are we waiting? Why wouldn’t you just say from the get-go that you hold the views of a few above those of most Americans, which includes everybody from labor unions, to pro-energy trade associations, to manufacturing, et cetera?

I would ask the President: Why didn’t you just come out in 2008 and say, no, we are never going to build this as long as I am in the White House. Because I think that is exactly what is happening. It is time to quit straddling the pipeline. Let’s get on with it or get off.

I want to make myself clear. If we pass this bill and President Obama vetoes it, then that is his decision, that is his prerogative, but the responsibility will lie squarely upon his desk. Because when we come back in January under a Republican majority, our task will be to not only pass this legislation but, with a veto-proof majority, to override whatever obstacles the President tries to put in its way.

Again, this project makes sense economically, environmentally, and from a national security perspective. I believe we should get this finally moving.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I rise today to oppose S. 2280, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Keystone Pipeline would carry 830,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil bound for global markets from Canada to refineries along the gulf coast.

This is one of the most important points about Keystone, which is that it does nothing for American energy security. It takes tar sands oil from Canada, moves it through the United States, and makes it available to global markets. It does nothing for American energy security. But more than that, it represents a massive endorsement of a fossil fuel economy when we ought to be focusing on transitioning to clean energy.

There are many reasons to vote against this bill, but I will focus on

four. First, the oil from tar sands is exceptionally dirty. I think for the American public out there, they have a basic instinct that oil is not the cleanest of energy resources. But tar sands oils are really in a special category. We do not need this oil enough to justify its impacts on health and climate change.

Mining tar sands oil is nothing like setting up a rig and drilling a hole in the ground. Tar sands are dirty in terms of the land destroyed, dirty in terms of the water wasted and contaminated, and dirty in terms of the energy needed to mine, transport, and process the oil. Getting and using oil from tar sands puts far more carbon pollution in the atmosphere than conventional oil.

When tar sands are near the surface, they are dug up along with all of the surrounding earth, including the forests that sit on top. Tar sands are a mixture of sand, clay, water, and a gooey form of petroleum that resembles tar. Think of it as a mixture of dirt and molasses, and imagine trying to separate the dirt from the molasses. If you think that sounds difficult, you are correct. After being mined, the thick sludgy mixture that remains is transported to facilities that separate the oil using multiple water and energy-intensive rinse cycles.

The water used in this process becomes contaminated, of course, with toxins, and is no longer suitable for other uses. Oil companies use massive amounts of water to mine the tar sands. In 2011, tar sands mining in Canada used more water than the entire city of Toronto uses annually, representing a significant new strain on freshwater resources.

This is simply not the direction to go in. We need to fight climate change and promote bold, clean energy solutions that do not present a constant danger of harming our health, our drinking water, and our economy. Why are we spending time today trying to approve something that quite literally takes us in the wrong direction?

This brings me to the second reason this pipeline ought to be rejected. It will have a direct, negative impact on the people and the communities that live in its path. The 875-mile route of this proposed pipeline has over 50 river crossings, including the Yellowstone River in Montana, which is still recovering from a major crude oil leak by an ExxonMobil pipeline in 2011. That pipeline leak contaminated 85 miles of the river and its flood plain, placing an enormous burden on families and the businesses that depend on it.

Pipelines transport oil, but they also leak regularly. The existing Keystone Pipeline system for Canadian tar sands leaked 14 times during its first year of operation, with one incident leaking 21,000 gallons. In its environmental review, the State Department estimated that the proposed Keystone Pipeline

would fail several times a year. In 2010, a 6-foot break in a pipeline carrying oil tar sands spilled nearly 1 million gallons of crude oil into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. This was one of the largest inland oil spills in United States history and also one of the costliest, with cleanup costs totaling over \$1 billion. Households in the area were evacuated and told not to drink the water. Thirty-five miles of the river were contaminated, and the cleanup continued 4 years after the spill. One of the most troubling things about this spill and any future spills from Keystone XL is that the companies who own the oil take advantage of a loophole in the law that lets them avoid paying their fair share into the national Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. This trust fund has been in place for 30 years. The money in it helps to respond to and clean up after oil spills. Every barrel of oil produced or imported in the United States is charged 8 cents. The money goes into a trust fund. It is basically an insurance policy for events when companies are unable to pay for spill cleanup or in an emergency response situation. It makes sense.

What does not make sense is that due to this loophole, the oil from the tar sands in Canada is exempt from that 8-cent fee. Why would we vote for a bill that circumvents executive review of an international pipeline carrying the dirtiest oil in the world, produced in Canada, and headed mostly for world markets, and a bill that does nothing to close a loophole exempting oil from tar sands from having to pay a fee for environmental cleanup? In other words, how can this bill ask so little of the oil companies while giving them so much?

A third reason to reject this bill and this pipeline is the impact on climate change. The facts plainly show that we must reduce carbon pollution, not add to it. To take care of our energy future and build a clean energy economy, we have got to go forward, not backward.

If we are serious about leaving our children a healthy world, we will vote no and reject this pipeline. We know a majority of the public supports bold action to solve climate change. In recent years, no single issue related to fossil fuels and climate change has commanded the level of civic engagement as the Keystone XL Pipeline. Countless rallies, public hearings in cities and towns across the proposed route, lawsuits and debates in Congress reveal how much passion there is about this issue.

In fact, the pipeline was booed so loudly when advertised on the Jumbotron at a Nebraska football game that the university cut ties with TransCanada, the owner of the proposed pipeline.

Finally, the bill is flawed in terms of its process not only because of what it seeks to do but also because how it seeks to do it.

The bill would circumvent existing executive branch review. Because the Keystone XL Pipeline would cross international boundaries, the State Department is responsible for reviewing and deciding if a permit is in the national interest. The way it is currently written, this bill potentially limits State and local siting decisions, as well as some legal challenges.

It attempts to approve a pipeline that does not even have a finalized route, but does have lawsuits pending against it in the Nebraska Supreme Court. Congress should be focusing on the things that will have a positive impact on the economy and jobs. We have got to pass immigration legislation, we need to pass a defense authorization. Our CR expires on December 11. We need to move through the regular order in terms of appropriations. We should not be moving forward with Keystone XL.

In my view, this is about whether we are committed to the past or committed to the future. This is about whether we are going to double down on fossil fuels or we are going to take bold action in terms of moving forward with clean energy. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

I yield the floor

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Let me just state to all of my colleagues on all sides of this issue, I appreciate this very much. It is a great debate. It is a great way for us to learn of our differences and try to find the middle, if you will.

I come from the little State of West Virginia where basically the people are pretty commonsense, if you will, oriented. They look at something from the standpoint—our greatest trading partner in our State of West Virginia is Canada. Thirty-five States in the United States look at Canada as our favored nation to trade with. We have been doing more trading than ever before. We will continue to do so.

I am coming at this from security. How do we remain secure as a nation? How do we become less dependent? If you look at what is going on in the world, maybe it will give you a picture of what we are dealing with, the facts of life.

We all want to use the technology and we all can, through research and development, improve our technology to use the resources that are going to be used that the world has produced for us in a cleaner fashion. With that being said, I do not look at Keystone as being an export pipeline. Even the State Department's environmental impact statement states that export is unlikely to be economically justified for any significant time. Cost-to-market conditions dictate that this oil will go to domestic refiners and will be used in our country, the United States of America.

By getting more Canadian oil, we can displace oil that we currently get from less reliable and sometimes hostile countries. Let me read for you how much oil we import right now; How dependent are we on this foreign oil? We should look at basically—of the 7.7 million barrels per day of crude oil imports—mind you, we are getting 7.7 million barrels per day into our country. I understand the pipeline's capacity would be about 870,000 barrels. That is the capacity—if they used the entire capacity. So we are getting 7.7 million barrels per day. Let's see where it is coming from. When you look at that, 3.5 million barrels per day or 45 percent comes from OPEC countries. Of course, Saudi Arabia is our largest OPEC supplier at 1.3 million barrels per day, 17 percent of the crude import total.

But our biggest supplier of crude continues to be Canada. It is already our biggest supplier. We are afraid that this is somehow going to tip the balance? Let's look at some of the countries that we get this oil from on a daily basis, the 7.7. Of course, we talked about the OPEC countries. But Venezuela, Colombia, Nigeria, Angola. These are not the model citizens of how they treat their citizens in their country, the humane treatment that goes on.

With that being said, those countries I just mentioned, the five countries, that is 1.57 million barrels a day we buy from those countries. So, yes, I am looking at it from the standpoint that this has pulled us into conflicts around the world where we should not be.

We have all said we have been pulled into these countries, been pulled into war because of oil. I think we all agree on that. This gives us a chance to be more secure as a nation and more independent from foreign oil. That is what we are talking about. The global supply of energy relies on oil producers in deeply unstable regions. I think we all agree on that too. In West Virginia, it just makes common sense. Would you not rather buy from your friends than from your enemies? Would you not rather buy from people who basically help your economy and are not willing to do harm to your economy or harm to your people? This makes sense to us in West Virginia. We would not be standing here having this debate right now if it had not been for your good Senator and our good friend from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU. It would not have come up. It would have been moot. It might have gone in the next Congress. Who knows? I just appreciate so much Senator LANDRIEU being able to bring this to the forefront today. I really do. Whether we win or lose it does not matter.

Basically the American people will lose if we do not pass this piece of legislation. If for whatever reason it is not passed, we are going to be more vulnerable, more insecure, more dependent than ever before.

It is one thing to live in a perfect world—Utopia. Some of my colleagues have talked about that. I appreciate that. But the bottom line is, it is not the real world. The real world we are living in—I have talked about coal too. There are 8 billion tons of coal being burned in the world. People say: Well, I do not want to use coal in America. That is fine. If you quit using every kind of coal in America, you are not going to change the environment that much. But on the other hand, there will be more coal burned than ever before. We do not want to build any more coal-fired plants in America. We are done. That is fine. Twelve hundred new coal-fired plants will be built around the world in the next 3 to 4 years. Would not it be better to find the technology—would not it be better to have control of that, be able to have a whole other industry around the technology that uses the coal cleaner not just in America but around the world?

Would it not be better to have control of this oil coming to the gulf coast? If we have control of it, it will be used here. The fear tactic is that it is going to go somewhere else in the world. Markets will dictate where everything goes. But the bottom line is, we use most of Canada's oil now. They are the largest exporter to our country.

So all we are saying is to take a good, hard look at this. Think before you vote today, my colleagues, of what we are doing and what we are doing for the security of our Nation, what we are doing for the best trading partner we have ever had. That oil is going to go somewhere. It is being shipped now in a highly unstable type of condition that is more vulnerable. It takes more oil to move that product today than ever before. Pipelines are by far the safest way to do it.

I have said this: If we can move oil in the most demanding and probably the most hostile, if you will, environmental conditions that we have as far as nature produces in the Arctic, and we as the United States benefit by that oil that is being produced in the Arctic by us in America, for all of us in the lower 48, if they are able to, do you not think that it can be done here?

I look at it from the standpoint that they are saying enough is enough.

I thank Senator LANDRIEU for bringing the bill to the floor, for having a very informative debate that we can move forward on. I would hope that my colleagues would see fit that the United States of America will benefit, the security of our Nation will benefit, wars could be prevented and conflicts around the world. Maybe we could use our might, if you will, to help other parts of the world without having to fight, defend, and liberate from that standpoint.

But I do not believe that we should be in parts of the world where we are today because of the oil that we have

been chasing. I believe that by having our own ability to work with the best trading partner we have, which is Canada, that would definitely benefit the security of our Nation. I look forward to this vote this afternoon or later this evening, whenever it may come. I enjoy the debate that is going on and the information I am gaining. I look forward to a more spirited debate for the rest of the day.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I am about to yield to Senator CARDIN.

A point I want to make is this is an interesting debate. The proponents have said for years: Build the pipeline because we need the oil here. Then confronted with the fact that the oil will not stay here—it is going to go elsewhere—they say: Oh, what is the difference. It is going elsewhere, but what is the difference. The difference was your argument was to make us self-sufficient. You can't have it both ways. The fact is this oil is going to be exported.

With that I yield 12 minutes to my colleague, a great leader on the environment, Mr. CARDIN.

Mr. CARDIN. First, I thank Senator BOXER for her extraordinary effort on this issue.

Let me get this straight. This debate is about giving competitive advantage for the shipping of the dirtiest oil located in Canada through the United States for export. It is through the United States—not through Canada. The environmental risks are in America, and it circumvents our regulatory review process and attempts to deny property owners the right to challenge the route in court.

The Keystone Pipeline is a shortcut to an existing pipeline network to export some of the world's dirtiest crude oil from Canada to other countries. The current pipeline network could handle this, but the operators want a competitive advantage for the dirtiest oil by shortcutting the pipeline that currently exists.

There is very little benefit to the United States. Certainly, as has been pointed out, the oil is not destined for the United States.

There are few permanent jobs. It poses significant environmental risks. It eliminates appropriate executive review, tries to interfere with judicial review, and should be rejected by this body.

First, let me talk about tar sands—exporting tar sand crude from Alberta, Canada, to other countries, through the United States rather than through Canada. It could go through Canada, 700 miles west to the British Columbia coast. But the Canadians object. Why? Because they don't want the environmental risk in their country. They are asking the United States to do bear

their burden. It is not for U.S. energy use. It is for the international market, and it poses significant environmental risk. We are talking about producing the dirtiest type of energy sources that we know.

In 2010 there was a tar sands crude oil spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. The estimated cost of the cleanup associated with that spill is \$1.2 billion. Spills happen. We are adding tremendous risk to our country.

This is against a backdrop we see here in the United States and globally where the price of oil is declining dramatically. Look at what we are paying at the pump for gasoline today. In the United States we have had a 70-percent increase in domestic oil production since President Obama took office. So we are getting all the oil that we need. We don't need to add the dirtiest oil in the world.

The United States is more energy independent today than we have been in decades. Why? Because we use less energy.

Let me give one example. Fuel economy standards in automobiles are up 25 percent since 2004. We are using less oil, less energy. We are developing alternative and renewable sources. Our future is in clean energy.

I am pleased we are having this debate on the floor of the Senate. We should be having a debate about developing additional sources of clean energy, which will help us be energy secure, add good-paying jobs, and be friendlier toward our environment.

One example is Tesla Motors—an American company, unlike TransCanada—which recently chose Reno, NV, as the site of a \$5 billion “gigafactory” that could employ 6,500 workers on a permanent basis. Tesla hopes to complete construction of the facility by 2020. It will produce 50 gigawatt hours per year of lithium ion battery packs, more than the entire global production in 2013 and enough for 500,000 electric cars annually. Once the factory is in full operation, it could help lower the costs of battery packs by 30 percent in 2017 and by 50 percent in 2020.

Tesla expects to create 3,000 construction jobs, and that is important—construction jobs are important—and 6,500 permanent jobs upon completion, generating \$100 billion in economic activity over the next 20 years.

So let's compare that to what Keystone is advertised to produce. They tell us that Keystone will provide 42,000 jobs, but what they don't tell us is that the number of direct construction jobs is 3,950 and that's just for one or two years. The rest of the jobs are indirect or “induced”—that is, induced activities from people getting paychecks, spending them on groceries, et cetera, and that's only during the construction period. Permanent jobs are 50. Look at the ratios: Tesla is over 2-to-1, with regard to permanent jobs-to-construction

jobs. Keystone is 50 permanent jobs to 3,950 construction jobs. The number of permanent is so insignificant that this pipeline does not generate economic progress in our country.

Why aren't we talking about the transportation bill? We want to talk about jobs? Yes, we will get construction jobs. Thank you, Senator BOXER, for your extraordinary leadership on that bill. If we had a long-term transportation bill, we would be helping the construction industry by creating a lot of construction jobs. And guess what? At the end of the day, we would have a modern transportation system that would promote economic growth in America. Let me just give you one of those projects as an example: the Purple Line in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, MD. We want to get that done. It will not only create construction jobs—it will not only create permanent jobs, it will help people live longer because they won't be stuck in traffic. It will really help our economy grow. That is the type of debate we should be having.

Instead, we are talking about putting in a pipeline that poses incredible environmental risk not only to the United States but to our entire global community.

The Natural Resources Defense Council has shown how tar sand extraction methods are very dangerous to our environment and could release 11 million to 47 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into our atmosphere.

It is done in a way that—I was listening to my colleague from Hawaii talk about it—that is destroying the Earth. They are in the process of destroying the Boreal forest, which acts as a carbon "sink," while producing petroleum coke as well as tar sands crude. They are emitting carbon dioxide just to produce the tar sands crude; they are emitting greenhouse gases. Add transportation, refining, and consumption of the ultimate product, the tar sands, and it is the worst form of a carbon footprint that we could have in our environment.

The risks are real, including the danger to our environment from spills and come at a time when U.S. global leadership is so critical for action on climate change.

According to the 2014 National Climate Assessment, the reality of climate change is clear and apparent. I could give examples of the droughts in California, of the increased wildfires in the West, or extreme weather conditions caused by polar vortices in all parts of our country. Our sea level is rising from Miami, FL, to my own State of Maryland, where 70 percent of the population lives in coastal areas. They are very concerned about what they are seeing as a result of the rising sea levels. So it is critically important to have U.S. leadership. This is what it is about—U.S. leadership.

President Obama demonstrated that leadership when he met with President Xi of China. The United States and China account for about one-third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. I have heard on this floor many times: Why are we doing certain things if China doesn't do certain things? Well, guess what. China is responding to our leadership.

Congratulations to President Obama for getting commitments from President Xi that China will reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically, China pledged that non-fossil fuel sources will account for at least 20 percent of the country's energy use by 2030. That is U.S. leadership working with China to help lead the global community. Let us show even more leadership by rejecting the Keystone Pipeline.

Lastly, let me talk about process for a moment or two, if I might. The regulatory protections should not be circumvented by congressional action. State courts in Nebraska should not be circumvented by congressional action. We need to listen to the people from the region as they have expressed their concern about Keystone XL, and I quote from a person named Ben Gotschall from the organization, Bold Nebraska, which is part of the anti-pipeline coalition called the Cowboy-Indian Alliance:

The Cowboy Indian Alliance shows our cooperation and our working together in mutual respect. That shared bond proves that we pipeline fighters are not just a few angry landowners holding out, or environmentalists pushing a narrow agenda. We are people from all walks of life and include the people who have been here the longest and know the land best.

We are talking about circumventing the regular order in order to have a narrow result that affects real people's lives. We can do better than that. We need to reject this "pipeline by congressional action." Congress needs to act in a responsible way, and passing this bill is not doing that. This pipeline travels through the United States so that Canada can get its dirtiest oil into the international marketplace. Canadians don't want the pipeline in their country for good reason, because they know the environmental risks of the pipeline and tar sands development are unacceptable.

The energy will not have any major impact on the United States. It is for export. It is not for the United States.

Why are we doing this? There are very few permanent jobs involved here—fewer than 100. We already heard that. The risks to our environment—we have seen that. We have seen it happen before. We know what devastation tar sands oil spills can cause. We know what the cleanup cost are all about.

Why are we subjecting communities to this when they don't want it and the environmental risks are so great? Why are we calling into question U.S. leadership globally when we are able to get

progress that we have been asking for, and that Chairman BOXER has been asking for, to get China to act? Why are we trampling on the appropriate role of the executive and judicial branches and local government by doing what we are attempting to do today?

I hope my colleagues will reject this bill. And I hope that we will work together for an energy policy that makes sense for America and that invests in clean energy, which will help our economy grow, help us be energy secure, and be friendly to our environment. With that, I yield back the remaining time to Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I request 5 minutes.

I see the Senator from Wyoming, who is going to rebut the arguments made by the Senator from Maryland. So I will take 5 minutes, and then the Senator from Wyoming will have all the time he wants within the framework.

First, I will say that I have great respect for the Senator from Maryland. He is an excellent debater, and we just saw the skills of his debating. But I want to put some things on the record that show he is absolutely, completely wrong in his assessment and statements, as respectfully as I can. He is completely wrong.

First of all, this is the environmental statement. It is printed, it is done, it is finished, and it was finished in January of this year. This is the fifth environmental statement.

So anyone who comes to this floor on the Democratic side of the aisle—because no one on the Republican side will say this because they are all in unity with a group of us to build this pipeline—they are wrong. It is factually incorrect that the environmental studies have not been completed because I have it in my hands. This is the fifth.

Let me say what the result of this environmental impact statement by the Obama administration—not by the Bush administration, not by a former Republican administration, but the current, Democratic administration—concluded. People at home who are listening can get out their computers and their pens. This is what this study says. If the Keystone XL is built, it will represent .015 of global greenhouse gas emissions—.015 of greenhouse gas emissions. That is the equivalent, if people want to keep writing, to 300,000 passenger vehicles in America. Seems like a big number, except that we have 253 million cars on the road.

OK. So think about this. The President's own environmental study, which is the fifth one, completed in January, has done its work. It has submitted this for the record. This is not subject to debate. The conclusion of this study is it will, taking everything into consideration, increase greenhouse gases

by .015 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of 300,000 passenger vehicles, which is .12 percent of total cars in the U.S.

So this is what we can do. We can build the Keystone Pipeline, creating thousands of temporary and millions of permanent jobs, which are not created by the permanency of the pipeline itself but by the signal that America is serious about energy independence. That will create millions of high-paying jobs. There is no disputing that fact.

It is not the jobs that build the pipeline we are fighting for so much—although the pipefitters and boiler-makers and the unions are fighting for that, and I am fighting with them—it is the signal it gives that we are serious about energy independence, and that we honor and understand there are already pipelines in our country. There are pipelines in our country. We have been building pipelines in this country since before most of us were born—all of us were born. That is what is so outrageous about this debate.

Yes, this pipeline comes from Canada, our best trading partner, our most reliable ally, a country that is the most equivalent to us in the United States of America, and because it is a pipeline connecting Canada and the United States, it has all become this bogeyman that is going to wreck the world.

The environmental impact study, Senator CARDIN, has been done. It is in.

The second thing I wanted to talk about is this. We pass a lot of crazy bills around here. This bill is two pages—S. 2280. Here it is. This is the first page, this is the second page. Everybody in America can read it. I would strongly recommend to those who are listening, get it and read the bill. It will literally take 15 seconds. It is so simple, and Senator HOEVEN and I wrote it to be simple. As I have said before, we wrote it to go the distance. We wrote it to go the distance. It is not complicated. It simply says this: After waiting 5 years, and after acknowledging all environmental studies have been done, all economic studies have been done, we direct the President of the United States to give his approval.

We are not circumventing the President. Every report he has requested has been turned in to him, every single solitary one. In addition, and the Presiding Officer knows this, because at her request and Senator TESTER's request, Senator HOEVEN and I added this language:

Private Property Savings Clause.

Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities. . . .

In other words, this language says all private property rights will be honored.

That was not in the House bill. Senator HOEVEN and I put it in this bill because we wanted to put that debate to an end. All private property rights are honored.

The environmental studies have been completely completed. Also in our bill is respect for Nebraska because we are not trying to run over Nebraska. We say here—and I will point it out in just a minute—that subject to the final decision by Nebraska about where this is going to go, Nebraska can decide. As we can see, all the other States have said fine to their line. Nebraska has to decide. That is in the court. This bill says they can still decide this. There is nothing telling Nebraska where to build it.

I hope people who come to the floor to talk about this pipeline will bring their facts and not fear—facts, not fear. I am a fierce proponent of the pipeline and they are fierce opponents and I respect them. There are two people I greatly respect: BARBARA BOXER and BEN CARDIN. But we are on the exact opposite side of this issue.

So let's discuss facts, and let me just say one more thing and then I will give this to Senator BARRASSO, because this is more personal. I was very disappointed in the Senator from Kansas when he came out and said something akin to he finds it strange—I think his words were he is kind of amused that we would be debating this because he thinks this is some kind of political opportunity.

I have a lot of respect for the Senator from Kansas. I worked with him. I was his chair and he was my ranking member on emerging threats. We have been through some pretty tough meetings together. When this country was under attack during 9/11, I was the chair of emerging threats and he was the ranking member when the Twin Towers burned. He is a marine. I always joked: He is a marine and I am a Girl Scout, so I think he has one up on me. Nonetheless, we both have a pretty good code of honor. So for him to come to the floor, after being in the foxhole with me on that day, and to say he thinks this is some kind of convenient opportunity for me is beneath the dignity of himself, the Marine Corps, and the State he represents.

This is a serious issue. We should have debated it months ago. The only reason we didn't—and HARRY REID is now on the floor and he has heard me say this to him in private and I will say it in public—is because neither leader could get their caucuses in a position to have this debate. There were many reasons for it, but all those reasons cleared up after this election. That is why we are having this debate, because I asked for it.

I support and I appreciate the Members, no matter how they vote, in having this debate. If we had more debates like this, the American people might

be hopeful we could get something done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ATTACK IN JERUSALEM

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am going to use leader time for these remarks, and it will not interfere with any of the time that has been allocated to these gentlemen and ladies.

In far away Israel, during morning prayer, a horrific attack took place. A number of people were having their morning prayer. Four rabbis were savagely beaten, hacked to death, with a meat cleaver. Two Palestinian men entered the synagogue in Jerusalem and savagely murdered these four rabbis in the midst of morning prayer. Three of these victims were American citizens, the other, I am told, was a British citizen. One of them was a leading scholar, Hasidic scholar. More than one dozen others were hacked, hacked with a meat cleaver, while they were there praying. A number of these people are in critical condition as we speak.

Secretary of State John Kerry today said: "Innocent people who had come to worship died in the sanctuary of a synagogue."

Places of worship have always been a refuge in times of peace and in times of conflict. Yet these terrorists hacked and brutally murdered worshippers in the midst of prayer.

This is not an isolated incident. Recently, Palestinian terrorists have carried out shocking attacks all across Israel. Seven Israelis have been killed in these horrible attacks, including a 3-month-old American infant—a baby, 3 months old—an Israeli soldier, a border patrol officer.

These attacks are a direct result of incitement, and I call upon the Palestinian leadership to condemn these attacks unequivocally. This butchery has no place in the modern world and they should stop it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank Majority Leader REID for his remarks. Sometimes it does feel the world is falling apart and we have to speak out, as we are doing every time these terrorists rear their heads.

I know we have some time over here by Senator BARRASSO, but I just wanted to make a point on the environmental impact statements, although it is hard to get back.

As I understand it, in the Hoeven-Landrieu bill, the EIS is approved. So if the Nebraska bureaucracy determines there is a new route—and I think this is what my friend from Maryland was getting at—it doesn't matter what the new route is, the EIS is deemed approved. I have to say I don't think that is right. I think the people who live along that new route have a right to have a new EIS if in fact now the pipeline is being moved in a different direction.

I understand the bill calls for property rights to be respected, and that is called eminent domain. I know a lot of my friends on the other side hate eminent domain, usually, but now they are embracing it because that is what is in this bill. But the fact is, if as a result of a court case brought by property owners the route changes, it is our counsel's understanding the EIS is still automatically approved.

I wanted to get that on the record because my friend was in fact questioned, and I think he was right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor to express my support for the approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. This is bipartisan legislation. The House passed this bill with 31 Democrats voting for it.

Last week, Senate Republicans welcomed the news that the outgoing Senate majority leader had finally decided to let the Senate vote on this legislation and that vote is finally going to take place today. For years House and Senate Republicans have been pushing legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, but until now the outgoing Senate majority leader wouldn't even let the Senate vote on this measure. This was all part of the majority leader's efforts to protect the President and the President's agenda.

The majority leader had hoped the American people would forget about the Senate. He had hoped they would be satisfied with President Obama's job approval. Well, 2 weeks ago, the American people made it clear they have not forgotten about the Senate. The American people made it clear they are not satisfied with President Obama and his policies. Instead, the American people want the President to work with the Senate to enact bipartisan legislation to grow our economy and to create jobs.

President Obama and Senate Democrats can do that today by supporting the bill we are approaching to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. This pipeline is going to create thousands of jobs right here at home. It is not just my view, it is the view of the President's own State Department.

According to the State Department, the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline would support over 42,000 jobs—42,000 jobs. That is the reason many of the Nation's largest labor unions support the construction and approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. In addition the pipeline would facilitate American crude oil production. Specifically, this pipeline will ship up to 100,000 barrels of oil each and every day from North Dakota and Montana. Currently there is insufficient pipeline capacity to ship oil out of North Dakota. As a consequence, oil producers must rely on railroads to ship oil out of

State. Shipping crude oil by rail is more expensive than shipping it by pipeline. The Keystone XL Pipeline would provide oil producers a cheaper shipping method and in turn encourage production of more American energy.

This pipeline will also increase our Nation's energy security. Specifically, the pipeline will provide an additional access to Canadian oil. We should welcome access to Canadian oil. Canadian oil is a far better alternative to oil from Venezuela, the Middle East or West Africa, areas of the world which don't share our values and too often work against our American interests. In contrast, Canada is a strong ally, Canada is America's top trading partner, and Canada already provides the United States with reliable and secure sources of energy.

Now is the time for President Obama to make a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

As the senior Senator from Delaware, a Member of the President's own party, said last week: "We have waited not just months but years for a decision on Keystone," he said. "This is too long."

In fact, the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline has been pending for over 6 years. During this time the State Department has conducted five environmental reviews of the project. Each of the reviews has been positive. I say to President Obama: Time is up and the excuses have run out. It is time for you, Mr. President, to make a decision.

President Obama should once again acknowledge that elections have consequences. Specifically, he should signal to the American people that he has heard the message voters across this country sent just 2 weeks ago: their message of support for bipartisan legislation that grows our economy, creates jobs, puts people back to work, their message of support for legislation such as the approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, let me just say that at long last this week we are going to be voting on the Keystone XL Pipeline. The vote has been a long time coming—years, in fact. Republicans have been trying to get this pipeline and the many jobs it will support approved. It would have been at the top of our agenda in January when we take control of the Senate, but we are happy to get a head start on that work a little early. It is just too bad that it took an election defeat and a runoff election to finally motivate the Democratic leadership to allow a vote on the measure. It should have received a vote years ago.

In fact, the Keystone Pipeline, if there is such a thing, is a win-win. It will create jobs. One can argue about how many jobs. The President's own State Department said it would sup-

port over 42,000 jobs. It will decrease our reliance on oil from dangerous countries. It will increase revenues to State and local governments. It will free space on overcrowded rail lines so the farmers can get their goods to the marketplace, and it will do all of that without spending a dime of taxpayer money.

Our economy has been limping along for years. The unemployment rate is still hovering at near recession levels and 9 million Americans are unemployed. More Americans are working part-time jobs because they cannot find full-time employment. Household income has fallen nearly \$3,000 since President Obama took office while the price of everything else, from food to health care, has risen.

Americans need jobs and economic opportunities, and the Keystone Pipeline will help supply them. As I said, the State Department estimates that in my home State of South Dakota alone, construction of the pipeline would bring 3,000 to 4,000 jobs and generate well over \$100 million in earnings. It will also bring over \$20 million in annual property taxes to South Dakota counties. I know some of the counties in the middle of my State are counties that are struggling to keep up with the cost of keeping the local governments going. School districts are struggling to survive and property tax revenue that will come in as a result of building a pipeline will help sustain many of those local governments and many of those school districts during some pretty difficult times.

My State is just one of the States that benefits. Nationwide, the pipeline will support more than 42,000 jobs—construction jobs from welders to pipefitters, to those who work at local hotels and gas stations. It will invest \$5.3 billion in the U.S. economy and bring States a total of \$5 billion in property taxes over the life of the project. That is a lot of funding for local priorities such as schools, law enforcement personnel and roads and bridges. Opponents of the pipeline like to cite environmental concerns as a reason for opposing the pipeline and its jobs.

Five separate environmental reviews from the President's own State Department have found that the pipeline possesses no meaningful risk to the environment. In fact, even the State Department admits the Keystone Pipeline is the safest way of transporting the oil. It is safer than rail or truck. It is important to remember Canada will be extracting and transporting its oil regardless. The only question is whether we want it to come to the United States along with the thousands of jobs it will create or whether we want to let Canada ship that oil overseas.

The American people have been very clear about their feelings about this project. Poll after poll has shown strong support. Republicans support

the pipeline. Democrats in both Houses of Congress support the pipeline. Unions support the pipeline. The only people who seem to oppose it are Members of the far leftwing of the Democratic Party. The reason we haven't had a vote in the Senate is not because a majority of Senators don't support the project, it is because Senate Democratic leadership refused to hold a vote despite having support from their side of the aisle.

While it is unfortunate it took the Democratic leadership this long to come around, I am glad we are finally here. I hope the Senate will finally approve the pipeline. If this bill passes today it will have one final hurdle to clear and that is the President of the United States. I very much hope he will listen to the voices of American workers and the bipartisan majorities in the Congress. Given his recent comments, I am skeptical.

The President has demonstrated a disturbing commitment to holding the American economy hostage to priorities of the far leftwing of his party. Take his recent energy agreement with China which would force American companies to implement costly new measures while China gets to do nothing. The national energy tax that the President unveiled back in June will put tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of American workers out of jobs and devastate entire communities. The pipeline's economic benefits to support the American people and five—five—successful environmental reviews have yet to convince the President to approve this project. I am concerned this vote probably isn't going to help, but I hope I am wrong.

By signing this bill, the President could send a powerful message about his willingness to work with Congress, and he can show the American people he heard their demands for change in Washington and that their economic priorities can be addressed.

I am sorry American workers have had to wait years for this project because, let's not forget, they are the ones who have been hurt the most by the administration's refusal to approve the pipeline. I hope today marks the end of their waiting and I hope it marks the beginning of a new era in the Senate.

When Republicans take over in January, bills such as Keystone will be the order of the day. We will take up jobs bills that passed the House with bipartisan support but have been waiting for a vote in the Democratic leader's Senate. We will take up legislation to create economic growth here at home by opening new markets for American agriculture and manufacturing overseas. We will repeal the medical device tax which is opposed by Members of both parties thanks to the fact that it is eliminating thousands of jobs in the medical device industry, and that will be just the start.

I hope that just as they did today, Democrats will work with us even more on bills to create jobs and economic opportunities for the American people because it is the people of this country for whom we ought to be doing everything we can to help and to support. I can state that the people in the Midwest, in the heartland whom I represent, already spend—if they make \$50,000 a year—20 percent of their income on energy, either fuel or electricity. All these proposals, the national energy tax, the deal with China, continue to drive up the cost of energy and make it more difficult and more expensive for middle-income families who are increasingly squeezed by these policies.

I wish to close by quoting from a letter the leaders received from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in which they urge Congress to support legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, and this is what they say:

The Keystone XL Pipeline also is part of a long-term solution to alleviating the transportation pressures many in agriculture have faced. This year, farmers around the country experienced some of the largest harvests they have seen in generations. For some, their successful year has come to an alarming halt when trying to sell and transport their crop. Farmer cooperatives in the upper Midwest are facing major delays in getting their farmers' grain to market due to the sustained shortage of rail equipment resulting from the increased use of rail to transport crude oil. The Keystone XL Pipeline will ultimately free up locomotives and track to move more grain to market and improve our ability to handle year after year record harvests.

Yet another reason to support this project and the jobs that come with it, the energy independence that comes with it, the lessening—relieving, if you will—of rail capacity issues that are plagued in many areas of the Midwest and making it harder for farmers to come to the marketplace.

This is a project that is a win-win, and I hope when the vote comes later today, we will have not just the majority of the Senators but the 60 votes that are necessary to move this to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I will yield to Senator MERKLEY, but before I do, I was so glad to hear a Republican say he wants to work on jobs. I would just say to my friend before he leaves, the CEO who runs the pipeline says there will be 35 permanent jobs. OK. I would like to suggest to my friend that if he truly wants to help the middle class, he ought to join with us first in raising the minimum wage, which is critical, and, secondly, embracing a clean energy future while we still use, where it is safe, domestic oil production, clean coal, things we can do that don't threaten the air our children breathe, pollute the water they drink, and destroy the planet.

To hear a Republican stand and talk about jobs is music to my ears, but I would like to put into the RECORD a report I just got from my California people at home who say:

California's climate policies are reducing carbon emissions, saving consumers at the pump, cutting oil use, and cleaning our air.

California's economic recovery has outpaced the rest of the country since the so-called "great recession," while our state has implemented the nation's strongest climate policies. . . .

California can reduce greenhouse gas pollution while growing the economy; we have been doing it for the last 35 years. Innovative energy policies over the past three decades have saved Californians \$56 billion on household energy costs and allowed them to reduce expenditures on imported fossil fuels and redirect spending to create 1.5 million full-time jobs.

And they go on to talk about the fact that they are looking toward 1.5 million full-time jobs. I am just saying to my friend, if this is truly about jobs, let's pass a transportation bill. Let's make sure we do the things that help our people.

I am going to hold up a picture of the air in China. This is what it looks like when you throw the environment under the bus. We know, because in California we had some bad air until a Republican President passed the Clean Air Act, signed it into law.

You want to know public opinion. I will tell you. The public supports the EPA and they support clean air, clean water, safe drinking water. This tar sands isn't about the building of a pipeline, it is what is going into it—the filthiest, dirtiest oil, and we have put in the RECORD all the elements, the pollutants, that are in this oil. You can laugh it away if you want. That is fine. But I have to tell you, when you hear about the health impact that is going on in Canada from this tar sands, when you go down to Port Arthur, TX, or meet with the people here as I did, what you will see there is a community suffering because this is the dirtiest oil.

So, yes, jobs—that is where it is with this Senator. I come from a family which is first-generation American on my mother's side. We worked for everything we got. Education was key to it.

Hey, how about joining with us on that? How about reducing interest rates on student loans? But to stand here and say this is the absolute job producer is phony. It is phony baloney.

With that, I yield to my friend for 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address S. 2280, which would approve construction of the Keystone Pipeline to transport tar sands heavy oil from Canada to the gulf coast.

The key consideration is whether this bill—by authorizing the pipeline—would contribute significantly to global warming, which is already damaging

our rural resources and our future economic prospects with profound consequences for families in America and around the world.

Also, are there better ways to create jobs that would enhance rather than damage our world? In the words of President Theodore Roosevelt:

Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.

Let's start by addressing the vision that President Roosevelt put forward and examine the impact of the Keystone Pipeline on atmospheric carbon dioxide pollution and global warming.

In this chart we see, going back 800,000 years, that the carbon dioxide has gone up and down. In recent years it has been quite steady until the start of the Industrial Revolution, and then it has soared—soared above levels it has been at for hundreds of thousands of years.

In this second chart, we see that there is absolutely no question that heat—put here in blue—correlates to the carbon dioxide in red. When the carbon dioxide level goes up and down, the heat of the planet goes up and down.

By many estimates, to contain global warming to 2 degrees Celsius, humans can burn only about an additional 500 gigatons of fossil carbon. That is the fossil budget we have to work with to avoid catastrophic global warming. But currently, the world's top 200 fossil fuel companies have identified 2,800 gigatons trapped in their fossil fuel, and that doesn't include the carbon from tar sands and oil shale.

Here is the problem: To protect the planet from catastrophic global warming, we need to leave four-fifths of the identified conventional fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Building the Keystone Pipeline, which would open the faucet to rapid exploitation of a massive, new unconventional reserve—the tar sands—would make it much less likely for human civilization to succeed in meeting that carbon budget that is so important to our future economic and environmental world, and that is why building the Keystone Pipeline is a grave mistake.

Global warming is not some imaginary foe embedded in some computer model with effects 50 years from now. It is here and we can see it at this very moment. The warmest 10 years on record for global average surface temperature has occurred in the last 12 years. Moreover, the effects can be seen in Oregon—and actually across the Nation. The average forest fire season is getting longer. Across the Nation, since the 1980s, the national season has grown by 60 to 80 days, and the average acres consumed annually by wildfires

has doubled to more than 7 million acres. This sight has become all too familiar in our home State of Oregon.

One study estimates that global warming, through the greater impact of greater pine beetle infestations and larger forest fires, will decimate the western forest of the United States by the end of this century.

In addition, the snowpack in our Oregon mountains is decreasing, which means smaller and warmer trout streams—that is not a good thing if you love to fish—and less water for irrigation. The Klamath Basin—a major agriculture basin in Oregon—has suffered through many dry years and three horrific droughts since 2001, in substantial part because of lower snowpacks.

The red circles on this chart represent a significant decrease in the snowpack. As we can see throughout the northwestern United States—Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and stretching into northern California—there is a huge decrease in the snowpack which is resulting in devastating consequences for agriculture.

As the high levels of carbon dioxide in the air are absorbed by the oceans, the carbon dioxide becomes carbonic acid. That acid, as one would expect, makes the oceans more acidic.

This chart, which presents the carbon dioxide and the pH time series from Hawaii, presents the challenge clearly. CO₂ in the atmosphere went up from 320 parts per million to about 380 parts per million over a period of about 50 years—a steady increase in carbon dioxide. We then see, with this blue set of data, that there is a parallel trend of the carbon dioxide that is in our ocean, and then we see from the light blue data that the pH level is dropping, which means that the ocean is more acidic. That is a 30-percent increase in the acidity of the ocean over a very short period of time.

The greater acidity is having an impact on sea life. One impact is on coral reefs, which are the ocean's most diverse ecosystem and the base of the ocean's food chain. Fishing families around the world depend on coral reefs as a foundation for livelihood.

Another impact is on the reproduction of oysters. The Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery in Oregon, which I visited a few weeks ago, started having trouble growing baby oysters—known as oyster seed—in the year 2008. The hatchery almost went out of business, but a scientist from Oregon State University was able to help identify and address the problem. The problem, it turns out, stems from the increase in the acidity of the Pacific Ocean. If the oyster seed, or the canary in the coal mine, is having trouble forming shells, what else is going wrong in the ocean due to rising acidity?

In summary, carbon pollution is having a direct and substantial impact on

the vitality of our forests, farming, and fishing. Our rural resources are being damaged now, and the problems will multiply with additional carbon pollution. So as members of the human family on this planet, with the moral responsibility to exercise wide stewardship of our resources for future generations, we must address this challenge of carbon pollution, and we must do so now. Wise stewardship means we must leave four-fifths of the conventional fossil fuels in the ground.

Would this bill before us, which would open the faucet to this massive new reserve of fossil fuels, advance such stewardship? The answer is clear. Stewardship demands that we not build infrastructure to unlock tar sands—the dirtiest source of oil on the planet.

The proponents of the pipeline have come to the floor and made interesting arguments—arguments worth examining to see if they actually hold water. First, they argue that the pipeline would create a tremendous number of construction jobs. Here is a comparison of direct construction jobs created by the pipeline—the little tiny wedge down here represents the pipeline jobs versus the jobs that would be created by the Rebuild America Act, which would create hundreds of thousands of jobs. So just 4,000 or so jobs in construction of the pipeline versus hundreds of thousands of jobs from the Rebuild America Act. If anyone on this floor is actually serious about jobs, we would pass the Rebuild America Act today.

The proponents have a second argument. They say that bringing this additional oil into America would increase America's oil independence. We heard that argument just a few moments ago by my colleague from South Dakota. The argument goes that this strengthens America's national security by decreasing America's dependence on the Middle East, but that argument overlooks a fact. This is not American oil, this is Canadian oil. This is not oil destined for the United States, it is destined to be refined in the gulf coast so that it can be exported around the world. These tar sands will do no more for America than if they were exported through Canada to the world market.

In fact, if you want the oil to be used in America, the best thing to do is to not build the pipeline, because that means the area around the tar sands will be the area getting that oil. Shipping Canadian oil to the world market via America adds nothing to America's security.

The next argument from proponents is that the pipeline has no environmental effect—indeed, we just heard this argument as well—because the oil from the tar sands, it is argued, will reach the market by rail if not by pipeline. This argument is demonstrably false. There is not enough rail capacity to substitute for the pipeline, and the

cost of shipping oil by rail is much higher than pipeline, greatly reducing the economic incentive for rapid development of the sands. All the while proponents say if the Keystone Pipeline is not built, alternative pipelines will be built through Canada, but that is certainly not at all clear.

If it were easier and cheaper to build through Canada, TransCanada would not be trying to build through the United States of America. Moreover, there is tremendous opposition within Canada to building such pipelines, and that is part of the reason TransCanada wanted to build it through the United States. The opposition within Canada to additional pipelines is just as fierce as it is in America for the same set of reasons—fundamentally important moral reasons—about the stewardship of our environment and our future economy. It turns out the Keystone Pipeline represents a real risk to our rural resources, our farming, and our fishing. It represents a real risk to the future health of our economy needed to sustain middle-class jobs. The pipeline itself creates very few jobs compared to a serious investment in infrastructure, and it adds nothing to our national security.

There are several other serious problems with this pipeline that have often been glossed over. For one, TransCanada is exempted from contributing to the Oil Spill Liability Fund. That is outrageous. You could call this bill the TransCanada protection act. Why are we doing a special deal for a Canadian company? Oil spills like this happen with these pipelines all the time, and they will not contribute one slim dime to the Oil Spill Liability Fund that American companies have to contribute to. Why would anyone vote for that sort of special deal for a foreign company—that irresponsible failure to contribute a single dime to the Oil Spill Liability Fund?

In addition, we are giving a foreign corporation the ability to exercise eminent domain to seize the lands of American citizens. Since when do we give power to a foreign corporation to take land away from American citizens without their desire? It is fundamentally unfair to American landowners. The legal basis for eminent domain is that there has to be a compelling public good. What is the compelling public good in this situation? Is it the generation of private profits for a Canadian corporation? That doesn't meet the test. Is it the damage from the oil spills that will occur in communities across America? That doesn't meet the test. Is it the contributory damage—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is advised that his time has expired.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for a minute and a half more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Is it from the damage from carbon pollution to our farming, fishing, and forests? That doesn't meet the test.

Frankly, tackling carbon pollution is going to take an enormous amount of international cooperation. Just a few days ago the United States and China entered into an agreement to address the global climate change crisis. The Chinese President announced that China would invest heavily in renewable energy to generate 20 percent of China's energy from nonfossil fuel sources by 2030, seeking to decrease China's CO₂ emissions thereafter. That is the type of leadership the world has been asking for.

We can't simply wish for nations to work together. We have to negotiate and do our part. That is why today we should not be talking about how to turn on the tap to the dirtiest oil on the planet, but how to meet the 2025 goals and how to create jobs by investing in energy conservation and renewable energy.

Let's remember the test that President Theodore Roosevelt gave us. There is no more important mission than "leaving this land even a better land for descendants than it is for us." This bill fails the test.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I think we are going to take a recess shortly. I just wanted to thank everybody on both sides for their statements.

To sum it up from my perspective, you have a situation here that, frankly, I am very glad we are confronting because there are lots of people who say: Oh, this is no big deal, it is just a little pipeline, and we have so many pipelines.

Senator THUNE said: Oh, it is so much safer to transport this oil by pipeline than other ways. Just try telling that to the people of Marshall, MI. There was a spill in 2010 in the Kalamazoo River. They are still trying to clean it up. It is not the pipeline that is the issue, folks, it is the dirty tar sands oil that is so much more dangerous, has more heavy metals, and more carcinogens. It is a problem. By virtue of its weight, it sinks to the bottom, and they cannot clean it up. I can't believe the statement was made about how safe this is. We have seen stories that there are problems with the welding in the existing pipeline. We might want to speak to the people in Mayflower, AR. Do my colleagues know that Exxon had to buy back the homes because they couldn't be lived in anymore because this stuff spilled and contaminated an entire neighborhood?

So I call this the extra lethal pipeline. The pipeline itself is benign. It is what is going through it and what it will unleash in terms of 45 percent more carbon over time and 45 percent more tar sands than we would otherwise have, so we figure that everything

gets increased by that amount. There is going to be more carbon, there is going to be more sulfur, more mercury, more lead.

This is important today. I am so glad we are having this debate. My colleagues say we never allowed a vote. There was a lot of boxing around in the boxing ring on that one. We tried. I don't mind having a vote on this. I have never minded having a vote on this. I think it is an important debate. People disagree. It is OK. We should air it out. But the bill before us would stop a process that is in place that is very important, not because it is a "process" but because 2 million people wrote comments about the Keystone Pipeline. We should not say to them: Your voices don't matter; we are going to truncate the process; I don't care what you said.

We already know there is a court case. This bill would approve the EIS. Even if Nebraska moves the route to another route, guess what: This bill that is pending here—the Hoeven-Landrieu bill—would already say the new EIS is approved. That is wrong. So only 35 permanent jobs. Most of this oil is exported. Economists say the price of gas in the domestic market will go up. And we compare it to embracing a clean energy agenda while we still develop oil where it is safe and sound, and we still develop all of the above when it is safe and sound. But if we embrace clean energy, I have to tell my colleagues, the jobs will dwarf the 35 permanent jobs for sure that this pipeline brings us.

In California we are so excited with what is happening. And we don't want to look like the people in China where they walk around in masks, and we don't want to have little girls and boys with those inhalers because they can't breathe the air. This is real. This is about health. Yes, it is about jobs. Yes, it is about prices. And I find it really fascinating that a few years ago when this all came up, what did we say? We said, Oh, this pipeline will make us energy independent. Now we know that we are going to allow this oil to go right through the middle of our country. Misery follows the tar sands: spills. We have already had spills. We know what happens when there is a spill. And what do we get at the end? The oil goes to the rest of the world.

Our friends say, oh, it is still good. It is good for prices. No, it isn't good for prices. Economists have told us it is not good for gas prices, and it doesn't help us become energy independent. It imperils our planet with large amounts of carbon going into the air. It imperils our families with pollutants that are very carcinogenic and very dangerous.

So I hope we will let the process continue. I don't know what happens today. I know the handwriting is on the wall. I know it is on this one. But when we see the country we love going

down a route that makes sense, following a procedure that makes sense, letting court cases resolve themselves, letting the people's comments be looked at, making sure we know exactly what we are doing, and we see that process shortcut by legislation and people who, by the way—and I am talking about my Republican friends: Oh, we are not scientists. We don't know if there is climate change. That is right, they are not scientists and they don't know, so they should listen to 98 percent of the scientists who are telling us that the Keystone is a dangerous move for this planet, because it is going to allow this oil that is far more carbon intensive.

I am a humble person. I am not a scientist; I do listen to them. I have to say to go blindly down this path is a huge mistake. Yet, that is what we are facing, and it is fine with me that we are facing it. We will stand and we will debate until there is nothing more to be said. We are probably getting to that place right now, so I will stop and reserve the remainder of my time.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:06 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

If neither side yields time, both sides will be equally charged.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes in opposition of the bill presently on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I oppose this legislation to approve the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Again, I believe it is one more step in the wrong direction, one more capitulation to our fossil fuel habit, one more accelerating to global warming that threatens our children's future. I know I have limited time. I just want to point out that we have had a number of studies done by the Department of Energy recently.

One study found that retrofitting residential and commercial buildings had the potential to reduce consumer demand by 30 percent by 2030 and reduce greenhouse emissions by 1.1 gigatons each year, saving over \$680 billion.

The second study found the retrofits—I am talking about building retrofits in America—could save \$1 trillion in energy spending over 10 years and reduce CO₂ emissions by 10 percent.

What would retrofitting do for jobs?

According to the Rockefeller Foundation, this type of retrofitting nationally would create 3.3 million new jobs.

So why are we talking about building a pipeline that is going to cause the development of more tar sands oil, which is the dirtiest oil in the world—the dirtiest—when it is going to create a few jobs for a very short period of time, a couple of years and that is it.

Why aren't we focusing on what we know works and creates a lot of jobs and saves energy and saves money; that is, retrofitting all of the buildings in America to make them energy efficient—3.3 million jobs in that 10-year period of time, saving us untold billions of dollars in savings for consumers in America, of course reducing greenhouse gases.

I find this whole issue of this Keystone Pipeline to just—at this point in time when the planet is warming up, when we may be at that tipping point where we can't do anything about it, I find this debate about the Keystone Pipeline to be out of bounds, considering the impact it is going to have.

I would say this: After all my years here, serving 10 years on the science and tech committee in the House, serving here on agriculture, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee as chair, study after study I have read, I have come to this conclusion on why I cannot vote for the Keystone XL Pipeline. I have come to this one conclusion: Every dollar that we spend today on developing and using more fossil fuels is another dollar spent in digging the graves of our grandchildren.

I don't want to dig that grave anymore. It is time to get off our fossil fuel habits. I am not so naive as to think we can do this overnight. I understand that. What we ought to be on is a very steep glide slope down, understanding that by focusing on renewable energies, the wind and solar, ocean thermal energy conversion, all of those things, geothermal, and, yes, retrofitting buildings to be more energy efficient would create hundreds of thousands more jobs, millions more jobs than the pipeline. It will make us more secure as a nation. It could have the effect of getting us on that steep glide slope down of fossil fuel. The fossil fuel era comes to an end. That is what we have to do. Bring the fossil fuel era to an end. The sooner we do it, the better it is going to be for our grandkids and our planet.

I know the Keystone Pipeline is a small part of it. It is a small part, but they all add up and one step leads to another. There are those that say they are going to develop the tar sands regardless. I don't believe that.

I have seen a lot of studies that show Canada can't ship that west, and it is too expensive to ship it east on the railroads. The only way they have to

go is the pipeline through America. I don't know whether cutting off the Keystone Pipeline will slow down or stop the tar sands development, but I believe we have to do everything in our power to slow it down and to get our neighbors to the north—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed 5 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. Just 1 more minute to finish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. To get our good neighbors, the Canadians, to the north to start moving away from the development of the tar sands, both for their good and for the good of our planet.

I don't want to keep digging the grave for our grandkids. I cannot vote any longer for anything that would develop or use more fossil fuels anywhere in our country or globally.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Before the Senator from Iowa leaves the floor, I thank him not only for his heartfelt remarks, because what we are doing here—we are here a short period of time in essence, whether we are here 6 years or 26 or 36 or even longer.

How long has the Senator been here?

Mr. HARKIN. Forty.

Mrs. BOXER. Forty years. When we look at the universe, we are here a very short time. He always thought about our kids and grandkids because that is what our job is.

We are so fortunate that we had a life in America that gave us the opportunity with policies that kept us healthy enough to do our work.

The tar sands are the dirtiest kind of oil there is. My friend makes that point. We need to protect the health of our families and the health of the planet, as my friend pointed out.

I just want to say to him how much I think it means to all Americans, the leadership the Senator has shown his entire career and the passion he is still showing today.

Mr. HARKIN. If I may respond in kind.

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my dear friend and colleague, long-standing in the Senate and in the House before, and to thank the Senator for her intellectual and energetic leadership on all issues concerning the environment and the health of our people and the health of our planet. Senator BOXER has been a stalwart. She has been a Rock of Gibraltar around here in making sense and making sense of our debate and the issues surrounding energy, energy use, energy efficiency, always keeping in mind what it means for the future of our kids.

As I leave the Senate I am happy to note the Senator from California will still be here.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much.

I see that Senator MURKOWSKI is here. We will reserve the balance of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Madam President. I assure my colleagues from Iowa, California, my colleagues from around the country, that as a Senator from an oil- and gas-producing State, a State where we have fossil fuels in abundance, that I, too, am focused on that next generation of energy security.

I want to do what we can to develop those renewables, whether it is geothermal, whether it is our amazing hydro capacity, whether it is what we have with our oceans or our tides, our winds, and our Sun.

I also recognize very cleanly that when we are talking about energy and energy security, we also need to think about the geopolitics and our national security when it comes to energy use and our vulnerability.

There is a lot of discussion on this floor right now about the Keystone XL Pipeline and the number of jobs it will bring.

I think we recognize that when we build something, there is that flurry of activity. There are those jobs that are very real, very good, very promising but can stretching jobs—jobs come and they go. What do we have left after they have completed Keystone XL Pipeline?

What we have is in a very real sense an energy lifeline, a lifeline that connects our friend and neighbor, Canada, to the north, to our opportunities for refining capacity in the Gulf of Mexico, our opportunities within this country to be more energy secure, to be less energy dependent.

I wanted to take just a few minutes this afternoon to not necessarily talk about the jobs perspective of the Keystone XL Pipeline, as passionate as I feel about that, but I wanted to focus on just a couple of points. One is the artificial chokepoints that are created in North America if we do not move forward with the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Earlier this month, the Energy Information Administration, EIA, published a report on world transit chokepoints for the global oil and gas trade.

There are about 90 million barrels a day of oil on that world market. Of that, 56.5 million barrels, about 63 percent, is transported by ship. It is moving around on our oceans.

This maritime trade that we see is dependent on a few chokepoints. We have heard of some of them—obviously, the Strait of Hormuz, 17 million barrels a day go through the Strait of Hormuz. We have the Strait of Malacca, where there are 15.2 million barrels a day. We also have the Suez Canal and the Sumed Pipeline, and the Bab el-

Mandab between Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

Effectively what we have are these very tight chokepoints where this flow of oil that comes around the world, around the globe, moves through.

Meanwhile, the Keystone XL would have the capacity of about 830,000 barrels per day. These are barrels that are secure, both economically and strategically, from a reliable friend and ally.

When we talk about the pros and cons of approving this pipeline, I think it is important that we think beyond just the benefit to our country, the benefit that Canada will have as a trading opportunity, but think about it from a national security perspective, from a global security perspective. By not approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, the President is creating an artificial chokepoint here. Other pipelines are full. We know the rail capacity is under severe constraint.

So think about it. We already have enough chokepoints out there in some of the most volatile points of the world. So factor this into the discussion that we have at hand.

The other point I would like to make is the integration of Keystone as a source of supply when we are talking about North American energy independence. We talk about that a lot on the energy committee. It is important when we talk about integration to understand how this piece from Canada fits into the source of supply for the Americas.

Again, EIA back in January published a report. This was on liquid fuels in the Americas. North and South America hold about 536 billion barrels of proved oil reserves. Back in 2012 the crude production was 19 million barrels a day. In North America, Mexico, Canada, and the United States, this is the lion's share of the Western Hemisphere production that we have right here.

So integrating our markets between the U.S. and the Canadian side just makes sense. In fact, it is the economic reality that is already on the ground. Last week I came to the floor talking about Keystone XL. I said: Why? Why is it such an issue, such a dilemma when we have 19 existing cross-border oil pipelines between Canada, Mexico, and the United States? They have been operating. They have been providing a resource to the benefit of both nations for years, for decades. Now we are twisted in knots, arguing for 5 years about whether or not the Keystone XL should proceed. I think we are going to look back on this a generation from now and we are going to wonder why and how we blocked this historic integration of our energy markets.

Then, the last thing I want to raise here is how the U.S. refineries—particularly those in the Gulf—are truly best prepared for the Canadian crude and thus bringing great benefits to

Americans as a result of the pipeline. We have the total refinery or distillation capacity here in the Americas of about 27.7 million barrels per day. This was last year's number. Roughly one-third of the world's refining capacity is here in the Americas. In North America nearly one-third of that capacity, 17.8 million barrels per day, are here in the United States. Specifically, for heavy crude, we have over half of the world's choking capacity here in this country.

The largest refineries in the Americas are down in the gulf coast as well as in Venezuela. There are others on the west coast, in the Midwest, and some on the east coast. But if you look at the map of where the refineries are—in the Americas and really globally—it is obvious the destination for the Canadian oil is in the gulf coast area.

This is a debate on Keystone XL that has generated a lot of emotion and a lot of discussion about how, if you are opposed to it, what we need to do is cut off this Canadian supply and somehow or other we will be at a new phase in our energy production and consumption. Our reality is the Canadians will continue to produce. The good news, I think for all of us, is that the Canadians are utilizing technologies and innovation in the industry that have come a remarkably long way in how they access the crude in Alberta and how they are able to process it in a way that truly is better for the environment.

So for those who are concerned that we must stop this pipeline dead in its tracks now, and if we do so, we will be a nation that has moved on beyond oil, I think that belies our reality.

I am one who wants to make sure we are pushing ourselves always to utilize our smarts and our technology to do better as we access our resources and do so in an environmentally responsible way. But I also want to make sure that as a nation we have energy policies which are directed toward resources that are affordable, abundant, clean, diverse, and secure. The security aspect of it is something I do not want my colleagues to forget.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I am going to yield Senator SANDERS 10 minutes.

I heard "clean energy." Just for the record, let's be clear. The tar sands oil is one of the dirtiest known on the planet. Heavy metals—we went through it chapter and verse. The hardest to clean up—it is a nightmare. So if my friend wants clean energy, she should vote no.

With that I yield 10 minutes to Senator SANDERS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. The issue that we are dealing with today is of enormous consequence for our country and, in fact,

for the entire planet. For that reason I rise in very strong opposition to the legislation on the floor and to the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

I strongly oppose this legislation and this project for a number of reasons. First and foremost, at a time when the scientific community is virtually unanimous in telling us that climate change is real, that it is caused by human activity and carbon emissions, that it is already causing devastating problems not only in the United States but all over the world in terms of drought, forest fires, flooding, extreme weather disturbances, and rising sea levels, at this moment when the scientific community is so clear about the dangers inherent upon a further dependance on fossil fuels, it is absolutely imperative for the future wellbeing of this country that we listen to the scientists and we begin the path forward to break our dependency on fossil fuel, not accelerate more drilling for the dirtiest oil on the planet.

The scientific community is telling us that we have a narrow window of opportunity to address the crisis of climate change. We do not have years and years. There are some people who think, in fact, that the game is already over, that the problem is irreversible. But be that as it may be, clearly our job now is to move as dramatically, as forcefully, as aggressively as we can to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel to energy efficiency, to weatherization, to sustainable energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and other sustainable technologies.

The Keystone XL Pipeline would move us exactly in the wrong direction. More dependance not only on fossil fuels but on some of the dirtiest fossil fuels imaginable—the dirtiest fossil fuels imaginable. That is crazy. To reject what the scientific community is telling us and then to add insult to injury by going forward aggressively and accelerating the drilling of dirty oil is something that is almost beyond comprehension.

I wonder what our kids and our grandchildren will think years and years from now when they have to deal with the damage we have caused, when they have to deal with the floods and the extreme weather disturbances and the droughts and the wars that are fought by people over limited resources. I wonder what they will think about a Congress which was told by those who know the most to move away from fossil fuels, and, in fact, moved in exactly the wrong direction by accelerating drilling for the dirtiest oil on the Earth?

That is the major point. But furthermore, this legislation is being referred to by some as a “jobs program.” Well, in my opinion, we do need a jobs program. We need a major jobs program. Real unemployment in this country is

close to 11 percent. Youth unemployment is 20 percent. Unemployment in the construction trade industries is very high. We need a real jobs program.

That is why we have to invest a substantial sum of money into rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our water systems, our rail, our airports. In doing that we improve life in this country. We make our Nation more productive, more efficient. That is very different than creating jobs through the Keystone Pipeline, which damages the future of our planet and the lives of our kids and our grandchildren.

Furthermore, when people talk about this being a jobs program, let's understand that there is no debate that what we are talking about are less than 50 permanent jobs—less than 50 permanent jobs. So to suggest this is some kind of big jobs program is nothing more than a cruel hoax and a misleading hoax to workers in this country who need decent-paying jobs.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield without losing his time?

Mr. SANDERS. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the time I use in this colloquy be taken off the time I have left.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I say to the Senator, your point is so well taken. I just want the Senator to know that this morning I said that the CEO of Keystone commented that there will be only 35 permanent jobs with the pipeline. I stand corrected. I went back and looked: 50 jobs—50 jobs.

The reason I want to take a minute to engage in this colloquy is that my friend has been, I think, one of the strongest and most effective voices for job creation and building a middle class that we have in the Senate. I was just looking at the numbers and wanted to go through a couple of things without my friend losing any time. In 2012 the U.S. installation of solar panels grew at a rate of 27 percent. I know my friend is trying desperately—and we work together on a lot of issues—to get us to put more of these solar panels on. In 2013 the solar industry employed 142,000 Americans in good-paying jobs. In 2013 the U.S. solar industry added 24,000.

So just looking at solar—and wind is another great story. At the end of 2013 the U.S. wind industry supported 560 manufacturing facilities and supported 50,500 full-time jobs in development, siting, construction, transportation and manufacturing, operation and services—direct jobs.

When we look at putting 50,500 full-time jobs, 142,000 jobs from solar, and you compare it to 50 full-time jobs, I think the Senator was so right to make the jobs argument what the Senator is making of it. It is not 50 jobs to do something that is going to make life

better for our people. It endangers the planet, and it has these terrible pollutants which cause respiratory illness, cancer, and the rest.

But I just wanted to thank the Senator for bringing up the issue of jobs because it is the biggest phony-baloney argument when you have the CEO of the company itself—of the pipeline—admit that it is 50 full-time jobs permanently. I think we have to shatter this illusion and continue to talk about clean energy future and really good jobs. I yield to my friend.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Senator. I would mention that several years ago we worked together to pass the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program, which pumped billions of dollars into weatherization, into sustainable energy.

I can tell you that in the State of Vermont right now work is being done weatherizing homes, saving substantial sums of money on fuel bills for working people, seeing a 30-, 40-percent reduction in fuel bills and equivalent reductions in the emission of carbon into the air. That is what we should be investing in all over America. Let's create those jobs. Let's create jobs building the wind turbines and the solar panels that we desperately need.

We need to be aggressive in that area and above that and beyond that. Everybody knows that bridges in Vermont, in California—the Senator is chairman of not only the environmental committee but the public works committee. She knows that as well as anybody. We need to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. I understand why the construction workers want these jobs, with high unemployment in construction industry.

We have to put these guys to work and we can do that. We can do it by transforming our energy system. We can do it by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure. We are talking about millions of decent-paying jobs, not 50 permanent jobs or a few thousand construction jobs. We are talking about millions of permanent jobs.

I would further add, when we heard this discussion during the caucus today—and I would ask the Senator of California, the chair of the committee, if my Republican friends are so concerned about jobs, please tell me where we are going with the wind tax credit and the solar tax credit, which have been so very important to creating jobs in the wind and solar energy.

Clearly, our friends who talk about the “all of the aboves” are enthusiastically supporting these tax credits.

Will my friend from California enlighten us?

Mrs. BOXER. I am so pleased the Senator made the point.

Today we had Senator THUNE make an eloquent statement about jobs—eloquent—and I thought he was going to change his position on minimum wage. How about that. Try raising a family on that.

These wind tax credits and these solar tax credits, this is creating a boom. I will say in my State, as in yours, I put something in the RECORD today, we have bounced back from this recession better than almost any State because of clean energy. It is such a win/win.

But our friends on the other side, when it is something the oil companies want—oh, they are out there, oh, yes, yes, jobs. But we know this is 50 jobs. This is the CEO of this pipeline company admitting that is it, 50 jobs. So it is not about the jobs, it is about their view of energy, which is the old way, which is the going backward. This was not embracing the clean energy future so that we can, in fact, create many more jobs and keep the planet clean.

Mr. SANDERS. If I may reclaim my time and wind down and finish my remarks, there are two basic issues. No. 1, I know many of my Republican friends deny what the overwhelming majority of scientists are telling us; that is, not only is climate change real, that it is caused by human activity, that it is already causing devastating problems. To continue to deny that reality is to endanger the lives of our kids, our grandchildren, and the planet on which they will live. To say to people all over the world that we Americans are concerned about climate change and yet vote for a project which will encourage and accelerate the excavation of some of the dirtiest oil in the world will make all of us look like fools and hypocrites throughout the world and will make future generations wonder what we were thinking about on that vote today.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it took an election on November 4. It took an election, but here we are at long last, some 6 years after the initial application for the Keystone XL Pipeline was filed and, as you know, for a long time now, I think at least since 2012, we have been trying to get a vote, the very same vote that is now scheduled for this afternoon. We have been trying to get a vote on the Senate floor so we could see whether there was a bipartisan majority, a supermajority of 60 or more, who would join our colleagues in the House and pass this bill authorizing the Keystone XL Pipeline and send it to the President.

We know the Keystone XL Pipeline would be good for our economy. We know it would be good for job creation, and I know there has been some quibbling, perhaps, about how many jobs, but the Department of State has said about 42,000 jobs would be created as a result of this project.

We also know this would be good for U.S. energy security to have a source of safe energy from Canada—one of our

best allies and partners to the north—as opposed to shipping it in from troubled regions like the Middle East. It makes sense from an energy security standpoint, and it would be good for national security as well. It would also be good for our strategic interests overseas.

I have heard my colleagues, mainly on the other side say that, well, we are concerned about the environmental impact, and I am too, but President Obama's own State Department has once again found that the Keystone XL Pipeline would have a negligible impact on the environment.

In short, even in a moment of intense polarization in Washington, there is a strong consensus on Keystone, and if we get 60-plus votes today I think that consensus will be demonstrated.

Will we all agree? No. We have strongly held beliefs on both sides of this issue. But the way we function in the Senate is by actually scheduling votes—as we are going to have today—and letting the majority carry the day. And that, I predict, will happen today.

This is a day that I know my colleague, the senior Senator from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN, has been working for a long time, again, across the aisle. He has been our No. 1 leader on this issue for years now and he has consistently explained the benefits of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

He comes from North Dakota, the second most productive State in the country when it comes to oil and gas. I come from the No. 1 State. I point that out often when it comes to producing oil and gas, and this has been a renaissance for the American economy and for American energy, what has happened in America, thanks to private investment and innovation in the oil and gas industry.

Senator HOEVEN has constantly worked with people across the aisle to rally the kind of support that has led us to this day, and he has repeatedly pressed the majority leader, Senator REID, to allow a binding vote on the floor such as we are going to have today, and then the next step will be to send it to President Obama for his signature.

Well, we haven't had that kind of vote before the November 4 election. That is why I said elections can change things and indeed, apparently, it has changed the majority leader's mind to allow this vote, which at long last we will have this afternoon.

Why has there been a change of attitude on the part of the majority leader to allow us to hold this vote this week? I will leave that to the pundits, but I will say our collective decision on Keystone should be determined by what is in America's national interests, not the interest of a single political party or the interest of a single Senator. The interests of our country as a whole should be our guide.

For that matter, it is time for our President to put his cards on the table. I know once this vote was scheduled, the President's press secretary and the President himself made some ambiguous remarks, leaving in doubt whether he would actually sign or would ultimately veto this legislation. I hope we don't see a continuation of the gamesmanship we have seen until this point, and that once this bill passes—if it does this afternoon—the majority leader will send it promptly to the President so the President can make that decision.

What I mean by I hope the gamesmanship doesn't continue is I know there is the flexibility the majority leader might have to actually hold the bill here and to wait until after the December 6 runoff election in Louisiana before sending it to the President. But I hope we don't have that kind of gamesmanship.

The American people deserve the truth, they deserve accountability, and it has been more than 6 years since this application first came through. The proponents of this project deserve this vote today, as do the American people.

As a matter of fact, back in March of 2012, before his reelection, the President traveled to Cushing, OK, to champion the Texas leg of the Keystone XL Pipeline. He didn't have any real role to play in authorizing that, because that was within the continental United States. The President's role, and the one that this bill would force his hand on, literally, is what would authorize this international pipeline between Canada and the United States. That does require his approval. This legislation would require it or, in fact, mandate it.

But he went to Cushing, OK, to champion the Texas leg of the Keystone Pipeline project, and it did not need his approval, but at the time he said he would work to expedite that portion. However, that portion didn't require his approval and it was already up and running at the time. So you will have to determine why the President would go there for a project that did not need his approval and said he would expedite it—what his real motivation is. But he said:

And as long as I'm President, we're going to keep on encouraging oil development and infrastructure and we're going to do it in a way that protects the health and safety of the American people. We don't have to choose between one or the other, we can do both.

I actually agree with what the President said, the words I just quoted. That is a good statement of what our policy should be. But I have been around Washington long enough to know that we can't just listen to what people say, we have to watch what they actually do, because sometimes those are diametrically opposed.

In this case, notwithstanding what the President said in Cushing, OK, he

has continued to delay, delay, and delay, making a final decision on the portion of Keystone XL Pipeline that requires his approval.

But we are here this afternoon to say enough is enough. Regardless of how this vote turns out, it is time for the President to explain his views on the project that his own State Department has said would create 42,000 jobs in America. He can choose to endorse the Keystone XL Pipeline and thereby deliver a significant boost to America's economy, America's security, and America's relations with our largest trading partner in Canada.

Alternatively, the President can choose to oppose Keystone and thereby miss a golden opportunity to promote a richer, stronger, and safer American future. I can only hope he makes the right choice.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 51 minutes for the opposition.

Mrs. BOXER. And on the other side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator HOEVEN controls 67 minutes and Senator LANDRIEU controls 32 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. While we are waiting for Senator WHITEHOUSE—he is on his way—I want to focus the attention of those who are watching this debate on truly what we are talking about. If this was about building a pipeline that was carrying something that didn't hurt anybody, I wouldn't be standing here. But this is about building a pipeline that is going to carry the dirtiest oil we know of, and this dirty oil is already causing lots of problems.

Where it is refined in Port Arthur, TX, I met with the people there. I met with the people there. Senators don't live near refineries. Again, if I am wrong on that, I would like to be corrected. People live near refineries sometimes because it is where affordable housing is, and this is what it looks like. They do not want this stuff.

With all the talk of jobs, jobs, jobs, let's be clear. The CEO of the company said 50 jobs. So if you want to lay this kind of misery on people who live in this community, vote aye. That is fine. But just take a look at this. We don't see many kids playing on this playground because this pollution is vicious. It adds more heavy metals. It causes asthma. The pollutants cause cancer. We are talking about lead and we are talking about sulfur in very heavy quantities.

So let's be clear. We don't see my friends who support this talking about what happens when you refine, but that is what happens. If this was the only thing we could do to make ourselves energy independent, that is one thing, but I have already shown, with the Senator from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, how many incredible jobs are being produced across this Nation in clean energy: solar, wind, geothermal. We are looking at a potential of millions. In California, those clean energy jobs have led us out of the darkest recession we have seen since the Great Depression, and I have put those statistics into the RECORD.

I have to say this. In all the years I have been in public life, starting when I was a county official, not one constituent ever came up to me and said: BARBARA, the air is too clean. Oh, God. My air is so clean. The water I drink is so pure. Please don't get in the way of making it dirty. I have been in office for a very long time. No one has ever said that. On the contrary, what they say is: Please, my child has asthma. Please don't back off. Don't let Big Oil or big coal or the Koch brothers or whoever it is stand in the way of my family having a good quality of life.

We can take a look at a country where they have thrown the environment under the bus. Here it is. This is what it looks like. That is what it looks like in China. I am sure you have heard a lot of the speeches in China that we will be hearing here: Oh, we need the jobs and we need the energy. They realize now they are in trouble. The President just made a pact with the leader of China to cut back on pollution. But this is what happens when you throw the environment under the bus. People can't breathe. Kids have to wear masks. That is a fact.

Go to any school and ask the kids—and I know my friend, our great Presiding Officer—ask the kids: How many of you have asthma or how many of you know someone who has asthma? Honest to God, more than half the class will raise their hands.

We need clean energy. We need clean energy. We need clean energy jobs. And if we can clean up our coal, I will be right there. If we can do safe nuclear and not build these plants on earthquake faults, as they did in my State, fine. But don't unleash the dirtiest oil known to mankind when the CEO of the company says it means 50 jobs.

We all know that oil is going to be pumped right out of here. We all know it is the toughest oil to clean up because we have seen the spills in Kalamazoo, MI. We have seen the spills in Arkansas. Because of the nature of this oil, the heaviness of this oil, they are still cleaning up that oil 3 years later.

It is now my pleasure to yield to Senator WHITEHOUSE for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Senator for her constant leadership on this issue. I am going to start on a somewhat unusual note because I want to compliment my lead adversary here, Senator LANDRIEU, who has fought so hard to bring this bill to the floor. She is passionate about getting this done, and it is because of her efforts that we are here.

I have to say I am just as passionate as she in opposition to this bill. Many of us come from coal States or oil States or natural gas States. Rhode Island doesn't have coal—at least it hasn't in generations. We used to mine coal in Portsmouth, in Cumberland, but that has been a long time ago. We don't have natural gas sources. We don't pump oil.

What we do have is a coastline, and at that coastline what coal and oil and natural gas are doing to all of us through the operation of natural laws, through the operation of the laws of science—stuff we can't get around because this isn't opinion—is very harmful to our island.

Naval Station Newport has a tide gauge. My friend Senator MANCHIN was kind enough to come and visit from West Virginia and we started out bright and early in the morning and our first stop was with the Navy folks down at the tide gauge. At that tide gauge what they show is that since the 1930s the water levels are up 10 inches.

We had something very big happen in Rhode Island. In the 1930s we had the hurricane of 1938. If anybody wants to take 2 minutes and Google hurricane of 1938 and hit images, they will see terrific destruction. They will see our capital city flooded to the top of the buses. They will see houses smashed to flinders and boats thrown up onto the land. That was with a sea 10 inches below what we have now, and every responsible scientist tells us the risk of worse and bigger ocean storms has increased because of the emission of carbon.

So I have a very clear perspective on this, and that is that we have to address our carbon pollution problem before it comes home to roost in very dangerous ways in my State. It is there already. As the Senator from West Virginia saw, we have fishermen who say this is not my grandfather's ocean. Their world has changed because of the way we have changed it. This pipeline, because of the filthiness of the fuel that it brings into the market, will add additional carbon dioxide in the amount of nearly 6 million cars per year on the roads—6 million cars per year on the roads—and that comes home to roost in Rhode Island. That comes home to roost in warming waters.

Narragansett Bay is nearly 4 degrees—mean winter water temperature—warmer than it was 50 years ago. I can remember driving over the Newport Bridge and Jamestown Bridge and

looking down in the winter and seeing trawlers out at work—trawlers at work fishing for the winter flounder. The winter flounder is gone. It has had more than a 90-percent crash, largely because, as the scientists have told me, the warmer Narragansett Bay is no longer hospitable to the fish. Four degrees doesn't seem like a big deal to me. It probably doesn't seem like a big deal to any human, for whom the water is kind of an alien place, but for the fish that live in it, 4 degrees is an ecosystem shift. My wife, a major professor at the University of Rhode Island School of Oceanography, explained that to me several decades ago for the first time.

The argument is that this is going to bring jobs. I am all for those jobs. But let us not be selective about when we are for jobs. If we are only for jobs when it is oil pipelines, then something else is going on than the concern about jobs. Where was the concern about jobs when a bipartisan piece of legislation called Shaheen-Portman for energy efficiency was on the floor and was estimated to create not 42,000 temporary jobs, not less than 4,000 direct temporary jobs, not less than 50 permanent jobs, but 190,000 jobs? That bill got nowhere. It died here, and it died here for reasons that were very open on the front of the paper.

JEANNE SHAHEEN's opponent, who is a former colleague of ours, asked to have the bill die so she would not have a legislative accomplishment to her credit. So the agreement that the bill was going to pass got reworked, and the folks came back to Majority Leader REID and said: Actually, we are not ready to support this bill. We need a vote on Keystone Pipeline. We need a sense of the Senate on Keystone Pipeline. Senator REID said: OK. We can have a sense of the Senate on Keystone Pipeline. Agreed. Then they came back again—moved the goalpost again—and said: Well, we need more than a sense of the Senate now. We actually need a hard vote on the Keystone Pipeline. Leader REID checked around and said: All right. I don't like this much, but sure. Fine. In order to move Shaheen-Portman, a 190,000-job bill, go ahead and have your vote. Then they came back and moved the goalpost a third time. They said: We don't just need a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, we need to win the vote, and if you can't give us a win on the vote, then you don't get Shaheen-Portman.

When the goalposts get moved that often, you can pretty much figure out there is something more going on than the merits of the bill. They didn't want the bill to pass. They didn't want it to come up. But where was the concern then about 190,000 jobs, when everybody is in an uproar about these 40,000 indirect temporary jobs?

I will stop right now and do anything to get infrastructure legislation passed

and put people to work rebuilding America's roads, rebuilding America's water pipes, and rebuilding America's bridges. We can put hundreds of thousands of people to work doing that. But when we had the chance to do that, when Chairman BOXER brought a 6-year environment bill out of the Environment and Public Works Committee, where every billion dollars we invest in highway infrastructure supports 13,000 jobs, and this was a multibillion—multibillion—dollar bill, did they pass it? No, they filibustered it, stopped it, and gave us a 3-to-5-month stopgap bill, during which nobody is going to enter into any big contracts, depressing employment, and moving the bill into the next Congress where they thought they would have a majority and in fact they will.

If you want to do something about jobs, we can take your 42,000 dirty pipeline jobs and we can raise that by a factor of 5 just by doing Shaheen-Portman. We can raise it by a factor of 10 or 15 with infrastructure legislation. We can do big jobs bills, and we are ready to do them, but not when it is only dirty oil pipelines. Because there are two sides of the ledger. There is the side that says jobs, and there is the side that says harm. My problem with this is that our friends on the other side of the aisle will not look at the second page. They pretend the second page doesn't exist.

Even in coastal States where I have been, down to Georgia, to Sapelo Island, where the University of Georgia has a terrific marine science undertaking that has been going on for decades now, they are very clear. Carbon pollution is doing real harm to the coast. It is raising the Georgia sea level at a rate that is challenging the ability of the famous marshes to keep up. If they cannot keep up, they flood. If they flood, they get washed away and you lose that entire infrastructure that supports clambers and oystermen and fishermen and tourism and all the things that are important for Georgia. I say that because I see my friend Senator ISAKSON on the floor.

You could use an example of everything that stays in the country, and our colleagues will never ever look at that other page. If you were the CFO of a corporation and you only looked at one side of a ledger, you would go to jail for that.

It shouldn't be asking too much to ask our colleagues to reflect on the fact that there are benefits to this pipeline and there are harms to this pipeline. From my State's point of view, it is all harm. From a net point of view, the harm vastly outweighs the value by I think virtually any State's measure—perhaps not South Dakota. There is real harm that this will cause. Six million cars' equivalent of CO₂ added every year is more than we need.

So I think we need to turn the corner. More importantly, it is not what I

think that matters; the American people understand we need to turn the corner on climate change and carbon pollution. It doesn't matter whom you ask. If you ask independent voters, it is better than 2 to 1. If you ask all voters, it is about 2 to 1. If you ask young voters, it is more like 4 to 1. There is a poll that shows that among young Republican voters, self-identified Republican voters under the age of 35, when asked about a politician who denies that climate change is real, they say that politician—they are asked to check off the box, and what they checked off was "ignorant, out of touch, or crazy."

So it is time to make this turn, and there is no better moment to make this turn than on this pipeline that would bring the filthiest fuel on the planet into circulation and hurt even more those of us who are already being hurt by carbon pollution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, my oldest son graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans with a master's degree in economics. He wrote a paper for his master's thesis called "The Dutch Disease." I had never heard of the Dutch disease, but, him being my son, I read the thesis because I thought it would be important. What is the Dutch disease about? The Dutch disease is about a country that has an infinite supply of wealth—i.e., resources—but doesn't ever use that money to reinvest in its people. They buy what they need. It was about the Middle East, and if you look at the Middle East, every country over there that has a tremendous supply of oil and petroleum—what do they do? They buy their doctors and bring them over. They don't build universities. They don't make investments in themselves, and they give money to their people. The country's people suffer from the Dutch disease because the money is not reinvested to expand the wealth of the country.

There is another disease called the dumb disease. The dumb disease is when you don't have a natural resource and have the opportunity to get some of it, but you turn it away for reasons that don't make any sense.

I have tremendous respect for the gentleman from Rhode Island and the distinguished lady from California. In fact, I traveled with the distinguished lady from California to go to Disko Bay in Greenland to listen to Dr. Alley talk about climate change and climatology. While I completely realize that carbon is something we need to reduce in the atmosphere, I don't completely buy into the fact that it is the be-all and end-all destructor of the environment. I think it is good politics for all of us to reduce carbon everywhere we can but not by stopping progression, not by stopping jobs and not developing.

On the Keystone XL Pipeline, let's be realistic. You are going to have up to 500,000 barrels of oil a day traveling from the tar sands in Canada to Houston, TX, and the South of the United States to be refined, and it is not going to generate one single isotope of carbon because it is going to be underground. It is not going to be burned. It is not going to be carried in a tanker truck that is going to be burning diesel in transport. So you have less generation of carbon by building the pipeline than you would have otherwise.

Secondly, as another alternative, that oil is going to go somewhere. If we don't allow the TransCanada pipeline to be built by the Keystone people in the United States, they are going to build a pipeline to Vancouver, and they are going to ship, on ships, the oil from the tar sands to China. In other words, it is going to get somewhere where there are not good standards and more carbon will go into the atmosphere. Just because you burn it in America doesn't mean it is not going to get to China and vice versa.

We have estimates from the people of expertise that this would generate 42,000 jobs. That is a lot of jobs. I think that is important. That is No. 1.

No. 2, it will give us a diversified supply of petroleum in the United States and help continue the United States on the track of being an energy-independent country—the most important thing we can possibly do for our national security.

The only reason the Russians went into Ukraine and Crimea was simply because they held the gasoline and petroleum to hold those countries hostage and there wasn't another source from which to take it.

Every time we improve our access to petroleum, every time we improve our access to energy, we are improving our national defense and the national security of our country, and we maintain ourselves as a superpower not just by name but by economic force as well.

So I am all for reducing carbon isotopes in the atmosphere, and I think running that pipeline does exactly that because it moves it without burning it. And I am for jobs. I am for 42,000 jobs in America anytime we can get them. I am for expanding our access. Sure, some of the petroleum that is refined will be sold in the world market. It will be refined in the United States. If we had a shortage somewhere else, we could help make up that shortage. We could take that money and raise the supply and reduce the price of petroleum in the world marketplace.

The Keystone XL Pipeline just makes good sense. Let's not do something dumb and reject an asset our country has sitting there. We would be sitting on a ham sandwich and starving to death. Looking at our food and not eating it would be crazy, and we have the access to do it.

The State Department on five separate occasions—five separate occasions—has approved it. We have tried for 6 years to get this vote. Regardless of how we get it, I hope we get it and I hope we get 60 or more votes here.

I hope the President will rethink his position on vetoing the bill because the American people are for it, the petroleum industry is for it, the automobile industry is for it, it generates revenues and jobs in the United States of America, it diversifies our energy supply, and it makes us more energy independent than we would otherwise be.

Just as the Dutch disease afflicts countries that don't take advantage of the wealth they have in terms of natural resources, the dumb disease is when you have access to natural resources and you pass them up because of reasons that are political and not practical.

I am going to cast my vote in favor of the Keystone XL Pipeline. I will cast my vote for jobs in America, for common sense, and for not succumbing to the dumb disease in the United States of America and instead investing in our petroleum and our ability to refine and our ability to use it.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Before my friend leaves, since he said those of us who vote against this have the dumb disease—and I think it is funny. I am not insulted in any way, shape, or form. But I just feel very differently because I don't think it is dumb to say no to a resource that you think is going to hurt the people because it is such dirty, filthy oil.

The CEO of the pipeline company says it means 50 permanent jobs, when you could have so many more millions of jobs if you embrace clean energy.

Also, I don't think it is dumb at all to say what the economists are now saying, which is that it is going to raise gas prices at home because it is going to be exported.

So I think "dumb" is in the eyes of the beholder. And I think my colleague is very smart, but I don't think those of us who say no to Keystone are dumb. I think we are smart. I think we are looking at the future. I think we are standing up for the health of the American people. I think we are standing up for jobs and a clean energy economy, and I feel very strongly about that. And what we are talking about is the dirtiest, filthiest oil on the planet.

I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. This debate is really about some simple fundamental principles. Keystone is a Canadian export line. That is what the oil is going to do. It is going to travel from the dirti-

est tar sands fields in Canada through a pipeline like a straw through the United States, down to the Gulf of Mexico, and then be exported out of the United States of America.

How do I know this? I know it because I made the amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives saying this oil stays in America. Do you know who opposed it? The American Petroleum Institute and the Canadian Government. This is the Canadian Keystone export pipeline. We take all the environmental risk and this oil goes out of our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we still import approximately the same amount of oil in 2014 as we imported in 1975 when we put the ban on exportation of oil on the books. We are still exporting young men and women overseas into the Middle East to protect tankers coming into our country, and we are going to build a pipeline for the Canadians down to the Gulf of Mexico so they can use us as a straw to send it down and then export it out of our country? Where is the American angle on this?

I keep hearing that it is about American security. Do you want to know what this is all about? I will tell you what it is all about. The Canadian companies want to make more money. They want to take the oil from Canada, bring it down through the United States, bring it to the Gulf of Mexico, and then send it to Europe, Latin America, and China. Why? Because they will pay more for this oil than the United States will pay for this oil. They will make billions of extra dollars once they can get it on a ship because the price for world oil is set at a price, which is called Brent, but it is the global price.

Well, in the United States, because of fracking, because of our rise in domestic energy production, and because of our dramatic increase in fuel economy standards, we are producing more oil and consuming less simultaneously, and the price of oil at the gasoline pump for people who use home heating oil as a way of heating their home is going down dramatically.

What does that translate into? Well, every time the price of a barrel of oil goes down just 1 cent at the pump, it is \$1 billion into the pockets of the American consumers—\$1 billion. So from July of 2008 until today, it has dropped from \$4.11 to \$2.88 at the pump, and Americans all across America are not afraid to go to a gasoline station right now and fear that they are going to be tipped upside down and have money shaken out of their pockets because they can pay \$2.88 and it is dropping.

If we keep the Canadian oil in the United States, that price is going to drop even more because we will have to import even less than we do now from the Middle East. That helps consumers. That helps our economy. That should

be the plan, not taking all these environmental risks and not getting the economic benefits.

The lower the price is, the greater the economic activity in our country. Manufacturers start to say: I will build my plant here. The price of energy is much lower. There is much greater economic activity because people have more money in their pockets to buy other American products other than oil, and they buy them in their neighborhoods, they buy them in their communities. That is what this should be all about.

What is this debate not about—I mean decidedly not about? It is not about solar, it is not about wind, and it is not about energy efficiency. It should be. If we are going to debate an energy future for our country, it should not be oil above all; it should be all of the above.

So right now what we are hearing from the other side is that they just might not support the extension of the wind tax break, even as wind has now created 80,000 new jobs in the American economy. They are not talking about extending the solar tax break for another 5 years, which they should be. That has created 142,000 new jobs in the American economy. And I will tell you why. Because this is an agenda to make sure the oil industry gets what they want on the one hand, and they can starve their competitors on the other—wind, solar, energy efficiency.

Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN had a bill that addressed energy efficiency. It has been dying here on the floor of the Senate for the last 2 years. What is its biggest problem? I will tell you what it is: It creates 190,000 new jobs in energy efficiency which would reduce the need to use fossil fuels to generate the same amount of electricity because the single wisest way to consume energy is to not consume it in the first place so you don't have to take the money out of your pockets. That is energy efficiency. That is working smarter, not harder. Shaheen-Portman, dead. The Republicans killed it. The wind tax break, dead. The solar tax break is not going to be extended.

If we are going to have a debate in our country, if we are going to talk about job creation, if we are going to have something that really deals with the future of our country, let's put solar, wind, energy efficiency, biomass, and geothermal—let's bring them all out here. Let's have a big debate and not just something that has the Canadians use America as a conduit—as a straw—to get their oil out of our country so they can make an extra \$5 or \$10 or \$15 for every barrel they sign. You don't have to go to Harvard Business School to see this business plan on a 3-by-5 card. If you get it out of America, you make \$10 to \$15 more per barrel. It is simple. There is no thinking required here.

What is in it for us? The dirtiest oil in the world goes through the United States so that Canadian oil companies can make money. It makes no sense, not if America is generating hundreds of thousands of new jobs with wind and solar and the tax breaks in those industries are on the table to be killed. We should be trying to use this as a debate about the big issues. Yes, reducing greenhouse gases, but it is job creation and it is national security. If that oil stayed in America—this Canadian oil—and if wind and solar and biomass and geothermal were given those incentives, we could tell those Arab nations that we don't need their oil any more than we need their sand. That is what we should be talking about out here, that plan. That is not what we are talking about, however. We are talking about something that is very narrow and only creates jobs in the short run. Once the pipeline is built, it takes almost a handful of employees to run that pipeline. Rather than creating the permanent jobs in wind and solar, the permanent jobs in energy efficiency, the permanent jobs in solar panel manufacturing—how do you possibly expect the American people to think this institution is serious if we are not going to be having that kind of a debate?

Ladies and gentlemen, don't kill the production tax credit; don't kill the solar tax breaks in 2 years. Let's have the big discussion about where America is going. Let's do it in a way that has a comprehensive plan which is ultimately put together.

I say to you right now: Do not build this Canadian Keystone "export" pipeline. Don't build it until we have the debate, which this country expects. Young people in campuses all across the country expect a debate on wind and solar; they expect a debate on using technology. We are the brain country; we are the technology country. We are the country that can invent our way into this new world—into reducing greenhouse gases and breaking our dependence on imported oil. That is who we are as a nation.

We put a man on the Moon in 8 years. We were challenged, and we did it. We invented new metals and new propulsion systems. We are the can-do Nation. We invent the new technologies that young people want. We are not doing that here today. We are just helping the Canadians take oil and send it right out of our country.

If they would accept an amendment to say this oil stays here in America, that would change the debate a little bit. If they were willing to add wind and solar tax breaks and efficiency incentives, that would change the debate. But they are not going to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used his 10 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask for one additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. By the way, I just served over in the House in the last 4 years when the Republicans—the tea party—took over the House of Representatives. What did they do on an ongoing basis? Cut incentives for renewables, cut the energy efficiency budget, kept passing bills that stripped the Environmental Protection Agency of its ability to regulate pollution and its ability to increase the fuel economy standards, not just for cars but for boats and planes. That is not the direction our country should be going in.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill.

I also have to say at the same time that I have the highest respect for Senator LANDRIEU. She is a passionate and dedicated and articulate force fighting for her State and fighting for her beliefs. There is no one in this entire institution whom I respect more than her and her passionate belief and the cause she is championing out here on the Senate floor, but at the same time, I respectfully urge a "no" vote on the Keystone Pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts. He calls it the Keystone "export" pipeline, and that is exactly right. I call it the Keystone "extra lethal" pipeline given the type of pollutants that come with this oil.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent to propound a UC request on an issue that is completely different and ask that it not count against my time. It is a 60-second UC. I believe Senator VITTER is here to oppose it, but I don't want it to count against any debate time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2014, to conduct a business meeting where we would have three votes for two TVA members and one Nuclear Regulatory Commission member. All three nominees have had extensive hearings. In the case of Mr. Baran, he has had 88 written questions and answers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Reserving the right to object. There are major concerns, particularly about the NRC nominee. He has no technical or scientific background. He visited his first nuclear plant this summer.

Given that, and given that there is no precedent anywhere that I can find for

a 4-year nomination to the NRC not to have a nomination hearing before the committee, all we are asking for is a normal, routine nomination hearing.

Given all of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask that we continue the agreement that this not count on Keystone time.

I need to make the point that Mr. Baran, who is the subject of Mr. VITTER's complaint, has already been confirmed. What we are doing is putting him in a different seat on the same commission that has a different expiration date. He has already had a hearing, and Senator VITTER asked 56 questions.

I think it is sad—the Republicans have won the election. Yes, they did. And they said: Oh, we are going to get busy and we are going to work.

All I want to do is have a meeting so we can do our work off the floor on people who have had extensive hearings. Now they say: Oh, no, we can't possibly do that. And then my friend talks about the nominee's lack of experience when, in fact, he was already confirmed. When Republican Commissioner Spinickey was nominated, she had never even visited a powerplant. Nobody ever said anything about that, and we all let it go.

Sadness is in my heart. Really. This is our work. We are here to work. I thought that is what the Republicans said they wanted to do—they wanted to work. Oh, no. They come here and object to a meeting off the floor of the Senate so that we can move forward.

I wish to make a point: The TVA, Tennessee Valley Authority, is a very important authority. They deliver electricity, and they do it in a good way, they do it in a cheap way, and they do it in an environmentally sound way. That is their job. They need commissioners.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission—my God, after Fukushima, you would think people would want to work together. We have a great nominee who worked over in the House for years. He has already been confirmed.

Let it be known to the world, as I stand here today, after an election where I admit we lost and they won, and they said they were going to be good soldiers and cooperate, but we can't mark up the first thing that happens.

So now I will have to use another technique that I have in my rules, and I will, but I don't want to do it. I wanted to have a bipartisan meeting, but if they force me to just do it with the majority, which we now have, so be it. But I will not allow these vacancies to continue.

In the case of the NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it is actually dangerous. I have nuclear powerplants

sitting on earthquake faults and in tsunami zones. I want to have an NRC that is functional.

In any case, I will calm down and get back my Keystone Pipeline voice, and I say to my friends who are not here: They blocked this now, but unfortunately we will have to use the rules to get this done because that is our job. We have to fill these slots.

I thank my colleagues very much.

Senator WALSH is here and wishes to speak under the time of Senator HOEVEN, and I will get out of the way and allow him to proceed.

How much time remains on the opponents' side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 29 minutes remaining in opposition.

Mrs. BOXER. How many remain on the proponents' side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They control 62 minutes. The Senator from Louisiana still has 32 minutes, so they have a total of 94 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Keystone XL Pipeline, a critical infrastructure project that has been delayed by political games for far too long. Just recently the American people have said they are tired of political games. They want action in Washington, DC.

The Keystone Pipeline will provide good-paying construction jobs to Americans—including hard-working Montanans—at no cost to the American taxpayer. As the Bakken region continues to boom, this pipeline will provide an important onramp for Montana oil which will boost local economies.

This year the Bakken formation produced its billionth barrel of crude oil. That means hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in local economies to support good-paying jobs in the United States instead of being sent abroad. It also means 1 billion barrels of oil did not come from places such as Iran and Russia.

A few weeks ago, I got to see firsthand the remarkable development that is happening in eastern Montana and the work that is being done to help secure our energy independence. I have seen firsthand the costs of dependence on oil from hostile places.

During the Iraq war, I commanded the largest deployment of Montanans to war since World War II. In World War II, our strategic interest in the Middle East has been oil. Our dependence on foreign oil should never again be a reason for war.

By carrying Canadian and American oil to American refineries, the Keystone XL Pipeline will play a vital role in making us more energy secure and prosperous while insulating our economy from price shocks caused by foreign conflicts.

The continued delay in approving and building the pipeline is also costing Montana and other States along the route millions in lost tax dollars each year. I say again, millions of lost tax dollars each year to those States where that pipeline is going to come through. As responsible domestic energy production continues to boom, we must also address the serious infrastructure limitations to safely transporting American oil to the marketplace.

In March, I commissioned a report from the Government Accountability Office to study recent rail traffic trends, especially those patterns associated with the oil boom in the Bakken. The report identified several safety concerns as a result of rail traffic. The increase in rail congestion has also impacted Montana's farmers who rely on rail to bring their crops to the market.

These challenges are not going to go away. In fact, the Department of Transportation expects freight traffic to rise by 51 percent between 2007 and 2040, in part due to limited oil pipeline capacity. Any further delays in approving this project present serious threats to the health and safety of our people, as well as our economy.

By building this pipeline with proper precautions taken to guarantee pipeline safety and reliability, we can provide energy producers with the infrastructure they need to deliver their products to consumers in a safe and efficient manner.

I wish to make clear that building this pipeline does not distract from our responsibility to address climate change across our economy. Coming from a State such as Montana, where we cherish our clean air, our clean water, and our beautiful public lands, it is very important to maintain our environment. But we won't solve global problems by stopping individual projects. We need more comprehensive solutions that transition us toward a cleaner economy.

The excessive delays in approving this project is another example of how Washington is broken. The State Department has finished the environmental impact study required before approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. This project enjoys strong bipartisan support here in Congress, and the American people have spoken that they want bipartisan support and they want action from the representatives they send to Washington, DC. This is our opportunity to act on behalf of the American people.

It is time to build this pipeline, and build it right, with the best possible materials, while preserving protections for landowners and implementing effective energy response plans. We can do it, and we can do it safely. Today we have an opportunity to show the American people that Congress is still capable of meaningful action to promote a

strong and stable economy while reducing our reliance on countries who wish to do harm to us.

Today, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes on this vital project.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA'S ENERGY CHALLENGES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about China's inability to keep its promise with the United States. We had someone go over there. Of course, the President went over and talked to President Xi, and they gave assurances that certain things were going to happen. I have always said for quite some time—I have had occasion to visit with the Chinese, and a lot of them were hoping the United States would restrict development here at home so that the only place our manufacturers could go would be places such as China, India, Mexico, and so on.

One of the statements made by the President of China was that they would stop increasing their emissions by 2030. But it is impossible to accomplish this goal because of its current domestic energy mix and heavy reliance on coal for affordable electricity for its economy.

Now, even if that statement were accurate—that they will eventually stop increasing emissions—what they are also saying is that they are going to continue increasing their emissions from where they are today until 2030. That is a long ways from now.

Nonetheless, I made a speech last week in which I said that China has no known reserves of natural gas. I was wrong. I was wrong due to some of the misinformation we got. The fact that they are not able to realize these reserves is very significant. That shouldn't distract from the fact that China has a difficult road ahead in developing affordable sources of fuel to meet its energy demands.

According to a *Forbes* article dated August 19, 2014, "China is not the United States and faces technological, geological, technical and topological hurdles in developing its shale gas resources."

That is a quote from *Forbes* magazine.

China announced in August that it had to lower its natural gas production forecasts significantly. In 2012 the Chinese projected they would produce 60 billion to 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas from shale by 2020. In August of this year they cut that forecast to only 30 billion cubic meters, and an additional 30 billion cubic meters of production is expected to come from coal field sources. Now, all told, this would meet 1 percent of China's total electricity generation needs by 2020. That is 1 percent. That is all we are talking about here, if all of these assumptions are right, and this is by their own admission.

As the *New York Times* reported on August 21 of this year, China's ability to extract sufficient natural gas is in serious doubt and its natural gas production is "growing at a slower pace than its decelerating economy."

China's problem is that its shale deposits are much different than ours. The formations are deeper and they are more laden with clay, making it more difficult to extract the natural gas and more expensive to get it out through the hydraulic fracturing process.

I am very familiar with this. Hydraulic fracturing actually started in my home State of Oklahoma in 1948. So we are familiar with this.

Chinese companies have had a difficult time bringing online the natural gas they have found. One company, Far East Energy, recently shut a quarter of its wells for a number of technical and transportation problems, including a lack of gas-gathering pipelines. This underscores that China simply doesn't have the deep technological know-how that we do in this country, which made the shale revolution possible that we have all enjoyed so much in the last 5 years. It was built on the back of 100 years of successful oil and gas development and technological advances in this country, which obviously they haven't had.

China will continue to rely heavily on coal for its electricity generation, and we see this happening today. China continues to build the equivalent of one new coal-fired powerplant every 10 days.

Just think about that. In the last 7 years—in a speech I made on the floor, we had analyzed and calculated the number of coal-fired plants they have, and they are going to continue that into the future. Another option for producing electricity with lower CO₂ emissions is nuclear. However, the country's nuclear plants have stalled following the Fukushima disaster in Japan. Renewables are also an option, but we all know these alone can't affordably power the world's largest economy.

I doubt China will stick to any agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions if it puts at risk the country's economy.

Meanwhile, the United States has agreed, by the President's statement, to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions from 26 to 28 percent by 2025, so that the President can solidify a legacy on climate change that will be at the cost of the American people. We are handcuffing our economic future to the President's policies, which fail by their own measure. Acting unilaterally, the President's greenhouse gas regulations would reduce global temperatures by only 0.018 degrees Celsius by 2100. That is 86 years from now. We have been doing this for quite some time—ever since they started the United Nations meetings to get together all of these countries that make all kinds of promises and projections. China has always been there with tongue-in-cheek, just wondering if we were really going to do that in this country. We should stop and think about what China is doing right now in its development, in its growth, and the fact that they are just cranking out these coal-fired plants at a rate that is hard for us to understand. Nonetheless, they are doing it and will continue to do it, by their own admission, until 2030.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the bill mandating approval of the Keystone Pipeline. I oppose the project because I believe accelerating the development of tar sands oil is contrary to our national interests, economic interests, national security interests, and environmental interests.

I believe there is no way to fully analyze this question without grappling with another question: Is carbon pollution from human activity affecting the world's climate in a negative way? Because if carbon pollution doesn't affect climate, then tar sands or this pipeline would not be a significant issue for me. But if we accept the general scientific consensus—and Virginians do—that carbon pollution does cause negative changes in climate, stopping or even slowing development of the tar sands is good for the United States and the world.

Some of the people who encourage me to support this project duck when I ask them this question: Do you think manmade carbon pollution affects our climate? One Virginia CEO, whose company is filled with scientific talent, basically told me, "I don't know, I am not a scientist." And a representative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce testified similarly before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this

year. But those of us who take an oath to serve here have a responsibility to consider the scientific evidence.

In Virginia, the second largest region is Hampton Roads, comprised of 1.6 million people in numerous cities and counties along the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast. Hampton Roads is a thriving economy as well as the home of the largest concentration of naval power in the world. It is also, next to New Orleans, the region most directly affected by rising sea levels, and all agree that rising sea levels are caused in part by carbon pollution. Climate changes are not a tomorrow issue in Virginia, they are a today issue.

Throughout Hampton Roads, rising sea levels are causing significant challenges, flooding roads, homes—with neighborhoods damaged and some even unmarketable—and causing economic harm to families and businesses. At current projections, the main access road into the U.S. Navy's principal base in Hampton Roads will be flooded and impassable 3 hours a day by 2040. With an economy so dependent upon the naval presence, anything that threatens this military investment is potentially devastating.

I sponsored a symposium on sea level rise in Hampton Roads this summer attended by hundreds, with bipartisan representation from local, State, and Federal officials and Members of Congress. The concern is real and virtually all estimates of sea level rise in this community pose staggering challenges to every aspect of life here for years to come.

It is not just Hampton Roads. Virginia's largest industry is still agriculture and forestry—very affected by climate. Tourism is a major industry which is very affected by climate. Aquaculture is an important industry and climate affects it. So to those who want to duck the question of climate change or challenge the scientific evidence, I say to them, come to Virginia with me and talk to people whose lives are being seriously affected today by climate changes caused in part by escalating climate pollution.

So what is the answer to this problem and how does it relate to the Keystone Pipeline?

We have to continue to move toward a cleaner energy economy. We can't throw the brake on the use of fossil fuels. That would be unrealistic and hurt our economy.

As Governor of Virginia, I supported building a state-of-the-art coal plant in exchange for converting a plant that predated the Clean Air Act from coal to natural gas.

I support development of offshore energy. We can use a phased approach to produce energy cleaner tomorrow than today, reducing pollution caused by our energy sources through innovation and creating jobs. Guess what. As you know, that is exactly what we are doing.

Wind power involves no carbon pollution, and it is the fastest growing energy source in America. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

Utility scale solar electricity output increased 23-fold in the last decade. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

The revolution of natural gas production in the United States has turned our country into the world's leading energy producer and helped us reduce carbon pollution. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

Innovation driven by smart regulation in the American auto industry means we are producing cars that go much farther on gas than ever before. These developments help reduce demand for oil, thus dropping prices to consumers. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

Virginia ratepayers supported nuclear investments over the years that have enabled us to generate 40 percent of our power through noncarbon technology. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

And just as new technologies helped us make coal plants cleaner in the 1980s to battle acid rain, there are ways to make our existing and future coal plants emit less carbon pollution. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

With the United States taking significant leadership steps, it is more likely that other nations will do so as well. I believe our innovative path is one of the reasons why China was willing to announce recently they will take similar steps. Cleaner tomorrow than today.

The United States is now becoming a global leader in reducing carbon pollution, and we are there because of smart regulations and, especially, American innovation. We always have to make sure regulations strike the right balance. But by becoming cleaner tomorrow than today, we are creating jobs, protecting the environment, reducing our trade deficit, and ending our overdependence on energy from foreign nations. As members of the Armed Services Committee, the Members here on the floor, this reduced energy dependence is great for American national security.

This is why I oppose the Keystone project. Tar sands oil is dirty energy, producing significantly more carbon pollution than petroleum. After all we have done to be cleaner tomorrow than today, why would we embrace the technology that is a huge backslide that produces more, not less, carbon pollution than conventional sources? Embracing a dirtier energy technology moves us in precisely the wrong direction.

Keystone as a single project is neither the environmental game over some would suggest nor the energy panacea others would promise. But whether we embrace the tar sands oil development does send a message about how we intend to meet American and

global energy needs. We can either send the message of cleaner tomorrow than today or send a message anything goes. Because U.S. innovation is helping us lead the world to a "cleaner tomorrow than today" energy future, we should not turn back now.

There are those who say that the tar sands fields of Alberta will be developed anyway so why doesn't the United States just go along? The owners of the resource may well develop it and find alternate routes to ship it through Canada. They can make their decision on their own, although falling oil prices may make the relative cost non-competitive. Even if the owners of those fields decide to move forward in this development, the official policy of the United States should not, in my view, be to embrace, promote, and accelerate tar sands oil. Our official policy should be "cleaner tomorrow than today" and not "anything goes."

For these reasons, I oppose the bill to force approval of the Keystone Pipeline project and make accelerated tar sands oil development the official policy of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, this is what the American people have been waiting to see. They want Washington to work together to grow our Nation's economy. Sometimes that takes debating what some consider a tough vote.

I personally don't see the authorization before us as a difficult vote, by any stretch of the imagination. To me, this is a no-brainer. Here is why. Keystone is a job creator. This project will bolster the American economy and Arkansas's once we move forward.

In my home State of Arkansas, Nucor Steel in Blytheville and Welspun Tubular in Little Rock are two companies that should be employing people to work on the pipeline for the project right now. These are two communities in my home State that would have already benefited from the project if the President had not been stalling the approval of the Keystone Pipeline.

In fact, Welspun had been producing pipe for the Keystone XL project. Hundreds of miles of pipe, produced for the project, are just sitting at their facility. Unfortunately, due to the administration's delay the company was forced to lay off employees.

The Keystone Pipeline proposal has been studied to death. Every box has been checked. Our friends to the north are moving ahead with or without us. Canada will develop their oil resources whether or not we approve the pipeline. Where the refining is done depends on the President's decision on Keystone. Right now, Canada is currently using other methods of transportation such as railroads to ship their oil.

Without Keystone, they most likely will build their own pipelines to ship

their crude oil to Asian markets and refineries in China. They have lax environmental standards.

Instead of working with us to avoid that scenario, the President has unnecessarily prolonged the process, giving Canadian officials more reason to seek opportunities in China.

The Senate majority provided cover for the President's delay tactics for 6 years, simultaneously putting the brakes on thousands of employment opportunities for Americans.

During that time the project has received approval in every study the State Department has conducted. The review process has been exhaustive.

There is no reason for additional delays. The pipeline is ready to go and my colleagues have tried to move it forward. But until now, the Senate majority prevented us from having an up-or-down vote on authorization. Meanwhile, the House voted nine times to approve the Keystone Pipeline. The most recent of these votes came last week.

Now we finally have a chance to send something to the White House that forces the President to make a choice once and for all.

Without congressional activity, the President sees no reason to make a decision. The American people delivered a reason on election day. They want to see Washington work. We can start by passing the Keystone Pipeline. The President claims he heard that message. Let's pass this authorization and give him a chance to approve that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield the floor?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. I rise today—

Mrs. BOXER. Could I ask the Senator to yield? I want to ask whose time is the Senator taking at this point?

Mr. DONNELLY. I believe this would be Senator LANDRIEU's time.

Mrs. BOXER. That is fine. Thank you.

Mr. DONNELLY. I rise today in support of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The strong energy economy is critical in both my home State of Indiana's economy and our country's economic success. It is critical to our national security.

I support this project because it would promote economic competitiveness and energy security for both Indiana and the United States. The Keystone XL Pipeline is about creating jobs, investing in infrastructure and going all in on American energy.

Put simply, it is about opportunity. It is an opportunity to strengthen our economy, to strengthen our national security, and to become more energy independent. Energy security and national security. It means all in. Don't be for Keystone and then be against solar and wind. All of those are part of

the equation of making our nation stronger. From solar and natural gas, from nuclear to clean coal, from biofuels such as ethanol made of Indiana corn and biodiesel made of Indiana soybeans, all renewable, to wind and oil, we should pursue every resource possible to increase our energy independence while also respecting our environment and using the most advanced technologies possible.

Developing energy sources makes sense for American business. It makes sense for American families. It makes sense for America's national security.

We should take every smart opportunity to stop sending billions of American dollars overseas and begin to continue to develop homegrown energy sources that help provide affordable energy in the future and put more Americans to work today.

This is about investing in pipefitters and ironworkers and plumbers and steelworkers and electricians and all kinds of building trade folks and many other people who then have a chance to make their American dream come true. This is about investing in our energy infrastructure and cutting redtape so stalled projects can move forward.

Earlier this year, in April, I joined 10 of my Senate colleagues in sending a letter to the President asking him to make a final decision on Keystone. Facing an indefinite extension of the review, I joined many colleagues in cosponsoring legislation to approve it. We are still at this point stalled. We are still waiting to move forward.

I am glad we have the chance to vote on this commonsense legislation that authorizes the pipeline. This product is already being shipped by other means today. I stand here to support the Keystone Pipeline because it creates jobs, has support in both parties, makes America energy independent, and helps increase our national security.

This is the kind of investment we can and should make in energy that Democrats and Republicans can support, going all in on energy, and that means wind and that means solar and that means ethanol and that means biodiesel and so many other things. It makes our country stronger and it creates more jobs right here. It is good for America. It is good, as has been said, for our national security.

That is why I urge my colleagues on both sides to vote yes.

I want to thank my colleagues Senator LANDRIEU and Senator HOEVEN for bringing this bipartisan bill forward.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today again to respond to some of the concerns that have been expressed on this floor regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline, to urge my colleagues to move this important, shovel-ready project forward. I had a chance earlier this afternoon—I guess it was this morning—to listen to a fair amount of the debate as I presided. A lot of what we are hearing over and over again is the same messages, in some ways confused messages, because I do not know if we are talking about stopping the oil sands in Canada or if we are talking about approving a pipeline; I do not know if we are talking about doing the State's work in siting a pipeline within their State, or if we are talking about making a determination as directed by legislation from this body to the President to make a determination on whether approval, which is to take that pipeline across the border of this country, is in the national interest.

I think we have confused a lot of the dialog here. I just want to take a moment to start from Ground Zero. That is that we have a requirement that when a pipeline—a legislative requirement—that when a pipeline is going to come across a border, the State Department has an obligation to determine whether that is going to be permitted. The determination is whether it is in the national interest. I do not think anyone anticipated that a pipeline would take 6 years—6 years of dialogue, 6 years of study, millions and millions of dollars and actually billions of dollars of stranded investment—waiting for approval of this pipeline.

So anyone who says, let's wait for the process to work is not facing the reality that the process is broken. This process has not worked. This process has not brought this project to some kind of finality, yes or no. Yes or no. People say: Well, we need to wait for the Nebraska Supreme Court. Nothing is going to go through Nebraska until the people of Nebraska, through their representatives, actually approve a route.

That is an issue, in my opinion, that belongs to the people of Nebraska and to their elected representatives and to their people. When they say: Look, the EIS may have said that, but it is not reality. When the EIS, commissioned by the State Department, says there will not be a carbon impact as a result of this pipeline, but we are not going to even talk about that because we do not agree with that fact. We do not agree with that fact in the EIS, that this is not about stopping the oil sands in Canada, the oil sand development. This is about a pipeline and whether it is in the national interest to bring that pipeline south.

Now I want to tell you why I think it is in the national interest. I think it is in the national interest because when I talk about energy independence for our

country, when I talk about energy independence for our country and looking at how we can deploy our resources for the good of the world, I am talking about North American energy independence, whether it is collaborating with our great friends to the north, Canada, or whether it is, in fact, building relationships and building infrastructure with our neighbors to the south, Mexico, that has a—Mexico is holding a huge amount of oil and gas reserves.

I also find it kind of curious, because there has been a lot of discussion about gasoline prices and how—you know, see, we do not need Keystone XL development or production because look at what is happening with gas prices, and they are going down. This is classic supply-and-demand economics. You know why gasoline prices are going down? Because we are producing more oil in North America, because we are adding to the supply. The supply obviously is meeting world demand, meeting the conditions. We have a discussion in OPEC, I will acknowledge that. But fundamentally it is economics at work. When you have a greater supply and you have reduced demand, the price goes down. That is why we are seeing lower gasoline prices.

So when so many people say we will not benefit from the Keystone XL Pipeline, and they talk about deployment of that pipeline, and they talk about what it means to have this system be deployed, I will tell you that we can thank what is happening in Canada in energy production for gasoline prices that now are, for the first time in a long time, below \$3 in many parts of our country—below \$3—because we are producing more domestic and North American crude oil.

So I think we need to be honest about what we are talking about here. I frequently say the pipeline has taken a role in American politics that is way disproportional to what it is. It is a pipeline. There are over 2 million miles of pipeline in America today. This is going to be just another one of those. It is going to be state of the art. Can I predict a perfect world? Can I predict that there will never be any kind of consequence? No, I cannot, anymore than I can predict what is going to happen tomorrow with any kind of natural resource or any kind of transportation infrastructure. But I can tell you that I have seen the extra precautions.

I want to report on some of those things that TransCanada has done, the pipeline company that would build Keystone XL, to respond to the concerns. They have agreed to 57 special safety conditions that go above and beyond what is required in Federal regulation, including the installation of automatic shutoff valves not only every 20 miles but in specific spots that cross waterways. There are over 2.3 million miles of pipe in the ground, and

around 160,000 of those miles are being used for crude oil transport. Think about that. Think about the need for this infrastructure. There was a lot of discussion today about how this oil will fly out of the country magically. I will tell you the reason why, contrary to what you have been told today, that this pipeline is destined to go south into the United States—you have been hearing that the pipeline did not go east and west because Canada did not want it.

That pipeline went to the south because that is where heavy crudes are refined. A lot of the heavy crudes that are refined in Texas and in the South—the Gulf States—is crude that is imported from Venezuela. It is imported from Venezuela. Who would you rather buy your crude oil from, from Venezuela, or would you rather buy it from our friends to the north in Canada?

We have so politicized, for lack of a better word, something that should be a clear economic position. We have made this an important cause on both sides. I will call out both sides. This is a pipeline. It is a pipeline that will transport an important commodity that will be used in our refineries in our country to produce gasoline and diesel fuel that drives the engine of our economy, certainly our transportation economy.

We are buying it from our friends to the North, Canada. Canadian officials have years of responsible investment, responsible development of their infrastructure. They are people we should want to do business with. Instead of simply making the decision based on, yes, environmental considerations, that, yes, we cannot ignore that the EIS says there are not any environmental impediments to this pipeline. People say: Well, what about if it changes in Nebraska? Do you honestly believe if there is a change in Nebraska, there is going to be a change that will put more of the Nebraska environment in harm's way? Do you honestly believe that is the outcome of the Nebraska Supreme Court decision? No.

So when we look at this, we need to begin to focus on what this is. It is a pipeline. It is a critical piece of energy infrastructure. It is something that has languished too long because of a failed process. Six years. Six years. There are young people here, the pages. What if I told you that you could not get your driver's license for 6 years? What if I told a business: We are not going to permit you for 6 years? What if we told anyone down the road who needed some kind of license or approval from the Federal Government, 6 years? That is what it is going to take—6 years. There is no one who thinks that is appropriate.

So if this process today, which was started by my great friend, MARY LANDRIEU from Louisiana, spurs a further discussion that resolves this issue one

way or the other—one way or the other—we have accomplished a great deal today. We have accomplished a great deal by having this important discussion, on which obviously there are heartfelt opinions on both sides.

In fact, my colleague from California has described it as a vote of conscience. I will tell you from my perspective it is a vote for common sense. It is a vote for common sense in moving this piece of infrastructure forward and making sure we are doing everything that we can to provide affordable energy that drives this economy.

That is the new dynamic, the new energy renaissance. I believe we will approve this pipeline. I am hoping it is today. But we will approve this pipeline. At the end of the day, all we have done has resulted in incredible frustration and incredible delay that has cost money for not only the pipeline but for the taxpayers of this country. It is time to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining as a proponent who was originally given 1 hour?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Seven minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I would like to take 1 minute now and then we are going to ask for some additional time.

I want to thank the Senator from North Dakota for her really clear and direct explanation of this and her practical approach to what we do here. It is so refreshing. It is so wonderful to hear her knowledge and the depth of her knowledge about this.

I put this up again just to remind the American people that what she said is absolutely true. We already have 2.6 million miles of pipe moving oil and gas from where it is produced to where it is needed. This pipeline, which I have outlined in blue here, is just one of many pipelines that is going to be in our country. Our country needs this energy. We need oil. We need gas. We need clean coal. Yes, even when we build huge solar operations out West, where we have a lot of sun—we do not have sun down South—or we build windmills off of Massachusetts' border, you still have to move that power to the places that need it.

This infrastructure is absolutely essential to the economic power of the United States of America. If the middle class is telling us anything, they want more economic power in America.

The Senator from North Dakota is also right. When I speak about energy independence, I like to talk about Canada and Mexico as well, North American independence. We might be able to do it in just the 50 States and territories of the United States, but I am confident we can do it with Canada and Mexico.

The added benefits are these: We do not have to be dictated to by Russia and China. Hooray. We can also create jobs not just in the United States but in Mexico. Hooray. You know, people who can work in Mexico and have good jobs in Mexico might stay in Mexico—hooray for that—instead of desperately looking for work in the United States. It can help to solve some of our immigration problems. What is wrong with this? We can create technology transfers from the United States to Mexico. So this is a win-win.

I am sorry people have taken this Keystone Pipeline to be the beginning and end. It is just another pipeline. But it is a symbol of common sense. It is a symbol of infrastructure necessary for us to be energy independent. I do not want to hear one Senator coming down here to the floor to say: We are going to be energy independent without infrastructure. All they say is “wind” or “gas” or “oil” or “coal” or “solar.” Those are all the words people use. Lovely words. But unless you are talking about pipes, transmission lines, rights of way, highways, roads into rural areas, you are not talking about energy, you are just talking nonsense, absolute nonsense.

This is an infrastructure bill, an important pipeline. It should have been built and given permission years ago. As I have said, people say: Well, MARY why are you circumventing the process? How long could the process possibly be?

Six years is a long time. It should have taken 1 year or 2, and we have the report that is finished. We are not circumventing the process trying to shortchange it as some people have claimed. This is a final report. It was issued in January. I got this report in January. I got it, Senator HOEVEN read it, and then we filed the bill in May. January, February, March, April, May—we drafted the bill carefully, giving 6 months after the report was given, thinking surely that is enough time for people to read this report. Someone could read it in one sitting, but we gave them 6 months.

When it didn't happen, Senator HOEVEN and I dropped our bill—not the House bill that had all sorts of bells, whistles, and a lot of messaging that wasn't going anywhere. We dropped a bill—clean Keystone.

Now I would have liked to have tied it with something else. I tried tying it with energy efficiency, thinking that would maybe get us to a debate on the floor. We could maybe tie it to the minimum wage and get some votes on it. You could tie it to something else that might make sense but never could get the other side to agree to a piece to tie it to.

I only have 2 minutes left, and I ask unanimous consent for another 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, could that be off my friend's time?

Mrs. LANDRIEU. I don't have any additional.

Mrs. BOXER. Then we need to add 5 minutes to our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We waited for 6 months after the final report was done. So the final report has been done. It has been 6 years. It is clearly in America's interests. We have labor unions, business organizations—the Association of Petroleum Institute, the American Chemical Association.

Let me talk just 1 minute about their letter. Cal Dooley signed this letter to me today and said on behalf of the American Chemistry Council—which is all over this country, in Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey: This project could add 407,000 permanent new jobs by 2023.

He was not talking about the specific pipeline, but what Cal is talking about in the Chemical Council is the symbol that America is ready, willing, and able to be energy independent and all the blessings that would bring to our country and to our economy. We don't have to rely on China and Russia, and we can clean it as we go. We can make it cleaner as we move.

So that is why I brought this debate to the floor today. I am excited for this debate—whatever side you are on. I think it has been a breath of fresh air for the Senate to actually talk about something that people can understand, and may we have the vote at the time allowed.

I thank my dear colleague from California for allowing that 5 minutes and, of course, for our side I am the only one on the floor. So we will be happy to give those additional 5 minutes.

I reserve the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, how much time do the Republican proponents have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have 52 minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We only have 5 minutes remaining.

How much time do the Democratic opponents have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have 27 minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Senator HOEVEN is on the floor. Senator BOXER is also. I know our vote is at 6:30, and it is 4:30. Should we divide the time equally or

how do we think this would work? If Senator HOEVEN would say what he thinks, we could do one-third, one-third, and one-third or whether the Senator from California perhaps wants to do half and half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would respond to the question of the Senator from Louisiana. My understanding is we were targeting to maybe have the vote at 5:30. I would be certainly pleased to work through that with the Senator and Senator BOXER, finishing up, maybe with me at 5:45 or whatever we work out within that timing.

Mrs. BOXER. A question through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I think it would be very helpful if the three of us could get together for 1 minute to work out the details of how to close out, and then we could make a unanimous consent request so Senators would know exactly what to do.

May I suggest that we go into a quorum call and that it come off of all three sides and have a couple of minutes to discuss this. Is that all right?

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, that seems to be the right way to go. I have no objection.

Mrs. BOXER. We rethought this situation.

I ask unanimous consent that we take no time off of anybody's time at this point and that we just meet and discuss how we are going to close this debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield 5 minutes to my friend from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the legislation we are considering regarding the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.

As with too many controversial issues, we have lost track of the facts and the basic process for moving a project such as this one forward. So let's be clear. The legislation we are voting on today isn't just a bill to say yes or no to the Keystone Pipeline. This is legislation that would have us skip the established process for determining whether a major infrastructure

project, with potential impact to millions of Americans, our economy, and our environment, should be approved. We are still in the middle of that process. But if this bill passes, it would mean we are bypassing all the scientists and engineers and experts who are evaluating the proposal. It would put an arbitrary, manufactured timeline on a project whose evaluation is incomplete and would short-circuit the process for the public to weigh in on this project.

Regardless of how different Members feel about this, we should all agree that this is no way the U.S. Government ought to approve a project of this scope. So that is one reason I will be voting against this legislation. When it comes to protecting our environment, we should rely on facts, patience, and a fair process.

There is no denying that the proposed Keystone Pipeline project has become larger than the sum of its parts. I understand the desire of my colleagues to expedite the projects they support, and I understand cutting through redtape to get things done. But when we are considering a project that could have significant impacts on our economy and our environment, making a decision before we have all the facts could be reckless and it could be dangerous.

The Keystone Pipeline proposal is a great example of why our process for evaluating the potential consequences of projects such as this one is not only important, it is absolutely necessary. We simply cannot put expediency ahead of scientific facts regarding climate change because as a country we have done that for far too long and now we are paying the price.

Earlier this year, as chair of the Budget Committee, I held a hearing on the impact of climate change on our country. We heard testimony from business leaders, from environmental experts, from industry leaders, and even from military officials. Their message was clear: The consequences of climate change are not hypothetical and they are not exaggerated. The impacts of human activity on our planet are real, they are significant, and they are happening right now.

The Federal Government, for example, spent three times more on disaster relief in the past decade than it did in the previous decade. If we do nothing, continued climate change will result in more frequent and more intense episodes of extreme weather, just as we saw with Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

The U.S. Department of Transportation today spends about \$22 billion a year to State and local governments just to help them keep their existing transportation infrastructure in good repair. But hotter temperatures and more frequent flooding will wash out roads and will put added stress on

bridge supports and public transit systems and will require substantial additional Federal investment.

We know an uptick in temperature and heat waves will reduce annual yields of major crops and cause more livestock deaths. It will hurt farmers and agribusinesses, cause consumer food prices to rise, and really create a ripple effect that will increase costs to U.S. taxpayers.

Our military experts say that climate change will act as a catalyst for instability and conflict around the world, creating additional threats to our country and adding to the cost of protecting our Nation's interests.

So, Mr. President, with all we already know about the impacts of climate change, how can we possibly move this project forward before we have a thorough understanding of the environmental impacts that will result from building the Keystone Pipeline? How can we force the decision that could very possibly make the impact of climate change even worse?

As a Senator from the State of Washington, I am very proud of my work to protect the environment, and I am proud of my State's leadership in combating climate change. Even though the Keystone Pipeline will not run through my State, Washingtonians know well that the pipeline's impacts could quickly reach our communities, from Seattle to Spokane.

So I come to the floor today to oppose this legislation, and I will continue to oppose any efforts in Congress that ignore or brush aside the environmental consequences of our actions. For far too long we have put short-term interests ahead of our environment and long-term realities, and that has to stop.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order with respect to debate time on S. 2280, the time until 5:45 p.m. be equally divided between Senators HOEVEN, LANDRIEU, and myself, or our designees, and that at 5:45 p.m., Senator HOEVEN be recognized for up to 2 minutes for closing remarks; that upon the conclusion of his remarks, Senator LANDRIEU be recognized for up to 2 minutes; that upon the conclusion of her remarks, Senator BOXER be recognized for up to 4 minutes; that upon the conclusion of Senator BOXER's remarks, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of S. 2280, with all other provisions of the previous order with respect to the bill remaining in order; and finally, I ask unanimous consent that the time used by Senator MURRAY count toward Senator BOXER's time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I call on my colleague from California as she gets her-

self ready to speak to this issue. Senator FEINSTEIN and I represent a State that is creating so many clean energy jobs, and I am very proud to yield to her 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, and I wish to congratulate her on her leadership on this issue. We clearly have had a very extensive debate in our caucus on this. There are varying views, and I have thought a lot about it. I have had 120,000 California constituents write and call, of which about 93 percent are strongly opposed. I would say to the chairman of the committee that one of the things that interested me from reading these constituent letters was really how informed individuals were about this pipeline.

Let me lay out some of the environmental concerns. You have heard this, but perhaps you haven't heard it in entirely this way. The Keystone Pipeline was proposed to accommodate increased extraction of oil from the tar sands of Alberta. These tar sands cover an area of 54,000 square miles. That is roughly the size of New York, so it is huge.

I first came upon this by reading a March 2009 issue of National Geographic, and in that they showed part of the desecration to the land—forests down, tar sands. It looked like a Moon face. A huge portion of these deposits can only be accessed through open-pit surface mining, which destroys natural forests and bogs. Then the oil sands are mixed with heated water, chemicals are added, and it is driven up with steam in order to separate it from the sand. These methods are costly, they are energy-intensive, they are carbon-intensive, and they leave behind a significant amount of toxic waste. And that is just the extraction process.

Transportation of the oil poses additional risks to the environment—namely, the risk of pipeline spills. The first Keystone Pipeline, which is already operating in our country, had to be shut down several times for safety concerns. It leaked 14 times during its first year of operation. Across the border in Canada, the same pipeline spilled 21 times in its first year of operation. These pipeline spills are dangerous and difficult to clean up. The danger from spills is even greater since the new leg of the pipeline would run over Nebraska's Ogallala Aquifer, which is a critical source of drinking water for millions and an irrigation source for farmers.

Beyond degrading our environment, this project also runs against our efforts—as has been said many times on this floor—to combat climate change. According to the National Energy Technology Laboratory, by the time oil from Keystone makes it to a car in the form of gasoline, it has already

produced 80 percent—80 percent—more greenhouse gas emissions than typical crude oil.

Here is how the math works out. Producing, refining, and combusting oil from Keystone will release up to 27 million metric tons more carbon dioxide every year than would be produced from burning the same volume of crude oil. Those additional emissions are equivalent to the emissions of 5.7 million cars on the road or 8 coal-fired powerplants. I think that is pretty impressive as to the totally negative impact of this. So this would be a poor way to begin meeting the President's pledge in Beijing to dramatically reduce our emissions, if the first time we do something it creates 27 million metric tons more carbon dioxide every year and is equivalent to the emissions of 5.7 million cars.

On the economics of the pipeline, there is simply not enough benefit to outweigh the environmental damage. The project is not going to lower gasoline prices for American drivers. The oil is intended to be sold on the global market, not for the benefit of American motorists. The State Department has concluded that the pipeline would have little impact on the prices U.S. consumers pay.

So I believe this project has terrible environmental hazards and risks, it is not necessary, and it certainly is not helpful to our environment.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that the time during the quorum call be taken off everybody's time here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to take 5 minutes to respond to some of the comments the Senator from California made in regard to the environmental impacts.

First, if we look at the environmental impact statements—actually, there were five environmental impact statements done. And what they found and said very clearly is that the Keystone XL Pipeline will have no significant environmental impact. Let me repeat that—no significant environmental impact. That is from the environmental study done by the Obama administration.

Again, that is not me saying it. That is the State Department for the Obama

administration saying no significant environmental impact, according to the environmental impact statement.

In addition, I would point out that if we don't build the Keystone XL Pipeline, this 830,000 barrels of oil a day moves by railroad. Now think of that. What is going to produce more greenhouse gas emissions? Moving all this oil by rail—which by the way takes 1,400 railcars a day—or moving it in tankers across the ocean to China where it will be refined in refineries that have much higher emissions or you putting it in the pipeline? So again, just common sense, what is going to produce more greenhouse gas emissions, having the pipeline or 1,400 railcars per day or sending it in tankers to China to be refined in their refineries that have much higher emissions? Not to mention the fact that what are Americans going to think about that we are going to make Canada send their oil to China so we in America can import oil from the Middle East. That is a pretty tough sell. Again, with the pipeline you have lower greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the heavy crude we import from Venezuela now has higher emissions than the oil that will be provided by the Keystone. I am not even including the fact that it is not just Canadian crude that comes in. It is also light sweet Bakken crude from my home State of North Dakota and our neighbor to the west, Montana. We are not just moving Canadian. We are moving our own crude, and if we don't, we are going to continue to get that oil from Venezuela, which has as high or higher greenhouse gas emissions. As a matter of fact, the heavy crude in California, the good Senator's own State, has greenhouse gas emissions that are equal to or higher than the crude that would come through the pipeline. That is produced in California.

The final point I would like to make on the environmental aspects is that 80 percent of the new production in Canada—in the Canadian oil sands—80 percent of the new production is being done by what they call in situ drilling. So instead of excavating, which is what is being done now with much of the production at the oil sands, they are drilling. They would drill down similarly to the way they would drill for oil with conventional drilling and then put steam down in the hole and have that bring up the oil. So the carbon footprint is reduced using this in situ method, and 80 percent of the production in Canada will be with this in situ method. That will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and the footprint, similar to conventional drilling in the United States.

When you look at the environmental track record in Canada, the Canadians care about their environment too. We all want to find ways to produce energy and do it with good environmental stewardship. I submit to you that the

way to do that is to empower and enable the deployment of new technologies that not only produce that energy more cost-effectively, more independently but also do it with better environmental stewardship because you are using the latest, greatest technologies. Instead of moving the product through railcars, you are moving it through the latest pipeline with the latest safeguards. So I wanted to take 5 minutes to respond to some of those environmental issues, and I thank the Senator from California and turn the floor now back to her.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, could the Presiding Officer tell us who has how much time at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from North Dakota has 14 minutes, the Senator from Louisiana has 19 minutes, and the Senator from California has 8 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, Madam President, I will take three minutes of that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. As we get ready to have a vote here in a while, what makes me very sad about this debate is that if we would all actually embrace an "all of the above" energy future, we wouldn't have to have these arguments. But we cannot get any support over there for clean energy. We just cannot. Let's just call it what it is.

It is sad because when I look at my home State, we are booming. We are booming because our State has always been an environmental leader and with it comes jobs and, as Jerry Brown has shown, balanced budgets. People are smiling.

I don't want it to look like what it looks like in China. We have a photo here. This is what it looks like in China. I know you have been there. People are walking around with masks on their faces because they cannot breathe the air and you cannot see. Yet still we go down this path. The heaviest polluting oil is what the tar sands oil is—the heaviest polluting oil.

I stood with doctors and nurses. They joined in my call for a health review. My colleagues say: Oh, well, this project has been studied up and down, up and down, and down and up. Well, I don't think so, neither does Senator WHITEHOUSE and neither do the nurses who all joined with us. They are the most respected profession. So don't listen to me, because I am in one of the least respected professions, I am sad to say. Listen to the nurses. They say we need more studies on the health of the people. We don't want our people walking around like this. I remember the days in Los Angeles when the air looked like this. I don't want to go back to that. This is the filthiest, dirtiest oil. That is why I call XL "extra lethal."

The pipeline itself is a pipeline. It is what you are putting in it, it is what

you are unleashing that is going to mean a 45-percent increase in the tar sands oil into our Nation, and there will be consequences.

I've got news for you. Senators don't live near refineries. Take a look at what that looks like. Senators don't live near pipelines when there are spills. This is what it looks like—lovely, isn't it—in Port Arthur, TX. I stood with the community leaders. This is what it looks like. This is filthy, dirty oil with pollutants that kill, and that is the truth.

Yet it is all: Oh, how many jobs? I will tell you how many jobs. The CEO of the pipeline company says it is 50 jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has taken 3 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much. I will yield 1 more minute.

So the CEO of the company itself said 50 jobs. This is why we are risking the health of our children? The fact that they have to run away from the playground because they cannot breathe—this is worth it? This is supposed to be in the national interest? And the kicker is, as Senator MARKEY pointed out, all of the oil is going to be exported. It is going to drive up the price of gasoline here at home. I know this is counterintuitive, but it is a fact. The oil is going to come in here, it is going to go straight out, and all of this stuff that is refined here is going to move out of this country and our gas prices are going to go up so that kids have to suffer this because oil companies want to make more profit? Not in my world.

So I reserve the balance of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be divided equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Eighteen minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Presiding Officer.

First of all, let me associate myself with the remarks of my cosponsor, Senator HOEVEN, who before he had to slip out the door to take a call relative to this vote was really very clear on so many important points that he made.

The first and most important point I think in this debate—and I respect the opponents of this—but the most important point, the basic fact is this. This resource will be developed by Canada no matter what anyone in the United States and the House or the Senate of

either party does. That is a fact. It is indisputable. How do we know that? Because the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of the Province have told us that—of all the different parties. It is the unquestioned truth. They are going to develop this resource, and they are going to send this resource through their avenues out to either China—

Excuse me. Could I get order?

They are going to develop this resource. This debate isn't going to stop them or start them.

No. 2, we have to develop partnerships for progress because no country, even as powerful as the United States is, can hardly do anything completely by themselves. We do lots of great things and have since the moment we were formed, but we have always had partners. Even in the Revolutionary War, France came to help us and the Netherlands lent us money—a tiny little country that could fit inside of Louisiana. We have always had partners.

So the question for this debate is—the first point—this resource will be developed and will go on the market to the world—period.

The second point is America needs partners in our energy production. Who is the best partner we could possibly have—the one that is close to us geographically, closest to us in terms of our democratic outlook, closest to us in environmental standards? Even the Senator from California would admit if I asked her—she is standing right here next to me—which country has one of the highest environmental standards in the world besides the Netherlands and besides one or two Scandinavian countries, it would be Canada. In some ways you can argue that their environmental standards are higher than our own.

So I am sure they are feeling very offended being lectured to by U.S. Senators about a process where they have tighter environmental standards than we do.

No. 3, contrary to the ranting of some people that this is for export, it is contrary to the facts. I am going to read from TransCanada, the pipeline. It says: “Comments were received throughout the review process speculating” whether this heavy crude oil carried by the proposed pipeline which passes through the United States would be loaded onto vessels ultimately for sale in markets such as Asia.

As crude of foreign origin, Canadian crude is eligible for crude export license as long as it is not commingled with domestic crude. However, such an option appears unlikely to be economically justified for any significant durable trade given transport costs and market conditions.

Keystone is not for export. It is actually to come to the refineries in the gulf coast which is why I know a lot about this and why I have been a sup-

porter from the very beginning—because this is my home. Louisiana and Texas are kind of the epicenter for refining heavy crude. We transformed our refineries from light crude when we were kind of running out of it, when Venezuela was discovering its heavy crude. I took a trip down with Frank Murkowski 18 years ago when I was a freshman on the committee. He said: “Go with me to Venezuela.” I went. He said: “You’ve got to see this heavy crude. This is what our future is.” Our country doesn’t have much. We would rather get it from Venezuela and the Middle East. I went to Lake Maracaibo. I went to Venezuela years and years ago. They don’t need permission from us. These are business people making business decisions. They transformed their refineries to heavy crude.

The heavy crude that comes from Canada has a great partnership with the refineries in the gulf coast. This is business, not politics, and business is good for this country, contrary to popular opinion. This was a business deal—a good deal for Canada, for the United States, for our economy, for jobs, and because it has a negligible impact on the environment.

I know Democratic Senators will come down here and talk about the environment. This is the last of five environmental studies. It has been published since January of this year. Senator HOEVEN waited to introduce our bill. He kept coming to me and asking: Should we introduce our bill? I kept going to him and asking: Should we introduce our bill? We decided to give them a little more time. We didn’t want to rush it. It has been going on for 6 years. We tried to be patient.

Finally, by May, after this had been published, it clearly says there is negligible environmental impact from President Obama’s own State Department and EPA. They said it is much easier, safer, and cleaner to transport this oil by pipeline than it is to put it on barges going down the Mississippi River—and since we are at the end of it, we would know about this. It is safer than putting it on railcars that go through towns and could potentially blow up. That is what they say in here. I know people don’t want to read it, but that is what this says.

It is not for export. This is a partnership with one of our best and longest allies in the world, Canada, with the highest environmental standards. It is a high-tech, state-of-the-art pipeline that is going to put thousands of people to work, but more importantly than the people, building it is the signal it is going to send to chemicals, to our manufacturing base that has seen an extraordinary renaissance, and not just in the gulf coast. In some places, our unemployment rate is 2.5 percent.

It is also in other States, such as Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, the Midwest, and, yes, the west coast and the

east coast. That is the third major argument.

The fourth major argument is this has absolutely nothing to do with climate change. It simply has to do with smart partnerships—economic business partnerships to produce the resources North America has in the most environmentally friendly way.

If we could vote on this today—which we finally will. We have been working for years to finally get a vote, and hopefully to passage—we can then move on to a broader discussion which should take place about climate change. I am not a denier of climate change. I am not. I understand there are impacts to the environment. This doesn't happen to be one of them. This does not happen to be one of them.

This resource is going to be produced, either with Canada and the United States doing it in the cleanest, most efficient way possible, or it is going to go in an inefficient way to partners that do not have oversight, do not have an EPA, and do not have standards. It is a no-brainer. After we finish with this, we can then get on with the big debate I have had with Senator BOXER, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, and others about what to do with the human impacts of the environment and start talking about real issues that can move us one way or the other by also maintaining our commitment to economic growth. That is why I have been fighting for a debate and a vote on the Keystone Pipeline.

Madam President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 9 minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I wish to call attention to the bill itself. We talk about many bills, but we don't really debate many bills, so this has been a refreshing day on the floor of the Senate. I have not really seen a day like this in 8 years.

I am encouraged by what the outcome will be, but I am really encouraged by the debate we are having on the floor of the Senate.

There are a lot of businesses in America that are focused on this debate. There are a lot of labor unions and their leaders who are watching this. The pipefitters are watching, the boilermakers are watching, the engineers are watching, and the operating engineers are watching. They have been fighting for this pipeline for their members for 5 years, and their cries for help and support have fallen on deaf ears on this side of the Chamber. So they are watching.

Unlike a lot of bills that we debate, this bill is a page-and-a-half. This is the bill. It is S. 2280. It was drafted to be very simple. The bill basically says that over the course of 6 years every study that is required by law has been completed. Every study has been completed, published, and made public.

Since the process is finished and over with, the Congress is directing the President to build this pipeline based on his own studies that have green-lighted it time and time and time again.

There is no study to be turned in. The only issue outstanding—and it is important—has to do with one portion of the State of Nebraska. There is an aquifer in Nebraska, and the people there did not want the pipeline to go through it, and so the leaders in Nebraska moved the pipeline away from the aquifer. When they did that, a small and vocal environmental group, which is against the Keystone Pipeline, filed suit to say that the way they did that was wrong, the process was wrong. They are in court now, and that is going to be resolved. The Supreme Court has already taken arguments. It will happen any Friday. It could be this Friday or next Friday or the next Friday. That is it. It is done. We could start building parts of it and eventually get to Nebraska because they have already approved it to go through the State. It is just a matter of exactly who had the authority to do it, and that will be resolved by Nebraska. Our bill acknowledges that and says nothing shall step on private property rights.

As I have said over and over, Senator HOEVEN and I carefully drafted this bill after consulting with Senator TESTER from Montana about private property rights and talking to the Senators from Nebraska about respecting Nebraska.

Enough is enough. Six years is long enough. Just like the Senator from North Dakota said, if a business wanted to get a permit to dredge a channel or build a dock or put up a big store in a mall and walked into city hall and they said, that is lovely, but you have to wait 6 years, no one in America can function that way. It is not right. It is wrong.

It is so clear to the people of Louisiana that this pipeline should be built, and it is so clear to the people of Texas. Many Democrats in our part of the country—strong members of the Black Caucus have voted for this pipeline. CEDRIC RICHMOND, my Congressman, has voted for this pipeline, as has BENNIE THOMPSON, the Congressman from Mississippi, and JAMES CLYBURN. The coalition is broad and diverse. The Republicans, Democrats, Black Caucus, labor, and business community are saying: What is wrong with the Members of Congress that they cannot understand that 6 years is long enough? The reports are in. The facts are what they are. This pipeline needs to be built for many good reasons.

I wish to reserve my last 2 minutes.

This is America's hour to become energy independent. We don't have to kowtow to Russia. We don't have to be held up by the politics of Putin and his

bullying in Eastern Europe. We can help Japan, a strong ally of ours, to stand with us. We can help Europe, and most importantly, we can help ourselves and build a new energy renaissance that is all of the above—that is the cleanest and most environmentally sensitive that we can. Let's get on with doing this.

I am so proud to have literally kick-started this debate. I hope this is the beginning of many important debates that take place. No more theater, no more positioning, and no more chess games that nobody understands, because if you are not at the chessboard, it is really hard to follow. Even when you watch chess on television, it is a real hard game to get excited about.

Let's get back to what we do best: debating bills that have impactful outcomes. In my opinion, this bill does that in a positive way for the people of the United States.

Let us build a middle class again. Most importantly, let's listen to them. Let's pay attention to them and use our common sense.

I yield the floor and reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, what is the time situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California has just under 4 minutes. The Senator from North Dakota has 13 minutes, and the Senator from Louisiana has 2½ minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. And that is before we get to the final debate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want everyone who is watching us from Louisiana to know that without MARY LANDRIEU, we would not be having this debate. She makes a point when she says it is good to have this debate. It is really good to have debates. We have had debates before on war and on health care. I put them in a bit of a different category, but this is an important debate.

I do want to cover a little ground here. First of all, it is important to note we Democrats are under a big umbrella. We have Senators who agree with the Big Oil philosophy. We have Senators who agree with the "all of the above" philosophy, and we have Senators who are pushing for clean energy. This is true about our caucus, and I am proud.

MARY LANDRIEU and I worked hand-in-glove on Katrina. She asked me to do something for her in my capacity as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee that I had to say no to. She is a great Senator. The way I feel about Keystone is not the way she feels about it, and that is the beauty of our party.

I want to make it clear for the RECORD, I met with Canadians who live near the extraction of the dirty tar sands oil, I have met with the people in

Port Arthur, TX, who live near the refineries of the dirty tar sands oil, and I have talked to community activists who saw a Little League team that had to flee a field in Chicago because the petcoke—petroleum coke, which is so filled with particulates that you can't breathe around it—started to fly all over the Little League field.

The Canadians I met with were not happy with their government. I am not here to pass judgment, but I will put in the RECORD:

In October 2014, the Canadian Office of the Auditor General issued a scathing report detailing the Canadian Government's failure to adequately protect the environment during the tar sands development.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have this summary printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

POOR CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT
OF TAR SANDS INDUSTRY

In October 2014, the Canadian Office of the Auditor General issued a scathing report detailing the Canadian Government's failure to adequately protect the environment during tar sands development.

The report found that:

The Canadian federal government has no firm plan to monitor the oil sands beyond 2015; and

The 2012 Canada and Alberta Joint Oil Sands Monitoring (JOSM) program set to be in place by 2015 has met delays—including on monitoring one of the key pollutants—PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons). Numerous peer reviewed studies have found high levels of PAHs—carcinogens—downstream from tar sands production.

Mrs. BOXER. I can't get into how good Canada is on a daily basis, but I can tell you that when it comes to the tar sands, they don't have a good record.

I have stood with doctors and nurses from America, and they all said: This is dangerous, dangerous stuff because it has heavy metals, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, carcinogens, and all of these things.

So welcome, tar sands oil, to America to cut through our country and then be exported to other countries. I have to say that it leaves me in amazement.

Senator MARKEY laid it out. We are going to see higher gas prices because of this bill. They will just unleash more of their oil and get it out of here because they get a higher price abroad than they do in America.

When you stand with the people who live along the excavation route, when you stand with people who live right near the refineries, when you stand with people who had their kids playing Little League and soccer right near the petroleum coke, you have to say, what is in the national interest?

Madam President, I ask for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I would add 1 minute to Senator LANDRIEU's time as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. To me, all of these health reasons are reason enough to say let's not interrupt what the administration is going through now, which is careful study of whether this is safe for our people. Two million people sent in their comments. Don't shortcut that.

Then there is the whole issue of the climate. We know this tar sands oil is far more carbon intensive and it is going to hurt our planet, and we want to have a planet that is habitable for our children and our grandchildren and generations to come.

I embrace this debate. I think it is an important debate to have. But we really have to ask ourselves the question: Is it worth exposing our people to these risks, with whom I stood shoulder to shoulder, and is it worth exposing the planet to these risks when we can create millions of jobs in a clean energy economy as we are doing in my State? And we are going gangbusters.

I thank my colleagues, and I say to the people from Louisiana, they could not have a better fighter. We are in the ring together and it is tough, but that is the beauty of the Democratic Party, that we are an inclusive party.

I yield my time.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to commend Senator LANDRIEU for her work on the bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Since coming to the Senate in 1997, Senator LANDRIEU has worked tirelessly to reach across the aisle and get things done for her constituents. She has been by my side as a member of the Appropriations Committee as we rolled up our sleeves to break through the gridlock to keep the government open and functioning. She has done outstanding work as chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, along with her Ranking Member Senator MURKOWSKI, and I am so proud to have her as a colleague and a friend.

I am a blue-collar Senator. I grew up in a blue-collar neighborhood in Baltimore during World War II where my father had a small neighborhood grocery store. We were the neighborhood of mom-and-pop businesses and factories. We made liberty ships. We put out turbo steel to make the tanks. Glenn L. Martin made the seaplanes that helped win the battle of the Pacific. We were in the manufacturing business. So I know the value of good, blue-collar jobs.

Estimates show that the Keystone XL Pipeline could create 3,900 direct construction jobs over its 2-year con-

struction period. But only fewer than 50 would be permanent.

I recognize the need for jobs in construction, but I can't ignore the environmental and legal concerns surrounding the pipeline that still won't be resolved if we pass the bill today.

First, I am worried about the safety of our water supply. The corrosive, thick sludge that would travel through Keystone makes the pipeline more vulnerable to leaks and accidents and endangers the drinking water of the more than 1.8 million Americans who get their water from the Ogallala Aquifer.

Second, I am worried about the increased carbon in the air as a result of this project—the equivalent of Americans driving their cars 60 billion more miles per year. This means more of the devastating impacts of climate change which could harm jobs in aquaculture and seafood that are so important to the coastal economy of Maryland.

Finally, there is a lawsuit pending in the Nebraska Supreme Court on the route of the pipeline. The route cannot be finalized until this lawsuit is complete, and no construction will begin before then.

For these reasons—at this time—I will oppose the approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. There are too many environmental concerns that still need to be addressed, and the pipeline cannot be constructed until the lawsuit in Nebraska is decided. We should take this time to work on addressing the environmental concerns, and come back to make a decision once we have all of the facts.

In the meantime, there are plenty of other jobs bills Congress can pass that will put people back to work. I am for creating a national infrastructure bank to finance new construction projects. I am for closing the loopholes that allow businesses to make money off of moving jobs overseas—let's pass the Bring Jobs Home Act. And finally, I am fighting to pass an omnibus appropriations bill that funds TIGER grants that support State and local construction projects. All of these bills would create good jobs and would have real and lasting benefits on American workers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I would inquire as to the remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota has 13 minutes and the Senator from Louisiana has 3 minutes.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would inquire of the Senator from Louisiana if she would like to use her 3 minutes in addition to the agreement for the final 8? Would the Senator from Louisiana like to use her 3 minutes at this time?

Ms. LANDRIEU. I just need 3 minutes to close.

Mr. HOEVEN. Would the Senator from Louisiana like to do that now? Then she would still have 2 minutes to use after I finish as well. I am trying to find out how the Senator would like to use her remaining time.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator from North Dakota can do his closing and then I will yield to the Senator from California. Would that be OK?

Mr. HOEVEN. Sure. That is fine.

Madam President, I am going to go through a series of charts here. They are actually getting a little worn because I have used them now for a number of years. I am very hopeful that after today, or certainly after the first part of the next year, I can retire these charts, because it is long past time to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

This is an effort that started in September of 2008. The TransCanada company applied for a Keystone XL Pipeline permit. They started this process in September of 2008. I wasn't in the Senate then. I was Governor of North Dakota at that time. I worked on it for 2 years as Governor, and now I have worked on it for almost 4 years here in the Senate—not building the project, but trying to get approval for this project. The irony is—one of the many ironies—is that the TransCanada company actually built the Keystone Pipeline. A lot of people say, what? What do you mean? I thought that is what we are talking about. No, what we are talking about is the Keystone XL Pipeline. The Keystone Pipeline has already been built.

In 2006, the company applied for a permit to build a pipeline from Hardisty, which is in Alberta, down to Patoka, IL, for the Keystone Pipeline. They applied in 2006. They were granted a permit in 2008. By 2010 they had the pipeline built and operating, bringing about 640,000 barrels a day, going down from Canada, through my State, through South Dakota, through Nebraska, and over to Patoka, IL. Permitted in 2 years, built it in 2 years, and 4 years from start to finish, all done. That is the Keystone Pipeline.

What we are talking about here now is the Keystone XL Pipeline. It is a sister project, and the company has been trying for 6 years to get a permit.

Here we see the route. It is very similar, but it also goes down to Cushing and to the Gulf of Mexico. It is hard to believe it has been 6 years in the making.

We passed legislation to try to get a decision out of the administration. Not only is this not the first pipeline, which is the Keystone XL Pipeline, after we already built the Keystone Pipeline, but this is not the first bill to approve it. In fact, we have passed other bills to approve it.

As a matter of fact, in 2011 I introduced a bill which we passed in 2012 attached to the payroll tax holiday so the President wouldn't veto it, and

what that bill said is: Mr. President, you need to make a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline. If we are going to have an energy plan for this country, if we are going to make this country energy secure, energy independent, we have to have the infrastructure to move that energy to market. We have to have this vital infrastructure. So all that bill said in 2012 is: Mr. President, make a decision. It has been years in the permitting process. Make a decision. And he did. He turned it down. He turned it down because he didn't like the route in Nebraska. So what did we do? We went to work with the good people of Nebraska and set up a different route. We addressed the concerns the President said he had. We rerouted the pipeline and we came back. Still no decision. Still no decision, making it very clear—the President won't turn down the project. We have to ask, why isn't he turning it down? Because it is about jobs and energy and economic growth. It is about energy security, therefore national security, and the American people overwhelmingly want this project—60, 70 percent every time it is polled. That is why he doesn't want to turn it down, because the American people want it but he won't approve it. So what is his strategy? His strategy is defeat through delay. Defeat through delay. Don't take my word for it. Actions speak louder than words. We are now in year 6 of the permitting process.

What does this bill do, Senate bill 2280? We have 56 sponsors on this bill—56. It is a bipartisan bill. We already have a majority of the Senate. Now we just need to get to 60. What does it do? If the President won't make a decision, then Congress needs to. What this bill does is that under the commerce clause of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to oversee trade with foreign powers. We have the authority and the responsibility to oversee trade with foreign countries. So we have the authority to approve the cross-border approval for this pipeline. We have that authority under the commerce clause. So this bill simply says, all right, Congress approves the cross-border authority for this pipeline. That is it. The States still have their right to the route and the oversight in their respective States. We honor, we respect, and we protect. We protect property rights. We are just saying under the commerce clause of the Constitution that we can bring this pipeline across the border, just like the many other pipelines that have come across the border. This pipeline will have the latest, greatest technology, and it will be part of the more than—the millions of miles of pipelines that we already have, except this one will be newer with safety features the other ones don't even have.

That is what this bill is about, and that is what we are working on today. It really comes down to a very simple

decision. Do we make a decision for the American people, or do we make a decision for special interest groups that oppose the project?

I wish to thank my colleagues for this very vigorous debate on the Keystone XL Pipeline today. It is very appropriate that we debate it. And it is very appropriate that we vote on it. I had not anticipated getting to a vote until the new Congress, but I am pleased to get a vote today. It is certainly past time that we approve the Keystone XL Pipeline—as I say, 6 years. Six years in the permitting process. How in the world are we going to build an energy plan for this country that truly makes us energy secure and energy independent if we can't build the infrastructure to move that energy around the country—to move the energy we produce and that our closest friend and ally Canada produces from where we produce it to the refineries and to the markets around the country? We can't build an energy plan for this country if we don't approve and build the infrastructure to make it work.

A lot has been written and a lot has been said over these 6 years. But I go back to the most important point, and that is let's make this decision on the merits and let's make this decision on the facts. It is about energy, jobs, and economic growth, and it is about national security through energy security.

On the environmental issues, after five environmental impact statements, the Department of State says there is no significant environmental impact. Look, this isn't me saying it. Read the environmental impact statement. It is not as though we just did it once. It is not as though we just did it twice or even three times. Five of them. Five environmental impact statements. Think about it. Where is the common sense here? Five environmental impact statements. Verdict: No significant environmental impact.

On the jobs issues, the Department of State, again, in the environmental impact statement, says 42,000 jobs. Some say, those aren't good jobs, those are construction jobs. Really? If they are not good jobs, why are all the major national unions strongly supporting the project? Ask them if these are good jobs.

Furthermore, energy is a foundational industry. Low-cost, dependable energy helps all of the other industry sectors in our economy go and makes us more competitive in a global economy.

On the export issue, I think we have heard our President say, oh, it is just all going to be exported. Well, that is interesting, because his Department of Energy says otherwise. If we look at the report from the Department of Energy, it says we are going to use that oil here in the United States. We are

going to refine it and use it here in the United States. Interestingly enough, in order for the oil to be exported, we have to get approval from the Department of Commerce—from the Obama administration's Department of Commerce.

One other interesting point: It is not just oil from Canada, it is oil from my great State of North Dakota and oil from Montana—light, sweet Bakken crude that we have to find a way to get to our refineries in the United States. Right now North Dakota produces almost 1.2 million barrels of oil a day, and it is going up. The only State that produces more oil than North Dakota is Texas. Of that almost 1.2 million barrels of oil a day that we produce, 700,000 right now is moving on rail—700,000 barrels a day. That is a problem. This pipeline alone will take 1,400 railcars of oil—1,400 railcars to move that amount of oil. So if we don't have Keystone, we are going to have 1,400 railcars a day moving that product. We already have a problem. We already have our agriculture products backlogged in the Midwest because we are trying to move all of this oil.

Look, we need infrastructure in the right balance. We need pipelines, we need rail, and we need roads. Without it, we have more congestion on the rail as well as more risks for accidents.

For all these reasons and more, as I said a minute ago, the American people have spoken clearly. They have said that it is time to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. I hope that today that is exactly what we do.

We are here now, and we agreed to have a vote at 5:45 p.m. I know that my colleagues from Louisiana—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. I have 2 minutes remaining to start the final portion of the debate prior to the vote. So without objection—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. So I turn to my colleague from California and my colleague from Louisiana. The time has come to vote. We have had the vigorous debate. I would go back to what I said on this floor repeatedly and will continue to say until we get this project approved. This is about what the American people want. We work for the American people.

I have gone through the merits. I have gone through the arguments. I laid out how the bill works. I talked about the history. But at the end of the day, this is about our job representing the people of this great country and listening to them and doing what they want us to do. The American people overwhelmingly support this project and want it approved. So I ask for an affirmative vote today to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wanted to ask the Senator to yield so I can personally thank him for his leadership. It has been a pleasure working with him to build the Keystone Pipeline. He and I have worked together now for several years. We have negotiated every step of the way—when to introduce the bill, what the bill should say.

I want to personally thank him for his leadership. I have been pleased to work with him on it as an individual Member of the body as well as the chair of the energy committee, and I look forward to working with him on many projects in the years to come.

Let me close by making a couple of points. First of all, I wish to read from a statement from the mayor of Port Arthur, Deloris "Bobbi" Prince, who is strongly in favor of Keystone. I know you thought there was some hesitation on the part of the mayor. She says: Our unemployment is very high. She represents the city of Keystone. The unemployment rate is 15 percent and a poverty rate of 25 percent.

These are my closing points. One, to the opponents of this that have stopped it and installed it every step of the way, I will say this again. This resource will be produced. Nothing that we do on this floor, what they do in the House or what the President of the United States does will stop this resource from being produced.

Two, this product will move to these refineries. It will move by rail or it is going to move by car or it is going to move by barge. The studies are in, done, signed, sealed, and delivered. It is less efficient and it is more dangerous to the environment, and we should use a pipeline that is state of the art.

Number three, these heavy oils will not be exported. This is for energy to Florida, which doesn't produce an awful lot. This is energy to California. They do a great job of conservation—I will give it to them—not a great job of production. We actually do very well at both in Louisiana.

This is for Americans, for American jobs, and to build an American middle class. It will immediately create 40,000 jobs. If the people of this Congress have not noticed, there are long unemployment lines in some parts of the country. The people at the very top might be doing really well, but the people in rural America, the people in smalltown America, and the people who don't have \$1 million in their 401(k) plans could use a job. According to the American Chemistry Council, it is going to create 407,000 jobs in the next 9 years, and that is just the beginning.

Finally, let us do more than send a message. Let us do more than talk. By our actions, let us send hope to the middle class.

I wish to conclude by thanking Senator MARK BEGICH, who will no longer

be with us, Senator DONNELLY, Senator HAGAN, who will no longer be with us, Senator HEITKAMP, Senator MANCHIN, Senator MCCASKILL, and Senator PRYOR, who will no longer be in our next Congress.

I wish to also recognize Senator TESTER, Senator WALSH, Senator PORTMAN, Senator CARPER, Senator CASEY, and Senator BENNET for their great leadership. In the 30 seconds I have left, I specifically wish to thank the Industrial Union of Operating Engineers, who have fought for 6 years, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the pipefitters and plumbers, and the North America's Building Trades Union, which represents all of them and has fought every day for 6 years to try to talk this administration and this Congress into acting on their behalf.

The time is now to build the infrastructure necessary to make America energy independent. We can spend \$6 trillion in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we can't give a green light to a pipeline that has gotten five environmental reviews? The comment period is over, and the time to act is now.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to make a point of personal privilege. We would have voted on this bill a long time ago if my Republican friends had not blocked the Shaheen-Portman bill from being part of the unanimous consent agreement. Let's stop the hypocrisy that is going on here.

We would have had a vote, but it is only about Big Oil and the Koch brothers and all of that—fine. I am looking for this vote—win or lose—because we had to have it at some point. I was for having it a long time ago. If we want to grow this energy economy with good jobs, if we want to protect our families and protect our planet from devastating climate change, the vote is no on the Keystone XL Pipeline, which I call "extra lethal."

I will tell you, if the President vetoes this, I hope we will sustain the veto if it passes today.

We should work together for the future of clean energy which will create far more jobs than the 50 permanent jobs even the CEO of the Keystone Pipeline says is the right number. That is how many permanent jobs will be created.

I come from a State that is booming with hundreds of thousands of jobs, with balanced budgets, and clean energy future. I come from a State that embraced cleaning up the environment and building the economy and jobs. They go hand in hand. Anyone who tells you they don't really doesn't understand anything.

I can tell my friend—he talks about polls. I want to talk to him about another poll he won't like. That poll says

that huge majorities of Americans want the EPA to clean the air, clean the water. They want them to do the job.

It is very popular even though some of my colleagues have tried to undermine the work of the EPA. So why don't we work together on a clean energy future, and if you want to know the way, come to my State.

We are looking at millions of jobs all across this nation in clean energy.

Why vote against this pipeline?

We know misery follows this pipeline. That is not rhetoric. Here is Port Arthur, where my friend says the mayor is all for this. Fine—I didn't meet with the mayor. My friend didn't understand. I met with the community leaders who live around here and breathe this stuff. Senators and mayors, with all due respect, don't live in these communities. What is in all of this black smoke that goes into your lungs if you happen to live there? It is huge amounts of pollution—more sulfur dioxide, far more nitrogen oxide, far more lead—and this is serious stuff. It is not rhetoric. It is fact. There is something called PAHs which are cancer-causing pollutants. That is proven. We put a peer-reviewed study into the record. I will show you a picture. This is what happens after you refine this tar sands oil. It goes to these holding areas.

I will tell you what happened in this particular case in Chicago. There was a little league baseball game going on right near this petcoke. The wind came up. The petcoke blew around, and this is a direct quote from the newspaper: Kids that were playing ball just had to get the heck out of there because all this stuff was going into their eyes and their mouths. For what? Fifty jobs? Fifty jobs and a lot of profit in the pocket of the people who own the tar sands oil? What is in the national interest?

I will just close with this.

I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds additional.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to show you a picture of a little girl. She has an oxygen mask on over her face. I am telling you, as sure as I am standing here, the nurses stood with me and the public health doctors stood with me and they said, you know what, let's be very careful here because this pipeline is going to unleash 45 percent more of the dirtiest, filthiest oil. That is why I call it the Keystone "extra lethal" Pipeline, and I hope we won't vote it up today. I hope we vote it down. I hope the President will veto it if it passes, and I will be on my feet because I came here to protect people like this.

I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 280 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Begich	Graham	Paul
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hagan	Pryor
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heitkamp	Roberts
Carper	Heller	Rubio
Casey	Hoeben	Scott
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Tester
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Collins	Kirk	Toomey
Corker	Landrieu	Vitter
Cornyn	Lee	Walsh
Crapo	Manchin	Warner
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Donnelly	McCaskill	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Rockefeller
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Levin	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Feinstein	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harkin	Murray	Wyden
Heinrich	Nelson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 59, the nays are 41. The threshold has not been achieved, and the bill is not passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider

the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

(DISTURBANCE IN THE VISITORS' GALLERIES)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sergeant at Arms will restore order in the gallery.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia; Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia; and Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

ABRAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Abrams confirmation.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I yield my time to the two Senators from Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. On behalf of the people of Georgia, the next three votes will be three judges for the State of Georgia.

Senator CHAMBLISS, the senior Senator from Georgia, has done an outstanding job of leading our Judiciary Committee to negotiate with the President and White House on six nominations, three of which we have approved and the final three are tonight.

I heartily recommend to each Member of the Chamber a vote for Leslie Abrams for the Middle District of Georgia, Eleanor Ross for the Northern District of Georgia, and Mark Cohen for the Northern District of Georgia. All are extremely competent, talented individuals.

I thank the Obama administration and all those who worked with us to come up with a package of judges to fill the vacancies in the State of Georgia.

I yield to Senator CHAMBLISS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I join with my colleague Senator ISAKSON in recommending that all of our colleagues vote for all three of these judges: Judge Eleanor Ross, Judge Mark Cohen, and Judge Leslie Abrams—or future judges in all three cases. They are excellent candidates.

I particularly wish to commend Senator LEAHY for working closely with us, the President for being willing to sit down and discuss our judicial nominations, and particularly former White House Counsel Kathy Ruemmler. We would not be here today if Kathy had not demonstrated great legal skills in working this package and putting this package together.

I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of all three of these judges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would point out to my colleagues in the Senate that consideration of the Keystone Pipeline will be very early in the next session of the Senate, of the Congress, and I congratulate Senator HOEVEN for his good work on this issue.

VOTE ON ABRAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia?

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 281 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON COHEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the Cohen nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROSS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided on the Ross nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF LESLIE ANN BASSETT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

NOMINATION OF MARCIA STEPHENS BLOOM BERNICAT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

NOMINATION OF JAMES PETER ZUMWALT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

NOMINATION OF CRAIG B. ALLEN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM V. ROEBUCK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Leslie Ann Bassett, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Paraguay; Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will yield back all time on these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

VOTE ON BASSETT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leslie Ann Bassett, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Paraguay?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BERNICAT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ZUMWALT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James Peter Zumwalt, of California, a Career

Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ALLEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROEBUCK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain?

The nomination was confirmed.

For the information of the Senate, for the respective nominations just confirmed, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

USA FREEDOM ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2685, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, could we have order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order, please.

Mr. REID. Madam President, under the rule that has been initiated here in the Senate and confirmed, we have 30 minutes of debate on this matter, and I have been told that it won't take that full 30 minutes. And, Madam President,

the time for debate would be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes for debate between the leaders or their designees.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would ask for order.

We still don't have order in the Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order in the Senate, please. Senators, please take your conversations outside the Chamber.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. We have confirmed three judges from Georgia and I want to compliment the two Senators from Georgia for their hard work, both in the Judiciary Committee and the White House. And in that, I am sorry they had to wait so long. On this side of the aisle we cleared every one of those for a voice vote months ago. I am sorry that your side wanted to delay it, but I see a 100-0 vote, and the voice votes are accurate. But I compliment the two Senators from Georgia for sticking with their nominees.

Madam President, I would like to yield to the distinguished Senator from Utah, Senator LEE, for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, in 2013, the country learned that the government, specifically the NSA, had been collecting and storing enormous amounts of information about American citizens, and that the data collection at issue was not limited to those who were actually suspected of terrorist activity or even necessarily to those who were connected to those suspected of engaging in terrorist activity. Many were understandably very concerned about how much and what kind of data was being collected and whether this information could be or had been abused by government officials.

Today proponents of the metadata program claim it cannot be used to identify ordinary American citizens. But earlier this year researchers at Stanford University proved that the very type of metadata collected under Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act could be used to uncover a lot of information, including information about a person's

politics, what kind of medications they might be taking, about where they go to church, and so on and so forth.

The USA FREEDOM Act is a bipartisan piece of legislation that would end bulk collection of metadata currently gathered by the NSA, and it would help address the problem of the American government spying on its own citizens without cause. It also would improve transparency for the data that NSA does collect. It has the support of leaders in our intelligence community, the Department of Justice, civil liberties groups, the National Rifle Association, and several tech companies.

Opponents of this bill say it will impair our national security. They say the bill will keep our intelligence community from protecting us. But what opponents of this bill fail fully to appreciate is that most Americans are deeply concerned about the collection of their own personal information. This bill is an opportunity to strike a reasonable commonsense balance between protecting Americans' privacy and at the same time protecting our national security.

While I believe there are honest, decent people working in our intelligence community, and while I think this has been overwhelmingly the norm, it is important to heed a warning given to us centuries ago by James Madison. In Federalist 51, Madison wrote:

If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

Congress should address this issue now. The provision of the PATRIOT Act authorizing this kind of data collection expires just after Memorial Day this coming year, and it is important to adopt a compromise well ahead of this deadline that all interested parties can accept.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the junior Senator from Utah who has worked so hard on this.

It has been more than a year since Americans first learned that the government had been secretly sweeping up the telephone records of innocent Americans, regardless of whether there was any connection whatsoever to terrorism or criminal activity. I introduced the original USA FREEDOM Act last October with Republican Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, and the Senate Judiciary Committee held six public hearings to address these issues.

During those hearings, we learned that the bulk phone records collection program had not, as previously advertised, thwarted 54 terrorist plots, or even dozens, or even a few. In fact, we

learned through our public hearings that after all the talk about why we needed this program, we learned that the number was maybe one. That is an important fact for these who argue that the NSA's bulk phone records program is somehow essential to our fight against ISIL or other terrorists. It did nothing to stop ISIL from starting in the first place.

Our bill protects Americans. It enhances privacy protections and ends indiscriminate data collection by the NSA, but also keeps the essential tools our intelligence community needs to protect our Nation. That is the simple truth and important to remember. That is why our intelligence community strongly supports this bill.

As someone who worked in law enforcement, and as a native of Vermont where the right of privacy is cherished, I know we can have both liberty and security. The USA FREEDOM Act provides for commonsense reforms to government surveillance, and promotes greater accountability and transparency of the government's surveillance programs, and it improves the FISA Court.

This is a carefully crafted bill that builds on the work of the House of Representatives. It has the unprecedented support of the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, the Director of the NSA, American technology companies, and privacy and civil liberties groups across the political spectrum, ranging from the ACLU and EFF to the NRA and TechFreedom. Lawmakers from all parts of the political spectrum, from the right to left, support the USA FREEDOM Act. They know it is a reasonable and responsible compromise. There is no reason why we should not proceed to a debate on this important bill.

I understand that there are some Members who want votes on parts of it, and that is fine. Let's have the votes. Let's not block this bill and say: Well, we want something better. That means you don't vote yes, you don't vote no, you vote maybe. Let's have some relevant amendments, and let's vote on them. Don't let this get bogged down in procedural nonsense that the American public hates. Senators should allow us to get onto this bill and help us reach an agreement on a limited list of germane amendments to be considered. Let's have germane amendments and vote them up or down. If we work together, we can finish the bill by the end of the week.

We cannot afford to delay action on these reforms until next year. As both the ACLU and the NRA pointed out yesterday in a joint op-ed in the Washington Times, "every day that the Senate fails to vote on these reforms is a day in which law-abiding citizens have reason to fear that the constitutional protections so dear to the Founders

and so crucial to the functioning of a free society no longer apply."

I echoed the words we heard from the Senator from Utah. Every day that we fail to act is another day that American businesses are harmed. One conservative think tank estimated that the "mistrust engendered by the NSA's programs could cost the U.S. technology industry between \$35 billion and \$180 billion over the next three years." That is a staggering amount.

Senators should listen to the intelligence community professionals who protect our nation every day, and who are calling for swift passage of this bill. Ask the Director of National Intelligence. Ask the Attorney General. They will tell you that it is better for our national security, and better for our fight against terrorism if we pass the USA FREEDOM Act.

This is a reasonable compromise that all Senators should support, and I thank the Majority Leader for bringing this bill to the floor. And I thank Senators DEAN HELLER, MIKE LEE, DICK DURBIN, AL FRANKEN, and RICHARD BLUMENTHAL for their steadfast work on this bill.

Our bill is good for privacy and civil liberties, and upholds our Constitution. It is good for American business. It is good for national security. And most importantly, it is the right thing to do on behalf of Vermonters and the rest of the American people. I urge all Senators to vote in favor of the cloture motion pending before us.

I ask unanimous consent that the Statement of Administration Policy in support of the USA FREEDOM Act be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S. 2685—USA FREEDOM ACT

(Sen. Leahy, D-VT, and 18 cosponsors, Nov. 17, 2014)

The Administration strongly supports Senate passage of S. 2685, the USA FREEDOM Act. In January, the President called on Congress to enact important changes to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) that would keep our Nation safe, while enhancing privacy and better safeguarding our civil liberties. This past spring, a broad bipartisan majority of the House passed a bill that answered the President's call. S. 2685 carefully builds on the good work done in the House and has won the support of privacy and civil liberties advocates and the private sector, including significant members of the technology community. As the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence stated in a letter dated September 2, 2014, the bill is a reasonable compromise that enhances privacy and civil liberties and increases transparency.

The bill strengthens the FISA's privacy and civil liberties protections, while preserving essential authorities that our intelligence and law enforcement professionals need. The bill would prohibit bulk collection through the use of Section 215, FISA pen registers, and National Security Letters while maintaining critical authorities to conduct

more targeted collection. The Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence have indicated that the bill will retain the essential operational capabilities of the existing bulk telephone metadata program while eliminating bulk collection, based on communications providers' existing practices. The bill also authorizes an independent voice in significant cases before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC)—the Administration is aware of the concerns with regard to this issue, as outlined in the letter from the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence, and the Administration anticipates that Congress will address those concerns. Finally, the bill will enhance transparency by expanding the amount of information providers can disclose and increasing public reporting requirements.

In sum, this legislation will help strengthen Americans' confidence in the Government's use of these important national security authorities. Without passage of this bill, critical authorities that are appropriately reformed in this legislation could expire next summer. The Administration urges Congress to take action on this legislation now, since delay may subject these important national security authorities to brinkmanship and uncertainty. The Administration urges the Senate to pass the USA FREEDOM Act and for the House to act expeditiously so that the President can sign legislation into law this year.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I yield 3 minutes to the Senator from Florida, Mr. RUBIO.

Mr. RUBIO. I thank the Presiding Officer.

God forbid tomorrow morning we wake up to the news that a member of ISIL is in the United States and Federal agencies need to determine who this person is coordinating with to carry out a potential attack within the homeland. One of the tools they will use is a tool that allows them to see the people they have been calling and interacting with so we can disrupt that cell before they carry out a horrifying attack that could kill millions of American people.

Today we are able to do that because of a program that collects those records and keeps them—not in the hands of anyone who is looking at them on a regular basis but keeps them readily available for the government so the government can access those records and disrupt that plot. What this bill would do is take that apart. In essence, it would ask the companies to keep those records—at least in the hopes that they would. Under this plan, if this were to pass, if suddenly we were to go target these members of ISIL and find out whom they are coordinating with, those records may not be there and that plot may indeed go forward. That would be a horrifying result.

Here is why this doesn't make sense. First of all, we are rushing this to the floor of the Senate in a lameduck session, on an issue that doesn't even expire until next year, on a bill that was not listened to or heard in a committee, and they cannot cite a single

example of this program ever being abused—not one simple example of this specific program being abused by anybody intentionally. So we are dealing with a theoretical threat.

The second thing is that even as we speak, law enforcement agencies investigating a common crime don't even need to go to a court to access these very same records. They can just issue an administrative subpoena and get ahold of them. We are actually making it harder to go after a terrorist than it will be to go after a common criminal.

This is happening at a time when homegrown violent extremism is the single fastest growing threat to the United States, people here at home who have been radicalized—even on the Internet—and people who have traveled to the Middle East and been radicalized in the hopes of returning and carrying out attacks here.

I hope this body would take more time to study an issue of this magnitude because this program was specifically designed to address the intelligence gaps that existed after the 9/11 attacks. I promise you, if, God forbid, any horrifying event like that were to happen, the first question we will be asked is why didn't we know about it and why didn't we prevent it. If this program is gutted, we potentially will not be able to know about it, and we will not be able to prevent it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this program does not gut it; it actually enhances it.

Secondly, if this was important to stop ISIL, ISIL never would have started. The fact is that we had this program way beyond anything anybody is talking about today, and it didn't slow up or eliminate ISIL one iota. That is a straw man which we should not even have here. It has no effect on that, and everybody who has read the intelligence knows that.

I yield 3 minutes to the Senator from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to begin by thanking our very esteemed colleague, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, for his leadership on this issue and my colleagues whom he has named who have helped in drafting and crafting this very important piece of legislation.

I also wish to thank my friends and colleagues across the aisle, such as the Senator from Utah, who have supported and helped to make clear that this bill advances the cause of safeguarding our Nation without in any way detracting from its essential operational intelligence capabilities.

In fact, National Intelligence Director Clapper said:

The bill will retain the essential operational capabilities of the existing bulk tele-

phone metadata program while eliminating bulk collection.

This bill increases trust and confidence and credibility of our intelligence system. It advances that trust and confidence in the capability of government surveillance to do its job but at the same time protect our vital privacy interests. It advances the cause of constitutional liberty and the appearance and perception of trust in that system. It does so by making the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court look and function like the courts we are accustomed to seeing issue search warrants in the criminal process and protect essential liberties. It does it by strengthening and, in fact, installing an adversarial process so that more than just the government's version of the facts and law are presented to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. It does it by providing for appellate review, just as we have in normal civilian court. It does it by increasing the transparency and accountability of the FISA Court system.

Our Founders would have been astonished and appalled to learn that we permit warrants to be issued by a court that is operating in secret, issuing secret opinions, and making secret law much like the Star Chamber did, and that is why this reform is so profoundly and historically important—because we made the FISA Court one that we can more aptly and abundantly trust and one that will have credibility and confidence.

I support this bill.

I thank my colleagues for showing that we can work together in a bipartisan way to safeguard the essential rights of Americans at the same time we protect and preserve our national security.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Presiding Officer. I wish to speak to this bill, and I have to say that this is one of the few times that the vice chairman, the distinguished Senator from Georgia, and I have a disagreement.

I very much support this 215 metadata program. I think the Intelligence Committee had approximately 12 hearings on the subject last year.

Many people believe that the NSA is using this program all the time. In fact, in the year 2012 there were 288 approved queries, and 12 of them eventually led the FBI to obtain a probable cause warrant for the content of the communications. In fact, you cannot obtain content in a query; a query just searches the phone metadata.

Then the next criticism we have heard has been, well, the government should not hold the metadata. And that is essentially the big change this bill makes.

In October 2013, we voted out of our committee—by a vote of 11 to 4—a

FISA reform act; however, in my judgment, that bill is not going to pass in this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time is up.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I ask unanimous consent that my time be extended, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I recently talked with Members of the House, and here is what they told me: If we didn't pass the House bill, there were Members who wanted to end the whole metadata program. I do not want to end the program. I am prepared to make this compromise, which is that the metadata will be kept by the telecom companies.

Senator CHAMBLISS and I wrote a letter to the four big telecoms, and we asked them if they would hold the data. The answer came back from two "yes," and the answer that came back from the other two was inconclusive. Since that time the situation has changed—not in writing but by personal testament from officials with the two other companies that they will hold the data for at least 2 years.

Here is the problem: Although there is no mandate to hold the phone metadata, the fact is that the telecoms have agreed to hold the data for a sufficient period of time.

The President himself has assured me that he is comfortable with this bill. And I believe that if we do not pass this bill, the metadata program is at risk because the 215 program sunsets next year.

Senator RUBIO sits on the intelligence committee. I listened to him with interest. I agree with what he said about ISIL and other terrorist groups. They will come after us if they can, and the only protection we have is essentially to disrupt a plot before it becomes a reality in this country.

The metadata program is not as widely used as the 288 approved queries in a given year would indicate.

Additionally, in this bill—and I think this should be of satisfaction to a number of people—the FISA Court would have to approve a query before that query takes place.

I am prepared to support this bill, and I do so for very practical reasons because without it, I believe we will not have a metadata program.

This is hard for me because I have tried to be supportive of the legislation that comes out of our committee. I have talked to Senator LEAHY. I have said that the one big problem I have with his bill is that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court is upset with the language on the special advocate. Senator LEAHY said he would change the language on this part of the bill.

Senator BLUMENTHAL has an amendment—which I assume will pass—which does change the language on this part of the bill to accommodate the objections of the FISA court. If that is the case and the telecoms agree to hold the data, I believe that solves what is a very practical problem.

In any event, I have agreed to support this legislation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. How much time on the other side has been used?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Six and a half minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I only had one speaker and I had 15 minutes. Did he use 7½, 8 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair was instructed that the Senator from California spoke on the time of the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time the Senator from California used be added to my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I will not object. I was going to yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from Texas, Mr. CRUZ, and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed up to 4 minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I object to that. He can have your 30 seconds.

Mr. LEAHY. I will not object to the request, and I will yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from Texas. I am sorry the Senator from Georgia would not offer me the courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I yield to the Senator from Maine for 2 minutes.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, we need reform of the NSA program but not in this manner. Let's remember why this intelligence tool was put into place. It was enacted in the wake of the worst terrorist attack in our country that took the lives of nearly 3,000 people. We have testimony from the former Director of the FBI and from the former Deputy Director of the CIA telling us that had this tool been in place, it is likely—most likely—that the plot that killed nearly 3,000 people would have been uncovered. Why would we weaken the ability of our intelligence community at a time when the threats against this country have never been greater?

Let me address to my colleagues the privacy issue that has been raised—an issue that all of us care about. These data are far more safe, far more subject to privacy protections if they are held

by the Federal Government where only 22 vetted and trained government employees have access to them instead of nearly 150 telecommunications companies that employ thousands of workers, and the government is going to have to go to those companies and ask for the data. That greatly exposes the privacy of individual Americans far more than the current system.

So for both of those reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill of the distinguished Senator from Vermont. It is a mistake. It would make us less safe, and we have expert testimony telling us that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I regret that I just have 2 minutes. It is unfortunate that a bill with this amount of consequence for Americans is being debated in such a limited amount of time.

We have 2 bills, one produced by the intelligence community, written and supported by the chairman, a Democrat from California, and by the vice chairman, the Republican from Georgia, and it passed on a bipartisan basis with almost a 3-to-1 ratio. Here we are trying to go forward, allowing only one vote on one different bill.

Why do we have to rush this through in a lameduck session when it has such consequences and when the director of the agency that oversaw this, when asked by me what are the ultimate consequences of this, his answer was: A compromise of our ability to detect terrorist attacks—and the consequence will be Americans will die. And when that happens, and when those of us who go everyday to the Intelligence Committee know what the threat is—the threat is greater than it has ever been—we need to understand that eventually something will happen here, and people will turn to us and say: Did you have every possible tool in place to try to stop this from happening? If you didn't, why didn't you? Let's not have a repeat of 9/11 when the commission then comes to us and says get the tools that you need.

This program has been so mischaracterized in terms of what it does and doesn't do. Even as I talk to my colleagues, they don't have a full understanding of what it doesn't do. It has more oversight than any other Federal program in our committee's jurisdiction. We have enhanced it through our committee with hours and hours of discussion, and here we have a bill that wasn't even taken up by the Judiciary Committee and was just brought here to the floor.

So I urge my colleagues to think this through before we come to a conclusion we are going to regret.

I thank the vice chairman for the time.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, in closing, let me say there are any number of reasons why the substance of this bill is totally flawed. We live in a dangerous world today. We all know and understand that. While the provisions in this bill wouldn't have prohibited ISIL from being formed—it didn't prevent ISIL from being formed—the provisions in the underlying FISA bill give the Intelligence Committee all the tools they need to make sure that when ISIL recruits individuals to go to Syria to fight, if they are trying to recruit Americans, we can find out about that. We have under surveillance today any number of individuals, whom we think have been committed to jihad, who live in America.

Secondly, there is another part of their recruiting that is even more dangerous than asking young men and women to come to Syria to fight for ISIL. They want people to go into the Parliament in Canada and start killing people. They want people to walk the streets of New York and pull out a gun or a hatchet or whatever it may be and start killing people.

If we eliminate this program—and that is basically what the Leahy amendment does—then we are going to take a tool away from our intelligence community that is not going to allow them to be able to interrupt and disrupt those types of terrorist attacks.

Now, with respect to our privacy, folks, gosh, we need to be really protective of privacy issues in this country. We live under a Constitution that has survived for in excess of 200 years. It has lots of privacy protections in it, and all of us want to see that happen. But let me tell my colleagues what is going to happen if this amendment comes to the floor and should happen to pass today. The metadata that is collected by the NSA can be accessed by 22 individuals—22. That means there is an opportunity for leaks to occur or for individual privacy rights to be breached by 22 people. If this amendment ever became law, all of a sudden, all of the telecoms are going to be holding this metadata information as opposed to the NSA holding it. All of those telecoms have thousands of employees, lots of whom have access—will have access to this metadata. So instead of having the potential for 22 people to breach the privacy rights of American citizens, all of a sudden we are going to have thousands of opportunities for the privacy rights of Americans to be breached.

Let me close by saying that this program has been criticized an awful lot simply because of the leaks that Mr. Snowden made because of his theft of government property. But the fact is there cannot be one single case pointed

to by anybody who can show that as a result of the collection of metadata under 215, any American has had their privacy rights breached. It simply has not happened. It will not happen if we keep this program in place.

Do we need to modify it? You bet. And Senator FEINSTEIN and I did a good job of that, considering 10 amendments within our committee, voting on all 10 of them. Some of them passed. Some of them didn't. The bill came out of our committee on a bipartisan vote.

The Leahy amendment has not even gone to the Judiciary Committee to give the members of the Judiciary Committee the opportunity to review it, to file amendments on it, to debate it in committee, and vote on it. That is not the way this institution has ever worked, and it is not the way it should work here in a lameduck session with time running out, and particularly on a controversial and sensitive and important program as is the 215 FISA amendment program.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, many months ago the American people were astonished to learn the Federal Government was collecting bulk metadata from personal cell phones of millions of law-abiding citizens. This legislation protects the Constitutional rights of privacy under the Fourth Amendment while maintaining important tools to protect national security and law enforcement.

This is bipartisan legislation that enjoys the support of the intelligence community as well as the tech community. The bill is not perfect, but in my view we should take it up and consider reasonable amendments on the floor to make it better. But it is imperative that we stand together, united, protecting the Bill of Rights.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

The Senator from Georgia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I yield back the remaining time, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Gov-

ernment to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Thomas R. Carper, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders, Carl Levin, Tom Udall, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 282 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Heinrich	Murray
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagan	Murkowski	
Harkin	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Nelson
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Toomey
Cornyn	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 58, the nays are 42. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, obviously I am disappointed by tonight's vote,

but I am not new to this fight. We have had six public hearings on this issue. We heard interesting testimony by the head of the NSA who talked about 50-some-odd terrorist activities that have been thwarted by the bulk collection program. When he had to testify in public, it came down to possibly one.

I mention that because people asked whether we had hearings. We had six. But the reason I say I am not new to this fight is the very first vote I cast as a Senator in 1975 was in favor of the Senate resolution that created the Church Committee. I have worked ever since to ensure strong oversight of surveillance authorities.

We found in the Church Committee that administrations of both parties had so badly misused the tools they had in the intelligence community. We tried to put in restrictions that would balance our constitutional rights and the security that we needed as Americans. We tried to do that. I think we did.

That is why over the past decade I have consistently opposed expanding the USA PATRIOT Act and FISA Amendments Act sunsets without including meaningful reforms. The first sunsets were put in place by the Republican leader in the House, Dick Armey, a conservative Republican, and myself in the Senate. We joined together for the same reason: If you do not have an ability to look at these issues on a periodic basis, then they will get out of hand.

I fought the status quo every step of the way in these efforts. The broad coalition of those in favor of the USA FREEDOM Act shows we are gaining ground. While I am critical of those Republicans who failed to answer the call of the American people who elected them to stand up and work across the aisle, those who reverted to scare tactics rather than working productively to protect America's basic privacy rights and our national security—I acknowledge the hard work and principled stance of several Republicans: Senator HELLER, Senator LEE, and Senator CRUZ, as well as other Republicans in the other body, including my initial partner in this effort, Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER. There have also been two important partners on the Democratic side in this reform effort: Senators FRANKEN and BLUMENTHAL who worked with me on transparency and the FISA Court reforms.

We Vermonters fight to protect our privacy rights. Every Vermonter does. They mean a great deal to us. Every Vermonter feels that way, and this lifelong Vermonter will not give up the fight. I owe that to the Vermonters I serve and to the Constitution I swore an oath to defend.

I would say to those both in this Chamber and outside who approached this issue by fomenting fear, fomenting fear stifles serious debate and constructive solutions, like the carefully

drawn reforms in this bill. Doing it at the last minute is all the more regrettable. This Nation deserves more than that.

This Nation should not allow our liberties to be set aside by passing fears.

America will always face the threat of terrorist attacks, both outside our borders and inside. We didn't do away with all our civil liberties after the Oklahoma City bombing. It was an American who did that, somebody who served in our military, churchgoing, and so forth. No more should we do it if the attacks come from outside our country. We talk about 9/11. We had all the evidence necessary to stop 9/11 before it happened.

Everybody who has looked at that now agrees that if we had bothered to translate the material we had, if we had bothered to listen to people in Minnesota who tried to warn us about it, we could have stopped it.

But because mistakes were made then, let's not take away the liberties of 325 million Americans.

I felt this way when I was a prosecutor. We even had people escape from prison with the intent to kill me.

I said: OK. We will get them, but we will follow the law in doing it, and we did.

Mr. President, 13 years ago this week a letter was sent to me. The anthrax in it was so deadly that the one person who touched the envelope—that I was supposed to open—died. They died from it. We still haven't caught all of the people involved.

But notwithstanding that, when people came to me and said: Well, maybe we should do away with some of our search and seizure laws, maybe we should do away with some of our laws for wiretaps, after all somebody tried to kill you. And if you had touched that envelope you would have died.

I said: No, this is more than one Senator, more than one person, more than one individual. This is the Constitution of the United States. If we, 100 Members of this body, do not protect our Constitution, we do not protect our country, and we do not deserve to be in this body.

I will continue to fight, and whatever years I have left in this body, I will continue to fight to preserve our Constitution and our rights as Americans.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAMELA PEPPER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 928.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk, and I ask the Chair to report it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BRENDA K. SANNES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 930.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MADELINE COX ARLEO TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1032.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF WENDY BEETLESTONE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1033.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom

Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1034.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Christ the King School of Burlington, VT, will soon celebrate its 75th anniversary, and it remains one of the most distinguished educational hubs in the Green Mountain State. Begun as a school to accommodate the overflow of students from the Cathedral School, three-quarters of a century later it continues to offer young Vermont students the educational foundation on which to build successful futures.

The school has undergone a considerable transformation since it opened its doors to the community of Burlington and beyond in 1940, but its commitment to education has been constant. Its curriculum helps students experience learning through real-world experiences. Recently, students traveled to Ausable Chasm in New York. Students, their teachers, and many parents hiked the chasm, collecting foliage for a future science lab where students will use paper chromatography to separate the components in leaves. By giving students opportunities to take their learning outside of the classroom, they early on come to understand the importance of engaging with the surrounding community.

In addition to expanding their curriculum to include this experiential learning, Christ the King School's recent partnership with the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education at the University of Vermont will help give students access to technology and professional development resources that might not otherwise be available.

Christ the King School has a long history of commitment to excellence in education. I commended the School in the RECORD as the school celebrated its 50th anniversary, and I am pleased to again commemorate another milestone. Our young people deserve the best in their educational development. Christ the King School continues to provide the academic and spiritual

guidance it has delivered for the last 75 years, and I hope will do so for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE PATERSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Katherine Paterson is a treasure to Vermont. She is also a close friend to Marcelle and me. And today, at the age of 82, she continues to write with the grace and talent that has made her a two-time National Book Award winner and twice a Newbery medalist.

I have had the honor and good fortune to know Katherine for many years. Her humble and soft-spoken nature belie the power of her writing and her myriad contributions to children's literature.

In announcing that she would be last year's winner of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, the committee noted: "Katherine Paterson has been writing books that have made a profound difference in children's lives for 40 years. Her work acknowledges life's challenges and difficulties, yet she always leaves her readers with hope."

I ask that this recent profile of Katherine Paterson, from the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Burlington Free Press, Nov. 16, 2014]

KATHERINE PATERSON'S LIFE IN STORIES (By Sally Pollak)

Montpelier Author's Memoir is a Set of Stories, Many Could Serve as a Manual for Loving and Raising Kids

In her new book, "Stories of my Life," Katherine Paterson tells a set of wonderful stories that span her eight decades.

She writes about her young childhood in China, where she was born, and the mountain resort where she stayed with her mother and siblings (including a newborn sister) during wartime in the summer of 1937. Paterson tells about a family friend who was kissed by Robert E. Lee, and her distant cousin named Mark Twain. Yes, that Mark Twain. Paterson writes about taking her sixth-grade class on a field trip to the Washington zoo; the widow she lived with when she worked as a missionary in Japan, and her sons' adventures in places unknown to their mother.

Paterson doesn't write about her first fall in Barre, where she and her husband moved 28 years ago. The youngest of Paterson's four children went off to college, and Paterson had left behind friends in Virginia and Maryland.

"It rained a lot," Paterson said. "I ate Ben and Jerry's Coffee Heath Bar Crunch, and read."

Paterson, who turned 82 on Halloween, is an award-winning author who started to write books in the bits of time when her young children were all asleep. She was able to devote more time to writing when her four kids were old enough for school. Paterson's books have won the most prominent honors in literature, including two Newbery Medals ("Bridge to Terabithia" and "Jacob Have I Loved") and two National Book Awards ("The Master Puppeteer" and

"The Great Gilly Hopkins.") Before the Patersons moved to Vermont for John Paterson's work as a minister, the Patersons knew Vermont as the place they celebrated their wedding anniversary. They would drive north from New York's Lake George, where they spend summers, to eat at Dog Team Tavern. The restaurant in Middlebury, known for its sticky buns, burned down in 2006.

The ice-cream eating phase in the big brick house in Barre would give way to book-writing, including books set in Vermont. Paterson had barely unpacked when she met a woman at a book signing in Shelburne who began a conversation: "Now that you're a Vermonter. . . ." The woman went on to inquire if Paterson had an interest in writing a book that would be meaningful for children of Vermont migrant farm workers.

This involved getting to know her new home state by visiting farms and homes, and completing a book on a six-month deadline (a first). In order to meet the deadline, Paterson proposed writing an I Can Read Book. "The Smallest Cow in the World," with illustrations by Burlington native Jane Clark Brown, was Paterson's first book for new readers.

Decades later Paterson attempted another genre for the first time: memoir, or memoir-ish.

"Stories of my Life" is lively, interesting and generous of spirit. Its stories are warm and humorous, and connected to a larger sphere: literature, religion, history. Certain stories could serve as a manual, a valuable one, for loving and raising kids.

Still, writing a memoir wasn't part of Paterson's plan.

"It just seems like such a me, me, me thing to do," Paterson said recently at her home in Montpelier, where she moved last spring. "I didn't think people nearest and dearest to me would want to play minor roles in the stories of my life."

KITCHEN SINK STORIES

The illness of Paterson's late husband, John Paterson, was a kind of catalyst for Paterson's recently published book. During his sickness, Katherine Paterson was somehow unable to start a novel, she said. Instead, she began to write down stories drawn from her life, what she calls in her book "kitchen sink stories."

These are stories she heard from her mother as a child, when she washed, dried and put away dishes with her mother and sister. Paterson's children grew up in a house with a dishwasher, and some stories went untold in the absence of that evening chore.

"I realized there were family stories that my children didn't know and I should write them down," Paterson said. "It would be a good thing for the kids and for the grandchildren."

The stories are a fascinating collection that take in family history (great uncles who died in the Civil War); Paterson's work and travel in Asia; her chance meeting while at graduate school with the man she would marry; raising a family with accompanying menagerie—and writing books.

In "Stories of my Life" Paterson draws connections between significant events and people in her own life, and aspects of her books: a story line, a character, a scene.

She explains that she discovered the "emotional heart" of her first novel, "The Sign of the Chrysanthemum" in a conversation with her oldest daughter, Lin.

Lin was born in Hong Kong; she was two years old when the Patersons adopted her. There were times when Lin was young that

it was difficult for her parents to get through a "curtain" and reach their daughter, Paterson writes.

From her memoir: "Lin," I yelled, "how can I help you if you won't tell me what's the matter?"

She jerked to life, her eyes wide open. "Why did that woman give me away?"

Paterson would go on to write a novel built around this question: "What must it be like, I wondered, to have a parent somewhere whom you do not know?"

Later, at a time she was idea-less for a book, she asked her four children what to write about.

The kids voted for a mystery. Paterson was certain she wasn't capable of writing one. She describes this in her memoir: "Do you think," I asked my eager children, "that anyone who is regularly beaten at chess by a six year-old has the kind of brain it takes to plot a mystery story?"

Yet her kids' choice helped Paterson find her way to a story that involved Japanese puppet theater.

"So the children and I compromised," Paterson wrote. "I would try to write an adventure story with as much suspense as possible." The resulting book, "The Master Puppeteer," won the 1977 National Book Award.

Her beloved novel, "Bridge to Terabithia," grew out of the accidental death of her son David's close friend at age 8. In "Stories of my Life," Paterson discloses that confronting a different death—her own—made writing "Terabithia" a particular challenge.

A LOVE STORY

The story of a strong and loving marriage runs through Paterson's new book, a partnership that formed in a matter of months. When John Paterson proposed to Katherine Womeldorf, he made a promise to always help and support her.

"John said that he knew I was a strong woman with many gifts, and he wanted to promise me that he would never stand in the way of my exercising those gifts," Paterson writes in her new book.

"It was very memorable," Paterson said of the proposal, talking about the conversation more than half a century later.

"I had no idea that I was going to be a writer," she said. "I had no idea what I was going to do. John thought I was going to be something."

John Paterson was a Presbyterian minister who collected art, played tennis and co-wrote books with his wife. His death at age 80 in September, 2013, was the central aspect of the "most extraordinary" story of Paterson's life, she wrote.

The experience, including conversations with "compassionate and honest doctors," suggested to the Patersons that a person needn't fight death with the full arsenal of modern medicine, Paterson said. John Paterson sought the advice of his wife, and chose to die at home.

"In our society we have to come to it," Paterson said. "Death is not the enemy."

The artist that John Paterson saw in his future wife is still at work. Paterson is writing a play with a friend, and awaiting the 2015 release of the film adaptation of "The Great Gilly Hopkins." The screenplay was written by her son David Paterson.

"I had a good life," Paterson said. "Let's face it."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JIM TAYLOR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jim

Taylor as he ends his 35-year stint as president of the University of the Cumberland. Dr. Taylor is an educator of the highest degree and deserves the praise of this body for his unrelenting devotion to his students and his community.

When Dr. Taylor retired last month, he ended the longest tenure as president of any college or university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He led the university for so long, however, because he continued to get results from his students and contribute positively to his community—year after year.

Over the course of his tenure, enrollment in the school rose from 1,885 to over 5,500, the endowment rose from \$6 million to \$79 million, and numerous campus renovations were made including the construction of hundreds of handicap access ramps.

Dr. Taylor's impact did not stop at the boundaries of campus, however. He worked tirelessly to better his community—raising money for scholarships for Appalachian students and overseeing clothing and food drives for area families.

For now, Dr. Taylor and his wife of 46 years, Dinah Louise Taylor, will move to their home in Florida. However, Dr. Taylor could not separate himself from the institution for which he had worked for so long in one fell swoop. He will remain involved with the university in his new position of chancellor, where he will help with fundraising and provide counsel to his successor in order to provide for a smooth transition.

Dr. Jim Taylor's life of service to his students and his community provide a shining example of excellence for us all. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

The Times-Tribune of Whitley County, KY, recently published an article detailing the life and career of Dr. Jim Taylor. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Times-Tribune, Oct. 8, 2014]

THE ENDING OF AN ERA: UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS PRESIDENT TO RETIRE
(By Kristina Smith)

Boxes filled the large rectangular room where Dr. James Harold Taylor usually sat and carried out his day-to-day business as president of the University of the Cumberland.

Each box was marked with bold, white letters—"mover."

Until Oct. 16, that's exactly what Taylor will be doing—moving.

Taylor's 35 years as president comes to an end next week as he officially retires and Dr. Larry Cockrum takes over the top position. His retirement also means the end of the longest tenure of a Kentucky college or university president.

So for now, Taylor prepares to move to his Florida residence with his wife of 46 years, Dinah Louise Taylor.

"I'm telling everybody goodbye and expressing my appreciation," Taylor said of his last week as president. "This job is too big for one working alone. It takes a team, and we have a great one here. We have great faculty, staff and students."

Taylor and his team have molded the university into the largest private college or university in the state of Kentucky during his time as president.

"We're also the only Baptist university in the state," Taylor quickly pointed out. "Well, except for Clear Creek Bible School."

Taylor is proud of the university and the over 5,000 students he is leaving behind. He mentions that he is especially happy with the developing physician's assistant program, nursing program and health programs.

However, he is most proud of the impact within the community that he leaves behind.

"What I'm pleased about is that we've been able to build 145 homes for people. Distributed tons of food and clothing. We've built hundreds of handicap access ramps, done insulation projects, roofing. We have a toy program for kids at Christmas who normally wouldn't get toys. Then we have Thanksgiving, where we do vouchers for people," Taylor said.

The list goes on and on.

"I've had a lot of fun," Taylor said with a grin.

But Taylor isn't boasting on his accomplishments. Once again, he points to the team of people surrounding him.

"When I'm talking about this, I'm just talking about how I hire smart people who are really good," Taylor said. "And I just get out of their way and let them work."

Running a university that spans over 100 acres is a lot of work, and Taylor acknowledges that his predecessor will have no easy task before him.

"This school is so much bigger than people think," Taylor said. "See, our operating budget is \$50 million a year. The fiscal plan here is around \$200 million. You have to maintain all of it. So we raise probably around \$300 million, and spend around \$305 million. It takes a lot to keep it going."

So Taylor will provide some help to Cockrum going forward. He hopes to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

For about a week of every month, Taylor will assist in raising money and identifying friends for the college as chancellor.

"No one does anything alone. It takes many heads, hearts and hands," Taylor said. "Dr. Cockrum will take us to stellar heights and allow us to do things we've never done before."

Taylor believes that choosing Cockrum to follow in his steps will help the university continue to flourish after he's left campus and moved to the Sunshine State. He notes that Cockrum has been with the university for nearly a decade, and has seen firsthand the work Cockrum is capable of.

"You know, this profession is filled with talkers. But, he delivers. He's about the best I've seen," Taylor said of Cockrum. "I feel like all we've done is built the foundation and he's going to let this rocket ship fly."

While Cockrum is preparing to blast off into his new presidential role, Taylor will take the time to ponder upon his years with the university.

"It's time for relaxation and reflection," Taylor said. "I'm grateful for my wife who has allowed me to do what needed to be done in terms of promoting the institution. It's fulfilled this opportunity to serve. It's been a blessing. It's fulfilled our lifelong dreams. Few people get to live out their dreams—I was fortunate to be able to do that."

Taylor has already thought of a few words of advice to the university he leaves behind, though.

"You have to have a moral compass, a true north. I think the Christian faith can give you that," Taylor said. "Oh, and always measure twice, but cut once."

So Taylor will finish packing papers, photos and his personal belongings into the cardboard boxes that are piled in his office. But he will be back to visit; he's not ready to leave Williamsburg completely behind.

"I'll come back some because our son is buried here, and we'll have a home here," Taylor said. "But we'll come in for the holidays and things like that. We'll come in for some ball games."

As a final note, Taylor quotes a line of Shakespeare to sum up his time with the university and his pending retirement.

"The crown rests heavy on the head of the king," Taylor said.

RECOGNIZING MARK PRATER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Mark Prater, deputy staff director and chief tax counsel for the minority staff of the Senate Finance Committee.

Later this week, the Tax Foundation will award Mark their Exemplar of Excellence in Public Service Award for his many years of service on the Finance Committee. He will be only the second congressional staffer to be honored by the Tax Foundation in their 77-year history. And, I can say without any reservation that no staffer is more worthy of such an honor.

After several years in private law practice in his native Oregon, Mark came to work for the Finance Committee in January 1990. At that time, Mark thought he would stay for just 2 years and return home. Fortunately for all of us, Mark has been on the Finance Committee staff for nearly 25 years now.

Over these years, he has served with great distinction and has come to be one of the most trusted and respected staffers on Capitol Hill. Indeed, it seems that everyone in Washington knows Mark Prater and seeks him out for advice on tax policy.

Perhaps most importantly, Mark is a kind person who treats everyone with respect. Honestly, he would be the last person to seek out this type of honor, usually opting to share credit for his successes with those he works with.

Mark has worked for a number of prominent chairmen and ranking members on the Finance Committee, including Bob Packwood, William Roth, and CHUCK GRASSLEY. But, while he is always worked for Republican Members, Senators on both sides of the aisle have come to rely on Mark's experience and expertise. This was never more evident than in 2011 when Mark was tapped to serve as the staff director for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

For the past 4 years, I have had the privilege of having Mark on my Finance Committee staff and I have been

a direct beneficiary of his knowledge and understanding of not only the Tax Code but of how things can and should work in the Senate. You see, Mark is one of the few staffers who have been around long enough to remember a time when things used to get done around here. In fact, Tax Notes recently published the results of their survey about congressional tax staffers in which Mark was named the best dealmaker and the top Republican tax staffer. I have no doubt that, in the future, his work will be instrumental to helping restore the traditions and productivity of this Chamber.

I want to congratulate Mark for this tremendous honor from the Tax Foundation, along with his wonderful family—his wife Lori and his son James—who should enjoy this honor along with him.

Selfishly, I hope that Mark has many more years of honorable service here in the United States Senate.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday, November 17, 2014, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 276, on the motion to concur to the House amendment to S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, due to inclement weather and travel disruptions from Sioux Falls, SD. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this measure.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on the evening of Monday, November 17, 2014, the Senate passed S. 1086, a bill reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, CCDBG.

This bill reauthorizes and amends the CCDBG Act with new requirements for State health and safety standards, including annual, unannounced onsite monitoring of licensed providers, background checks of childcare staff and providers, expanded compliance with child abuse reporting requirements, and enhanced coordination with other programs.

On March 13, 2014, the Senate passed an earlier version of S. 1086, and I voted aye.

Due to a flight delay, I was unable to cast a vote yesterday on its passage. I would have voted aye.

REMEMBERING ROD BRADWAY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Officer Rod Bradway. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Bradway had served with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, IMPD, since 2007.

On Friday, September 20, 2013, Officer Bradway responded to a domestic disturbance call at Eagle Pointe Apart-

ments in Indianapolis. Upon arriving, he heard a woman screaming for help from inside her apartment, where she was being held against her will. Officer Bradway quickly called for backup, and without hesitation, forced his way into the apartment. Upon entering, he was immediately shot twice by a perpetrator who waited in ambush. Although severely wounded, Bradway returned fire and injured the shooter before assisting officers arrived. This courageous effort disabled the shooter, avoiding a second ambush. In addition, the woman whom Officer Bradway was rushing to aid, along with her 10-month-old child, emerged safely, largely due to his immediate response and selfless action. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Bradway, 41, succumbed to his wounds.

"When I heard he was the first in, I wasn't surprised," said Melissa Watkins, a friend and colleague. According to many of his peers and IMPD family members, Officer Bradway always wanted to be the first through the door, ready to help.

An Indiana native, Officer Bradway grew up in Nappanee, where he attended NorthWood High School. Known for his outgoing, gregarious personality, athleticism, and concern for others, Rod participated on both the track and football teams. Many of his high school coaches remembered Rod as athletic and willing to help others. Former coach Jon Andrews said, "I think he loved people and loved athletics, and both of those traits showed up in the way he built his life." Rod graduated from NorthWood High School in 1991.

Following college, Officer Bradway moved to the Indianapolis area where he joined the Wayne Township Fire Department. He served for 10 years, and while there, he met the love of his life, Jamie, who worked at the Department as an Emergency Medical Technician. They married and had two children, Jonathan and Sierra.

Officer Bradway was a highly decorated policeman who served on the IMPD for 5 years. In February 2012, he received the Medal of Bravery, with which he was honored for apprehending a man who was wielding a knife and threatening others.

In addition to his service to his fellow citizens, Rod was an active supporter of animal rescue efforts. He and his wife traveled to Moore, OK, following the deadly tornado of May 2013 to help locate and gather displaced pets. Together, they delivered hundreds of pounds of pet food, crates, leashes, and other supplies for pets or local animal shelters.

Officer Bradway is survived and deeply missed by his wife Jamie; his son Jonathan; daughter Sierra; his parents Thomas and Sheri Bradway; brother Chip (Shelley) Bradway; mother and father-in-law Teresa and Ronald Gentry;

sister-in-law Jaclyn (Donald) Gentry; nieces Ella Bradway and Kaylee Millard; nephew Conner Millard; as well as many other relatives and friends, the IMPD family, the Wayne Township Fire Department family, and Hoosiers throughout the State.

Officer Bradway loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the Citizens of Indianapolis. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Officer Bradway demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, husband and father—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, modest yet brave man set for us and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING SIGNATURE SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to applaud Signature School of Evansville, IN, for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and nonpublic schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an "Exemplary High Performing School"—where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics—or as an "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School"—where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Signature School has set the bar high in the area of improved proficiency in both English and Mathematics.

Consistently ranked in the top 100 high schools in the Nation since 2006, Signature School is a unique and innovative institution where students are given the opportunity to play a role in setting their academic goals. This independence instills in the students a sense of motivation and self-belief, two components that have helped narrow the achievement gap and increased English and mathematics scores.

I would like to acknowledge principal Jean S. Hitchcock of Signature School,

the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Signature School, and I wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I applaud East Elementary of the Jay School Corporation, Portland, IN, for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and nonpublic schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as “Exemplary High Performing”—schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State’s assessment—or as “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing”—where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics. East Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

East Elementary School inspires its students by fostering a positive environment both at school and in the community. Staff and students are committed to working toward combining knowledge with social and emotional support and by doing so lift up a student body that comes from a predominantly economically challenging background. East Elementary School has consistently achieved both an A-rating and a Four Star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. The hard work and creativity of this school has helped to strengthen the Portland community and the future of Indiana.

I would like to recognize principal Andy Schemenaur, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the East Elementary of the Jay School Corporation of Portland, and I wish them continued success in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2014 World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants. By defeating the Kansas City Royals in a fiercely contested and exhilarating World Series, the Giants became the second team in the storied history of the National League to win three World Series in a five-season span.

Led by manager Bruce Bochy and general manager Brian Sabean, this outstanding roster of all-stars, unflappable veterans, and exciting young talent showed great resolve, determination, and character as they battled a tough National League Western Division to emerge with 88 wins and a spot in the playoffs.

The Giants began their title march by shutting out the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-to-0 in the one-game National League Wildcard game. In the National League Division Series, the Giants showed their championship pedigree by winning several tightly contested games against the Washington Nationals that included a thrilling 18-inning marathon, the longest in postseason history. In the National League Championship Series, the Giants captured the pennant by defeating the St. Louis Cardinals, four games to one.

Driven by the historic performance of pitcher Madison Bumgarner, World Series MVP, and with contributions from every player on the roster, the Giants triumphed over the Kansas City Royals in a hard-fought, seven-game series. This team battled to win a game seven that came down to the last pitch of the ninth inning when third baseman Pablo Sandoval caught the final out—making the Giants the first team in 35 years to win game seven on the road.

With a combination of excellent pitching, great defense and clutch hitting, the Giants are bringing the World Series trophy back to China Basin for the third time in five seasons. They have evolved from the 2010 championship team that was fondly described as “a band of misfits” to a team that has etched themselves into baseball history. With this eighth World Series title—their third in five seasons—the San Francisco Giants have taken their rightful place among the nation’s greatest franchises and chief executive officer Larry Baer and the entire Giants organization should be very proud.

I also want to congratulate the loyal San Francisco Giants fans, who have supported their team through good years and bad, and from the windy Candlestick Park to the picturesque AT&T Park. Whether it is nearly 42,000 fans turning the stadium into a sea of orange on an “Orange Friday” or wearing panda hats for Pablo Sandoval or

bringing funny Hunter Pence signs, Giants fans have created an electric atmosphere at AT&T Park and provided its team with one of the most formidable home park advantages in all of baseball.

As the San Francisco Giants and their fans celebrate the 2014 championship campaign, I congratulate them on their unforgettable season and look forward to their continued success in 2015 and beyond. •

TRIBUTE TO ALAN DERSHOWITZ

• Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a great teacher today.

His name is Alan Dershowitz. For half a century he was a professor at the Harvard Law School. He retired in December of 2013.

From all those students who were so fortunate to learn from him, including myself, let us say thank you.

Professor Dershowitz joined Harvard Law in 1964—at the tender age of 25—and during his time there, he trained more than 10,000 students in more than 100 semesters to be critical thinkers, lawyers, judges, and leaders.

Aside from being an incredible teacher, he is known as many things: advocate, columnist, novelist, and intellectual.

He is a passionate liberal, and yet he pressed all his students—conservative and liberal alike—to make the very best arguments they could, based on logic, reason, and precedent.

Like Professor Kingsbury in “The Paper Chase,” he didn’t suffer fools. If you couldn’t back up your position in his class, if you emoted rather than reasoned, you were in trouble.

He and I became friends, ironically, because we disagreed so much. In class, he would offer withering critiques of opinions authored by conservative Justices, Scalia and Thomas especially, and I was often moved to disagree. Heated arguments followed, which Professor Dershowitz always seemed to relish.

I am grateful for his patience and indulgence. As with countless law students before and after, Professor Dershowitz made me a much better lawyer.

He didn’t just teach; he also practiced, in trial courts and the Supreme Court, taking on “impossible” cases and winning one after another. Truly, it was a privilege to learn from someone practicing at the very top of his field.

Although a man of the left, he did not shy away from disagreeing with his liberal colleagues when principle compelled it. A passionate advocate for free speech, he fearlessly took on the political correctness of campus speech codes. No conformist, he.

And there has been no fiercer advocate for Israel. His passion, his persuasiveness, his willingness to take on all

comers, has made him an incomparable voice for the Jewish State.

Professor Dershowitz is an intellectual powerhouse who could have done anything in his life, and he made the deliberate decision to teach. He chose to share his brilliance and pass it on. He chose to invest in the future of others instead of only himself.

I am so grateful that I could be among the thousands of students Professor Dershowitz taught. He has made and continues to make a real difference.

Courage and principle are rare today. Professor Dershowitz has them both.●

CONGRATULATING MIKE CARRIGAN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Councilman Mike Carrigan, of Sparks, on his retirement. After serving as a member of the Sparks City Council for 15 years, Councilman Carrigan retired on November 10th, 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after many years of hard work and dedication to the City of Sparks and the Silver State.

Councilman Carrigan stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted their life to serving their country and community. Graduating from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, he went on to serve in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as a naval aviator around the world. I extend my deepest gratitude to Councilman Carrigan for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. I am both humbled and honored by Councilman Carrigan's service to the community and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan.

After his many years of service, Councilman Carrigan moved to Nevada in the early 1990s with his wife Cora and their two daughters Ashley and Molly. He attended the University of Nevada, Reno and earned his master's degree in journalism and soon began work as a newspaperman in Fallon. With his experience and expertise, Councilman Carrigan began teaching part-time in the Reynolds School of Journalism at his alma mater, where he taught journalism courses for several years. His desire to make positive changes in his community soon led to his first run and subsequent win in office on Sparks' City Council.

Upon being elected to the Sparks City Council in 1999, he has worked on numerous projects for the City of Sparks and has always strived to ensure that Sparks stayed family-oriented. Councilman Carrigan has remained committed to being a voice for

the people of Sparks and has been a constant advocate for initiatives that meet the needs of Sparks' families. Among his many accomplishments, one of his proudest was the construction of Golden Eagle Regional Park in his ward, which was built without the use of taxpayer funds.

I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Sparks and to the State of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Councilman Carrigan on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DEE LIKES

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, in a State where cattle outnumber people, the Kansas livestock industry is one of the leading economic and cultural drivers of our State. Across the Midwest, ranchers and their families work hard every day to provide protein for a growing and hungry world, often without the appreciation or recognition they deserve.

I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to a trusted leader and friend. Thomas "Dee" Likes has served for the last 31 years as the chief executive officer and executive vice president of the Kansas Livestock Association. Under his leadership, the 5,500-member trade association has grown into one of the most influential and respected agricultural organizations in Kansas and across the nation.

Dee Likes has made a distinguished impact on the livestock industry. As the longest tenured State affiliate organization CEO in the history of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, he helped lead the industry through the 1996 merger between the National Cattlemen's Association and the Beef Industry Council of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

In addition to his service as CEO of the Kansas Livestock Association, Dee Likes has been a true partner in government. He has successfully represented the livestock industry in front of Congress and has served two terms as president of the Kansas Agricultural Alliance, a coalition that represents over 20 Kansas agricultural associations before the Kansas Legislature.

I am grateful to Dee for his friendship, his advice, and his counsel over the years. Kansas agriculture has been fortunate to have Dee's commitment and dedication. I hope he and his wife Terry will enjoy their next chapter in life.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BACCUS

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, agriculture is one of the leading economic and cultural drivers in Kansas. Across our State, farmers and ranchers work hard every day to feed a growing world, often without the appreciation or recognition they deserve.

I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to a special Kansas farmer and friend. Steve Baccus is a native Kansan, a veteran, a husband, a father of five, and a grandfather whose fourth-generation family farm in Ottawa County continues to produce wheat, corn, soybeans, and occasionally sunflowers and sorghum.

For the past 17 years, Steve has served on the board of directors for Kansas Farm Bureau, including the last 12 as its president. Kansas Farm Bureau is our State's largest general farm organization, with nearly 105,000 members. Under his leadership the organization has successfully influenced State and national agriculture policy, promoted rural values, and worked to show an increasingly urban populace how food is truly produced.

In addition to his service as president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Steve Baccus has been a true partner in government. He has led trade missions, presented testimony before Congress and State legislative committees, and told the complex story of agriculture for much of his adult life.

Steve Baccus embodies many traits we can all admire: a deep love for the great State of Kansas, gratitude for the many hard-working families who provide the food, fuel, and fiber Americans rely on, and the respect of his peers across the Nation.

I personally am grateful for Steve's many years of wise counsel to me and for his service to Kansas and agriculture. I wish him and his wife Patricia all the best in their next chapter.●

TREATY OF 1864 ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 150 years ago, on October 14, 1864, the Federal Government signed a treaty with the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Indian Tribes in the Klamath Basin establishing these tribes collectively as "The Klamath Tribes" and designating the Klamath Reservation in Southern Oregon.

I would like to recognize this historic event and acknowledge the great contributions made by the Klamath Tribes to the State of Oregon. As we commemorate the anniversary of the Treaty of 1864, it is also important to recognize the strained relations and broken promises that dot the history of the Federal Government's relationship with the tribes. This is a time to reflect on the Federal Government's obligation to these sovereign nations and celebrate the rich history and promising futures they bring to this great country.

The Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Tribes have a rich history in my State. Today the Klamath Tribes contributes significantly to Oregon's history, cultural diversity, and economy. Oregon tribes are active in a variety of industries, with positive economic impacts felt far beyond the reservation boundaries.

Recently, Oregonians had the opportunity to learn first-hand the history and culture of the Klamath Tribes. To recognize and celebrate the anniversary of the treaty, the Klamath County Museum provided free tours, giving visitors a unique opportunity to visit the historical site near Fort Klamath where the treaty was signed and to learn about the rich and storied past of the Klamath Tribes.

I am pleased to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1864 and to ensure that this historic event is remembered as an important part of Oregon's past, and a lesson for the Nation's future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 885. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

S. 1093. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 1499. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

S. 1512. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5069. An act to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5142. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 5331. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building".

H.R. 5386. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

H.R. 5441. An act to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of

the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 5468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office".

H.R. 5544. An act to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following bill:

S. 1086. An act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President *pro tempore* (Mr. LEAHY).

At 4:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3608. An act to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

H.R. 4049. An act to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5040. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5162. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5040. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5142. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5162. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5331. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac'

Dube, USMC Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5386. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5544. An act to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 107. Concurrent resolution denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 18, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1086. An act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7600. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards; and Manufacture of Amino/Phenolic Resins" ((RIN2060-AR49) (FRL No. 9916-90-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7601. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters; Withdrawal" ((RIN2040-AF50) (FRL No. 9916-62-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7602. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Manufacturing (Import) Exemption for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)" ((RIN2050-AG79) (FRL No. 9917-21-OSWER)) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7603. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida: Removal of Sulfur Storage and Handling Rules" (FRL No. 9917-64-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7604. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Industrial Solvent Cleaning Operations for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions" (FRL No. 9917-16-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7605. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9917-67-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7606. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Approval of Revision to PSD Program" (FRL No. 9916-27-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7607. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan for the San Juan Generating Station" (FRL No. 9917-43-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7608. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions" (FRL No. 9917-63-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7609. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Maryland" (FRL No. 9917-72-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7610. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Florida: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9917-53-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7611. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Delegation of Authority to the States of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to Implement and Enforce New Source Performance Standards" (FRL No. 9917-49-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7612. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criteria for the Certification and Recertification of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance with the Disposal Regulations; Panel Closure Redesign" (FRL No. 9917-57-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7613. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements, and Confidentiality Determinations Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program" ((RIN2060-AQ81) (FRL No. 9916-76-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7614. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9916-95-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7615. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules" (FRL No. 9918-21-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7616. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9918-11-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7617. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9918-19-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7618. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Ambient Standards for Nitrogen Oxides and for Ozone; Correction of Docket Number" (FRL No. 9918-03-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7619. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9914-56)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7620. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import and Export, 2015-2019" ((RIN2060-AR04) (FRL No. 9917-98-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7621. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Imperial County; Ozone Precursor Emissions Inventories" (FRL No. 9917-77-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7622. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approval and Promulgation: Missouri; 2013 State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Lead Standard" (FRL No. 9918-18-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7623. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Control of Emissions from Hand-Fired Equipment" (FRL No. 9918-10-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7624. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nebraska; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9918-13-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7625. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Restriction of Emissions of Particulate Matter from Industrial Processes" (FRL No. 9918-17-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7626. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Air Quality Standards and Regulations" (FRL No. 9918-20-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7627. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL No. 9918-15-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7628. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safeguards Information—Modified Handling Categorization Change for Materials Facilities" ((RIN3150-AJ18) (NRC-2012-0140)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7629. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel (OSS-2014-1590); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7630. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-098); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7631. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-097); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7632. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-074); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7633. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7634. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-060); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7635. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-085); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7636. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-099); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7637. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-116); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7638. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-118); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7639. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-079); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7640. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7641. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-117); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7642. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 13-3525); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7643. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-115); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7644. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-082); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7645. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7646. A communication from the Executive Director, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7647. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7648. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0134—2014-0146); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7649. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0129—2014-0133); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7650. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six months ending December 31, 2013"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7651. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at General Atomics in La Jolla, California, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7652. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" (RIN1840-AD17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7653. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Violence Against Women Act" (RIN1840-AD16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7654. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Program Integrity: Gainful Employment" (RIN1840-AD15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7655. A communication from the Chairman of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7656. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Department of Labor's 2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7657. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan; California; Interstate Transport Requirements for 2006 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9918-38-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7658. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7659. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7660. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7661. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; (GSAR); Qualifications of Offerors" (RIN3090-AJ46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7662. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Progressive Awards and Monthly Quantity Allocations" (RIN3090-AJ47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7663. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7664. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Status Report on Implementation of District of Columbia Auditor Recommendations"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7665. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of Continuing Disability Reviews for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7666. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fifth Report to Congress on the Evaluation of the Medicare Coordinated Care Demonstration: Findings Over 10 Years"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7667. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of the Qualified Payment Card Agent Program" ((RIN1545-BG53) (TD9699)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7668. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lifetime Income Provided Through Target Date Funds in Section 401(k) Plans and Other Qualified Defined Contribution Plans" (Notice 2014-66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7669. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7670. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Physician-owned Hospitals; Data Sources for Expansion Exception; Physician Certification of Inpatient Hospital Services; Medicare Advantage Organizations and Part D Sponsors: CMS-Identified Overpayments Associated with Submitted Payment Data" ((RIN0938-AS15) (CMS-1613-FC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7671. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Quality Incentive Program, and Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies" ((RIN0938-AS13) (CMS-1614-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7672. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule, Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, Access to Identifiable Data for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Models & Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2015" ((RIN0938-AS12) (CMS-1612-FC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7673. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2015 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements; and Survey and Enforcement Requirements for Home Health Agencies" ((RIN0938-AS14) (CMS-1611-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7674. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2015 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Service Coinsurance Amounts" ((RIN0938-AR94) (CMS-8056-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7675. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2015 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" ((RIN0938-AR96) (CMS-8057-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7676. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2015" ((RIN0938-AS34) (CMS-8058-N)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7677. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" ((RIN1545-BL90) (TD9697)) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7678. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2014-60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7679. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought in Specified Counties" (Notice 2014-60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7680. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Local Lodging Expenses" ((RIN1545-BH60) (TD9696)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7681. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2014-62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7682. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election Procedures and Information Reporting With Respect to Interests in Certain Canadian Retirement Plans" (Rev. Proc. 2014-55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7683. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—November 2014" (Rev. Rul. 2014-28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7684. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Submission of Forms, the Finished Products Records for Distilled Spirits Plants, and Closures on Certain Distilled Spirits Products; Correction" (RIN1513-AB97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7685. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Brewers Bond Reduction and Requirement To File Tax Returns, Remit Tax Payments and Submit Reports Quarterly" (RIN1513-AB94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7686. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renaming of Express Mail to Priority Mail Express" (RIN0651-AC98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7687. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report to Congress for the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7688. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Civil Debts Referred for Collection Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7689. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center's financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditors' report for years ended September 29, 2013, and September 30, 2012, and a report relative to the Center's schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor's reports for the year ended September 29, 2013; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7690. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Wait-Time Goals of the Department for the Veterans Choice Program Authorized by Section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7691. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Copayments for Medications in 2015" (RIN2900-AP15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7692. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7693. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD519) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7694. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0291) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7695. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0164)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7696. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0792)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7697. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0672)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7698. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0424)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7699. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0343)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7700. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0144)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7701. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats France (formerly Sigma Aero Seat) Passenger Seat Assemblies" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0730)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7702. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (56);

Amdt. No. 3605" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7703. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (9134); Amdt. No. 3606" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7704. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification, Revocation, and Establishment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central and Northeast United States" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0295) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7705. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class B Airspace; Washington Tri-Area, DC" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0713) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7706. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; Wichita, McConnell AFB, KS" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0294) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7707. A communication from the Management and Program Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airports/ Locations: Special Operating Restrictions" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0458) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7708. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations; Clarification" (RIN2120-AJ53) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0982) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7709. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Portland Dragon Boat Races, Willamette River, Portland, OR" (RIN1625-

AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0492) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7710. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anchorage; Ashley River Anchorage, Ashley River, Charleston, SC" (RIN1625-AA01) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0819) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7711. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Mavericks Invitational Surf Competition, Half Moon Bay, CA" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0715) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7712. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Bridge 1 Structural Repairs at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME" (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0215) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7713. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Allegheny River; Mile 45.7; Kittanning, PA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0747) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7714. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Moving Security Zone Around Crane Barge, New York Harbor Upper Bay and Hudson River, NY and NJ" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0886) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7715. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile 170 to Mile 172; Darrow, LA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0780) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7716. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Ordnance Removal; Saipan Harbor, CNMI" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0849) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7717. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Semisubmersible Loading Operation Safety Zone, South San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0922) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7718. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Slip 4 Early Action Area Superfund Site, Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, WA" (RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0293) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7719. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Cruise Ship HAMBURG, Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0916) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7720. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pier 39 36th Anniversary Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0832) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7721. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7722. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acetic Acid Ethenyl Ester, Polymer with Ethane, Ethenyltriethoxysilane and Sodium Ethenesulfonate (1:1); Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9918-50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7723. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic Acid, 2-Methyl-, Phenylmethyl Ester, Polymer with 2-Propenoic Acid, Peroxydisulfuric Acid ([HO]S[O]2[O]2) Sodium Salt (1:2)-Initiated, Compounds with Diethanolamine; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9918-28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7724. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FD and C Red No. 40; Exemption from

the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9917-14) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7725. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Deltamethrin: Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9918-24) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7726. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements" (RIN0579-AD22) (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7727. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7728. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Morocco; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7729. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled "Report to the Congress: Venezuela: Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and End Users"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7730. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards" (RIN3052-AC93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7731. A communication from the Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (CARD ACT, HOEPA and ATR/QM)" (12 CFR Part 1026) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7732. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AA43) (Docket No. CFPB-2014-0009) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7733. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Fi-

ancial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of Regulation Z's Ability-To-Repay Rule to Certain Situations Involving Successors-in-Interest" (RIN3170-ZA00) (Docket No. CFPB-2014-0016) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7734. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures and General Definitions" (RIN2590-AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7735. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Filing Financial and Other Reports" (RIN3313-AE25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7736. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to storage of petroleum products owned by the United States in facilities other than those of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7737. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Approval of Revisions to Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Regulations Within the North Carolina State Implementation Plan; Correcting Amendment" (FRL No. 9918-94-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7738. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan, Enhanced Monitoring, Clean Fuel Fleets and Failure-to-Attain Contingency Measures for the Dallas/Fort Worth 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Transportation Conformity" (FRL No. 9919-02-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7739. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9918-97-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7740. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsyl-

vania; Allegheny County; Control of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers" (FRL No. 9918-73-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7741. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Nonattainment New Source Review" (FRL No. 9918-84-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7742. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 9912-50-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7743. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 9912-51-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7744. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data" (RIN2070-AK01) (FRL No. 9918-23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7745. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Technical Amendment to Update Data Management System Nomenclature" (FRL No. 9918-52-OSWER) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7746. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits" (FRL No. 9914-32-OECA) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7747. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri, Controlling Emissions During Episodes of High Air Pollution Potential" (FRL No. 9918-75-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7748. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Volatile Organic Compound Regulations" (FRL No. 9918-00-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7749. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases" ((RIN3150-AI72) (NRC-2009-0359 and NRC-2013-0133)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7750. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Imaging Demonstration Evaluation Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7751. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation of the Medicare Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Demonstration Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7752. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report relative to the inclusion of Uruguay in the ongoing negotiations of the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7753. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report relative to the inclusion of Israel in the ongoing negotiations of the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7754. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Highway Use Tax; Sold Vehicles and Electronic Filing; Taxable Period Beginning July 1, 2011" ((RIN1545-BG63 and RIN1545-BK35) (TD9698)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7755. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Occurring in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone Designated as a Qualified Disaster under Section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2014-65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7756. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment" (Notice 2014-64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7757. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Marginal Production Rates" (Notice 2014-63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7758. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items" (Rev. Proc. 2014-61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7759. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2014" (Rev. Proc. 2014-59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7760. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Group Health Plans that Fail to Cover In-Patient Hospitalization Services" (Notice 2014-69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7761. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery Threshold"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7762. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Improving the Identification of Health Care Disparities in Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7763. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9918-78-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7764. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Child Welfare Outcomes 2009-2012: Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7765. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed permanent transfer of major defense equipment to a Middle Eastern country (OSS-2014-1801); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7766. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-1812); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7767. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six months ending December 31, 2013"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7768. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-101); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7769. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-090); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7770. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-100); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7771. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-092); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7772. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" covering the period February 7, 2014 to August 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7773. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7774. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Policy on Exports to Vietnam" (RIN1400-AD73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7775. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision of U.S. Munitions List Category XV; Correction" (RIN1400-AD33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7776. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled "William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" ((RIN1840-AD17) (Docket ID ED-2014-OPE-0082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7777. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Premarket Approval of Pediatric Uses of Devices—FY 2012"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7778. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2011 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities—Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7779. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7780. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "United States Tobacco Product Exports That Do Not Conform to Tobacco Product Standards"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7781. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Program Integrity: Gainful Employment" ((RIN1840-AD15) (Docket ID ED-2014-OPE-0039)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-350. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded; and

Whereas the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of their people, particularly for the generations to come, to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under art. V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That under art. V, Constitution of the United States, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully applies to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with art. V, Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a similar convention of the states; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of the other 49 states to apply to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT:

S. 2936. A bill to provide that in the case of leases to local education agencies and elementary and secondary schools, consideration may be at or below fair market value or for no consideration; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2937. A bill to require the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2938. A bill to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2939. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that return information from tax-exempt organizations be made available in a searchable format and to provide the disclosure of the identity of con-

tributors to certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. Res. 581. A resolution honoring the life and service of the late Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 582. A resolution expressing support for designation of the third Tuesday of November as "National Entrepreneurs Day"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 907

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 907, a bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 931, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added

as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1187

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1389

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1389, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System.

S. 1702

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2069

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2572

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2572, a bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2634

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2634, a bill to provide tax relief for major disaster areas declared in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2710

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2710, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt private foundations from the tax on excess business holdings in the case of certain philanthropic enterprises which are independently supervised, and for other purposes.

S. 2738

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2738, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2775

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt aircraft management services from the ticket tax.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2795

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program.

S. 2796

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the income protection allowances.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2904, a bill to prevent the militarization of Federal, State, and local law enforcement by Federal excess property transfers and grant programs.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

S. 2931

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2931, a bill to amend the Unfunded

Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 2937. A bill to require the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that would require the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to be Presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed.

In 2010, I worked to include similar language in the Senate version of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, but this provision was ultimately not included in the final version of this law.

At the time, I noted that, “if the Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington are required to be confirmed by the Senate, then the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who played a pivotal and perhaps more powerful role in obligating taxpayer dollars during the financial crisis, should also be subject to the same public confirmation process.”

As the response to the financial crisis showed, the New York Fed is unlike any of the other eleven regional Federal Reserve Banks.

For instance, along with the seven Governors of the Federal Reserve System who each require Senate confirmation, the president of the New York Fed is not only a permanent member of the Federal Open Market Committee, FOMC, but also acts as the FOMC's Vice Chairman. This is an important distinction because the FOMC establishes the Federal Reserve System's monetary policy, which in the wake of the financial crisis resulted in the Federal Reserve's balance sheet growing to almost five times what it was before the crisis in an attempt to reduce long-term interest rates.

Additionally, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is solely responsible

for implementing an aspect of monetary policy known as open market operations through which U.S. Treasury securities are purchased and sold on a secondary basis to influence the levels of bank reserves. In other words, this means that the New York Fed is in a position to pick and choose its counterparties in these secondary market transactions, giving significant advantages to one market maker over another, which raises the potential for conflicts of interest.

Also, the New York Fed is entrusted with protecting the U.S. dollar in foreign exchange markets.

According to the New York Fed itself, “though it serves a geographically small area compared with those of other Federal Reserve Banks, the New York Fed is the largest Reserve Bank in terms of assets and volume of activity.” Indeed, the New York Fed in its regulatory capacity is not only in charge of supervising some of the largest banks in the country, but also some of the most active financial institutions.

While this is not an exhaustive list of the New York Fed's unique responsibilities, these examples demonstrate the extremely powerful and pivotal role the New York Fed plays in implementing our Nation's monetary policy and enforcing our banking laws. As such, we should have every expectation that the New York Fed has the public interest in mind to the fullest extent when it conducts its duties.

Unfortunately, these expectations have not been met. Last month, the Office of Inspector General, OIG, of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System described the New York Fed's oversight efforts with respect to one large banking institution that eventually suffered billions of dollars in trading losses as a “missed opportunity.” On top of this, a report aired in September on the public radio program “This American Life” cast doubt on whether changes the New York Fed made after the financial collapse to address regulatory capture were sufficient to ensure the New York Fed would be a more proactive banking regulator and could prevent a future financial disaster.

All of this is disturbing, and it is past time that we add meaningful layers of accountability in order to prevent another problem from snowballing into a crisis because of the New York Fed's continued unwillingness to address potential financial pitfalls in advance.

By subjecting the president of the New York Fed to the confirmation process, an important check and balance will be added. The Senate will have a vital opportunity to evaluate whether a nominee has the experience, character, judgment, and skills to serve effectively as one of the most powerful banking regulators in the country, if not the world. In addition,

this legislation requires the New York Fed president to testify before the Senate Banking Committee and the House Financial Services Committee at least once a year, so that Congress no longer has to negotiate about whether and when the New York Fed president will appear before Congress for oversight hearings. Simply put, this legislation is about holding the New York Fed accountable. The New York Fed is just too powerful to be left unchecked.

I thank Americans for Financial Reform, Public Citizen, and the AFL-CIO for their support, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in moving this legislation forward.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT HENRY ANDERSON

Mr. MCCAIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 581

Whereas throughout his life, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson distinguished himself in each field in which he entered;

Whereas in the military, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson was a decorated non-commissioned officer in the United States Army during World War II, earning 2 Bronze Star Medals, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, the Purple Heart, and various campaign ribbons;

Whereas prior to entering military service, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson placed his education on hold to work full-time to support his family in Cleveland, Ohio;

Whereas drafted into the military at the age of 19, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson originally enlisted as a paratrooper, preparing to parachute behind enemy lines in Germany and all over Europe;

Whereas Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson saw the desperate need for medical assistance in combat and volunteered to join the United States Army Ambulance Service as a combat medic;

Whereas Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson was a valuable member of the fighting force, responsible for providing first aid and frontline trauma care on the battlefield;

Whereas combat medics were unsung heroes of World War II, as they were embedded among infantrymen, faced the enemy unarmed, and relied on the aid of comrades to keep them safe;

Whereas as a combat medic, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson helped countless soldiers, while dodging exploding mines, nearly getting run over by German tanks, and evading enemy fire;

Whereas based on his performance as a combat medic, at the end of World War II, the United States Army offered to help pay his way through medical school;

Whereas Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson earned a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University, in Berea, Ohio;

Whereas at the conclusion of his time in service, Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson returned to Cleveland and honorably served as a plumber for the Department of

Public Works and as a valued member of the Journeymen Plumbers Union, Local 55;

Whereas Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson is the pride of his family, which includes his parents, Otto and Sarah, his brothers, Alan, Wayne, and Leonard, his late wife of more than 60 years, Virginia, their son, Robert C. Anderson, and a large and loving extended family;

Whereas Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson passed away on November 15, 2014, in Arizona, and his death is a major loss to his family, the Grand Canyon State, and the United States; and

Whereas the life and legacy of Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson are an immense credit to his family and the cities of Cleveland and Mesa and typify the heroes of the "Greatest Generation": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and salutes the decades of service of Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson to the people of the United States;

(2) acknowledges the contributions of Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson as a paratrooper, combat medic, plumber, husband, father, and family member; and

(3) extends appreciation to the family of Staff Sergeant Robert Henry Anderson, in recognition of his role as a model of lifetime service to a grateful community and Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 582—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE THIRD TUESDAY OF NOVEMBER AS "NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS DAY"

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 582

Whereas since the founding of the United States, innovation, creativity, industriousness, and entrepreneurship have formed the economic fiber of the United States;

Whereas entrepreneurs have long been vital to the economic health and growth of the United States;

Whereas the willingness of entrepreneurs to assume risk has resulted in unparalleled contributions to the growth and development of the United States;

Whereas entrepreneurship is the stimulus for strengthening the economy, advancing innovation, improving productivity, and creating new jobs;

Whereas research shows that innovation has been responsible for approximately ⅓ of the economic growth of the United States since World War II;

Whereas more than 500,000 new businesses are created in the United States every month and small business openings have accounted for 40 percent of new jobs in the last 20 years;

Whereas research shows that businesses 5 years or younger were responsible for nearly every net new job in the economy of the United States between 1980 and 2005;

Whereas entrepreneurs and the businesses created by entrepreneurs are responsible for roughly 3,000,000 jobs every year;

Whereas despite economic instability, 56 percent of adults were confident that they could start a business and 82 percent of entrepreneurs in 2012 used their own savings for startup cash, indicating that entrepreneurial spirit remains strong in the United States;

Whereas collaboration and cooperation amidst a broad coalition of organizations, including nonprofit entrepreneurial incubators, angel investors, venture capitalists, crowd-funding initiatives, and other early-stage investors, catalyze entrepreneurial ventures;

Whereas the Federal Government must continue to promote entrepreneurship in all communities by ensuring that entrepreneurs find the necessary resources to pursue their ideas;

Whereas support for entrepreneurs, including firms managed and owned by women and other minorities, strengthens the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas entrepreneurial literacy skills serve as one of the 21st-century content areas critical to success in communities and workplaces;

Whereas more than 70 percent of young people in the United States envision starting a business or pursuing an entrepreneurial endeavor as adults;

Whereas positive outcomes for youth who participate in entrepreneurship education programs include improved academic performance, increased critical thinking skills, and heightened occupational aspirations;

Whereas to maintain the position of the United States as a world economic leader, government, entrepreneurs, institutions of higher education, and businesses of all sizes must be united in a comprehensive effort to welcome and cultivate entrepreneurial activities in the United States;

Whereas entrepreneurs face significant barriers that the Federal Government must work to reduce so that all entrepreneurs in the United States have a chance at success;

Whereas entrepreneurship is the best offense for economic progress and the finest defense against the status quo for the United States; and

Whereas the third Tuesday of November would be an appropriate date to designate as "National Entrepreneurs Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of "National Entrepreneurs Day";

(2) recognizes the considerable contributions of entrepreneurs to the United States; and

(3) honors those entrepreneurs who ignite innovation and inspire the next generation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3942. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3943. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3944. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3945. Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3946. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3947. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2685, to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3948. Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2685, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3942. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. CONVEYANCE, JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey to the City of Hanahan (in this section referred to as the "City") all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 53 total acres at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, for the purpose of accommodating the City's recreation needs.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the City shall provide the United States with consideration in an amount that is acceptable to the Secretary, whether by cash payment, in-kind consideration as described under paragraph (2), or a combination thereof.

(2) IN-KIND CONSIDERATION.—In-kind consideration provided by the City under paragraph (1) may include the acquisition, construction, provision, improvement, maintenance, repair, or restoration (including environmental restoration), or combination thereof, of any facilities or infrastructure relating to the needs of Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, that the Secretary considers acceptable.

(3) PUBLIC BENEFIT CONVEYANCE.—A public benefit conveyance may also be used to transfer the property under subsection (a) to the City for public use. The property use must benefit the community as a whole, including use for parks and recreation.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may require the City to cover

costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.**—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Air Force.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary of the Air Force may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3943. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2813. LEASING OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS AND DEFENSE AGENCIES; TREATMENT OF VALUE PROVIDED BY LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES AND ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) **LEASES FOR EDUCATION.**—In the case of a lease under this section to a local education agency or an elementary or secondary school (as those terms are defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), consideration may be at or below fair market value or for no consideration.”.

SA 3944. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS INVOLVING HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

Section 101(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—
(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) if the property is owned or managed by the Federal Government, notifying the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives if the property is being considered for inclusion on the National Register, for designation as a National Historic Landmark, or for nomination to the World Heritage List.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) **NATIONAL SECURITY.**—If the head of an agency that owns or manages Federal property that is being considered for inclusion on the National Register, for designation as a National Historic Landmark, or for nomination to the World Heritage List objects to inclusion or designation for reasons of national security (including any impact the inclusion or designation would have on use of the property for military training or readiness purposes), the Federal property shall not be included on the National Register of Historic Places, designated as a National Historic Landmark, or nominated to the World Heritage List until the objection is withdrawn.”.

SA 3945. Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. TIERED PREFERENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2014”.

(b) **PREFERENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Section 2108 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (G)(iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following:

“(I) a qualified reservist;”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ‘qualified reservist’ means an individual who is a member of a reserve compo-

nent of the Armed Forces on the date of the applicable determination—

“(A) who—

“(i) has completed at least 6 years of service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces; and

“(ii) in each year of service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, was credited with at least 50 points under section 12732 of title 10; or

“(B) who—

“(i) has completed at least 10 years of service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces; and

“(ii) in each year of service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, was credited with at least 50 points under section 12732 of title 10; and

“(7) ‘reserve component of the Armed Forces’ means a reserve component specified in section 101(27) of title 38.”.

(c) **TIERED HIRING PREFERENCE FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Section 3309 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) a preference eligible described in section 2108(6)(B)—3 points; and

“(4) a preference eligible described in section 2108(6)(A)—2 points.”.

(d) **GAO REVIEW.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses Federal employment opportunities for members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces;

(2) evaluates the impact of the amendments made by this section on the hiring of reservists and veterans by the Federal Government; and

(3) provides recommendations, if any, for strengthening Federal employment opportunities for members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

SA 3946. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—International Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls

SEC. 1091. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to take effective action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls around the world, as a matter of basic human rights as well as to promote gender equality, economic growth, and improved public health;

(2) to systematically integrate and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally into United States foreign policy and foreign assistance programs, including peacebuilding efforts and humanitarian relief and recovery;

(3) to support and build local capacity in developing countries, including of governments at all levels and nongovernmental organizations, especially women-led organizations, to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls;

(4) to consult, cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate with a wide variety of nongovernmental partners with demonstrated experience in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including faith-based organizations and women-led organizations;

(5) to employ a multisectoral approach to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls internationally, including activities in the economic, education, health, nutrition, legal, and judicial sectors;

(6) to work at all levels, from the individual to the family, community, local, national and international levels, to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls around the globe;

(7) to enhance training by United States personnel of professional foreign military and police forces and judicial officials to include specific and thorough instruction on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls around the world;

(8) to engage men and boys as partners, as an essential element of making sustained reductions in violence against women and girls;

(9) to include the prevention of early and forced marriage as an important part of United States Government efforts to prevent violence against girls and promote gender equality and global health;

(10) to require that all United States contractors and grantees establish appropriate policies and take effective measures to prevent violence against women and girls and sexual exploitation and abuse within their workforce;

(11) to exert sustained international leadership to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, including in bilateral and multilateral fora;

(12) to implement the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally; and

(13) to implement the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

PART I—OFFICIAL DESIGNATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

SEC. 1093. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State shall establish in the Office of the Secretary of the Department of State an Office of Global Women's Issues (in this section referred to as the "Office"). The Office shall be headed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Ambassador-at-Large shall report directly to the Secretary and shall have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-Large.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—In addition to the duties described in subsection (c) and those duties determined by the Secretary of State, the Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate efforts of the United States Government as directed by the Secretary regarding gender integration and advancing the status of women and girls in United States foreign policy.

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Ambassador-at-Large—

(A) shall direct activities, policies, programs, and funding relating to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls

internationally, including those intended to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, for all bureaus and offices of the Department of State and in the international programs of all other Federal agencies;

(B) shall actively promote and advance the full integration of gender analysis into the programs, structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus and offices of the Department of State and in the international programs of other Federal agencies;

(C) shall direct, as appropriate, United States Government resources to respond to needs for gender integration and empowerment of women in United States Government foreign policies and international programs, including to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally;

(D) may design, support, and implement activities regarding empowerment of women internationally, including for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls internationally;

(E) shall conduct regular consultation with civil society organizations working to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally;

(F) shall ensure that programs, projects, and activities designed to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally are subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation, and that there is a uniform set of indicators and standards for such monitoring and evaluation that is used across all Federal agencies;

(G) shall serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of State regarding gender equality, women's empowerment, and violence against women and girls as a foreign policy matter; and

(H) is authorized to represent the United States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on matters relevant to the status of women and girls, including violence against women and girls internationally.

(2) **INFORMATION SHARING AND TRANSPARENCY.**—The Office shall be the central repository of data on all United States programs, projects, and activities that relate to prevention and response to violence against women and girls, and shall produce a full accounting of United States Government spending on such programs, projects, and activities.

SEC. 1094. SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the United States Agency for International Development a Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, who shall report to the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and who shall conduct the activities of the Administrator under this subtitle.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment—

(1) shall direct activities, policies, programs, and funding of the United States Agency for International Development relating to gender equality and women's empowerment, including those intended to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls;

(2) shall actively promote and advance the full integration of gender analysis into the programs, structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus and offices of the Agency as dictated by the USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy;

(3) shall direct Agency resources for gender equality and women's empowerment, includ-

ing to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally;

(4) may design, support, and implement activities led by the Agency regarding gender equality and women's empowerment, including for the prevention and response of violence against women and girls internationally;

(5) shall conduct regular consultation with civil society organizations working to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally;

(6) shall serve as the principal advisor to the Administrator regarding gender equality, women's empowerment, and violence against women and girls; and

(7) shall track and analyze monitoring and evaluation data and findings on international prevention and response programs of the Agency, consistent with Agency-wide monitoring and evaluation activities, and in order to assist in the preparation of the comprehensive strategy developed under section 1097.

SEC. 1095. BRIEFING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on international violence against women and girls prevention and response strategies, programming, and associated outcomes, and shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of human and financial resources necessary to fulfill the purposes and duties of this subtitle.

PART II—STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PROGRAMS

SEC. 1097. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.

(a) **GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the Senior Coordinator, shall develop or update a United States global strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Such strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees and made publicly available on the Internet.

(b) **INITIAL STRATEGY.**—For the purposes of this section, the "United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally", issued in August 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial requirement of subsection (a).

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—Not later than 60 days after submission of the strategy under subsection (a), the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the Senior Coordinator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan detailing how the strategy will be implemented in the upcoming five fiscal years, including the budget resources requested, and the specific activities to be supported, by each Executive agency under the strategy.

(d) **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**—In developing the strategy under subsection (a), the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall consult with—

(1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;

(2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons; and

(3) representatives of civil society and multi-lateral organizations with demonstrated experience in addressing violence against women and girls or promoting gender equality internationally.

(e) **CONTENT.**—The implementation plan required under subsection (c) shall—

(1) identify eligible low-income and lower-middle income countries with significant levels of violence against women and girls, including within displaced communities, that have the governmental or nongovernmental organizational capacity to manage and implement gender-based violence prevention and response program activities and should, when possible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one another;

(2) select 5 to 20 of the eligible countries identified under paragraph (1) in which to develop comprehensive and holistic individual country plans that incorporate at least two of the program activities listed in section 1098(b);

(3) assess and describe the current or potential capacity of the government of each eligible country selected under paragraph (2) and civil society organizations in each such eligible country to address and respond to violence against women and girls;

(4) identify coordination mechanisms with Federal agencies that—

(A) have existing programs relevant to the strategy;

(B) will be involved in new program activities; and

(C) are engaged in broader United States strategies around development;

(5) describe the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms established for each eligible country, and their intended use in assessing overall progress in prevention and response;

(6) project general levels of resources needed to achieve the stated objectives in each eligible country, including an accounting of—

(A) activities and funding already expended by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, other Federal agencies, other donor country governments, and other multilateral institutions; and

(B) leveraged private sector resources;

(7) integrate gender analysis into the strategy for each country; and

(8) include, as appropriate, strategies designed to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, internally displaced, refugee, or religious or ethnic minority women and girls.

SEC. 1098. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development are authorized to provide assistance to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally.

(b) **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Assistance provided to each country selected under subsection 1097(e)(2) should include at least two of the following activities:

(1) Development and implementation of programs that work to change social norms and attitudes so that violence against women and girls is neither condoned nor tolerated.

(2) Promotion of accessible quality educational and literacy opportunities for women and girls.

(3) Promotion of access to economic opportunities, including by increasing distribution, credit, property, and inheritance rights for women and girls.

(4) Development and enforcement of civil and criminal legal and judicial sanctions, protections, trainings, and capacity.

(5) Enhancement of the health sector capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to violence against women and girls.

(c) **BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY.**—Not less than 10 percent of the amount of assistance provided to an eligible country under this section should be provided to community-based nongovernmental organizations, with priority given to nongovernmental organizations led by women.

SEC. 1099. MONITORING THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In each strategy submitted under section 1097(a), the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall include an analysis of best practices for preventing and addressing violence against women and girls internationally, which shall include—

(1) a description of successful efforts by foreign governments, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, educational organizations, and faith-based organizations in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls;

(2) recommendations related to best practices, effective strategies, and improvements to enhance the impact of prevention and response efforts; and

(3) the impact of activities funded by the strategy in preventing and reducing violence against women and girls internationally.

(b) **AMENDMENTS.**—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) wherever applicable, the nature and extent of violence against women and girls.”; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection designated as subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) **INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.**—The report required by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable, the nature and extent of violence against women and girls.”.

(c) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**—In coordination with relevant officials, and consistent with the monitoring and evaluation policies of their respective agencies, the Ambassador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall develop a plan for monitoring and independent evaluation of programs, projects, and activities carried out under this subtitle. The plan shall—

(1) apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation methodologies to focus on learning, accountability, and policymaking, choosing from among a wide variety of qualitative, quantitative, summative, and formative methods common in the field of social scientific inquiry, including impact evaluations; and

(2) be included in the implementation plan required under section 1097(c).

(d) **RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.**—The Secretary and the Administrator shall—

(1) produce original research or analysis of effective interventions to prevent or respond to violence against women and girls internationally;

(2) collect and analyze new or existing data on the scope and extent of all forms of violence against women and girls internationally, including under-documented forms of violence and violence against marginalized groups;

(3) conduct research on effective interventions to respond to violence against women and girls internationally, including efforts to scale up effective programming; and

(4) support systemic data collection using internationally comparable indicators, norms, and methodologies for measuring the scope, prevalence, and incidence of violence against women and girls internationally.

SA 3947. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2685, to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CLARIFICATION ON PROHIBITION ON SEARCHING OF COLLECTIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS TO CONDUCT WARRANTLESS SEARCHES FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.

Section 702(b) (50 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and indenting such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, an additional two ems from the left margin;

(2) by striking “An acquisition” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An acquisition”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **CLARIFICATION ON PROHIBITION ON SEARCHING OF COLLECTIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no officer or employee of the United States may conduct a search of a collection of communications acquired under this section in an effort to find communications of a particular United States person (other than a corporation).

“(B) **CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATION AND EXCEPTION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a search for communications related to a particular United States person if—

“(i) such United States person is the subject of an order or emergency authorization authorizing electronic surveillance or physical search under section 105, 304, 703, 704, or 705 of this Act, or under title 18, United States Code, for the effective period of that order;

“(ii) the entity carrying out the search has a reasonable belief that the life or safety of such United States person is threatened and the information is sought for the purpose of assisting that person; or

“(iii) such United States person has consented to the search.”.

SA 3948. Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2685,

to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “FISA Improvements Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR COUNTERTERRORISM PURPOSES.

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) GENERAL PROHIBITION ON BULK COLLECTION OF COMMUNICATION RECORDS.—No order issued pursuant to an application made under subsection (a) may authorize the acquisition in bulk of wire communication or electronic communication records from an entity that provides an electronic communication service to the public if such order does not name or otherwise identify either individuals or facilities, unless such order complies with the supplemental procedures under subsection (j).

“(j) AUTHORIZATION FOR BULK COLLECTION OF NON-CONTENT METADATA.—

“(1) SUPPLEMENTAL PROCEDURES.—Any order directed to the Government under subsection (a) that authorizes the acquisition in bulk of wire communication or electronic communication records, which shall not include the content of such communications, shall be subject to supplemental procedures, which are in addition to any other requirements or procedures imposed by this Act, as follows:

“(A) CONTENT PROHIBITION.—Such an order shall not authorize the acquisition of the content of any communication.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION AND RENEWAL PERIODS.—Such an order—

“(i) shall be effective for a period of not more than 90 days; and

“(ii) may be extended by the court on the same basis as an original order upon an application under this title for an extension and new findings by the court in accordance with subsection (c).

“(C) SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR ACQUIRED DATA.—Information acquired pursuant to such an order (other than information properly returned in response to a query under subparagraph (D)(iii)) shall be retained by the Government in accordance with security procedures approved by the court in a manner designed to ensure that only authorized personnel will have access to the information in the manner prescribed by this section and the court’s order.

“(D) LIMITED ACCESS TO DATA.—Access to information retained in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraph (C) shall be prohibited, except for access—

“(i) to perform a query using a selector for which a recorded determination has been made that there is a reasonable articulable suspicion that the selector is associated with international terrorism or activities in preparation therefor;

“(ii) to return information as authorized under paragraph (3); or

“(iii) as may be necessary for technical assistance, data management or compliance purposes, or for the purpose of narrowing the results of queries, in which case no information produced pursuant to the order may be accessed, used, or disclosed for any other purpose, unless the information is responsive to a query authorized under paragraph (3).

“(2) RECORD REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DETERMINATION.—For any determination made pursuant to paragraph (1)(D)(i), a record shall be retained of the selector, the identity of the individual who made the determination, the date and time of the determination, and the information indicating that, at the time of the determination, there was a reasonable articulable suspicion that the selector was associated with international terrorism or activities in preparation therefor.

“(B) QUERY.—For any query performed pursuant to paragraph (1)(D)(i), a record shall be retained of the identity of the individual who made the query, the date and time of the query, and the selector used to perform the query.

“(3) SCOPE OF PERMISSIBLE QUERY RETURN INFORMATION.—For any query performed pursuant to paragraph (1)(D)(i), the query only may return information concerning communications—

“(A) to or from the selector used to perform the query;

“(B) to or from a selector in communication with the selector used to perform the query; or

“(C) to or from any selector reasonably linked to the selector used to perform the query, in accordance with the court approved minimization procedures required under subsection (g).

“(4) LIMITS ON PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO MAKE DETERMINATIONS OR PERFORM QUERIES.—A court order issued pursuant to an application made under subsection (a), and subject to the requirements of this subsection, shall impose strict, reasonable limits, consistent with operational needs, on the number of Government personnel authorized to make a determination or perform a query pursuant to paragraph (1)(D)(i). The Director of National Intelligence shall ensure that each such personnel receives comprehensive training on the applicable laws, policies, and procedures governing such determinations and queries prior to exercising such authority.

“(5) AUTOMATED REPORTING.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT FOR AUTOMATED REPORTING.—The Director of the National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of the agency responsible for acquisitions pursuant to orders subject to the requirements of this subsection, shall establish a technical procedure whereby the aggregate number of queries performed pursuant to this subsection in the previous quarter shall be recorded automatically, and subsequently reported to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(B) AVAILABILITY UPON REQUEST.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall be available to each of the following upon request:

“(i) The Inspector General of the National Security Agency.

“(ii) The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

“(iii) The Inspector General of the Department of Justice.

“(iv) Appropriate officials of the Department of Justice.

“(v) Appropriate officials of the National Security Agency.

“(vi) The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

“(6) COURT REVIEW OF RECORDS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE RECORDS.—In accordance with minimization procedures required by subsection (g), and subject to subparagraph (B), a copy of each record for a determination prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(A) shall be promptly provided to the court established under section 103(a).

“(B) RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH UNITED STATES PERSONS.—In accordance with minimization procedures required by subsection (g), a copy of each record for a determination prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(A) that is reasonably believed to be associated with a particular, known United States person shall be promptly provided to the court established under section 103(a), but no more than 7 days after the determination.

“(C) REMEDY FOR IMPROPER DETERMINATIONS.—If the court finds that the record of the determination indicates the determination did not meet the requirements of this section or is otherwise unlawful, the court may order that production of records under the applicable order be terminated or modified, that the information returned in response to queries using the selector identified in the determination be destroyed, or another appropriate remedy.

“(7) RECORD RETENTION AND QUERY RESTRICTIONS.—

“(A) RECORD RETENTION.—All records and information produced pursuant to an order subject to this subsection, other than the results of queries as described in paragraph (3), shall be retained no longer than 5 years from the date of acquisition.

“(B) QUERY RESTRICTIONS.—The Government shall not query any data acquired under this subsection and retained in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph (1)(C) more than 3 years after such data was acquired unless the Attorney General determines that the query meets the standard set forth in paragraph (1)(D)(i).

“(8) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—A copy of each order issued pursuant to an application made under subsection (a), and subject to the requirements of this subsection, shall be provided to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(i) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

“(B) CONTENT.—The term ‘content’, with respect to a communication—

“(i) means any information concerning the substance, purport, or meaning of that communication; and

“(ii) does not include any dialing, routing, addressing, signaling information.

“(C) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘electronic communication’ has the meaning given that term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.

“(D) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE.—The term ‘electronic communication service’ has the meaning given that term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.

“(E) SELECTOR.—The term ‘selector’ means an identifier, such as a phone number or electronic account identifier, that is associated with a particular communicant or facility.

“(F) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of this Act.

“(G) WIRE COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘wire communication’ has the meaning given that term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.”

(b) ANNUAL UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.—Section 502(c)(1) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1862(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) for each order subject to the supplemental procedures under section 501(j)—

“(i) the number of unique selectors for which a recorded determination has been made under section 501(j)(1)(D)(i) that reasonable articulable suspicion exists that the selector is associated with international terrorism or activities in preparation thereof;

“(ii) the aggregate number of queries performed pursuant to such section;

“(iii) the aggregate number of investigative leads developed as a direct result of any query performed pursuant to subsection (j)(1)(D)(i); and

“(iv) the aggregate number of warrants or court orders, based upon a showing of probable cause, issued pursuant to title I or III of this Act or chapter 119, 121, or 205 of title 18, United States Code, in response to applications for such warrants or court orders containing information produced by such queries.”

SEC. 3. ENHANCED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO COLLECTED DATA.

Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (7)(C), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7)(C) the following:

“(8) accesses a computer without authorization or exceeds authorized access and thereby obtains information from any department or agency of the United States knowing or having reason to know that such computer was operated by or on behalf of the United States and that such information was acquired by the United States pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) pursuant to an order issued by a court established under section 103 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1803).”

(2) Subsection (c) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(G)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “or”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) a fine under this title, imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both, in the case of an offense under subsection (a)(8) of this section.”

SEC. 4. APPOINTMENT OF AMICUS CURIAE.

Section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) AMICUS CURIAE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a court established under subsection (a) or (b) is authorized, consistent with the requirement of subsection (c) and any other statutory requirement that the court act expeditiously or within a stated time, to appoint amicus curiae to assist the court in the consideration of a covered matter.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(i) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

“(B) COVERED MATTER.—The term ‘covered matter’ means a matter before a court established under subsection (a) or (b)—

“(i) that, in the opinion of such a court, presents a legal or technical issue regarding which the court’s deliberations would benefit from participation by an amicus curiae; and

“(ii) that pertains to—

“(I) an application for an order under this title, title III, IV, or V of this Act, or section 703 or 704 of this Act;

“(II) a review of a certification or procedures under section 702 of this Act; or

“(III) a notice of non-compliance with any such order, certification, or procedures.

“(3) DESIGNATION.—The courts established by subsection (a) and (b) shall each designate 1 or more individuals who have been determined by appropriate executive branch officials to be eligible for access to classified national security information, including sensitive compartmented information, who may be appointed to serve as amicus curiae. In appointing an amicus curiae pursuant to paragraph (1), the court may choose from among those so designated.

“(4) EXPERTISE.—An individual appointed as an amicus curiae under paragraph (1) may be a special counsel or an expert on privacy and civil liberties, intelligence collection, telecommunications, or any other area that may lend legal or technical expertise to the court.

“(5) DUTIES.—An amicus curiae appointed under paragraph (1) to assist with the consideration of a covered matter shall carry out the duties assigned by the appointing court. That court may authorize, to the extent consistent with the case or controversy requirements of Article III of the Constitution of the United States and the national security of the United States, the amicus curiae to review any application, certification, petition, motion, or other submission that the court determines is relevant to the duties assigned by the court.

“(6) NOTIFICATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) shall notify the Attorney General of each exercise of the authority to appoint an amicus curiae under paragraph (1).

“(7) ASSISTANCE.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may request and receive (including on a non-reimbursable basis) the assistance of the executive branch in the implementation of this subsection.

“(8) ADMINISTRATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may provide for the designation, appointment, removal, training, support, or other administration of an amicus curiae appointed under paragraph (1) in a manner that is not inconsistent with this subsection.

“(9) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on the number of notices described in paragraph (6) received by Attorney General for the preceding 12-month period.”

SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATION OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

(a) REPEAL OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS.—

(1) REPEAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 is amended by striking sections 107, 108, 306, and 406 (50 U.S.C. 1807, 1808, 1826, and 1846).

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 107, 108, 306, and 406.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1871) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 601. SEMIANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) INFORMATION.—On a semiannual basis, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report pursuant to paragraph (2) concerning all electronic surveillance, physical searches, and uses of pen registers and trap and trace devices conducted under this Act.

“(2) REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.—The total number of—

“(i) applications made for orders approving electronic surveillance under this Act;

“(ii) such orders either granted, modified, or denied;

“(iii) proposed applications for orders for electronic surveillance submitted pursuant to Rule 9(a) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule, that are not formally presented in the form of a final application under Rule 9(b) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule;

“(iv) named United States person targets of electronic surveillance;

“(v) emergency authorizations of electronic surveillance granted under this Act and the total number of subsequent orders approving or denying such electronic surveillance; and

“(vi) new compliance incidents arising from electronic surveillance under this Act.

“(B) PHYSICAL SEARCHES.—The total number of—

“(i) applications made for orders approving physical search under this Act;

“(ii) such orders either granted, modified, or denied;

“(iii) proposed applications for orders for physical searches submitted pursuant to Rule 9(a) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule, that are not formally presented in the form of a final application under Rule 9(b) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule;

“(iv) named United States person targets of physical searches;

“(v) emergency authorizations of physical searches granted under this Act and the total number of subsequent orders approving or denying such physical searches; and

“(vi) new compliance incidents arising from physical searches under this Act.

“(C) PEN REGISTER AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICES.—The total number of—

“(i) applications made for orders approving the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices under this Act;

“(ii) such orders either granted, modified, or denied;

“(iii) proposed applications for orders for pen registers or trap and trace devices submitted pursuant to Rule 9(a) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule, that

are not formally presented in the form of a final application under Rule 9(b) of the Rules of Procedure for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or any successor rule;

“(iv) named United States person targets of pen registers or trap and trace devices;

“(v) emergency authorizations of the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices granted under this Act and the total number of subsequent orders approving or denying such use of pen registers or trap and trace devices; and

“(vi) new compliance incidents arising from the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices under this Act.

“(D) COMPLIANCE INCIDENTS.—A summary of each compliance incident reported under subparagraphs (A)(vi), (B)(vi), and (C)(vi).

“(E) SIGNIFICANT LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS.—A summary of significant legal interpretations of this Act involving matters before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, including interpretations presented in applications or pleadings filed with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.

“(b) SUBMISSIONS OF SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, ORDERS, AND OPINIONS.—The Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a copy of any decision, order, or opinion issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review that includes a significant construction or interpretation of any provision of this Act, and any pleadings, applications, or memoranda of law associated with such decision, order, or opinion, not later than 45 days after such decision, order, or opinion is issued.

“(c) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General, may authorize redactions of materials described in subsection (b) that are provided to the appropriate committees of Congress if such redactions are necessary to protect properly classified information.

“(d) AVAILABILITY TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Consistent with the rules and practices of the Senate and the House of Representatives, each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a)(2) and each submission made pursuant to subsection (b) shall be made available to every member of Congress, subject to appropriate procedures for the storage and handling of classified information.

“(e) PUBLIC REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall make available to the public an unclassified annual summary of the reports submitted under subsection (a) that, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the protection of classified information, includes the information contained in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

“(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—In each report made available to the public under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall include, at a minimum, the information required under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(2), which may be presented as annual totals.

“(f) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title may be construed to limit the authority and responsibility of an appropriate committee of Congress to obtain any information required by such committee to carry out its functions and duties.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

“(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(2) ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.—The term ‘electronic surveillance’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of this Act.

“(3) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.—The term ‘Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court’ means the court established under section 103(a) of this Act.

“(4) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW.—The term ‘Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review’ means the court established under section 103(b) of this Act.

“(5) PEN REGISTER.—The term ‘pen register’ has the meaning given that term in section 401 of this Act.

“(6) PHYSICAL SEARCH.—The term ‘physical search’ has the meaning given that term in section 301 of this Act.

“(7) TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE.—The term ‘trap and trace device’ has the meaning given that term in section 401 of this Act.

“(8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of this Act.”.

(c) AVAILABILITY OR REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1871) is amended by adding after section 601 the following:

“SEC. 602. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS.

“(a) AVAILABILITY TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Consistent with the rules and practices of the Senate and the House of Representatives, each submission to Congress made pursuant to section 502(b), 702(1)(1), or 707 shall be made available, to every member of Congress, subject to appropriate procedures for the storage and handling of classified information.

“(b) PUBLIC REPORT.—The Attorney General or the Director of National Intelligence, as appropriate, shall make available to the public unclassified reports that, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the protection of classified information, include the information contained in each submission to Congress made pursuant to section 502(b), 702(1)(1), or 707.”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 601 the following:

“Sec. 602. Availability of reports and submissions.”.

SEC. 6. RESTRICTIONS ON QUERYING THE CONTENTS OF CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) QUERIES.—

“(1) LIMITATION ON QUERY TERMS THAT IDENTIFY A UNITED STATES PERSON.—A query of the contents of communications acquired under this section with a selector known to be used by a United States person may be conducted by personnel of elements of the Intelligence Community only if the purpose of the query is to obtain foreign intelligence information or information necessary to understand foreign intelligence information or to assess its importance.

“(2) RECORD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For any query performed pursuant to paragraph (1) a record shall be retained of the identity of the Government personnel who performed the query, the date and time of the query, and the information indicating that the purpose of the query was to obtain foreign intelligence information or information necessary to understand foreign intelligence information or to assess its importance.

“(B) AVAILABILITY.—Each record prepared pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the Department of Justice, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, appropriate Inspectors General, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

“(A) to prohibit access to data collected under this section as may be necessary for technical assurance, data management or compliance purposes, or for the purpose of narrowing the results of queries, in which case no information produced pursuant to the order may be accessed, used, or disclosed other than for such purposes;

“(B) to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to conduct a query for law enforcement purposes of the contents of communications acquired under this section; or

“(C) to limit the authority of an agency to conduct a query for the purpose of preventing a threat to life or serious bodily harm to any person.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(i) the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.”.

“(B) CONTENT.—The term ‘content’, with respect to a communication—

“(i) means any information concerning the substance, purport, or meaning of that communication; and

“(ii) does not include any dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information.

“(C) SELECTOR.—The term ‘selector’ means an identifier, such as a phone number or electronic account identifier, that is associated with a particular communicant or facility.”.

SEC. 7. TEMPORARY TARGETING OF PERSONS OTHER THAN UNITED STATES PERSONS TRAVELING INTO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, acquisition of foreign intelligence information by targeting a non-United States person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States that was lawfully initiated by an element of the intelligence community may continue for a transitional period not to exceed 72 hours from the time when it is recognized that the non-United States person is reasonably believed to be located inside the United States and that the acquisition is subject to this title or title III of this Act, provided that the

head of the element determines that there exists an exigent circumstance and—

“(A) there is reason to believe that the target of the acquisition has communicated or received or will communicate or receive foreign intelligence information relevant to the exigent circumstance; and

“(B) it is determined that a request for emergency authorization from the Attorney General in accordance with the terms of this Act is impracticable in light of the exigent circumstance.

“(2) The Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community shall promptly notify the Attorney General of the decision to exercise the authority under this section and shall request emergency authorization from the Attorney General pursuant to this Act as soon as practicable, to the extent such request is warranted by the facts and circumstances.

“(3) Subject to subparagraph (4), the authority under this section to continue acquisition of foreign intelligence information is limited to 72 hours. However, if the Attorney General authorizes an emergency acquisition pursuant to this Act, then acquisition of foreign intelligence information may continue for the period of time that the Attorney General’s emergency authorization or any subsequent court order authorizing the acquisition remains in effect.

“(4) The authority to acquire foreign intelligence information under this subsection shall terminate upon any of the following, whichever occurs first—

“(A) 72 hours have elapsed since the commencement of the transitional period;

“(B) the Attorney General has directed that the acquisition be terminated; or

“(C) the exigent circumstance is no longer reasonably believed to exist.

“(5) If the Attorney General authorizes an emergency authorization during the transitional period, the acquisition of foreign intelligence shall continue during any transition to, and consistent with, the Attorney General emergency authorization or court order.

“(6) Any information of or concerning unconsenting United States persons acquired during the transitional period may only be disseminated during the transitional period if necessary to investigate, prevent, reduce, or eliminate the exigent circumstance or if it indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

“(7) In the event that during the transition period a request for an emergency authorization from the Attorney General pursuant to this Act for continued acquisition of foreign intelligence is not approved or an order from a court is not obtained to continue the acquisition, information obtained during the transitional period shall not be retained, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

“(8) The Attorney General shall assess compliance with the requirements of paragraph (7).”.

(b) **NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.**—Section 106(j) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1806(j)) is amended by striking “section 105(e)” and inserting “subsection (e) or (f) of section 105”.

SEC. 8. ANNUAL REPORTS ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 503. ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

“(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall annu-

ally submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on violations of law or executive order relating to intelligence activities by personnel of an element of the intelligence community that were identified during the previous calendar year.

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall, consistent with the need to preserve ongoing criminal investigations, include a description of, and any action taken in response to, any violation of law or executive order (including Executive Order No. 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note)) relating to intelligence activities committed by personnel of an element of the intelligence community in the course of the employment of such personnel that, during the previous calendar year, was—

“(1) determined by the director, head, or general counsel of any element of the intelligence community to have occurred;

“(2) referred to the Department of Justice for possible criminal prosecution; or

“(3) substantiated by the inspector general of any element of the intelligence community.”.

(b) **INITIAL REPORT.**—The first report required under section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a), shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **GUIDELINES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each element of the intelligence community, shall—

(1) issue guidelines to carry out section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) submit such guidelines to the congressional intelligence committees.

(d) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 502 the following new item:

“Sec. 503. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.”.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to alter any requirement existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to submit a report under any provision of law.

SEC. 9. PERIODIC REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PROCEDURES FOR THE ACQUISITION, RETENTION, AND DISSEMINATION OF INTELLIGENCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), as amended by section 8, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 504. PERIODIC REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PROCEDURES FOR THE ACQUISITION, RETENTION, AND DISSEMINATION OF INTELLIGENCE.

“(a) **HEAD OF AN ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘head of an element of the intelligence community’ means, as appropriate—

“(1) the head of an element of the intelligence community; or

“(2) the head of the department or agency containing such element.

“(b) **REVIEW OF PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—

“(1) **REQUIREMENT FOR IMMEDIATE REVIEW.**—Each head of an element of the intelligence community that has not obtained the approval of the Attorney General for the procedures, in their entirety, required by section 2.3 of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note) within 5 years prior to the date of the

enactment of the FISA Improvements Act of 2014, shall initiate, not later than 180 days after such date of enactment, a review of the procedures for such element, in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(2) **REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW.**—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, each head of an element of the intelligence community shall conduct a review of the procedures approved by the Attorney General for such element that are required by section 2.3 of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note), or any successor order, in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(3) **REQUIREMENTS FOR REVIEWS.**—In coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General, the head of an element of the intelligence community required to perform a review under paragraphs (1) or (2) shall—

“(A) review existing procedures for such element that are required by section 2.3 of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note), or any successor order, to assess whether—

“(i) advances in communications or other technologies since the time the procedures were most recently approved by the Attorney General have affected the privacy protections that the procedures afford to United States persons, to include the protections afforded to United States persons whose non-public communications are incidentally acquired by an element of the intelligence community; or

“(ii) aspects of the existing procedures impair the acquisition, retention, or dissemination of timely, accurate, and insightful information about the activities, capabilities, plans, and intentions of foreign powers, organization, and persons, and their agents; and

“(B) propose any modifications to existing procedures for such element in order to—

“(i) clarify the guidance such procedures afford to officials responsible for the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of intelligence;

“(ii) eliminate unnecessary impediments to the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of intelligence; or

“(iii) ensure appropriate protections for the privacy of United States persons and persons located inside the United States.

“(4) **NOTICE.**—The Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General shall notify the congressional intelligence committees following the completion of each review required under this section.

“(5) **REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES.**—Upon the implementation of any modifications to procedures required by section 2.3 of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note), or any successor order, the head of the element of the intelligence community to which the modified procedures apply shall promptly provide a copy of the modified procedures to the congressional intelligence committees.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended by section 8, is further amended by adding after the section relating to section 503 the following:

“Sec. 504. Periodic review of intelligence community procedures for the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of intelligence.”.

SEC. 10. PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD ENHANCEMENTS RELATING TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL.**—The term “appropriate official” means the appropriate official of an agency or department of the

United States who is responsible for preparing or submitting a covered application.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board established in section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee).

(3) **COVERED APPLICATION.**—The term “covered application” means a submission to a FISA Court—

(A) that—

- (i) presents a novel or significant interpretation of the law; and
- (ii) relates to efforts to protect the United States from terrorism; and

(B) that is—

(i) a final application for an order under title I, III, IV, or V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) or section 703 or 704 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1881b and 1881c);

(ii) a review of a certification or procedure under section 702 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1881a); or

(iii) a notice of non-compliance with such an order, certification, or procedures.

(4) **FISA COURT.**—The term “FISA Court” means a court established under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803).

(b) **NOTICE OF SUBMISSIONS AND ORDERS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION TO FISA COURT.**—Notwithstanding any provision of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803), if a covered application is filed with a FISA Court, the appropriate official shall provide such covered application to the Board not later than the date of such filing, provided the provision of such covered application does not delay any filing with a FISA Court.

(2) **FISA COURT ORDERS.**—Notwithstanding any provision of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803), the appropriate official shall provide to the Board each order of a FISA Court related to a covered application.

(c) **DISCRETIONARY ASSESSMENT OF THE BOARD.**—

(1) **NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONDUCT ASSESSMENT.**—Upon receipt of a covered application under subsection (b)(1), the Board shall—

(A) elect whether to conduct the assessment described in paragraph (3); and

(B) submit to the appropriate official a notice of the Board’s election under subparagraph (A).

(2) **TIMELY SUBMISSION.**—The Board shall in a timely manner prepare and submit to the appropriate official—

(A) the notice described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) the associated assessment, if the Board elects to conduct such an assessment.

(3) **CONTENT.**—An assessment of a covered application prepared by the Board shall address whether the covered application is balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties, including adequate supervision and guidelines to ensure protection of privacy and civil liberties.

(d) **ANNUAL REVIEW.**—The Board shall conduct an annual review of the activities of the National Security Agency related to information collection under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(e) **PROVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND OFFICE SPACE TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—Section 1061(g) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **PROVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND OFFICE SPACE.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall provide to each member of the Board who resides more than 100 miles from the District of Columbia such communications services and office space as may be necessary for the member to access and use classified information. Such services and office space shall be located at an existing secure government or contractor facility located within the vicinity of such member’s place of residence.”.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF SUNSETS OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCESS TO BUSINESS RECORDS, INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS, AND ROVING WIRETAPS.

(a) **USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.**—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note, 50 U.S.C. 1861 note, and 50 U.S.C. 1862 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015,” and inserting “December 31, 2017.”.

(b) **INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.**—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 118 Stat. 3742; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015.” and inserting “December 31, 2017.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAXATION AND IRS OVERSIGHT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Tax Relief after a Disaster: How Individuals, Small Businesses, and Communities Recover.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Timothy A. Zink, a member of my legislative staff, during Senate consideration of S. 2280, the Keystone XL Pipeline approval bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Leela Baggett, Vincent Brown, and Naomi Pitkin, interns with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today’s session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Denise Dickenson, a fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor until January 26, 2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 577 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 577) permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 577) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of November 12, 2014, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that the time from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. be controlled by the Republicans and the time from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. be controlled by the majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:18 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 18, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

MARK HOWARD COHEN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LESLIE ANN BASSETT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

MARCIA STEPHENS BLOOM BERNICAT, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE,

CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

JAMES PETER ZUMWALT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

CRAIG B. ALLEN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

WILLIAM V. ROEBUCK, OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFI-
CER RICHARD G. FERRARO, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a sailor and dear patriot, Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard G. Ferraro, Jr., of Youngstown, OH who passed away on May 28, 2014.

Richard was a natural, who served honorably in the United States Navy for twenty-six years. He was one of the most dedicated and proud members of the United States Navy, having served on nine commands throughout his career. For his outstanding service and leadership, Senior Chief Richard Ferraro was the recipient of many prestigious decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Richard was a selfless and good hearted man, who always put others before himself. He enjoyed cheering on the Steelers and was known for the consistent love he held for his family as well as the United States Navy.

Richard is survived by his wife Leny Escobonas Ferraro, parents Richard G. Ferraro, Sr. and Mary "Jackie" O'Brian Ferraro; his sister Angela R. Gonzalez; his niece Grace E. Edwards; and her children Mayann and Jessica. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Richard Ferraro, Jr. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to his entire family. Our country is a much better place because of Richard's service. He and his service to our country will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE BLOOMINGTON
MASONIC LODGE

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Monroe Lodge 22 F. & A. M. in Bloomington, Indiana.

I want to congratulate this organization on their 175th year rededication. I appreciate the fellowship and community participation these Freemasons have facilitated during their tenure in Bloomington.

These Freemasons are outstanding citizens of the Bloomington community and deserve our respect and admiration. Their membership boasts a diverse range of people including professionals, students and retirees. The values they uphold serve as an example to their local community. Years of service, religious

piety, leadership, and outstanding morality compose the statutes to which all Freemasons adhere. By necessitating hard work and commitment to values, the Freemasons create a hierarchy of accomplishments which inherently build character and contribute to the local community.

As the longest standing institute of fraternity, the Freemasons provide a model of citizenship unlike any other. I am proud to support the Bloomington Masonic Lodge for its many years of encouraging brotherhood among men, and I look forward to applauding the Bloomington Masonic Lodge for their future endeavors. Finally, I join the Bloomington community and Freemasons everywhere in congratulating them on this landmark rededication and reaffirmation of service and community.

HONORING DALTON M. ARCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dalton M. Archer. Dalton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 206, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dalton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dalton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dalton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dalton constructed a military honor board that will be a permanent fixture at Fort Osage High School in Independence, Missouri, to distinguish the graduates who have served or are currently serving in our nation's armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dalton M. Archer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING COL CHARLES POW-
ELL'S AND MS. JOANNE POW-
ELL'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Colonel Charles Powell and Mrs. Jo-

anne Powell on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. It is an honor to recognize the lives of two distinguished citizens in San Angelo, Texas.

The Powells first met when they were in the same preschool class in Nashville, Arkansas and their love for each other grew throughout their grade school and high school years. Shortly after completing his appointment at the Naval Academy, Charles commissioned into the Air Force as a pilot, while Joanne completed her degree at Southern Arkansas University. Shortly after, the couple wedded on December 21, 1954.

Charles' decorated career in the Air Force eventually led the Powells to San Angelo. Charles served as the base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980-1984. Soon after their arrival, the Powells' impact could be felt by the communities of San Angelo and Goodfellow. When they moved to San Angelo, Charles was ordered to help Goodfellow avoid closure and the displacement of many service members from the community they had grown to love. The impacts of Charles' career can still be felt today at Goodfellow Air Force Base, as it serves as a training school for thousands of service members from across all branches to train in cryptology, intelligence, and firefighting. After his retirement from the Air Force, Charles went on to serve as vice president of Southwest Bank, known today as First Financial. Along with serving the community as a banker, Charles, as well as Joanne, sit on several different boards that help San Angelo continue to be a model community in our nation.

Joanne has assisted constituents in my district office my entire tenure, a service that started long ago while working for both Rep. Tom Loeffler and Rep. LAMAR SMITH. One of the several duties Joanne has helped with is our annual military service academy nominations, which is a year round process for her. With Joanne's assistance, many of the young men and women in our district go on to serve our nation and attend one of our distinguished service academies. Her compassion and dedication has made her a special piece of my team. Words cannot express how grateful I am of her dedication to the community.

Charles' and Joanne's love of San Angelo has made them institutional figures in the community. In numerous initiatives to help the community, they have often been the bridge joining San Angelo and Goodfellow. Joanne and Charles' commitment to San Angelo, the state of Texas and this nation is the same commitment that they show to each other, and that is what makes their relationship with the community special.

Along with San Angelo, Suzanne, and I hold a special place in our hearts for the Powells. The Powells' commitment and faith to each other has set an example for all of us to be inspired by. I am happy to have the opportunity to help celebrate this special day. Their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

love for one another and their community represents an important part of the San Angelo story. Again, I offer my congratulations to Joanne and Charles—Happy 60th Anniversary!

**HONORING DAVID ELBAUM FOR
BEING NAMED THE 2014 ILLINOIS
HISTORY TEACHER OF THE
YEAR**

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor David Elbaum, an exceptional educator at Stevenson High School who was recently named the 2014 Illinois History Teacher of the Year.

The child of a teacher and a social worker, David embraced his parents' commitment to dedicating themselves to careers that help and inspire others. David is currently in his 11th year as a teacher, having joined Stevenson High School after three years at Aptakisic Junior High School in Buffalo Grove. A member of Stevenson's highly collaborative U.S. history team, David received this distinction because of his tremendous achievements in education and his outstanding ability to motivate his students to excel both inside and outside the classroom.

David hopes to instill in his students an appreciation of the tremendous importance and power of history. Studying American history provides us with both an understanding of our nation's past—our challenges and our successes—and a roadmap for the future. By educating his students on the extraordinary accomplishments that seemingly ordinary people have been able to achieve throughout American history, David empowers his students to pursue their passions and helps them recognize that they too have the capacity to do extraordinary things.

Passionate and effective teachers have the capacity to shape the perspective and cultivate the talents of our nation's young people. This award is an appropriate recognition of David's indelible impact on the lives of his students, and his commitment to helping develop informed citizens and future leaders.

LYDIA MEDRANO

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to honor an extraordinary leader and champion of human rights, Dr. Lydia Medrano. Her remarkable career in public service has had a tremendous impact on the Tampa Bay community.

Dr. Medrano's career has been devoted to healthcare and human rights. Dr. Medrano came to Florida from Puerto Rico. She received her doctorate degree in Sociology and Certificate in Latin American Studies from the

University of Florida. Her devotion to her community led her to serve as associate director for the international division of Planned Parenthood of America in the Latin American Regional Office. Later she worked as a researcher and evaluator at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, an independent taxing authority that funds dozens of specialized programs geared towards improving the health and well-being of Tampa Bay's children and families. Dr. Medrano joined the Children's Board almost from its inception and, during her tenure, she helped ensure an accessible community system of care and successful outcomes through her array of responsibilities, including evaluation, contract management, research ethics and community engagement activities. After 22 years, she retired this year.

In addition to dedicating her career to healthier children and families, her passion for healthcare and human rights has driven her to lead and support numerous local initiatives. She was cochair of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute's Hispanic Advisory Council and the USF ACSSP (Hispanic Health) Research Project. She is also a past member of the Board of the Hispanic Professional Women Association and a member of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women. Dr. Medrano's outstanding contributions to the community has led to her being recognized with numerous awards including the 2009 Human Rights Award by the Tampa Hillsborough Human Rights Council and the 2004 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Tampa-Hillsborough Hispanic Heritage.

Dr. Medrano has retired but she has not stopped working for our Hispanic community and civil rights. She continues to serve as Florida State Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer-based organization that empowers our Hispanic Americans. LULAC was a strong partner in helping Spanish-speaking residents learn about their options under the Affordable Care Act Education and enroll in the marketplace. Moreover, LULAC is educating communities in our state and across the country about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Dr. Medrano serves on my roundtable for comprehensive immigration reform and has been an invaluable partner in fighting for this crucial cause—we will not give up. Twenty councils across Florida trust and depend on Dr. Medrano's leadership to build strong Latino communities through advocacy and education. Her enthusiasm is truly an inspiration.

Dr. Medrano's tireless and selfless advocacy efforts have helped to create a better Tampa Bay community. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Medrano for her outstanding service as a researcher, mentor and community leader.

**HONORING HENRY SAMUEL
GRAVES**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Henry Samuel

Graves. Hank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hank has become a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say while also attending the National Youth Leadership Training, the 2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree and High Adventure at Philmont Scout Ranch. Hank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hank restored and documented the grave markers, some dating back to the 19th century, in a family cemetery outside of Edgerton, Missouri, that had been abandoned and neglected for years.

As Hank's uncle, I am proud of the young man he has become. As an Eagle Scout, I admire the determination he has shown in completing his path to Eagle.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Henry Samuel Graves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM CAMPBELL**

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of William Campbell, of Belvidere, Illinois, who passed away November 3, 2014 at the age of 67.

Bill Campbell, as he was known, touched thousands of lives through his work as Financial Secretary of UAW Local 1268 for over 30 years. He began work at the Chrysler plant in Belvidere in 1965 and served as Financial Secretary of Local 1268 from 1981 until his retirement in 2013. The UAW was his true passion in life.

Bill received the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award in 2013, the highest honor bestowed by the International UAW. His life was finally taken by cancer in November after an 18-month battle. He is sorely missed by his extended family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my sincere condolences to Bill's family and friends in Belvidere and honor his years of dedicated service to the UAW and his community.

**RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION WEEK**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you in recognition of Community Foundation Week.

Since 1989, the week of November 12–November 18 has served as a reminder of the outstanding work of community foundations throughout the United States. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first community foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. Since the first organization opened its doors 100 years ago, more than 700 community foundations have been established throughout the country. Through the leadership and efforts of these foundations, millions of Americans have been inspired to contribute their time and talents to the betterment of society. As the representative of the First Congressional District of Indiana, I would like to take this time to proudly recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations. Indiana is most fortunate to have a community foundation in every county, including Legacy Foundation, the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Porter County Community Foundation, and the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, which are located in the First Congressional District.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. Under their leadership, the communities served by these four community foundations invested \$18 million and reached more than 68,000 learners in a significant effort called the Discovery Alliance initiative. This exceptional initiative aims to support and foster youth readiness for success in school and work, adult workforce development, and removing barriers to education at all levels. This is just one example of the extraordinary philanthropic efforts of community foundations in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by these community foundations is a core American value.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the many outstanding community foundations in Northwest Indiana and throughout the nation. For their dedication and commitment to serving their communities, these organizations are an inspiration and are to be commended.

JETIE WILDS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Mr. Jetie Wilds. Mr. Wilds dedicated his life to educating people about politics, bringing communities together, and inspiring a way forward for all people in Tampa. Today it is a privilege for me to honor his incredible legacy.

Mr. Wilds was born in Tampa, Florida to a family of 12 children. At a young age, Mr. Wilds volunteered on political campaigns and developed a passion for political activism and engagement. This strong commitment to

bettering the community led him to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he obtained a Bachelor's degree. He was deeply involved in the civil rights movement by regularly participating in peace marches and sit-ins. During this time, Mr. Wilds married his wife of over 49 years, Ozeper. Mr. Wilds then began his career staying true to his roots as a public servant by becoming a middle school math teacher.

Mr. Wilds' public advocacy was not limited to civil rights; he was an ardent environmentalist who served as a community organizer for greater environmental regulations in Portland, Oregon. While there, he obtained a Master's degree in urban planning at Portland State University. His knowledge of environmental policy later led him to Washington, D.C. where he conducted research on the impact of environmental regulations on the African American community.

Mr. Wilds returned to Tampa in 1996 and spearheaded his now locally renowned radio show, Citizens Report. During each broadcast, Mr. Wilds brought to light the significant issues facing the Tampa Bay community. He quickly developed a rapport with his audience because of his intellect and candor that kept the show on air for over 15 years. His efforts to educate and inspire action on important political issues continued through his weekly column in Tampa's trilingual newspaper, *La Gaceta*. This column consistently provided a profound perspective on issues that transcended cultural and racial boundaries.

Mr. Wilds' leadership and tireless work earned him numerous accolades including Man of the Year from the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boss of the Year from the Professional Women's Organization and Distinguished College Alumnus from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Mr. Wilds will always be remembered as a leader who united people of all races and ethnicities for the common cause of community betterment. Whether he was running for office, teaching a class or providing an insightful voice for our community on the radio—Jetie Wilds was a true public servant. On September 21, 2014, Mr. Wilds passed away at the age of 74. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Jetie Wilds, Jr. for his lifelong service to the State of Florida.

HONORING IAN FLEMING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Fleming. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1433, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ian has

become a member of the Order of the Arrow and the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Ian has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ian constructed and planted a water garden for visitors to enjoy in English Landing Park in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Fleming for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MABEL KOONTZ OF
BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent and lifelong Bedford, Pennsylvania resident Mabel Koontz. Mabel, who is 92 years young, represents a symbol of how special our right to vote is in the United States and how important it is that every American citizen's voice is heard on Election Day.

Since 1943, when Mabel turned 21, she has never missed a vote. Over these years Mabel has casted her vote during some of America's most historic moments. She has been there as the 26th Amendment, which gave 18 year olds the right to vote, was enacted. She has also been at the polls as the American people have chosen leaders such as Ronald Reagan to move our nation forward. While our country has faced its challenges over the years, Mabel has never missed an opportunity to select elected officials at all levels of office to help our nation become stronger every time we faced adversity.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." These comments hold true to today and Mabel Koontz is a signature example of how special her dedication and belief in democracy has been for all of these years. Her perfect record should be a lesson and reminder to all who cast their vote every year.

I again am honored to recognize Mabel Koontz of Bedford for this remarkable achievement. Mabel's voice has been heard many times and because of people like her this nation remains today—the greatest the world has ever known.

HONORING FOSTER COMMUNICATIONS
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Foster Communications in San Angelo, Texas on their 60th anniversary. Throughout the years, Foster Communications has been an essential part of the community and has grown side-by-side with San Angelo.

Foster Communications opened their doors in San Angelo in 1954. Foster Communications began with the vision of Walton A. Foster. He was a forerunner in bringing radio and television to the Concho Valley. Foster pioneered many radio traditions that are present today, such as having a weekly top forty hit list.

Walton and the Foster Communications family has been a staple in San Angelo since 1954. Over the past six decades, the company has created four successful radio stations that serve San Angelo and surrounding communities. Additionally, Foster was the longtime and original voice of the San Angelo Colts baseball team. Foster also assisted in the success of many programs at Angelo State University, and in his honor, ASU named their Ram Radio studios after him.

Today, the Foster Family preserves Walton's vision for the company by carrying on the values he instilled in his company. He believed that the license he received from the FCC was to serve the greater good of the public by providing San Angelo with exceptional informational and entertainment radio. This was a responsibility he took personally and it still shows today. His work of serving others has continued with the sponsorship of various charitable causes, most notably the KIXY Cares for Kids Radio which has raised nearly \$1.5 million for the Children's Miracle Network for Shannon Medical Center. As part of his legacy, Foster employees serve as volunteers for more than 50 boards and agencies in San Angelo. I am sure he is proudly looking down on us as he watches his vision continuing to unfold.

The Foster Communications family will gather on November 20th to celebrate this tremendous 60-year milestone and reflect on the positive impact they have made on the city of San Angelo. Companies like Foster Communications symbolize the American dream through their hard work and success. I am proud to represent Foster Communications, and I am honored to share in this moment with San Angelo and the Foster family.

Again, I congratulate Foster Communications on reaching such a distinguished marker in their company history. I wish them many more years of success in the great city of San Angelo, Texas.

CARLOS BETANCOURT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to recognize the incredible accomplishments of Mr. Carlos Betancourt. Mr. Betancourt's tireless, selfless service to the community has been a remarkable asset to the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Betancourt is a skilled immigration paralegal who is certified by the Immigration Review Board and is accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to handle cases in Tampa.

Mr. Betancourt's remarkable career began with the Bay Area Legal Services in 1978. He

later worked at Gulf Coast Legal Service, a partner agency at the Family Justice Center, as a paralegal in 2003. Due to his talent and passion, he quickly rose to Office Manager at its Tampa location. While there, Mr. Betancourt helped provide free legal aid to immigrant victims of domestic violence and crimes. His work on these important issues continues today as Mr. Betancourt works with the Hispanic Services Council that advocates for immigrant children and battered women.

Mr. Betancourt's leadership and determination to serve others is part of every aspect of his life. He occasionally volunteers at the Hispanic Outreach Program and is an engaged participant in my roundtable discussions on comprehensive immigration reform. His efforts earned him recognition from the Hillsborough County Domestic Violence Task Force who honored him with the "Achievements Against Domestic Violence Award" in 2012.

Mr. Betancourt is committed to educating and assisting our most vulnerable neighbors—one family at a time—to live safe, productive lives through compassionate legal aid. His integrity and passion for service sets an example that we should all aspire to. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Carlos Betancourt for his outstanding service, not only to our district, but to the State of Florida.

HONORING TERENCE W.
MCGARVEY, IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Terence W. McGarvey, IV. Terry is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Terry has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Terry has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Terry has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Terry removed an invasive species, the Autumn Olive, from a three acre parcel of land in Thousand Hills State Park outside of Kirksville, Missouri, for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Terence W. McGarvey, IV, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. WRIGHT L.
LASSITER III

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman MIKE HONDA and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the extraordinary career of Mr. Wright L. Lassiter III. Mr. Lassiter is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Alameda Health System, where he has served the residents of Alameda County with distinction. In December, Mr. Lassiter begin work as President of the Henry Ford Health System in Michigan.

Mr. Lassiter graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with honors, as well as minors in Biology and Philosophy. He went on to receive his Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Indiana University, where he graduated at the top of his class.

Prior to serving as CEO of Alameda Health System, Mr. Lassiter held numerous executive positions. He served as senior vice president of operations for JPS Health Network in Fort Worth, Texas, where he oversaw operations and expanded ambulatory and specialty care services. He also served in multiple executive positions in the Methodist Health System in Dallas, Texas, overseeing support and clinical services.

During his tenure at Alameda Health System, Mr. Lassiter has created a culture of excellence and led the expansion and growth of the organization. His guidance, leadership, and accomplishments have garnered national acclaim. Some of those accomplishments include seven years of positive financial performance with operating margins as high as 19%; a \$70 million reduction of debt; the expansion of the Highland campus with a new Acute Tower and state of the art Care Pavilion; the addition of two new hospitals to the network—San Leandro Hospital and Alameda Hospital; and designation by the Joint Commission as a top performer with an increase in patient engagement from the 1st percentile to the 80th percentile.

Mr. Lassiter is also an enthusiastic community leader. He has held numerous important volunteer leadership positions in each of the communities in which he has lived and worked. These include serving as the Board Chairman for the YMCA of the East Bay, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems. He also serves on the Boards of BETA Healthcare Group, the California Hospital Association, the Safety Net Institute, the Bay Area Urban Network, the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the Board of Regents of his alma mater, LeMoyne College. He is a member of both the American College of Health Care Executives and the National Association of Health Service Executives.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th, 15th, and 17th Congressional Districts, Mr. Wright L. Lassiter III, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you

continued success as you go on to lead the Henry Ford Health System and serve the residents of Michigan.

HONORING ABBIE CRITES-LEONI

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Abbie Crites-Leoni from Cape Girardeau, Missouri for her exceptional successes in law and service to our community.

Abbie has been awarded several times for her achievements as a lawyer and investigative work. She has become a role model for younger women wanting to pursue a career or interest in criminal justice and law.

Apart from law, Abbie has also proven herself as a successful business owner. Alongside her husband, she helped administrate a construction company that has built suburb communities and even a wedding and event center which has benefitted the community greatly.

Most recently, Abbie has achieved a new goal of becoming a judge. This is an incredible milestone, and she is the first woman to serve full-time as a federal judge in Cape Girardeau.

In addition to serving as an impartial judge in our court system, Abbie also finds time to serve the community in other ways. She has participated and led several different councils that aim to inspire and support local kids.

For her work in seeking justice and practicing law in an admirable and ethical way, I applaud Abbie for her success and the bright future that still lies ahead. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO MCPO. EDWIN F. (BUD) ATKINS (RET.) ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent whose lifelong service in our nation's military is truly breathtaking. Our men and women in uniform are regularly called upon to sacrifice large spans of time away from family, usually with limited contact and in dangerous conditions. In few jobs within the military is that truer than for our submariners, who can spend months at a time without even seeing the light of day, yet Master Chief Petty Officer Edwin F. (Bud) Atkins of Oakdale, Connecticut has partaken in a total of twenty patrols, spending time attached to nine different submarines.

Bud first enlisted, not as a sailor, but as a soldier in his native Wisconsin National Guard in 1949. He then joined the Navy in February, 1954 and attended Basic Submarine School before reporting to the USS *Wahoo* (SS 565).

After this first assignment, he briefly left the active service and joined the Naval Reserve, before returning to active duty. He then reported to the USS *Congor* (SS 477) followed by the USS *Corsair* (SS 435) to take part in the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959.

Upon completion of that tour, he took part in thirteen strategic patrols during which he became a "plankholder," a member of the first crew aboard a commissioned naval vessel, on the USS *Sculpin* (SSN590), USS *Daniel Webster* (SSBN 626) and the USS *Francis Scott Key* (SSBN 657). In 1969, he returned to staff duty at the submarine base in Groton, Connecticut to become the leading instructor in Advanced Nuclear Weapons, educating a new generation of submariners in the details of their unique craft.

In June of 1973, Bud reported to the USS *Kamehameha* (SSBN 642) to lead his first patrol as Chief of the Boat, the highest ranking enlisted personnel on a submarine. He then led six more over ten years assigned to the submarine's Gold crew. Upon completing his final patrol with the *Kamehameha*, Bud returned to Groton as Staff Command Master Chief for Submarine Group Two.

Already with more than twenty-five years in the Navy, Bud's desire to serve never died. In continuing his naval career, Bud reported to precommissioning units for both the USS *Michigan* and USS *Alabama* (SSBN 731), serving as Chief of the Boat for both. Following commissioning of the *Alabama*, Bud served as the Group Command Master Chief for Submarine Group Nine, one of the Navy's highest enlisted positions, before retiring in March 1988 after forty years of service.

A life member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans, a Holland Club Member, and former Base Vice Commander of the Groton Base U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc. Master Chief Atkins' service still hasn't fully ended. Not only is he an active member of the Connecticut veterans community, he also still serves as a Captain in the Second Company of the Governor's Foot Guard, a unit that, while largely ceremonial, is still officially part of the Connecticut military.

While Bud's service is incredible in both its length and its profound impact on numerous ships of the U.S. submarine fleet, the sacrifice of his family must be recognized as well. He is married to the former Frances Somers of Amherst, Wisconsin, with whom he has two children. I wish Bud the best in his induction into the Connecticut Veteran's Hall of Fame this week.

HONORING THE VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community leaders who

have gathered to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the Visiting Nurses Association of South Central Connecticut—a remarkable milestone for this tremendous organization.

Founded in 1904, the VNA-SCC began as a non-profit, community-based agency dedicated to providing New Haven's medically underserved with quality home care. More than a century later, they have grown in many ways, but their mission remains unchanged. With programs and services from maternal child health to home health aides, advanced illness management to behavioral health, and private duty care to skilled nursing services, the VNA-SCC provides services in forty-three communities throughout south central Connecticut.

For decades, the VNA-SCC was the only organization of its type serving Connecticut's second-largest city. The VNA/SCC, as it exists today—is the result of the 1989 merger of the original New Haven, Milford and (Naugatuck River) Valley VNAs. Over the course of more than a century, the VNA-SCC's role has evolved to meet the changing and varied needs of the patients in their care. Today, in addition to highly-skilled, hands-on nursing care, the organization offers a wide range of sophisticated treatments and therapies that are on the leading-edge of home health care technologies.

We are living in a time with a rapidly changing health care system. The VNA-SCC is on the front lines helping those most in need receive the care they need. Their dedicated staff and nurses are uniquely committed to their clients, their families, and providing quality health care. They have touched the lives of millions, giving comfort and care to clients and their loved ones in their greatest times of need.

The VNA-SCC is a trusted and respected leader in health care and has become an invaluable member of our community. Today, as they celebrate their 110th Anniversary, I am proud to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to President and CEO, John Quinn; Board Chair, Robert Motley; and all of those at the VNA-SCC for all of the good work that they do every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on November 17, 2014 due to a flight delay and therefore missed roll call vote No. 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING NOLAN BRIGHT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan Bright. Nolan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship

and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nolan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nolan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nolan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nolan Bright for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE LINCOLN
SCHOOL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lincoln School in Rockaway Borough, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

For fully a century, this outstanding school has provided the countless number of students who have passed through its doors with a superior education that has prepared them for the rest of their educational pursuits and for the rest of their lives.

When the Lincoln School welcomed its first students back in 1914, there were still people in Rockaway Borough, and throughout New Jersey and the nation, who could remember the days when Abraham Lincoln served as President of the United States.

The decision to name this school in Lincoln's honor reflected the great esteem in which people held the memory of our 16th President. But it also is a tribute to the example a young Abraham Lincoln provided to students about the value of education. Who among us does not recall the stories of Lincoln stretched out in front of a fire, using the light of that fire to read his school books?

Fortunately for today's students at the Lincoln School, they don't have to rely on firelight to illuminate their lessons. They have the advantages provided by our modern amenities. But, what's more important, they have the benefit of being taught by talented and dedicated teachers and staff who give so much to meet the needs of their students. And they have the support of parents and of a community that value education and are willing to invest in the future by investing in their children's education.

As the Lincoln School begins its second century it is preparing its students to succeed and thrive in America's third century. As the future president said in his very first political announcement, when, at the youthful age of 23, he ran for the Illinois state legislature, "Upon the subject of education . . . I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."

That is certainly a sentiment the people of Rockaway Borough shared 100 years ago

when they built the Lincoln School, just as it remains their view today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in saluting the Lincoln School on its centennial and in paying tribute to all of the administrators, teachers, and staff who have made it a citadel of learning, and also join me in honoring all of the students, parents, and community members, past and present, who have nurtured the growth and contributed to the success of the Lincoln School over the past 100 years.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT
OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO AND
EL PASO, TEXAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, a distinguished Veterans Service Organization in my district.

The Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, is comprised of dedicated volunteers in our area who go above and beyond in serving veterans. The group develops new relationships and cultivates existing bonds among our veteran community, elected officials and government agencies; honors the memory of service members who died in service; and assists in fulfilling a lifelong goal of visiting our nation's capital. Honor Flight sends World War II and Korean veterans to Washington, D.C., to see their memorials at no cost to the veterans.

This year, the Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, will take off on October 6 and return October 8, 2014. Sixty-five veterans will participate, most of them World War II veterans. The group will depart October 6 on two planes and will receive a memorable departure assisted by the Fort Bliss Quintet Band and the Red Cross ladies in vintage uniform. The group will also receive a Hero's Welcome Home along with an honor guard, families of participating veterans and a bagpipe and drum corps.

Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico was established in 2008 by business and community leaders who were devoted to honoring our Veterans. Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico added El Paso, Texas, in October 2013. This year will mark their seventh flight back to Washington, D.C., allowing Veterans the opportunity to see their memorial.

I thank the Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, for their commitment to honoring our veterans and for helping to strengthen the bonds among veterans in the El Paso community. I am glad that Veteran Service Organizations like these exist in our area and I thank them for their selfless service to honor many of those we call the "Greatest Generation."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor and recognize the Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.

HONORING THE TOWN OF MIL-
FORD, CONNECTICUT AS THEY
CELEBRATE THEIR 375TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of Milford, Connecticut as they mark the 375th Anniversary of the town's founding—a remarkable milestone for this wonderful shoreline community. The sixth oldest town in Connecticut, Milford is the home of 52,000 residents and proudly showcases its meticulously maintained "town green", the second longest in New England, as well as seventeen miles of Long Island Sound coastline which funnel into the Milford Harbor and wind to meet the Wepawaug River in the heart of town. It is a special community full of rich history and community spirit.

The area then known as "Wepawaug" was purchased from Ansantawae, chief sachem of the Paugusset Tribe on February 1, 1639. Settlers began arriving shortly thereafter and began to build the town known as Milford. Buried treasure is said to exist on a small island the Indians called "Poquahaug", just a mile off Silver Sands Beach. It is a recognized fact that Captain Kidd and other pirates sailed and hid along the Connecticut coast so it is no wonder that iron chests filled with "loot" are rumored to be buried on the land called Charles Island.

Fort Trumbull was built to provide protection in the late 1700s during the Revolutionary War and during the Civil War Milford was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Though agriculture was the community's economic backbone, shipbuilding, oystering, small industry and trade on the open seas from the harbor were also part of the local economy. The early 1900's brought the leather industry along with the making of boots, hats and shoes. Milford was also famous for carriages, which were sold throughout the centuries.

After World War II, the population swelled as soldiers returned from the war and bought houses in the suburb of New Haven and Bridgeport called Milford. Industry also developed to support the war effort. Norden, Milford Rivet, U.S. Motors, and Edgcomb Steel were some of the familiar names of the time. Other industry followed most notably the consumer giants of Bic and Schick. Then the completion of I-95 in 1960, with its seven exits and entrances brought easy access. The Connecticut Post Shopping Center and other development followed rapidly. Today, Milford is home to more than 2,000 businesses of all types and sizes.

With citizens dedicated to preserving and celebrating their rich history, Milford is well-known for its annual community celebrations like the Memorial Day Parade and Oyster Festival. Multiple memorials in honor of those who have served in past conflicts parade down the grassway of the Town Green, a memorial bridge provides a stone passageway of the history of their ancestors, and the Milford Historical Society also plays an important role in

the community, managing several historic properties including Wharf Lane, three early houses named for the old street which ran from the Town Dock, scene of Milford's commerce by water, to the Milford Green; the Eells-Stow House which is believed to be the oldest house in Milford; the Clark-Stockade or "Stockade House", the first house built outside the stockade or palisades which surrounded the town of Milford against Indians; and the Bryan-Downs House, originally built by Captain Jehiel Bryan and his son on the Post road between Milford and New Haven. Housed at the Bryan-Downs House is the Claude C. Coffin Indian collection which is a collection assembled by Milford native Claude C. Coffin, an archeologist of the 1920-1930 era which contains over 4,000 prehistoric Indian artifacts.

Over the course of its history, Milford has certainly reflected its motto "A Small City with a Big Heart!" It has been an honor for me to serve as their U.S. Representative these last twenty-four years and I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of this special community as they celebrate their 375th Anniversary.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th Anniversary of the First Assembly of God in Potosi, Missouri. In 1944 the first members of this church came together seeking to build a community of believers to worship and to serve others. The First Assembly of God is part of the large council of Assemblies of God which is celebrating their 100th year.

First Assembly works to reach out to the community of Potosi and beyond. Among their many services, they minister to the youth with different programs that aim to teach and encourage young kids to grow in their faith. They also support missionaries across the globe who are working selflessly to bring aid and the love of Christ to those in need.

For the years of service and their commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the 70th Anniversary of the First Assembly of God in the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF ANNE J. MALLORY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anne J. Mallory who began her career in education in 1978. During her 36-year career, Anne served in many roles, including teaching assignments ranging from first grade to middle school language arts, Title VI resource teacher, principal, district super-

intendent and several positions at the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE).

Anne began at ICOE in 2001, where she served in increasingly more responsible roles and was appointed as the Imperial County Superintendent of Schools in July 2009 after the retirement of her predecessor. In 2010, Anne J. Mallory ran unopposed in her re-election for County Superintendent. Throughout her educational career and tenure at ICOE, Anne received many awards and accolades recognizing her excellence in education as a teacher and administrator.

I would like to commend Anne J. Mallory for her 36-years of dedication to ICOE's staff, faculty, and students and commitment to expanding and improving educational services in Imperial County as County Superintendent for the last five years.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sacramento Republic FC as the 2014 United Soccer League's (USL) Professional Division Champions in their inaugural season. As the team's players, coaches, fans and the Tower Bridge Battalion gather to celebrate, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the team for its remarkable success.

The Sacramento Republic FC began their season strong, immediately breaking the single game attendance record for a USL Pro game with an attendance of 20,231 passionate fans cheering them on. The Sacramento Republic FC's triumph continued throughout the season. It was obvious the Sacramento fans immediately became passionate about the Republic, as evident through the various attendance records the team set. The team sold out tickets to the majority of their games and obliterated the USL Pro record for attendance in a season, drawing more than 158,000 loyal fans to their home games at Hughes Stadium and Bonney Field. The previous single season record was just over 112,000. Their outstanding record of 12-2-2 in the regular season only built suspense for their dramatic playoff run. Hosting all three playoff games in front of a raucous crowd, the Sacramento Republic FC embodied Sacramento's spirit and concluded their magnificent inaugural season with a championship.

The success of the Sacramento Republic FC brought a great sense of unity and comradery to the Sacramento Region. The Tower Bridge Battalion could be heard each game, giving their support by chanting a song for the team. Every game was filled with laughs, excitement, and anticipation by the fans and the team lived up to its motto "Urbs Indomita," translating to mean "The Indomitable City." That mantra swept through the city and was evident throughout the playoffs. The Sacramento Republic FC never failed to impress and their season ended with an exciting 2-0 victory in the USL Pro Championship game over the Harrisburg City Islanders in front of a capacity crowd at Bonney Field.

The Sacramento Republic FC's victories and wins could not have been possible without a total team effort, including the coaches, the founders, and their dedicated fans. From co-founders Warren Smith and Joe Wagoner to investors Kevin Nagle and Larry Kelley to the animated Head Coach Predrag "Preki" Radosavljević, everyone involved in the team made it a success.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Sacramento Republic FC for winning the 2014 USL Pro Championship. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating them for their hard work, dedication, and their victory as the USL Pro Champions.

HONORING NOAH WELBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Welborn. Noah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Noah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Noah built a fence around the community garden at Lillian Schumacher Elementary School in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah Welborn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LORI PELLETIER, 2014 RECIPIENT OF THE ELLA T. GRASSO AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, each year the Connecticut Democratic Party recognizes the contributions of a woman whose leadership, vision, and hard work has served to improve the status of women in our state with an award named in honor of former Governor Ella T. Grasso. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many friends and colleagues who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to this year's honoree, Lori Pelletier, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO.

Lori began her career as machinist at Pratt & Whitney in the 1990s. Rising through the ranks and recognizing the economic and personal challenges so many of her brothers and

sisters in the labor movement faced, she became involved in the Connecticut AFL-CIO organization and served in its number 2 position for 14 years. Just last Fall, with her incomparable passion, drive, and dedication, Lori broke the proverbial glass ceiling becoming the first woman elected to lead Connecticut's largest labor federation—and she was elected to the post unanimously.

When I reflect on all of her good work and many contributions to both the labor movement and public discourse Lori has made over the years, it brings to mind a quote that has served as an inspiration to me for many years. In 1933 my mother wrote an article in the 10th Ward Democratic newsletter in which she said, "It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-for stronghold of the male sex: politics. I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard."

An advocate for the hard-working men and women of Connecticut, a driving force in the public policy debates of our state legislature, and truly one of the hardest working women I have ever had the pleasure of collaborating with, Lori has and continues to make herself heard. She is a powerhouse—a respected voice on issues ranging from workers' compensation and unemployment compensation to corporate accountability and workers' rights. There are few individuals who better reflect the spirit in which the Ella T. Grasso Award is bestowed.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Lori for her many years of friendship. Like so many of those gathered today, I have often sought her advice and counsel and she has always been there. I am honored to again extend my heartfelt congratulations to Lori Pelletier on this very special recognition. My friend—our work is not yet complete and I look forward to standing with you as we continue the fight on behalf of working families for safe workplaces, fair wages, and secure retirements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 520.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,946,228,427,416.76. We've added \$7,319,351,378,503.68 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL BAEZ ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, when deployed abroad our men and women in uniform face some of the most challenging, and adverse conditions possible—often staring down death or forced to cope with the loss of friends and comrades in arms. To help deal with such trauma, servicemembers frequently rely on the men and women of the chaplain's corps to provide spiritual, emotional and mental guidance through these tough times. This week, Samuel Baez, of Waterford Connecticut, is being inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame for his lifelong commitment to helping both active soldiers and veterans find meaning, purpose and religious guidance while in and out of uniform.

In 1962, while deployed to Vietnam, Sam led the memorial service for the first operational deaths of a group of Marines in DaNang. The names of these seven soldiers are now engraved on panel one of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Despite seeing such horrors during wartime, Sam continued to serve the military community, veterans, and civilians long after retiring from service. He traveled the world and helped counsel individuals of various backgrounds and religious faiths. Sam was able to translate his experiences in war to help orphans and the elderly both at home and abroad.

Today, Sam remains active in the veterans community, serving as both a chaplain, counseling individual soldiers and veterans, as well as frequently guest speaking to larger groups at a variety of events. Sam and his wife have also opened their home to cadets from the Coast Guard Academy in New London as parental sponsors to provide respite from the rigorous academic environment on campus and to augment their educational experience.

For his tireless devotion to supporting the mental and emotional well-being of American service members, I am proud to recognize Samuel Baez and wish him the best during his

induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA BOLLINGER

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra Bollinger from Sikeston, Missouri for her success in the medical field and service to our community.

Sandra Bollinger has set a wonderful example of hard work and a dedication to serve others. For thirty years Sandra has worked in the medical field as a pharmacist, providing needed care and service to families in southeast Missouri. As a reputable pharmacist and driven businesswoman Sandra also opened and owned the first licensed Class I consulting pharmacy in the state of Missouri.

Ms. Bollinger is a great example of the success a person can reach when they are passionate and motivated about what they do. From serving others behind the counter, to educating new students in medicine, Sandra has truly become a leader in her field.

Outside her normal work, Ms. Bollinger devotes time to volunteer and is active in the community. She has served in numerous organizations using her expertise to advise both adults and the youth.

It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 BARBOURSVILLE INTERMEDIATE LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, according to their team manager, Coach Dell Adkins, the 2014 Barboursville Intermediate Little League All-Stars "had that look in their eyes" this past season when they climbed their way all the way to the best of the best—the World Series in Livermore, California. And what a season it was as they claimed championship after championship including West Virginia District 1, West Virginia State, and the Southeast Regional Championship in Apopka, Florida.

The Barboursville champs compiled quite a team record this past season, as well. They finished All-Stars with a 12–2 record and All-Star play sixth in the world. They outscored opponents 193–69 with a team batting average of 0.438. The defeated State Champions from North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida to win the Southeast Region and California and Michigan during the World Series. And they stole 22 bases during the World Series, just one shy of the World Series record of 23 set by Japan; they also hit 25 homeruns during Southeast Region play.

Individually, the team's contributions are just as exemplary:

Griffin Adkins (CF, Pitcher) tied for the team lead with 24 hits, led the team with 43 total bases and runs scored with 29, tied for team lead with 5 HR's and was the winning pitcher against Michigan during World Series play.

Brody Aliff (1B, Pitcher) was the winning pitcher in the SE region semi-finals against South Carolina, top 4 in southeast region Homerun Derby, scoring 18 runs.

Brett Armbruster (Outfield) had an on base percentage of 0.417 and 8 stolen bases.

Hogan Carter (1B, SS, 3B, Pitcher) led team in slugging avg of 0.976 and RBI's with a total of 23, batted 0.512 and scored 22 runs.

Trey Chapman (SS, Pitcher) led the team in batting average at 0.522 and tied for team lead with 24 hits, second in runs scored with 25, winning pitcher against California during World Series play.

Luke Ellis (Catcher, Pitcher) led the team in on-base percentages at 0.615 and for stolen bases with a total of 21. He was the winning pitcher in SE region championship game against Florida.

Kristian Gerwig (Outfield, Catcher) batted 0.440, and was 2 for 2 with 2 RBI's against California in World Series play.

Jayce Gould (2B, Pitcher) tied for team lead with 5 HR's, second in RBI's with a total of 21, and he had 21 runs scored. He hit the only homerun for Barbourville during World Series play against the eventual World Series Champions Arizona.

Camron Lewis (Outfield, 3B, 1B, Pitcher) batted 0.375 during Southeast Regional play. He pitched one scoreless inning during World Series play against the eventual World Series champions, Arizona.

Austin Petry (Catcher, 3B, Outfield) batted 0.419 during All-Star play with 2 HR's and 11 runs scored.

Ivan Vaughn (Outfield, Catcher) led the team with 3 triples, batted 0.436, scored 15 runs, and had 19 stolen bases.

Peyton Weekly (Catcher, 3B, Pitcher) led team with 6 doubles, batted 0.478, 16 RBI's, scored 19 runs, and was the winner of the Southeast Region Homerun Derby.

The team was most fortunate to have a talented and dedicated coaching staff that included Manager, Dell Adkins and coaches, Pat Carter and Randy Coyle.

Mr. Speaker, the 2014 Barbourville Intermediate Little League All-Stars not only had that look in their eyes they had good sportsmanship and fair play in their hearts. The invaluable lessons this young team learned on the field during this stellar season under the sound guidance of their coaches will well serve them, as well as our nation, off the field in the years and decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520 I am not recorded because my flight from Southwest Washington experienced significant delays. I was not yet in Washington, DC at the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE LAWRENCE K. KARLTON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge Lawrence K. Karlton as he takes inactive status from the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. As his family, colleagues and community leaders gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Judge Karlton's service to the federal judiciary.

Judge Karlton graduated from New York University and Columbia School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor in 1958. He joined the United States Army, serving from 1958 to 1960, and was a Civilian Legal Officer at the Sacramento Army Depot from 1960 to 1962. He was in private practice in Sacramento, California from 1962 to 1976. In 1976 he was appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown as a judge of the Superior Court of California, where he served until 1979. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Karlton to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Karlton has served with distinction and integrity and was Chief Judge from 1983 to 1990. In 2010 he assumed Senior status.

Judge Karlton has dedicated his career to public service and has a steadfast commitment to our nation's judicial system. During his first year as Chief Judge, he convened the first annual Eastern District Conference to bring the bench and the bar together in an informal setting to discuss issues of mutual concern and to improve the administration of justice within the district, and the district has continued to hold annual conferences for over thirty years. Since being appointed to the federal bench over thirty-five years ago, Judge Karlton has presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases, including individual civil and criminal actions, multi-party civil and criminal actions, and complex class action lawsuits implicating significant questions of constitutional law and statutory interpretation. He has also sat by designation on several panels in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In addition, from 2007 until September 1, 2014, Judge Karlton sat with Judges Stephen Reinhardt and Thelton Henderson on a special three-judge panel overseeing reduction of unconstitutional overcrowding in the California prison system. In every case and on every panel, Judge Karlton has remained dedicated to the rule of law and the fair administration of equal justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Karlton, his wife Sue, family, friends, and colleagues celebrate this transition, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Judge Karlton has contributed immensely to the federal bench and our community.

HONORING SARGENT MANUFACTURING COMPANY AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the company leadership, employees and families that have gathered today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Sargent Manufacturing Company in New Haven, Connecticut. A reflection of Connecticut's long and proud history of manufacturing tradition, Sargent has and continues to be a pillar of manufacturing in our city and our state—one of the many threads that have woven the fabric of our community.

Leaving home at just sixteen years old, Joseph Bradford Sargent, worked tirelessly, starting at the ground level of a dry-goods store in Boston which, soon after, he was managing. He would later move to Georgia to open his own store. He later moved his family to Brooklyn where he, along with his two brothers, George and Edward, operated a wholesale hardware business in New York City where they obtained an interest in one of their suppliers, Peck and Walter Manufacturing. In 1857, the brothers purchased full ownership and in 1864 moved the factory to New Haven along the Harbor, establishing Sargent Manufacturing Company at its original location on Water Street.

A series of five-story brick buildings and storage sheds marked the original plant. As the business grew other buildings were added with "catwalks" or bridges connecting them, often spanning the busy city streets. 1884 marked the beginning of their manufacturing what would become one of their best known products—locks. By 1914, the Sargent product catalog listed some 60,000 different items, making it one of the largest hardware manufacturing plants in the country.

During World Wars I and II, much like factories across the nation, production capacity was converted to production for the war effort and, with the men serving overseas, women began staffing the factory. In fact, at the end of WWII, women made up nearly 40 percent of Sargent's workforce. The post-war era brought a new focus for the company—solidifying their reputation in the niche production of locks and door-related mechanisms and resulting in many lock-related engineering firsts.

In the late 1960's the Sargent family and company stockholders accepted an offer from the Walter Kidde Company which began a period of ownership by various financial groups. In 1996 ASSA ABLOY AB acquired Sargent, along with several sister companies, and today, the company that still bears the Sargent name continues to manufacture some of the best lock products in the world.

The Sargent brothers' success is a reflection of what we so often envision as the American Dream and Joseph Sargent ensured that others could share in that same dream. Growing up in New Haven, almost every family had a least one member that worked at Winchester Repeating Arms or Sargent Manufacturing. Sargent's welcomed new immigrants

with open arms—offering them a job but more than that, an opportunity to provide a better life for their families. Like so many others, I have a personal connection to Sargent—my grandfather worked at the factory for many years. My mother often tells a story that when she was born my grandfather took one look at her blonde curls and said “all of the locks at Sargent could not keep her safe,” quite the testament to the love he had for his new child.

Sargent was part of our neighborhood's very soul, shaping the very character of our community. Today, as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary, Sargent can be proud of the indelible mark they have left on the history of our City and the contributions they continue to make to the vitality of the New Haven community. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the company leadership and its employees on this remarkable milestone and my very best wishes for many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, November 17, 2014. Weather across the eastern seaboard delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5162 (Roll No. 520).

TRIBUTE TO LISA COOK

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Cook from Chaffee, Missouri for her success in the medical field and service to our community.

Lisa Cook, following the wisdom passed to her from her mother, followed her dreams of achieving an education and continued to climb the corporate ladder. Her hard work and passion to serve others is apparent in the numerous ways she has been honored and recognized for her achievements.

Despite her demanding work schedule, Mrs. Cook always finds time to volunteer and support the community in various ways. Lisa and her husband find it most fulfilling to engage in charitable causes under the cloak of anonymity. For them it is not about being recognized for their contributions, but knowing that their actions impact other individuals in a positive way.

I admire Lisa Cook for her positive attitude and determination to succeed which has influenced many in our community. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote on November 17, 2014. Had I been present for roll call vote number 520, H.R. 5162, to amend the Act entitled “An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center” to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes, I would have voted “yay.”

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

The Parsippany Public Library aims to promote a lifelong interest in library use and learning in a diverse community. The library utilizes various forms of media and technology to create an active role in learning for people of all ages. Boasting user-friendly technologies that are accessible and convenient for the community, the library serves as a central meeting place for residents. In coordinated efforts with the local school system and township departments, the Parsippany Library serves a key role in the education of the community throughout all ages.

The Parsippany Friends of the Library, established in 1984, is a volunteer, non-profit organization that is committed to enhancing and supporting the library. Through various fundraising events, the Friends of the Library are able to provide the local libraries with supplemental funds to support their programs. The Friends of the Library also advocate for the library, helping to grow the library and the community. The funds they raise are put towards technological advancements, book and media purchases, and programs for people of all ages.

The library system consists of three separate libraries, the main library and two branches in Lake Hiawatha and in Mount Tabor. The main library moved to its newest headquarters in 2006, only a short walk away from the local elementary, middle, and high schools. The state-of-the-art facility encompasses 38,000 square feet and includes a vast collection of books, meeting rooms, and study areas. The main library is home to a large children's book collection and program room, several tutorial and study areas, and a meeting space for 200 people. The headquarters serves as the central location for the library system.

The Lake Hiawatha location was established in 1937, but has remained in the same location since 1968. In 1994, the interior of the

building was expanded to better serve the needs of the community. Similar to the main library, the Lake Hiawatha branch sits a centrally located area that is within walking distance for many residents. The Lake Hiawatha branch offers many after-school programs for children and story time for younger residents. They also organize a film discussion series given by a college professor for the community.

The Mount Tabor library, the oldest of the three, has occupied the same building since 1889. Like the other locations, the Mount Tabor locale offers several programs for children and adults. Due to its small size, many of the programs are offered across the street in a park. The Mount Tabor location also sits within walking distance for the residents of the area.

Through the funding and support of the Friends of the Library, the Parsippany-Troy Hills library looks to continue to offer a wide range of programs and support for its community at each of its locations. They hope that, along with the community, they can continue to promote lifelong learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Parsippany-Troy Hills Library as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

HONORING THE TOWN OF GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 375TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of Guilford, Connecticut as they mark the 375th Anniversary of the town's founding—a remarkable milestone for this quintessential New England town.

Founded in May 1639 by a band of puritans seeking religious freedom in the New World, the land that would become the Town of Guilford, Connecticut was purchased from local Native Americans, who were represented by the squaw sachem, or female chief, Shaumpishih. First established as the plantation of Menuncatuck, the town that would later be known as Guilford, like most 17th century New England towns, was organized around a common, or green—the Town Green remains a center of community life today. The first houses were small huts with thatched roofs, wooden walls, and dirt floors. Unlike other villages, Guilford had no protective palisade fence surrounding the community. Instead they built four large stone houses for the leaders of the plantation, strategically located and used for shelter during times of danger. In the later years of the 17th century, Guilford became part of the New Haven Colony and then the Connecticut Colony. In fact, Guilford's William Leete was one of the first governors of these colonies.

By the 18th century, the town had become a thriving coastal community with agriculture and the sea supporting the economy. The medieval style huts were replaced by homes of

the colonial style, including the Hyland House (1660), the Henry Whitfield House (1639), Thomas Griswold House (1774) and the Dudley Farm (1840) all of which survive today and house museums showcasing Guilford's rich history. In the 19th century, with an expanding shipbuilding and maritime trade and with the coming of the railroad, industries such as foundries, canneries, shoe shops, and carriage makers evolved. Quarries opened and supplied local granite to the world, including blocks for the base of the Statue of Liberty.

By the end of the 19th and into the 20th century, Guilford became a summer destination for Victorian vacationers from near and far. Today, Guilford's once-small population has risen to a year-round community of more than 22,000 people. Guilford has a small-town, historic, charming atmosphere which is highlighted by its rustic character and individuality. This beautiful town sits on the waterfront of the Long Island Sound and extends north to include expansive land and offers a public park, two beaches, a historic downtown shopping district that includes restaurants, art galleries, nature trails, and boating. Annual events like the Tree Lighting, Citizens Day Parade, and the Guilford Agricultural Fair strengthen the bonds of this tight-knit community—Guilford truly has something for everyone.

It has been my honor to serve as the U.S. Representative for Guilford for the last twenty-four years and I am so proud to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of this special community as they celebrate their 375th Anniversary. As the community continues to grow, it will do so while maintaining its unique character and charm—quintessentially New England. Happy Anniversary!

HONORING THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, NORTHEAST CHAPTER 187

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187, a distinguished Veterans Service Organization in El Paso, Texas.

The Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187 is comprised of former service members. The chapter develops new relationships and cultivates existing bonds among our veteran community, elected officials and government agencies; honors the memory of service members who died in service; and informs its members of state and federal legislative changes and policy ideas relevant to veterans.

With 1,508 members, the Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187 is the sixth largest chapter in Texas. Their leadership includes three Combat Related Special Compensation ambassadors; four VA and Disabled American Veterans-certified service officers; a past District 1 Commander, who oversees El Paso, Midland, Lubbock and as far as

Big Spring and Amarillo, Texas; and the Past-State Legislative Chairman. The Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187 has members from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and up to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The chapter includes multiple POWs and Purple Heart recipients.

Chartered in July 1972, Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187 is an asset to our veteran community. I thank the Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187 for their commitment to honoring our veterans and for helping to strengthen the bonds in the El Paso community. I am glad that Veteran Service Organizations like these exist in our area, and I thank them for their selfless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor and recognize the Disabled American Veterans, Northeast Chapter 187.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on November 14, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call 518 and "yea" on roll call 519.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on November 11, 2014, on rollcall No. 516 on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On November 12, 2014, on rollcall No. 517 on H. Res. 748, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5682) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On November 13, 2014, on rollcall No. 518 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5682, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On November 13, 2014, on rollcall No. 519 on H.R. 5682, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING LAURIE EVERETT

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Everett of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for the inspiration she offers to the youth and women of Missouri.

At age 22, Ms. Everett first enlisted in the U.S. Army. Her experience strengthened her ability to offer other women encouragement to persevere through the arduous transition of being away from home. As an entrepreneur and owner of Annie Laurie's Antiques, she mentors both female interns and professional women to support their professional development. In addition, to support at risk youth, Ms. Everett sponsored youth job trainings through the Myers Goodwill Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri.

Laurie Everett's achievements in business and dedication to mentorship have greatly influenced our community. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

DETECTIVE MAURO FARALLO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to your attention to the deeds of an outstanding 19 year veteran of the Passaic Police Department, Detective Mauro Farallo, affectionately known as "Moe." Moe has dedicated his career to serving and protecting the citizens and businesses of the City of Passaic. To honor his years of service, his family, friends, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his outstanding community service and acts of valor.

Moe began his career in the Passaic Police Department's Patrol Division in 1995. He was later assigned to the Detective Bureau where he assisted in numerous major investigations including Homicide, Robbery, Burglary, and Arson. Through his diligent computer work and tireless efforts, Moe solved many cases and helped identify several unidentified deceased persons through dental and medical records. These efforts have provided closure for victims' families.

Moe currently serves as the President and Alternate State Delegate of Passaic PBA Local 14, which is the collective bargaining agent for the Officers of the Passaic Police Department. He works tirelessly to ensure that the membership receives fair compensation by negotiating officers' contracts. During his tenure as PBA President, Moe has successfully brought financial stability to the struggling finances of the union which better serves its members and the community.

Moe's humble roots and strong family ties have played an integral part in his compassionate and giving nature as well as his warm disposition and tenacity. He grew up in Union City where he was exposed to many different

cultures, religions, and nationalities. He moved to Rutherford in Bergen County and played for the Rutherford High School football team during which time he worked in the family pizza business where he learned to respect and love his fellow employees. After graduating from Rutherford High School, Moe bought Mama Mia Pizzeria from his father and ran a successful business for 14 years. In 1995, he sold the business and began his career in the Passaic Police Department.

I have had the good fortune to personally know Moe and his beautiful family. Moe is truly deserving of this recognition and I am sure that his family and friends are sincerely proud and grateful for all his selfless deeds. Moe is an invaluable asset to the entire community and I wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of dedicated individuals like Detective Mauro Farallo. Moe is a truly admirable person and who I am honored to call my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Detective Farallo's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Detective Mauro Farallo's outstanding character and service to our community.

HONORING THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 375TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of Stratford, Connecticut as they mark the 375th Anniversary of the town's founding—a remarkable milestone for this wonderful shoreline community. Founded in 1639, Stratford is a community rich in history and natural beauty. Situated on Long Island Sound, and bounded to the east by the Housatonic River, Stratford is home to some 51,000 residents.

The community's colonial history traces to when William Judson, perhaps with a small party ventured into newly opened lands to scout for a new location for Reverend Adam Blackman's congregation. In 1639, a group of about seventeen families set out from Wethersfield, Connecticut, making their way down the Housatonic River to an inlet later named Mac's Harbor. They built their meeting house, the earliest Congregational Church and temporary sod houses. This new place was called Cupheag, an Indian word meaning "a place enclosed or sheltered." According to town records, Cupheag was first called Stratford in April of 1643 and though there is little historical data to determine the exact origin of the name, it is traditionally assumed that Stratford was so named after the great playwright, William Shakespeare's own town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Like so many New England communities, Stratford is home to a number of historical

properties. Boothe Memorial Park & Museum sits on 32 acres by the Housatonic River, which was the estate of the Boothe family for many generations and willed to the town in 1949 for the public to enjoy. The museum maintains a collection of buildings including a carriage house, Americana Museum, miniature lighthouse and windmill, a clocktower museum, a trolley station, a chapel and a blacksmith shop. The original Sikorsky Bridge toll booth from the Merritt Parkway is also located on the museum grounds. The Judson House, built circa 1750 by Captain David Judson on the site of his great-grandfather's 1639 stone house, is a fine example of Georgian architecture with its impressive broken scroll pediment entry. It is furnished with period pieces of Stratford origin. The beautiful paneled "west room" contains an early piano which belonged to William Samuel Johnson, framer of the U.S. Constitution, and the second president of Columbia University.

Stratford takes great pride in its heritage—from its first settlers to the brave immigrants who followed in later years. It is one of the few communities in the entire nation to own its own forest, the Roosevelt Forest, and it proudly keeps watch over the magnificent "Great Meadows"—the last great salt marsh left in New England. It is also home to the soon to be renovated, Shakespeare Theater which was once home to the American Shakespeare Theater Company. Stratford became the birthplace of the American helicopter industry, when in 1939, Russian immigrant Igor Sikorsky, successfully flew the first helicopter at his Stratford-based aircraft plant. More than a half-century later, Sikorsky Aircraft is the world's leading helicopter manufacturer, designing and producing state-of-the-art helicopters for both military and commercial applications at its sprawling manufacturing facility on town's north side.

It has been an honor for me to serve as Stratford's U.S. Representative these last twenty-four years and I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of this special community as they celebrate their 375th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, due to the delay in my flight arriving to Washington, DC yesterday, I was unable to make roll call vote 520.

On roll call vote 520, passage of H.R. 5162—To amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yes."

IN TRIBUTE TO MAURICE "MO" COLLIN ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of an extraordinary Marine Corps veteran from my Congressional District, Mr. Maurice "Mo" Collin, who this week is being recognized for his lifelong efforts to ensure our nation's promises to our veterans. Mo's service and advocacy for his brothers and sisters in arms has never wavered and has continued decades past his time in the Marine Corps. After returning home from the Vietnam War, Mo has devoted his life to ensuring that veterans get the services and support that they need.

Mo's career of distinction began with serving in the Marine Corps in the Vietnam War and then transitioning to duty as a Veteran Service Officer, devoting his work to advocating for veterans after they return from combat. His positivity and commitment were unshakable, and he rose to the position of Supervisor of the Office of Advocacy and Assistance with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and later to serve as the Acting Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs. Mo's experience, personality and commitment to the well-being of the veterans in his community made him uniquely qualified for these demanding jobs.

As evidence of his selflessness, Mo has said that service to other veterans has helped him handle the mental and emotional stresses that military service can impose on the men and women who serve. Mo now encourages all veterans to take advantage of services available to them after admitting his initial reluctance to seek out help for the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from which he suffered. Mo continues to volunteer at the Newington, Connecticut VA Medical Center, as a driver for the Disabled American Veterans and as a Veterans Liaison for the West Haven VA Medical Center.

His induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is the latest in a string of stirring achievements, motivated by the selfless desire to ensure that those who have served our country are well taken care of when they return home. On behalf of my colleagues in House, I thank Mo Collin for his service to his state and his nation and to congratulate him on his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CSHQA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize CSHQA as its employees, clients, and supporters celebrate their 125th anniversary as a leading architecture and engineering

firm; and their 25th anniversary in the Sacramento region. I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to CSHQA and the service the company has and will continue to provide, to its clients in the Sacramento region and across the globe.

Beginning in 1889, CSHQA, then known as William S. Campbell Architects, was founded in Boise, Idaho. After World War II, Glen Cline and Neil Smull joined William S. Campbell Architects. They designed many renowned projects for Fortune 500 firms and a number of major universities. In the 1970's they were pleased to welcome Robert Hamill and Allen Quintieri to their team, becoming Cline Smull Hamill Quintieri Associates, they shortened their name to CSHQA.

In 1990, Sacramento was proud to welcome CSHQA. CSHQA has provided design services for a wide variety of retail, grocery, pharmacy, aviation, corrections, healthcare, assisted living, hospitality, and entertainment clients. Buildings designed by CSHQA cannot only be seen in California, but can be found across the country. CSHQA has also done work internationally in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. CSHQA's attention to detail can be seen through the numerous awards they have received. Recently, CSHQA has excelled in green building practices, renewable energy projects and designing energy efficient and sustainable buildings. Their buildings have been awarded LEED Silver, Gold, and Platinum certifications for retail, educational, civic, healthcare, and multi-family projects. CSHQA has also been presented Green Globe certification.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to the CSHQA and their 125th anniversary as a leading architecture firm and their 25th anniversary in the Sacramento region. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the celebration of both anniversaries, as they continue to serve clients across the globe.

**CELEBRATING THE CROATIAN
SONS LODGE NUMBER 170 GOLD-
EN MEMBER BANQUET**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170, of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its Golden Member banquet, which will take place on Sunday, November 16, 2014.

The Croatian Fraternal Union will hold its gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include the following individuals: Aileen Joan Balazs, Patricia Gail Dinsmore, Margaret F. Edgington, Frances Louise Garriss, Ronald Glibota, Josephine Govorchin, Marion L. Govorchin, Eugene A. Graban, Kathleen Ann Guerre, Barbara Ann Hoolehan, Joanne K. Johnson, Mary Louise Kocivar, Ronald M. Lawrosky, Helen

Elaine Loncaric, Barbara Ellen Luketic, Joseph Anthony Martin, Laura Mathews, Carol Susan Ney, Judith Popiela, Barbara Ann Prahovich, William Michael Putz, Timothy W. Raykovich, Shirley Kaye Rehtorik, Ronald Mirko Reiring, Veronica L. Rouse, Ted Robert Sikora, Nicholas J. Stiglich, Violet Svetich, Sandra M. Zivic, Pete Znika, and John Michael Zunac.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating, followed by the Golden Member banquet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520 I was attending a funeral and was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes on 11/17/2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING DIANE HOWARD

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Howard who received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Zonta Women of Achievement for her respectable achievements and tremendous influence in the community. Her notable impact is evident in her recognition as the "Woman of Achievement" in 2000 by the Cape Girardeau Area Zonta Club.

Since 1984, Ms. Howard has been an attorney with the Limbaugh Firm in Cape Girardeau. Additionally, she was a member of the Board of Governments of the Missouri Bar and played an active role in many bar organizations as well as civic and non-profit organizations.

Before beginning her private practice, she was a criminal prosecutor on active duty with the U.S. Navy (JAG Corps). She continued her service in the Naval Reserves for 21 years serving throughout the United States where she spent two weeks trying a case at the Guantanamo Bay Cuba Naval Service. She pursued to serve as Commanding Officer of three Units including the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, D.C. In 2005, she retired from the Navy Reserves

after 25 total years of faithful military service with the rank of Captain.

Diane Howard's dedication to all her work has been undeniably laudable and has been a great contribution to our community. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and accomplishments before the House of Representatives.

**CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE T.J. MARTELL
FOUNDATION 5K WALK**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago a dedicated group of volunteers began an annual tradition that has made the first Sunday in October a special day in the Borough of Madison, Morris County, New Jersey. They organized a 5K Walk to raise money for the T.J. Martell Foundation—a non-profit group that raises funds to advance the fight against leukemia, cancer and AIDS.

The T.J. Martell Foundation was established as a result of a promise made by a father to his son. A son who was battling leukemia. A son who asked his father to raise \$1 million to support cancer research so that "no one else will have to experience what I am going through." And a father, Tony Martell, a longtime resident of Madison, who kept that promise and far surpassed it.

Over the years, the T.J. Martell Foundation has provided more than \$260 million to support cutting-edge research to advance the war against leukemia, cancer, and AIDS. The people of Madison, have been there for their friend and neighbor every year. The passage of time has not diminished their commitment to honor T.J. Martell by helping his father fulfill his promise.

This event has grown from its modest beginnings to become an all-day affair, kicking off with a 5K walk and extending through the day with music, activities, and food. Today it is both an effective fundraiser and a fun-filled day enjoyed by hundreds of families every year. It is a celebration of life and of the promise of victory over these dreaded diseases.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to all those who support the work of the T.J. Martell Foundation across our nation, but especially in Madison, New Jersey. This annual event is a testament both to the life of T.J. Martell and to the deep sense of community that makes Madison a wonderful place in which to live.

**COMMENDING MR. DONG SUK KIM
AND THE KOREAN AMERICAN
CIVIC EMPOWERMENT FOR COM-
MUNITY**

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Dong Suk Kim and the

Korean American Civic Empowerment for Community (KACE) based in New York and New Jersey for their dedication in promoting civil rights and in organizing the Korean-American community.

Mr. Kim was born in South Korea and immigrated to the U.S. in 1985. He resides in Tenafly, New Jersey, with his wife, Hyunjoo Hwang, and their son, Sol.

Mr. Dong Suk Kim is a Founder and Executive Committee Chair of KACE. Mr. Kim was President of the Korean American Voters' Council (KAVC) from 1996 through 2010. Mr. Kim has devoted his life to empowering the Korean-American community after the Los Angeles riots in 1992, which were a result of the Rodney King case and which seriously impacted the Korean-American community in the United States.

As the President of KACE, Mr. Kim led the organization to significant achievements. KACE increased Korean-American voter turnout in the Greater New York area from less than 5% in 1996 to over 58% in 2012, assisted more than 27,000 Korean-Americans to register to vote, and organized a community-based campaign for the 2000 and 2010 Census. To advance Korean-Americans' voting rights, KACE publishes voter guides in Korean, operates a voter hotline every year, and mails more than 500 voter registration and vote-by-mail forms to Korean-American voters every year.

I would also like to commend Mr. Kim and KACE for their active roles in organizing a nationwide campaign in support of the "Comfort Women Resolution" (H. Res. 121 in the 110th Congress) in 2007 which addresses matters related to the sexual slavery imposed by Japanese armed forces during World War II. Mr. Kim traveled to all major Korean towns in the U.S., including Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco, and Chicago to organize the campaign. As a result of this grassroots campaign, the Comfort Women Resolution was adopted unanimously by the House of Representatives on July 30, 2007.

In 2011, Mr. Kim led a grassroots campaign in support of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) to advance bilateral commercial cooperation as well as the interests of the Korean-American community. The agreement was signed by both governments in 2007 but was not ratified by Congress until October 2011. The Korean-American community expressed its strong support for the agreement and it was passed by both governments in 2011.

Every year, Mr. Kim and KACE organize many programs to educate, organize and mobilize the Korean-American community and to promote its civic participation. It is fitting and proper to honor both Mr. Kim's and KACE's outstanding contributions and commitment to the Korean-American community and to the United States of America, and I am pleased to offer this statement for historical purposes.

HONORING SCORE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join New Haven SCORE, our local business community, as well as the hundreds of chapters across the country in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SCORE. Previously known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives, SCORE is a 501 (c)(3) organization with more than 350 chapters across the country through which some 13,000 experienced entrepreneurs offer their advice and counsel to other small business owners.

Over the course of the last half century, SCORE volunteers have provided mentoring and training support to more than 10 million entrepreneurs and small business owners. Small business has always been the backbone of our nation's economy. It is these innovative, creative individuals who create jobs, help to grow our local economies, and more often than not, become a part of the very fabric of our communities. Since its inception SCORE has been an invaluable resource—allowing small business owners to receive advice, counsel, and education from others who have walked the same path and faced the same challenges and triumphs.

Housed at Gateway Community College and led by Professor Rose Bednarz-Luglio, New Haven SCORE has had a remarkable impact on our local business community. Mentors are actively engaged in our community and our small business owners know that a wide range of resources are available to them. Offering sessions on topics from developing a business plan, securing financing, day-to-day business management, and charting business growth to workshops on low cost business planning, marketing and sales, and other business-support, SCORE has provided an environment in which our small business owners can thrive.

SCORE has been a remarkable success and continues to leave an indelible mark on the business community. I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to SCORE on its 50th Anniversary as well as my very best wishes for its continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 12, Thursday, November 13, and Friday, November 14, 2014, I was out on medical leave recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 516 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4194), "no" on rollcall vote No. 517 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 748), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 518 (on

the motion to recommit H.R. 5682, with instructions), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 519 (on passage of H.R. 5682).

HONORING WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, stroke is the second leading cause of death worldwide, responsible for the death of one person every six seconds and nearly six million each year; and

Whereas, stroke is not only a killer, but it is also the most common cause of long-term disability, reducing quality of life and placing burdens on entire families; and

Whereas, we cannot solve our problems by ignoring them, and the threat of stroke to our communities will only increase as our population ages and faces increased lifestyle health risks; and

Whereas, in raising public awareness about this preventable and treatable threat, together we can help save millions of lives.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh Congressional District of Florida, do hereby recognize the 29th day of October as World Stroke Day.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GETMAN ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pause to honor Mr. Robert T. Getman of Old Lyme, Connecticut, a distinguished Coast Guard veteran from my district who is posthumously being inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame this week.

Mr. Getman began his career as a 1954 graduate from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, and served in the Coast Guard for 30 years before retiring in 1984. Retirement was no vacation for Mr. Getman however, as he was appointed and served 10 years as the Director of the Connecticut Veterans home in Rocky Hill, ensuring that Connecticut veterans had the care, rehabilitation, and education they deserved and needed. Mr. Getman's time at the Veterans Home saw an increase in numbers of veterans served over previous years, and his passion for helping others shone with each case he oversaw.

Mr. Getman was known by those close to him for his passion for education. He believed that an educated community was one of the most successful strategies for growth and prosperity. Further building on his commitment to public service, Robert was elected to the Old Lyme Board of Education, where he extended his passion for service from the military to the civilian sphere.

Mr. Getman also served as a member of the Harbor Management Commission, volunteered at the Coast Guard Academy Museum, and provided spiritual ministry and tutoring to inmates at the prison in Niantic, Connecticut, always seeking to help others help themselves and never giving up on the power of education to improve a community's strength.

For his tireless commitment to serving his country, his community and for always seeing the opportunity for growth and improvement, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Getman for his extraordinary service and his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIMMIE YEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sacramento County Board of Supervisor Jimmie Yee as he retires from twenty years of public service. As Supervisor Yee's family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his long list of accomplishments and retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great individual who has served and contributed so much to the Sacramento region.

Supervisor Yee is a native of Sacramento and graduated from Sacramento High School. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Supervisor Yee began his professional career in civil service with the California State Department of Transportation and co-founded one of the Sacramento Valley's largest engineering firms, Cole, Yee, Schubert and Associates. They provided design services for prestigious buildings throughout the Sacramento Region including the original Sacramento Convention Center, Capitol Bank of Commerce, Sacramento International Airport's terminal and loading gates, among many others.

In 1992, Supervisor Yee was elected to the Sacramento City Council beginning his career in public service. He served on the City Council for twelve years. In 1999, Supervisor Yee was named Mayor of Sacramento after the passing of Mayor Joe Serna. In 2006, he was elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. During his time on the Board, Supervisor Yee built on his legacy on the City Council and accomplished much for the Sacramento community, including the revitalization of Mather Airport and bringing EVA Flight Training Academy to Sacramento from Taiwan. Supervisor Yee has served with distinction on a number of regional boards, including the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and Sacramento Transportation Authority. He has also raised funds for a number of non-profits, including the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as Supervisor Yee's wife Mary, family, friends, and colleagues gather to recognize him for his many years of public and community service, serving on more than twenty-five governing and advisory bodies, I

ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking him for his commitment to Sacramento and wishing him the best in retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KINNELON PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kinnelon Public Library, located in Kinnelon, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Kinnelon Public Library was founded in 1963, a movement led by a local citizens-group and town leaders. Prior to the library's founding, the community was serviced by the Morris County Bookmobile Service once a month. However, citizens felt their literary needs were not being met and hoped to create a space where the community could come together.

In 1963, a group of citizens enlisted the Town Council and Mayor to help them begin the process of funding a free public library, a space the community unanimously agreed they needed. The long and demanding process began as the town tried to find space for the library. Several locations were proposed before the town was able to agree on a site at the Municipal Building Complex on Kinnelon Road. While they worked to determine a location, a temporary library was set up in an old medical building in 1964.

A single-story building was built and opened to the public in 1966, with a small collection of 900 books. Since then, the library has continued to expand to meet the needs of the growing community. After three expansions, the library is now a two-story building that occupies about 19,000 square feet. Along with space for book collections, the library houses four meeting rooms that serve the local community. The library is now home to more than 84,000 volumes of books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, and numerous other electronic resources.

The library continues to follow its mission to encourage learning and support discovery for Kinnelon residents of all ages. With 15 computers to serve the public, the circulation of electronic book readers, and a continuation of exhibits and programs, the library serves the public through more than just literary resources. Its adult educational organization, The Center for Lifelong Learning, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and has provided over 10,000 students with a learning experience since it began in 1993.

The Friends of the Kinnelon Library fundraise annually to support improvements for the library and technological advancements to help grow their resources for children, teens, and adults. In its 50 years, the library has continued to grow as a central gathering point for the community. They hope to continue to service the community and evolve with its needs in their next 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kinnelon Public Library as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

HONORING NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the faculty, staff, students, and Greater Waterbury community in extending my sincere congratulations to Naugatuck Valley Community College as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this innovative institution of higher learning.

The City of Waterbury, through Works Progress Administration funding, was able to help hundreds of its residents get trained for and obtain good jobs with livable wages. When that funding was exhausted, Waterbury Higher Education, Inc. campaigned vigorously for an institute of higher education, namely a branch of the University of Connecticut in Waterbury. They were successful in that endeavor with a local branch opening in 1955. It was in that environment, through that commitment to continued education and in response to a growing need for engineering technicians in expanding local industries, that Waterbury State Technical Institute—later to be upgraded to Waterbury State Technical College—opened its doors in 1964.

With the advent of a state-wide community college system under Governor John Dempsey, Waterbury became the home of Mattatuck Community College which became one of the first to open its doors. When classes started in September of 1967, the college enrolled 288 full-time and 224 part-time students. In just five short years, enrollment at the Mattatuck Community College nearly quadrupled and programs were expanded to include early childhood education and nursing programs.

In 1992, under consolidation efforts by the General Assembly, the merger of Waterbury State Technical College and Mattatuck Community College established what is now Naugatuck Valley Community College. Today, NVCC serves 2,951 full-time and 4,244 part-time students and is the only community college in Connecticut to offer associate degree programs in aviation science, horticulture, digital arts, and visual and performance arts. The campus boasts over 1100 networked computers, its Technology Hall features the latest in high-tech facilities, and its Fine Arts Center, in addition to including two theaters, music and dance studios, video studios, and rehearsal rooms, is also home to one of three observatories in Connecticut.

Today, our community colleges are playing a critical role in educating our workforce. Just as they did in 1955, NVCC is providing quality education and training programs that are preparing students of all ages for good jobs that are in demand in our local economy. Under the guidance of current President, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, NVCC continues its commitment to providing students with access to innovative programs, training, and hands-on experiences that will ensure their future success.

For its many invaluable contributions to our community, and particularly for its critical role in our education system, I am proud to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Naugatuck Valley Community College on its 50th Anniversary as well as my very best wishes for many more years of continued success.

HONORING COLONEL KIMBERLEE JOOS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Kimberlee Joos who received the Celebration Award at the Annual Zonta Women of Achievement for her selfless service and proud achievements that greatly impact both our Missouri community and the nation as a whole.

In 1991, Colonel Joos received her commission through the Air Force ROTC program at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She then became a master intelligence officer with a notable skillset in various intelligence disciplines including Flying Unit-level Intelligence Support, Theater Airborne ISR Operations, and National Cryptologic Operations and Collection Management.

Her service extends beyond Missouri, and she now commands the 17th Training Wing at the Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas. Additionally, she holds command responsibility for units in California, Arizona, and Florida where she administers real property, equipment, supplies, and contracts. She also offers support to Army, Navy and Marine Corps on-base units in addition to countless other organizations.

Colonel Joos's noteworthy accomplishments are evident in her various awards and decorations that include the Defense Superior Service Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Colonel Kimberlee Joos's dedication has been truly admirable and has benefited our community greatly. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and successes before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF CANADA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of an auspicious day in Canadian history, the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Canada's Founding Father, Sir John A. Macdonald of Ontario, on January 11, 2015.

Sir Macdonald was the first Prime Minister of Canada and a significant figure in the development of the British North America Act that gave rise to the birth of Canada as a na-

tion on July 1, 1867. As one of the founders of the great nation of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald's importance to the American people should not be overlooked.

The Canadian people have much in common with us. They are independent, resilient in the face of adversity, and proud of their history. We share many of the same values and have chosen repeatedly to face the problems of the world together. Whether in matters of security, law enforcement, environmental protection or commerce, Canada has long been a partner and friend to the United States.

Our relationship with Canada is based not only on a long history of shared cultural values and experience, it also encompasses one of the closest economic partnerships in the world amounting to \$1.2 trillion in trade, tourism, investment and other activities. U.S.-Canada trade alone supports an estimated 8 million jobs here in the U.S. and millions more across the border. Canada is also the largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States. Our neighbors to the north maintain a substantial investment in the success and growth of the U.S. economy and American businesses of all sizes.

The City of Kingston is hosting a national commemoration service on Sunday, January 11, 2015 marking the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November, 17 2014, I was absent because of travel delays due to weather related activities.

If I had been present, I would have voted the following on November 17, 2014:

Rollcall 520 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, H.R. 5162, An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center, I would have voted "aye."

IN TRIBUTE TO EDMOND CLARK ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Marine who has long known that fighting for the men and women with whom you served does not stop after no longer wearing the uniform. Edmond Clark, of Madison, Connecticut, is being inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame this week for his tireless advocacy and representation of veterans in the courtroom.

A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, Edmond applied lessons learned from his service in the classroom. He returned to school and earned a law degree to assist his

local veterans community. Often working pro-bono, Ed represented numerous veterans to assist them with legal and personal challenges. He advocated for veterans in numerous scenarios: collecting money they were due for their service, challenging unfair home and apartment evictions, and facilitating entry into mental health and substance abuse programs, amongst many other issues.

Ed's record of community service is also notable. He is a former member of the Board of Directors for the Charter Oak State College Foundation, an organization that identifies scholarship funding for students with gaps in their tuition assistance. Ed also served as the President of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials which facilitates communication between school administrators to share their ideas. An active supporter of eastern Connecticut's youth community, Ed serves as the Executive Director of the Tri-Town Giants Football Club, head coach for a middle school girl's interscholastic basketball club, and mentors middle school mock trial and debate teams.

This commitment to service of all levels of our community makes Edmond Clark a fitting addition to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Ed Clark, who is more than deserving of this honor as a veteran who has found so many ways to serve.

HONORING JOANNE SAMUEL GOLDBLUM ON HER 50TH BIRTHDAY FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in celebration of my dear friend, Joanne Samuel Goldblum, as she celebrates her 50th Birthday! As she marks this auspicious occasion, I wanted to take a moment to laud her many accomplishments and invaluable contributions to our community.

A social worker by training, Joanne spent much of her career working with impoverished families. It was during this time that she began to notice that many of the families she was working with simply went without basic toiletries like diapers and toilet paper. When one of her clients told her that these things were not covered by food stamps or any other assistance program, Joanne decided to take action. Founder and Executive Director of the National Diaper Bank Network, a national non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in the United States has an adequate supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy, Joanne is a pioneer in the ongoing struggle against poverty.

True to Joanne's vision, the organization's mission is to raise awareness of diaper need and to build the capacity of diaper banks throughout the country by creating a national network of community partners. In 2013 alone, the organization distributed more than 15 million free diapers to needy families across the country through their network of local diaper

banks. With 5.8 million babies in the United States three years or younger living in poor or low-income families, disposable diapers costing up to \$100 per month per baby, and most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities requiring parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers, the need is staggering. The New Haven Register's "Person of the Year" in 2007, as well as recognized by ABC News as their "Person of the Week" and People magazine as one of the publication's "Heroes Among Us" Joanne's passion and advocacy is ensuring that these issues are at the forefront of policy debate.

In addition to her professional contributions, Joanne's philanthropic efforts also touch countless lives. She is a champion for a variety of programs including emergency housing and education. Joanne serves on the Early Childhood Council, which brings together community members that are focused on school readiness for young children and their families. She is on the guide team for the MOMS Project at Yale, which develops public health approaches to ensuring that pregnant and parenting women achieve high standards of emotional health and well-being throughout their lives. Her participation informed her interest in basic needs/safety net funding after a study done by the project found that the greatest stressor for the female participants was a lack of basic needs. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foote School and the Edith B. Jackson Child Care Program at Yale.

A dedicated and unwavering advocate, Joanne's lifetime of contributions have enriched the lives of others and made our community a better place to live and grow. She continues to make a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Put simply, she is a reflection of all that we hope community leaders will be. In recognition of all of her good work, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Joanne Samuel Goldblum. Joanne—Happy Birthday! My very best wishes to you, your husband, David, and your children, Mollie, Jesse, and Sherman, for many more years of health, happiness and success.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PRIMER PASO LTD.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor El Primer Paso Ltd., located in the Town of Dover, County of Morris, New Jersey as it celebrates its 45th Anniversary.

El Primer Paso's mission is to provide and serve the community with culturally responsive resources for families and children. High-quality and inclusive early childhood programs are provided to children in order to foster literacy and dual language learning. Education programs for parents and other community members are also provided to increase literacy and dual language proficiency.

A group of volunteers founded El Primer Paso in the year of 1969 with the objective of preparing local Hispanic children for American

public school systems through preschool programs that were both bilingual and multicultural in nature. In 1976, El Primer Paso received a CETA Grant which allowed the program to become formalized with salaried workers and sessions. Since the formalization of El Primer Paso, an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program, a program for three-year-olds and a Family Childcare Program have been introduced in addition to the curriculums and sessions that the program also supports. El Primer Paso's efforts were awarded in 2009 as the program became one of the first in the nation to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

El Primer Paso's preschool program offers families a very affordable and beneficial preschool education for their children. Classes are taught in a bilingual format to children between the ages of three and five and are meant to foster language skills and build upon vocabulary for children in both English and Spanish. El Primer Paso follows the NJ Department of Education early childhood curriculum model, Creative Curriculum, which is a program that fosters positive social-emotional relationships, constructive play to support learning, and teacher-family partnerships inside and outside of the classrooms. The preschool program is offered on a full day and half day basis for children.

El Primer Paso also offers an "English-as-a-Second-Language" program which focuses on educating adults of all levels of English proficiency on appropriate English dialogue in the workplace and in social situations. This program enhances the individual's proficiency in English and builds upon their active English vocabulary. This program also examines cultural issues and empowers minorities to pursue their versions of the American dream. The Family Child Care program offered by El Primer Paso provides families connections to child care providers for low to mid-level income families.

El Primer Paso's core values of integrity, respect, early literacy and family involvement in education, acceptance of differences and community partnerships are truly admirable in today's increasingly globalized and cosmopolitan world. Such programs allow children from low income minority families to thrive in American public school systems and allow minority adults to transition smoother into adult life in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating El Primer Paso Ltd., its trustees, administrators and supporters as it celebrates its 45th Anniversary.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN DIAPER BANK ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many friends, supporters, and community leaders who have gathered this evening to celebrate

the 10th Anniversary of the New Haven Diaper Bank. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization—a decade of "change from the bottom up!"

A social worker by training, Joanne Goldblum spent much of her career working with impoverished families. It was during this time that she began to notice that many of the families she was working with simply went without basic toiletries like diapers and toilet paper. When one of her clients told her that these things were not covered by food stamps or any other assistance program, Joanne decided to take action. The New Haven Diaper Bank, an organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in the United States has an adequate supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy, was founded in 2004 with Joanne holding the first diaper distribution in her home. That year, the New Haven Diaper Bank provided nearly 5,000 to five flagship agencies and in just ten short years, the organization has grown tremendously, distributing 17,000,000 free diapers to families in need throughout the country through their nationally recognized Diaper Distribution Network.

True to Joanne's vision, the organization's mission is to raise awareness of diaper need and to build the capacity of diaper banks throughout the country by creating a national network of community partners. With 5.8 million babies in the United States three years or younger living in poor or low-income families, disposable diapers costing up to \$100 per month per baby, and most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities requiring parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers, the need is staggering.

Today, while Joanne is leading the National Diaper Bank Network, the New Haven Diaper Bank is currently led by another exceptional woman, Janet Alfano. Joanne and Janet have been relentless fighters for children in our state, and the good work they do could not be more important. I cannot thank them enough for helping to ease the burdens on low-income families, and giving every child an opportunity to thrive.

I am so proud to stand today to extend my very best wishes to Joanne, Janet, and the many friends and supporters of the New Haven Diaper Bank as they celebrate this very special occasion. Happy 10th Anniversary and all the best for many more years of continued success.

HONORING KATHY HECHT

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Hecht of Jackson, Missouri for her exemplary achievements and impact on the community.

In June 2005, Ms. Hecht bought Boothill Area Rapid Transportation (BART), a shuttle service that provides transportation to and from the St. Louis airport. She strategically manages 38 drivers as well as 5 full time and 2 part time employees. Furthermore, she offers free transportation to veterans taking

Honor Flight trips to express appreciation for their service.

Ms. Hecht has taken on prominent roles in the Missouri community. For instance, she became a member of the Chambers of Commerce in each of the regions BART does business in. She also joined the Advisory Board of Directors for the Bank of Missouri, the only woman serving on this board. However, the achievement she is most proud of was her decision to fold her 18 year-long career in education to open her own business in order to become more accessible to her family.

Kathy Hecht's service to the state of Missouri has been truly admirable and has benefited our community greatly. Her selfless decision to be a full time parent is also highly admired by her family and those closest to her. It is my pleasure to recognize her efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT CHAMBERLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOURCEAMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize E. Robert Chamberlin on the occasion of his retirement from SourceAmerica later this month. Located in my district, SourceAmerica is a national non-profit that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chamberlin led a network of more than 500 affiliated non-profit agencies that participate in the AbilityOne Program, which currently provides employment to more than 50,000 people in the United States who are blind or have other significant disabilities. I and more than 100 of my colleagues are proud to partner in these efforts as AbilityOne Congressional Champions.

Mr. Chamberlin joined SourceAmerica as Vice President of Operations in December 1999, following a career with the U.S. armed forces, and he was appointed CEO in January 2001. During his Navy career, he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and held key positions afloat, overseas, and ashore. Later as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served as the Department of Defense's representative on the AbilityOne Commission, the Federal agency which oversees the AbilityOne Program.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chamberlin has been tireless in his efforts to improve the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of individuals employed through the SourceAmerica network, Mr. Chamberlin has provided critical leadership on a number of new employment initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment, Pathways to Careers Internship Program, and the AbilityOne Design Challenge for assistive technology. In addition, he has helped to expand SourceAmerica's outreach to the private sector through new partnerships with large corporations and franchise organi-

zations. Those efforts are particularly important for preserving work opportunities given the current constraints on federal agency budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished military service and career accomplishments of Mr. E. Robert Chamberlin, and I want to personally commend him for his comment to safeguarding the rights and opportunities for all Americans.

HONORING ANNE CASTLE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER AND SCIENCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, ED PERLMUTTER, JARED POLIS, GEORGE MILLER, JIM COSTA, and JARED HUFFMAN, we rise today to recognize Anne Castle, who is departing after more than five years as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior. Anne has worked to protect our nation's water resources for her entire career, and we are grateful for her service.

It is appropriate that Anne hails from Colorado, where engraved in the State Capitol is the poem, "Here is a land where life is written in water." From the Front Range to the Western Slope, water has shaped the character of Coloradans and has no doubt influenced Anne's career.

Prior to joining Interior, Anne practiced law for 28 years in Denver, Colorado specializing in water rights law. She also served on several state water initiatives, including the South Platte River Basin Task Force, which she was appointed to by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter in 2007. Anne was twice appointed to the Colorado Groundwater Commission by former Colorado Governor Roy Romer and served from 1994 to 2002.

During her tenure at the Department of the Interior, Anne oversaw the creation and implementation of WaterSMART, spearheaded several hydropower initiatives, and played a key role in the recent successful launch of Landsat 8. She also worked to promote youth and STEM initiatives within the Department and mentored the next generation of water leaders.

Perhaps Anne's greatest contribution during her tenure as Assistant Secretary is in her leadership on Western water management. Anne was a key member of the team that Secretary Salazar brought to Interior to improve inter-agency cooperation on addressing complex interstate and international water management issues across the West. Anne has prioritized the need for the West to respond to historic drought—focusing on the changing and increasing risks facing water supplies. Most recently, Anne led implementation of Minute 319 to the 1944 Treaty with Mexico—a historic agreement that guides future management of the Colorado River through 2017.

As she leaves Interior, the coordination between the federal government, Indian Tribes, states, and other constituencies are at their highest levels on the Colorado River, even during this time of record drought. On a personal level, both career and political appointees have praised Anne's dedication, energy, intellect and professionalism. The West is better off today as a result of Anne's contributions.

We thank Anne, and her family, Frank, Chris, and Beth, for their service to the American people. We wish Anne the best as she returns home to the land where life is written in water.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ACHIEVEMENT WEEK OF THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Achievement Week of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Chapter was chartered on Saturday, January 24, 2004 with dedication to support the local humanitarian activities of its 29 founding members. The Chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Stafford County.

The 10th Anniversary of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter coincides with the national organization's 103rd Anniversary, which will occur November 17, 2014. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on the evening of Friday, November 17, 1911, by three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, with the assistance of their faculty adviser, Professor Ernest E. Just. Together they laid the foundation of an organization based on the core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. The fraternity name, Omega Psi Phi, was derived from the initials of the Greek phrase which translates to, "Friendship Is Essential To The Soul." For more than a century, the membership has upheld a strong tradition of fellowship and civic engagement.

Inspired by Carter G. Woodson at the 1920 Grand Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee, International Achievement Week is a mandated program of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. designed to promote the study of African American life and history. At this year's Annual Achievement Week Banquet, the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter honors the 2014 Achievement Week Award recipients. Men and women of the community are honored for their character and actions, as they support Omega Psi Phi's founding principles. I congratulate the following individuals and am pleased to enter their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Citizen of the Year: Mr. Mike Futrell, State Delegate, 52nd District, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Founders' Award: Brother Lee J. Bennett, Jr.

Colonel Charles Young Award: Major (Brother) Shawn Langford.

Superior Service Award: Brother Kenneth West.

Omega Man of the Year: Brother Tony B. Bullock.

Essay Contest Winners:

1st Place: Jourdan Boutte, Saint Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School.

2nd place: Desmond Gray, Forest Park High School.

3rd place: Kiara M. Walker, Patriot High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in conveying our appreciation for a decade of civic service by the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is organizations like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

A TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN P.
HICKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Jonathan P. Hicks, beloved brother, renowned lecturer, a distinguished scholar, an award-winning writer and journalist with more than 30 years of experience covering politics, business, industry and the role of people of color in the world of business. Simply put, Jonathan was a force of nature that is widely respected in literary and activist communities across the world and by people of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

For nearly 25 years, Jonathan worked for The New York Times, where he covered the politics of New York State and New York City. During that time, he developed a reputation as one of the foremost authorities on the inner workings of the political culture in New York City and New York State. He was a frequent guest on local radio and television news programs where he regularly offered political analysis and commentary. He was also the author of the Politics 5-B column for The Times' website. After leaving The Times, he worked as a senior fellow at the DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

Jonathan served as the host of Urban Focus, a weekly radio program that brings together politicians, policy makers, industry practitioners, scholars and expert analysts. Urban Focus explores a range of issues that affect under-served communities and communities of color from Crown Heights, Brooklyn, to Cape Town, South Africa. The discussions serve to both draw attention to problems and highlight solutions for issues of concern to these communities.

He was co-editor of the book, *From Disaster to Diversity: What's Next For New York City's Economy*. It is a collection of essays by a number of prominent New Yorkers, published by the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy. Before passing away, Jonathan was editing the book, *Black, Brown and Green: Ensuring A Role for People of Color In the Nation's Green Economy*. It is to be a collection of essays, published by the DuBois Bunche Center. Jonathan also served as the scriptwriter for "Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace," a documentary film which examines the behind-the-scenes events leading to the historic Camp David meeting between Egypt, Israel and the United States. The film was selected to open the 2009 Monte Carlo Television Festival.

Always willing to share his wealth of knowledge and experience, Jonathan was a guest lecturer at a number of colleges and universities, including the London School of Printing, Columbia University, Swarthmore College, Southern University and the University of Missouri. He has also been a member of the visiting faculty at the Maynard Institute Summer Program for Minority Journalists at the University of California at Berkeley and the Century Foundation's Century Institute Summer Program at Williams College. In addition, he was a recipient of The New York Times' Publishers Award and has also received the public service writing award from the New York Association of Black Journalists. Furthermore, he has received awards for excellence in journalism from the New York Chapter of the National Black MBA Association and from the Arizona Press Association. In 2009, Jonathan traveled to Liberia on a grant from the Ford Foundation to write articles and produce broadcasts about the redevelopment of the country following the 14-year civil war that ended in 2003. He was also charged with laying the groundwork for a training program for professional and aspiring journalists there. Upon his return, Jonathan and his wife, Christy DeBoe Hicks, launched the J. P. Hicks Family Mass Communications Scholarship, which seeks to support the next generation of journalists in Liberia. The scholarship provides assistance for aspiring journalists, covering cost of tuition, fees and books for a period of up to four semesters at the University of Liberia. It also provides for online, one-on-one mentorship with professional journalists. Furthermore, Jonathan was involved in a number of philanthropic issues. He served for four years as chairman of the Kappa Alpha Psi New York Foundation, a role in which he helped raise \$250,000 for scholarships for college-bound students in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life and career of a man who has devoted his life to promoting racial equality and the ideals this country was founded on. Jonathan P. Hicks remains a true American hero and quite simply a literary vanguard, and I suspect it will be a long wait before we ever see another of his kind.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DR. ALFRED JONES, JR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr. of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Triangle, Virginia.

Rev. Dr. Jones began service in the church at an early age under the tutelage of his parents, the Late Deaconess Isaline Jones and the Late Deacon Alfred Jones, Sr. Rev. Dr. Jones remained a faithful member of Mount Oni Baptist Church until he was called to the Gospel Ministry in 1963 at Ephesus Baptist Church located in West Point, Virginia. Four years later, Rev. Dr. Jones was called to worship at Third Mount Zion Baptist Church. In 1974, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Triangle, Virginia installed Rev. Dr. Jones as pastor to shepherd the 35 devout members of the congregation.

Since his installation, Rev. Dr. Jones has served an instrumental role in the growth of membership to over 2000 members and the development of five fundamental ministries: Evangelism, Inspired Arts, Christian Education, Discipleship Building and Family Life Principles. From these ministries, 37 subordinate ministries were established reaching into the lives of those beyond the church walls to provide financial support, clothing assistance, and food assistance to the global community.

Rev. Dr. Jones' extensive education heavily influences his outlook on ministry where serving the Lord, family, and education remain his three priorities. Rev. Dr. Jones' education includes various institutions of higher learning including but are not limited to Washington Bible College, Washington Baptist Seminary, and Virginia Union University of Theology.

In addition to his role as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church for the past four decades, Rev. Dr. Jones has served as Chaplain for Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center located in Woodbridge, Virginia and Chaplain for the Prince William County Police Department where he continues to serve to this day.

Under Rev. Dr. Jones' tireless leadership, Mount Zion Baptist Church continues to flourish and serve the community. Rev. Dr. Jones has cultivated a thriving ministry and continues the 138 year profound leadership tradition of the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr. May Rev. Dr. Jones' leadership and faith continue to shepherd the members of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, November 19, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANE BLACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WORLD TOILET DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today is World Toilet Day. The concept of a World Toilet Day can make children giggle, some adults blush, and others want to change the subject, but the title is designed to address this serious subject directly.

No one can afford to be squeamish, to make jokes, or change the subject about the fundamental issue of adequate sanitation because 2 and a half billion people live without it, causing about 700,000 premature deaths each year, and it is getting worse.

We have made some progress, but the number living without access has increased by 700 million people. There are now more people on Earth with a cell phone than a toilet.

The consequences of insufficient access to sanitation facilities and poor hygiene are severe. Countries where open defecation is more prevalent have found its way to the United States media recently, reporting on the horrific murder and rape of two young

girls that could have been prevented in India if they didn't need to sneak out into the night to relieve themselves in an open field, leaving them vulnerable to attack.

A heartbreaking study linked the root cause of India's malnutrition crisis to a lack of adequate sanitation. It found that many of the 162 million children under the age of 5 who are malnourished in India are suffering less from a lack of food and more from poor sanitation. Those children who do survive are left with mental and physical burdens for their entire lives.

The lack of adequate sanitation is a human economic drain. The total global economic loss associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation is estimated to be over a quarter trillion dollars every year.

This crisis that leaves women vulnerable, needlessly ends lives early, and undermines economic growth does have solutions. Today, at noon, I will join my colleagues on implementation of the Water for the Poor Act we passed earlier to ensure that WASH programming helps leverage the impact of development assistance. It also ensures that our water, sanitation, and hygiene programs are targeted to help the world's poorest, that they are more effective with long-term sustainable impacts.

This bipartisan legislation, with my friend TED POE, has well over 100 cosponsors and is scheduled for a markup in the House Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow.

This significant progress would not have even been possible without the leadership of Chairman ROYCE, and I thank him for it, along with the many advocates who have demonstrated why the United States must play a greater role to increase sustainable access to clean water and sanitation.

If passed out of committee, which I certainly hope it will, I would urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote immediately when we come back in session in December. That is because we cannot wait, and it is one of those rare bills we can all unite to get water, often dirty water, for their families. That is enough work hours to build 28 Empire State Buildings every day. This is time not spent working on income-generating jobs, caring for family members, or securing an education.

TED POE, a Republican, and I, a Democrat who represents Portlandia, don't often agree on a lot, but we are an example of how we can all come together because politics should stop at water.

GAS PRICES AND ENERGY PRODUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, according to the Energy Information Administration, today's national average price for retail gasoline is \$2.97. This is the lowest price in over a 4-year period beginning in October of 2010.

Gasoline prices have decreased by roughly 21 percent in the last 6 months alone. One of the most prevalent factors determining the price of gasoline at the pump is the international average of the cost of a barrel of crude oil.

Now, over the past week, the price of crude oil per barrel has hovered between \$77.15 and \$77.85. These are the lowest per-barrel prices since June of 2012, just over 2 years, a stark contrast to \$145 per barrel in May of 2008.

The Energy Information Administration has projected that gasoline prices at the pump will continue to decline in December to somewhere around \$2.80 a gallon and possibly even lower in 2015.

Additionally, U.S. natural gas prices are roughly \$4.24, as production continues to flourish. This is all welcome news for consumers, businesses, and the economy, from more affordable transportation to heating our homes, from the food we consume to American manufacturing having lower costs, therefore being more competitive globally. Lower energy costs are good for our economy overall.

Now, there are many factors as to why gasoline prices fluctuate. They include international market trends and geopolitical events, as well as weather and impacts upon refining capacity due to natural disasters.

While a downed economy has decreased annual demand for gasoline as the summer travel season comes to an end, the price decreases for gasoline can largely be attributed to an increase in domestic supply.

At any other time in our history, given today's world events, our gas prices would be pushing \$4 a gallon. Especially with the ongoing recession, American energy production has thankfully increased in recent years, and gas prices have decreased.

While some in Washington would like to credit the Federal Government with the increased supply, the truth is that the vast majority of this domestic production has occurred in spite of Federal actions, not because of them.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, better than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The great majority of the production has occurred on private and State-owned lands and has been the result of technological enhancements that have made shale gas and oil reserves more attainable.

Specifically, this increase in production stems from the combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Pennsylvania, for example, is currently third in State production of natural gas. The Commonwealth has produced 3.2 trillion cubic feet in 2013 alone.

Increased production has bolstered domestic energy supplies and directly led to historically low natural gas prices across the U.S. This comes on the heels of alltime high prices in 2008 of about \$12. Production in Pennsylvania has provided royalty payments to landowners, while contributing significant funds to counties.

Madam Speaker, private and State-owned lands have changed the face of energy production and affordability in our country. The Federal Government would stand to gain by following suit. This starts with opening up new areas of Federal lands, both onshore and offshore, for the production of our natural resources.

These resources belong to the people. There is no reason the administration should continue to play games with energy security. Over the last 4 years, the House has made a priority of moving legislation that would increase our domestic energy production supply.

Just this past September, the House passed H.R. 2, which was a combination of 13 energy-related bills, among them is the Keystone XL pipeline, increasing the amount of permitted onshore and offshore lands for development, along with streamlining cumbersome energy permitting regulations. The bill sets timelines for agencies' permitting decisions and would provide for more pipelines and liquefied natural gas exports.

Many of these actions can be taken by the executive branch, but the administration has not acted. As we have witnessed in recent years, through the development of private lands, increasing our domestic energy supplies and encouraging American production will have a positive impact on energy prices here at home.

Increased domestic energy production of oil and natural gas has eased the financial pain at the pump. This is also welcome as temperatures drop and the home heating season has begun.

The bottom line is the government can do much more to influence energy prices for American consumers. The time for the administration to act is long overdue.

THE EXTRAORDINARY COST OF ALZHEIMER'S

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I want today to talk about an illness that affects every American family. It is an illness that is devastating. It is Alzheimer's and related dementia. It is the most expensive illness in America today, and it will become even more expensive in the future.

Today, \$1 out of \$5 spent by Medicare is spent treating Alzheimer's, most expensive of all our illnesses. As we look to the future, we are going to find that this disease, Alzheimer's, is going to grow over \$1.5 trillion of costs by 2050, partly due to the baby boomers and their growth in the demography of this Nation, but also because of the extraordinary expense that this illness brings to us.

This is the power curve that we are looking at. If you are concerned about the deficit, you need to be concerned about Alzheimer's. If you are concerned about the American family, you need to be concerned about Alzheimer's.

Here is what we are looking at for what is the second biggest cost in the Federal budget, that is, Medicare and Medicaid. Here is the growth that we are looking over the period of the next 35 years, from some \$122 billion to over \$880 billion.

As you look at the Federal budget in the years ahead, as you look at Medicare, as you begin to think about the deficit that confronts this Nation, this is where you need to look because this is where the big expenditure is going to be made. It is going to be in Alzheimer's and related illnesses to it. This is it.

What can we do about this? We could sit and fuss and fume, we can take care of our seniors, or we can recognize the reality of what it means when we spend money on research, when we spend money on getting ahead of the illnesses. These are the major illnesses that confront America today.

You can take a look here. Breast cancer, there has been a decrease in mortality; prostate cancer, a decrease; heart disease, a 16 percent decrease; stroke, a 23 percent decrease; and of course, HIV/AIDS, an extraordinary 42 percent decrease in the deaths from these major illnesses.

Over here on the purple one on the right, Alzheimer's. Decrease? No. Increase? Sixty-eight percent increase from 2000 to 2010.

This is the reality of the most prevalent and most expensive and the most devastating disease that confronts Americans and really the rest of the world.

□ 1015

What can we do about it?

Let's take a look at this chart. Alzheimer's spending treatment versus research. Let's see. We are spending \$150

billion on the treatment. This is Medicare and Medicaid, and research, oh, way down here, \$566 million on research.

So if you want to drive the deficit to even greater depths, treat but don't do research. However, if you want to solve this problem, we know how to do it. In fact, we have done it many, many times.

If you take a look at cancer, we are spending \$5.418 billion on cancer research. Cancer deaths are down. HIV, we are spending \$2.978 billion on HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS deaths are down by 42 percent. Cardiovascular, \$2 billion. Cardiovascular deaths, strokes and heart disease down. Alzheimer's, \$566 million.

We know the answer. The question is whether we are willing to put our money where we can solve the most devastating, the most prevalent, and the most expensive of all illnesses.

Change this little purple, bring it back up perhaps to \$2 billion a year, as we do with HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular, and cancer. Spend the research money. We are close in many, many ways across this Nation with programs that are under way.

Here is the specific ask that I make to this Congress: not \$2 billion, but \$200 million additional money in the appropriations that we are doing today—\$200 million.

BRAIN HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work of the Center for Brain Health at the University of Texas at Dallas and its Brain Performance Institute. Not only do their programs and research benefit the public, they have a team that specifically focuses on serving Active Duty servicemembers, veterans, military spouses, and caregivers.

More than 2.5 million men and women have admirably worn the uniform to protect America's freedom since 9/11. Sadly, nearly 20 percent of them come back from Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD or major depression. More than 250,000 servicemembers have sustained a traumatic brain injury in the last decade.

This ring that I wear is a sobering reminder that 22 servicemembers or veterans commit suicide each and every day. Something has to be done to help these heroes battle their inner enemies, and that is where the Brain Health team comes in.

The Brain Health team is dedicated to creating public and private partnerships to not only eliminate the stigma often associated with PTSD or TBI, but to improve treatment and access to that treatment. This team is essentially retraining brains to build their resilience, regeneration, and reverse

losses in mental capacity, giving these men and women the opportunity to overcome the trauma of war and pursue a happy and healthy future.

The Center for Brain Health and Brain Performance has provided scientifically proven programs to more than 500 warriors in seven States, including my home State of Texas. The institute's service to our troops is outstanding. They are the perfect example of America's commitment to take care of our warriors and their families, and I am proud to recognize their good works.

In God we trust.

THE 43 MURDERED MEXICAN STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the massacre of 43 students in Mexico.

Edmund Burke said:

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

On September 26, students from a teacher training college visited Iguala, Mexico, to participate in a protest. According to media reports, the students were arrested by police forces and handed over to a criminal gang. Their burned bodies have reportedly been found discarded in a river.

As The Washington Post reported yesterday:

The demand to find the students and punish those responsible for their disappearance has broadened into a more diverse fury about corrupt politicians and their drug-trafficking cronies.

Mexican prosecutors have formally charged former Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca in the disappearance of the students. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. In the last several months, three constituent families of mine have been touched by murder in northern Mexico.

I again call on the United States State Department to ensure that the Mexican Government thoroughly investigates these atrocities and that those responsible be brought to justice and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The crises of human smuggling, drug smuggling, and illegal migration do not begin or end at the border. Resolving these matters requires that we address issues of economic development and cartel violence in Mexico and that we address the demand for narcotics in the United States, along with eliminating the presence of cartels in an estimated 1,000 U.S. cities.

The leaders of the State Department in Washington, D.C., need to understand that this is one of the most pressing foreign policy issues confronting our Nation. Otherwise, evil will indeed triumph.

INCREASE OF VIOLENT ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, a strong Israel means a strong United States, and a strong United States means a strong Israel. That is why I want to offer my condolences to the families of the Israelis murdered by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem yesterday.

The increase in these attacks is a grim reminder of the need for the United States—now, more than ever—to stand side by side in support of Israel and its right to defend itself and her citizens. I condemn these terror attacks, and I call on President Obama and leaders of other responsible nations to do the same and to hold Abu Mazen and the Palestinian leadership accountable for these actions.

We must recognize the importance of U.S.-Israel cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, but particularly our cooperation on security and defense issues.

In the past year, I have had the opportunity to not only see firsthand what our joint efforts have produced with the Iron Dome antimissile defense system, but also why this is such an important venture. Last August, I led a congressional delegation trip to Israel to discuss our bilateral relationship with Prime Minister Netanyahu and other top-ranking Israeli officials. The one thing that we heard repeatedly in almost every meeting was how thankful the Israelis were for the United States Congress' continued support for the Iron Dome and other defense missile systems and our belief in Israel's need to maintain its qualitative military edge over its enemies.

Iron Dome has become known for its accuracy after its remarkable performance in 2012, especially in November of that year during Operation Pillar of Defense, when Hamas terrorists fired thousands of rockets indiscriminately into Israeli civilian populations. The sheer numbers were astounding, and the rate of success is a testament to the U.S.-Israeli cooperation.

So when we arrived in Israel in August of 2013, less than a year after Pillar of Defense, one of the first things that Prime Minister Netanyahu said to us was:

Thank you for Iron Dome. It truly saved countless innocent Israeli lives.

We visited a deployed Iron Dome battery in northern Israel to see this remarkable piece of technology. We also met the incredible young men and women of the Israeli Defense Forces who operate the Iron Dome batteries. It was impressive and inspiring to see how well these young people handled the weight of such an incredible burden, but that is a testament to the Jewish people and to Israel.

The next time I witnessed firsthand the importance of Iron Dome was just this past summer, Madam Speaker. We were in Israel and in Jordan to get a better understanding of the situation in the Middle East. We had arrived in the region about 2 weeks after the news that Hamas had kidnapped three Israeli teens, Eyal, Naftali, and Gilad. We were in Israel the day that the heart-wrenching news came out that the bodies of these three young boys had been found riddled with bullets in the territories. It was an incredible moment of sadness, of loss, of despair for the entire nation, and we grieved with them when we attended the funeral of the three teenagers.

But Israel had no time to grieve over its loss of these three because Hamas had been engaged in rocket attacks against Israel that began when the three boys were abducted and murdered. Their intensity increased as the search began; and once Israel found the bodies, Hamas began firing rockets, hundreds of rockets into innocent Israeli civilian populations.

Amid the constant barrage of rockets and the continual blares of warning sirens, Iron Dome once again proved its worth and importance. It successfully shot down rocket after rocket aimed at the Israeli people over the course of the latest operation called Protective Edge.

The performance of Iron Dome, Madam Speaker, shows how great both Israeli and American technology and expertise are, and why it is vitally important that our two countries continue to work together on projects such as Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow, and many others.

Congress recognizes this fact, and that is why we continue to fund these major projects in a bipartisan manner, because we understand the threats that Israel faces and we understand the importance of Israel's right to defend herself to ensure her continued existence.

I authored and the House passed the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, which bestows upon Israel a unique status as a major strategic ally of the United States, and I hope that one day soon we will be able to pass this bill again in the new Congress and send it to the President for his signature.

HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF OF GEORGIA'S 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I don't know if this will be the last time I address this House, but I can think of no more appropriate subject for such an occasion than to honor those who have worked with me over the last 10 years serving the people of Georgia's 12th Congressional District.

Representing Georgia in the House of Representatives has been the honor of my life. I have met thousands of people, both in Georgia and Washington, I will count as friends and colleagues for the rest of my life.

But any Member of Congress can tell you that the key to a successful congressional office is to gather the best and brightest people to serve the people we represent. I am honored to have served with a staff who are known on Capitol Hill as among the hardest working and most effective.

My staff has worked under some very difficult circumstances, facing what many called insurmountable odds, and put in long hours to make sure the people of Georgia's 12th District had representation like they had never seen before. Thanks from this Congressman will never be enough, but my success in this position is because of their dedication to this office.

I would like to recognize the staff, some of whom have left, but many of whom are here until the end, who have made all this possible.

My chief of staff, Ashley Jones, has been the foundation of this operation. Ashley has been my most trusted adviser and assembled a team that has delivered such outstanding results over the last 10 years. Her loyalty, counsel, and friendship have meant the world to me, and she has been an invaluable asset to the 12th District.

Lynthia Ross Owens has served as my district director. Lynthia has been the most respected member of my staff in the district. For years, she has been my eyes and ears in Georgia when the congressional schedule has taken me away from the district.

Hill Thomas is by far the most knowledgeable legislative director on Capitol Hill. He has counseled me through numerous legislative wins and milestones in our time together, and folks in the 12th District know Hill as a tireless advocate on their behalf, and his service to them will never be forgotten.

These three are the foundation of one of the best staffs on Capitol Hill, but the rest of the 12th District staff deserves recognition, too.

My communications director for the last 3 years, Richard Carbo; Jonathan Arogeti, my senior legislative assistant; Jessie Andrews, our senior legislative correspondent and scheduler; Vanna Cure, who has served in the district and in Washington on a number of initiatives in our office; Asa Porter, our legislative correspondent; Francesca Amodeo, our staff assistant and intern; Demetrius McCoy, a dedicated advocate in the district on behalf of our veterans; Beverly Kay Herrington, who is dedicated to helping folks in the district get the benefits they are owed from the Federal Government; Troy Windham, who helped introduce us to many folks in the new-

est portions of the district and helped deal with the VA during a difficult time; Matthew Kleinsorge, a veteran himself and a loyal staffer to this district who has been my eyes and ears on all issues for veterans.

I would also like to thank those former staffers who have served over the years. They may have left the Barrow team, but they never went very far: Roman Levit, Brandon Webb, Peyton Bell, Jane Brodsky, Kristin Fulford, Luke Moses, Wes Devetger, Lauren Perry, Harper Lawson, Will Rooks, Aaron Schmidt, Mike Goodman, Chris Schepis, Chris Cashman, Doug Moore, Bennett Golder, Meredith Wise, Anne Scheer, Tharon Johnson, Vernisha Davis, Brandi Hebron, Kristie Gregory, Najhee Jackson, Kathryn Hyler, Anne Watson, Reggie Castleberry, Mike Little, Charles Renwick, David Bell, Adam Toledano, and Yvonne Davis.

Madam Speaker, it has been the honor of my life to have served alongside this team, and for all their hard work and dedication to me and to the people of Georgia's 12th District, I say thank you.

□ 1030

SURVIVORS VICTORY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, last month, in October, I had a young lady, Jessica Huber, and her father come to my Round Rock office and tell me a great story of survival.

I am introducing legislation on behalf of this 13-year-old, Jessica Huber of Leander, Texas, and all who have shown the real meaning of survival, and we have great examples every day in our armed services—who are serving in harm's way on our behalf—of their strong heart of survival.

In Jessica's case, on November 19, 2002, Jessica was nearly killed after her mother, while under the influence of prescription drugs and illegal drugs, ran a red light and crashed. Jessica's father experienced a parent's worst nightmare when doctors had given up hope that she would survive.

But those doctors didn't know Jessica.

Like all Texans, she didn't just give up. She underwent multiple blood transfusions and surgeries, and she endured painful rehab. There were many dark days for this brave young woman.

Despite the extraordinary odds against her—and all said the odds were against her—I am glad to report that Jessica is living a happy, healthy, and productive life in my district. Jessica's journey reminds us all of the indomitable nature of the human spirit and of our basic desires to persevere in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds and challenges.

My legislation recognizes November 19 as Survivors Victory Day and encourages all to honor the thousands who have been victims and, more importantly, survivors of traumatic crimes, illnesses, and misfortunes. I call on my colleagues to celebrate this survival and to support this important bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Living God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect so that the terrors of war and of dictatorial abuse will be no more.

Bless all the peacemakers of our world. May Your eternal spirit be with them and with us always.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult work they are given to do. Give them wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HONDA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November 20 as National Rural Health Day.

I was born and raised in a small town in Kansas. I understand firsthand that folks in rural communities deserve access to quality health care options. A growing challenge facing folks in many rural communities across the country is access to health care. For many rural communities, the presence of a critical access hospital could be the deciding factor in whether or not the next generation decides to raise their family in their hometown.

These communities are the backbone of America. Congress' commitment to ensuring rural communities have access to care has been strong over the years, but it must continue. I take to the floor today to reaffirm my personal, unwavering support.

HONORING TERRY ALLEN

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the Chicago community. Last week, we lost an advocate for the middle class, Terry Allen, when he lost his battle with cancer.

Serving for decades as a dedicated leader, he represented thousands of Chicagoland workers with great distinction. Terry embodied the heart of our city and strived to improve the lives of workers, even when his own health was failing. His contributions to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW Local 134, and middle class workers changed countless lives and will continue to do so in his memory.

Terry Allen was an inspiration to all who knew him. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy, celebrating his life, and remembering his illustrious contributions to the city of Chicago.

NO SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NAZIS ACT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Ways and

Means Subcommittee on Social Security, the committee of jurisdiction over who receives Social Security benefits, I am introducing, along with Ranking Member BECERRA and now 35 original cosponsors, the No Social Security for Nazis Act.

The world must never forget the 6 million Jews and other innocents murdered by the Holocaust. America has worked to prevent Nazis from entering the country and reaping the benefits of U.S. citizenship, including Social Security. However, due to a loophole, some Nazis who came to America continue to receive Social Security benefits. That is just plain wrong.

Our bipartisan bill would stop benefits from going to denaturalized Nazis. It also stops benefits from going to Nazis who renounce their citizenship as part of a settlement.

I thank Ranking Member BECERRA for working with me on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to act quickly and pass the No Social Security for Nazis Act.

AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet with my constituents in senior centers, farmers' markets, small businesses, and on factory floors to hear directly from them about their priorities.

They are worried about the enormous challenges facing our country, such as ISIS and the spread of Ebola, but most of all, they are worried about the future and the future of their families.

They spoke about the need to raise the minimum wage, invest in public safety, enact comprehensive immigration reform, strengthen public education, make college more affordable, and, most importantly, getting them back to work.

Now that the elections are over, we shouldn't waste a single day without getting to work on their priorities. Like me, I am sure many of my colleagues heard the same message about creating jobs, growing the economy, and rebuilding the middle class.

The American people want a Congress that gets things done and works for them instead of a Congress looking to score political points. While our economy has recovered, too many Americans feel left out of that recovery. So as we bring this Congress to an end and begin to prepare for the next Congress, we should all renew our commitment to the American people and remember whom we were sent here to serve.

HONORING HAROLD COKER

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend the Third District of Tennessee lost a beloved member of its community, Mr. Harold Coker.

As the first in his family to graduate from college, Harold displayed his unique ambition at a young age. In his late twenties, he started his own business, Coker Tire Company, in Athens, Tennessee. Thanks to Harold's hard work and dedication, Coker Tire expanded into Chattanooga and soon became the largest supplier of collector tires in the world.

Harold's involvement and leadership in his community was admired throughout the Nation. In fact, when the first of my colleagues, SAM GRAVES, the chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, visited the Third District, I took him directly to Coker Tire to show him one of Chattanooga's most prized businesses.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Harold and will miss his lively, ambitious spirit. My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Lil, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Harold's legacy in the automotive industry and Tennessee community will forever be remembered.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, across the country, many people will begin their holiday shopping just after Thanksgiving on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. But Small Business Saturday, November 29, gives us an opportunity to celebrate and support the locally owned shops in our communities.

Small businesses make our neighborhood great. They give our communities character and drive our local economy. I am proud to support our small businesses as a shopper and as a member of the Committee on Small Business here in Congress.

When we shop at a small business, almost half the money we spend stays in our community and supports local jobs.

So this holiday season, remember to shop small. It does big things for our community.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate rejected legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Meanwhile, the House has passed legislation to authorize building the pipeline nine times.

There is no good reason to continue to delay this project, which will create tens of thousands of jobs and has strong bipartisan support.

Keystone XL is the most studied pipeline in our Nation's history. Thousands of pages prove its worth to our economy and national interest and further document its safety. It will spur job creation, help us on our way to energy independence, and increase access to affordable North American oil.

For more than 6 years, supporters of the Keystone XL pipeline have been fighting to secure the necessary approval that would allow the U.S. to take advantage of vital oil production in Canada and the northern United States. It appears supporters will have to wait a little longer before the Senate finally acts in America's economic and energy interests.

HONORING BARNETT GRIER

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barnett Grier, who lived to be 99 years old and passed away last week.

The son of a slave, Mr. Grier grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was a physicist, a businessman, a teacher, and an author. But it was perhaps the title of civil rights activist for which he was best known.

In 1951, Mr. Grier published his autobiography, entitled, "Trek to Equality," which detailed his family's struggles in Riverside, California. When his family was transferred to our community to form the west coast division of the Naval Weapons Research Center, the African American families, including Mr. Grier's, did not receive assistance in their move.

He continued to work in Riverside and later founded the Habitat for Humanity, created a scholarship for local students, and established an advisory committee on African American students.

Barnett Grier affected the lives of countless residents in the Inland Empire. Because of his passion and his dedication to our community, his memory will undoubtedly live on.

A QUESTION OF FAIRNESS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is expected to sign executive orders soon regarding illegal immigration. In July 2011, he said, "I know some people want me to bypass Congress and change the laws on my own, but that's not how our system works. That's not how our democracy functions."

A year ago, President Obama said, "If, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we are also a nation of laws. That's part of our tradition. And what I'm proposing," he said then, "is the harder path, which is to use our democratic processes to achieve the same goal."

President Obama should reflect on his own words. He should follow the democratic process, as reflected in the recent election. A bedrock principle of our Nation is the rule of law. That principle promotes stability and fairness.

Will the President's actions promote stability or even more chaos? Will it be fair to American workers and immigrants who have done things the legal way?

Any immigration reform, Mr. Speaker, must be fair and must respect the rule of law.

TIME FOR A ROBUST DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Chamber to do its constitutional duty and debate a new authorization for use of military force.

Eight weeks ago, the House rushed through an amendment to the continuing resolution to authorize arming and training vetted Syrian rebels. But this is not something we should go into blindly. It is time that this Chamber has an informed, robust discussion and debate about the U.S. role in combating and dealing with ISIL and other extremists in Syria and Iraq.

Those 8 weeks that we went through, we have conducted nearly 800 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria and killed nearly 1,000 soldiers, terrorists, and civilians. We are quickly sliding back into combat in the Middle East. It may be necessary to send soldiers to the region to help repel the very real threats posed by ISIL and extremists.

But this is not something we should do and go into blindly. It is time for a robust debate.

□ 1215

IRANIAN TALKS THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the forceful warnings of South Carolina senior Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM about the President's negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

Senator GRAHAM has stated that the administration "needs to understand

that this Iranian regime cares more about trying to weaken America and push us out of the Middle East than cooperating with us. Until we recognize that reality and formulate a regional strategy to counter the Iranian regime's malign influence, we will continue to harm U.S. national security interests."

The Iranians have not earned the right to be trusted. Despite years of their misleading nuclear inspectors and ignoring international calls to suspend enrichment while developing ballistic missiles, incredibly, the administration continues to acquiesce to a dangerous deal.

Senator GRAHAM has been a Paul Revere—warning of regional threats, holding the President accountable for his national security mistakes. He promotes congressional approval on any deal reached with Iran. Together, sanctions should be promoted which will stop further nuclear blackmail and promote the safety of Israel and our regional allies.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take action to never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of carbon monoxide awareness.

Each year, 400 people in the United States die from carbon monoxide poisoning, making it the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the country. The real tragedy is that these deaths could be prevented through the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

In January 2009, western New York teenager Amanda Hansen tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of a defective boiler.

After Amanda's tragic death, her family created the Amanda Hansen Foundation, which aims to educate and promote the awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning and to help those who cannot afford it to obtain and install CO detectors. I join them in encouraging all Americans to prevent carbon monoxide-related tragedies by installing detectors in their homes.

It is for Amanda and for others who have unnecessarily died that I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4864, the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act. This legislation would help States and local governments implement education programs, develop training materials, and buy and install CO alarms in schools and homes.

MEDIA OPPOSE IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDERS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the editorial boards of several national publications have supported amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants.

It is a credit to their intellectual honesty that the media now admit that President Obama's threats to use executive orders to undercut immigration laws are wrong and contrary to his constitutional responsibilities.

For example, a Washington Post editorial commented:

"In Mr. Obama's own words, acting alone is 'not how our democracy functions.'"

The Wall Street Journal editorial board said:

"We support more liberal immigration but not Mr. Obama's means of doing it on his own whim because he's tired of working with Congress."

Even The New York Times admits "the President cannot rewrite immigration law."

But the media isn't alone. Public opinion polls show a strong majority of Americans disapprove of the President's issuing executive orders to grant amnesty. The President should listen to the American people, not to those who want him to violate his oath of office to uphold the Nation's laws.

HAWAII COUNTY LEADERS

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I have an active volcano with lava flowing directly toward a small town called Pahoa, in my district, so I want to take this opportunity to highlight two courageous leaders who have been at the heart of a very strong, resilient community which faces an uncertain future as the Kilauea lava flow continues slowly and steadily towards their homes, their businesses, and their community.

Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi and Hawaii County Civil Defense Administrator Darryl Oliveira have shown incredible leadership, not only in response to this but also in response to Hurricane Iselle and Tropical Storm Ana and, now, to the nearly 5 months of managing the slowly creeping lava flow threatening Pahoa. All three of these natural disasters have been punishing for this community of Puna, whose residents continue to unite and show optimism even with this uncertain future.

Billy and Darryl's tireless work and strong leadership have kept people safe, informed, and prepared even as Mother Nature, through Madame Pele, runs her course.

Mahalo to Mayor Kenoi and Chief Oliveira. We stand ready as your partners to support the community we all serve, and we are grateful for your unwavering commitment to them.

IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE MICHAEL DAVIS, JR.

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in memory and honor of Placer County Sheriff's Detective Michael Davis, Jr., a peace officer, brother, husband, father, son, and hero.

A resident of Roseville and a graduate of my alma mater, Butte College, Michael dedicated his life to public safety.

Having first come to the Placer County Sheriff's Office as a reserve deputy in 1996, Michael was hired as a police officer with the Auburn Police Department, and in 1999, he began working for the department in many capacities, including as an impact weapons instructor, an emergency driving instructor, an adviser to the youth Explorer Program, and as a homicide detective for the past 10 years.

Recently, on October 24 of this year, during a horrific crime spree, Michael Davis, Jr., was one of two northern California sheriff's deputies, including Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver, who lost their lives in the line of duty. As a detective, he may not have normally been on this type of call, but he answered the call during this crime spree when a twice-deported criminal was running and gunning all up through two different counties.

Michael died while protecting his community, and, indeed, he helped stop this crime spree. It is a tragic loss felt deeply by many in the community, including by myself, with the sadness that it brings for all. He was protecting the people of Placer County in that line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in recognition and honor of Detective Michael Davis for all of his service to our community, and I stand beside his family, including his wife, Jessica, and their four children in their time of sorrow and profound personal loss.

God give them strength, healing, and peace.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to a close and as the 114th begins, I am hopeful that we can come together at some time to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Unfortunately, time and time again, House leadership has consistently denied a vote on the bipartisan, Senate-passed reform legislation while not even presenting an alternative measure of its own. The Senate-passed plan pro-

vides a legal, stable workforce for agriculture and critical protections for those who work to put safe, healthy foods on our Nation's dinner tables. Each day that our immigration system remains broken jobs are lost and our economy struggles.

It is unacceptable to put political interests above our national interests. The time to address immigration reform is now. The President's action, mind you, is because this House—its leadership—has chosen not to act.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge National Rural Health Day, which is tomorrow, November 20.

The Third District of Nebraska contains over 50 Critical Access Hospitals. Rural hospitals are vital to rural areas. These facilities provide crucial care to some of our most elderly and vulnerable populations.

Recent reports have stated these facilities are facing a disproportionate rate in closures. This year alone, 43 rural hospitals have closed nationwide. Because of ObamaCare, we are seeing the beginning of deep cuts to Medicare beneficiaries, which is a major patient population for these rural facilities.

Rural hospitals are also having to deal with arbitrary regulations, such as physician supervision and a 96-hour pre-certification rule. These facilities simply do not have the power to abide by these regulations while continuing to provide affordable and efficient health care.

I will continue to fight to ensure our rural communities maintain access to quality care, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize National Rural Health Day.

HONORING UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 81

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union School District 81—a single school district in Joliet, Illinois—for winning an Award of Merit from the Illinois State Board of Education for outstanding improvement and effort.

This district has undergone a transformation that would have seemed impossible 2 years ago. Since then, in addition to a renewed focus on academics, the school has built its first playground, provided computers for all students in the third through eighth grades, and added 18 days of school for students, all while improving its financial rating. The teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and students of

Union School District 81 deserve this commendation for their hard work and for their dedication.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of Superintendent Tim Baldermann for his dedication to providing a top-quality education for all of his students. I congratulate them on their important achievement.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge President Obama to take executive action on immigration.

I would have loved to have been here today to celebrate the passage of comprehensive immigration reform in this House, but this House has refused to hold a single vote.

Fifteen months ago, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill in a bipartisan manner. This bill would have addressed many of the practices with our immigration policies that are simply unsustainable and contrary to our values.

By the end of today, about 1,000 people will have been removed from this country and from their families. Because of this, I call on President Obama to take bold and meaningful action on immigration. This action will inevitably provide a boost to our national and local economies while helping to promote strong communities and family unity.

The President can act within his legal authority—just like President Ronald Reagan did exactly on this issue—to ensure that thousands of mothers and fathers are no longer separated from their children. The President must act and act boldly now.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, every November, we celebrate National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day to help build awareness of the many children in foster care who are waiting to find permanent, loving families.

Sadly, more than 100,000 children are currently waiting for permanent families and have waited for years in foster care. Every year, dozens age out of the system without ever finding a permanent home. As an adoption attorney for 25 years, I know firsthand how important it is to adopt and provide a stable environment for children. Every child deserves loving parents, and adoption is a great way to unite a child who needs a home with a loving family.

Yesterday, I was proud that the New Hampshire bureau of Community and

Family Support Services celebrated National Adoption Day with families and community leaders to share positive adoption stories and to draw attention to children in New Hampshire who are waiting to find permanent, loving homes.

The families that we are celebrating on National Adoption Day and in National Adoption Month are true heroes. They are opening their hearts and are embarking on the ultimate journey of love and commitment. As a member of both the bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption and Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I will continue to work with my colleagues to help create a better foundation for these precious children to thrive, grow, and flourish into independent and successful adults.

□ 1230

NO SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NAZIS ACT

(Mr. BECERRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today, 160 million Americans pay into Social Security every day that they work, and as a result, they know that they and their families will be protected if they die, become disabled, or retire.

For most of the 58 million Americans who currently receive Social Security, a Social Security benefit check is their most important source of income. We recently learned that some Nazi war criminals and collaborators slipped through a loophole in our law and are in fact receiving these very same Social Security benefits.

I am pleased to join with my dear friend and colleague from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, to introduce the No Social Security for Nazis Act, which tightly closes this very loophole.

As the chairman and the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. JOHNSON and I have the responsibility to safeguard Social Security, and I believe this bill is the right way to do that.

Like past Congresses, we believe that there is no place for the Holocaust perpetrators in the United States of America, and if there is no place for them in our country, then there is certainly no place for them in our crown jewel, Social Security.

I hope we can move quickly to enact this legislation before Social Security is required to pay another dime to a Nazi war criminal.

I thank Chairman JOHNSON for his tireless work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join Chairman JOHNSON and me in sponsoring the No Social Security for Nazis Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5448) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76r) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H)—

“(1) \$22,200,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(3) \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(4) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

“(5) \$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

“(b) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1)—

“(1) \$12,200,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(3) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(4) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

“(5) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5448.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I bring up a bill which is a simple reauthorization bill, and I am very pleased

to be here actually on behalf of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), and we wish him well. He has had some medical issues. He chairs the Subcommittee on Transportation.

He actually has a cosponsorship with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON), who you will be hearing from in a minute, but this is a bill to reauthorize the capital repair and maintenance programs at the Kennedy Center.

In 2012, I helped introduce and Congress passed the last reauthorization for the Kennedy Center, and I want to thank again the current leader of the Transportation Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), for his leadership on this issue and for also moving this legislation forward, and as I said, Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. CARSON from Indiana have also taken the lead on this measure.

The building, of course, is a national monument. It is our national cultural center. In fact, it is owned and maintained by the Federal Government, and it is a memorial to the late John F. Kennedy.

Now, I want to cite in the RECORD, to let folks know this because most people don't know this, that the idea that came forth for the Kennedy Center was not so much by President Kennedy, but it was the foresight and vision of President Eisenhower. President Eisenhower actually proposed a national cultural center when he was President.

When they renovated the Eisenhower Theater several years ago, some of the Eisenhower family was there, and they actually showed clips of President Eisenhower proposing a national cultural center, so it was his idea and his vision.

It was named for our slain and great President Kennedy, but the vision for the national cultural center again came from Dwight David Eisenhower, our President. I actually saw an old film of him describing his vision for what we have.

The other thing I wanted to say is, since we built the Kennedy Center—and this is a reauthorization. Some several years ago, I had the opportunity to introduce legislation for the first real expansion, which I understand is now underway, the plans and some of the preliminary design.

When they built the Kennedy Center, it was a performing arts center, but it never had an educational component. It never had the space that they need. So of all the legislation I have participated in, I couldn't be more proud than helping to author the first expansion since we constructed that building.

This measure, however, is a reauthorization for some of their operations and their capital repairs which is part of our responsibility as the Federal Government, so capital programs are critical.

I might say that in the expansion there is no Federal public money, that

it is all money that is raised privately. It is also important that we pass this legislation because it provides effective and efficient building operations for the next 5 years.

The amounts authorized in the legislation will help address building inefficiencies that we currently have. It will assure that the building can continue to operate cost-effectively and will also reduce costs for the taxpayers, so those are some of the points that I would like to make.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very esteemed colleague from Florida, Chairman MICA.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5448, which reauthorizes the Kennedy Center through fiscal year 2019 for operations, repairs, and capital projects. The authorization levels in this bill are derived from the Kennedy Center's 2014 comprehensive building plan and are supported by the Kennedy Center.

The Kennedy Center is, first and foremost, a Presidential memorial. We have a responsibility to fund its maintenance, consistent with the dignity of a memorial to the 35th President of the United States of America.

Now, I strongly believe, Mr. Speaker, that allocating funding for proactive maintenance and repairs is in the best interest of our taxpayers. The Kennedy Center is one of the Nation's busiest arts facilities. It presents more than 2,000 performances annually and hosts thousands of theatergoers, visitors, and tourists.

To Chairman MICA's point, the Kennedy Center also provides educational programs for teachers and students from prekindergarten through college across the U.S. This includes a variety of events and activities across the great Hoosier State of Indiana.

These programs are supported by performance fees and donations and include professional development for arts, teachers, specially-designed concerts, phenomenal training programs for talented young musicians, and other outreach projects.

The Kennedy Center is providing tremendous value to taxpayers through educational opportunities and performances, promoting their mission of being a national cultural center.

President Kennedy once said, "After the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we will be remembered not for our victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contributions to the human spirit."

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the John F. Kennedy Reauthorization Act of 2014,

so we can continue this phenomenal work.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MICA. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join us in the approval of a bipartisan piece of legislation that again authorizes the capital repair costs and maintenance for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5448.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STELA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5728) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5728

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. No additional appropriations authorized.

TITLE I—COMMUNICATIONS PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Extension of authority.

Sec. 102. Modification of television markets to further consumer access to relevant television programming.

Sec. 103. Consumer protections in retransmission consent.

Sec. 104. Delayed application of JSA attribution rule.

Sec. 105. Deletion or repositioning of stations during certain periods.

Sec. 106. Repeal of integration ban.

Sec. 107. Report on communications implications of statutory licensing modifications.

Sec. 108. Local network channel broadcast reports.

Sec. 109. Report on designated market areas.

Sec. 110. Update to cable rates report.

Sec. 111. Administrative reforms to effective competition petitions.

Sec. 112. Definitions.

TITLE II—COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Reauthorization.

Sec. 202. Termination of license.

Sec. 203. Local service area of a primary transmitter.

Sec. 204. Market determinations.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY

Sec. 301. Severability.

SEC. 2. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, or the amendments made by this Act. This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

TITLE I—COMMUNICATIONS PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2019”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “January 1, 2015” each place it appears and inserting “January 1, 2020”.

SEC. 102. MODIFICATION OF TELEVISION MARKETS TO FURTHER CONSUMER ACCESS TO RELEVANT TELEVISION PROGRAMMING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 338 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) MARKET DETERMINATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Following a written request, the Commission may, with respect to a particular commercial television broadcast station, include additional communities within its local market or exclude communities from such station’s local market to better effectuate the purposes of this section.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering requests filed under paragraph (1), the Commission—

“(A) may determine that particular communities are part of more than one local market; and

“(B) shall afford particular attention to the value of localism by taking into account such factors as—

“(i) whether the station, or other stations located in the same area—

“(I) have been historically carried on the cable system or systems within such community; or

“(II) have been historically carried on the satellite carrier or carriers serving such community;

“(ii) whether the television station provides coverage or other local service to such community;

“(iii) whether modifying the local market of the television station would promote consumers’ access to television broadcast station signals that originate in their State of residence;

“(iv) whether any other television station that is eligible to be carried by a satellite carrier in such community in fulfillment of the requirements of this section provides news coverage of issues of concern to such community or provides carriage or coverage of sporting and other events of interest to the community; and

“(v) evidence of viewing patterns in households that subscribe and do not subscribe to the services offered by multichannel video programming distributors within the areas served by such multichannel video programming distributors in such community.

“(3) CARRIAGE OF SIGNALS.—

“(A) CARRIAGE OBLIGATION.—A market determination under this subsection shall not create additional carriage obligations for a satellite carrier if it is not technically and

economically feasible for such carrier to accomplish such carriage by means of its satellites in operation at the time of the determination.

“(B) DELETION OF SIGNALS.—A satellite carrier shall not delete from carriage the signal of a commercial television broadcast station during the pendency of any proceeding under this subsection.

“(4) DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date that a written request is filed under paragraph (1), the Commission shall grant or deny the request.

“(5) NO EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE DISTANT SIGNALS.—No modification of a commercial television broadcast station’s local market pursuant to this subsection shall have any effect on the eligibility of households in the community affected by such modification to receive distant signals pursuant to section 339, notwithstanding subsection (h)(1) of this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 614(h)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 534(h)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “community” and inserting “community or on the satellite carrier or carriers serving such community”;;

(B) by redesignating subclauses (III) and (IV) as subclauses (IV) and (V), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

“(III) whether modifying the market of the television station would promote consumers’ access to television broadcast station signals that originate in their State of residence;”; and

(D) by amending subclause (V), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(V) evidence of viewing patterns in households that subscribe and do not subscribe to the services offered by multichannel video programming distributors within the areas served by such multichannel video programming distributors in such community.”; and

(2) by moving the margin of clause (iv) 2 ems to the left.

(c) MARKET MODIFICATION PROCESS.—The Commission shall make information available to consumers on its website that explains the market modification process, including—

(1) who may petition to include additional communities within, or exclude communities from, a—

(A) local market (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code); or

(B) television market (as determined under section 614(h)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 534(h)(1)(C))); and

(2) the factors that the Commission takes into account when responding to a petition described in paragraph (1).

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement this section and the amendments made by this section.

(2) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.—As part of the rulemaking required by paragraph (1), the Commission shall ensure that procedures for the filing and consideration of a written request under sections 338(l) and 614(h)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338(l); 534(h)(1)(C)) fully effectuate the purposes of the amendments made by this section, and update what it considers to be a community for purposes of a modification of a market under section 338(l) or 614(h)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934.

SEC. 103. CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN RETRANSMISSION CONSENT.

(a) JOINT RETRANSMISSION CONSENT NEGOTIATIONS.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) prohibit a television broadcast station from coordinating negotiations or negotiating on a joint basis with another television broadcast station in the same local market (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) to grant retransmission consent under this section to a multichannel video programming distributor, unless such stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted under the regulations of the Commission; and”.

(b) PROTECTIONS FOR SIGNIFICANTLY VIEWED AND OTHER TELEVISION SIGNALS.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(v) prohibit a television broadcast station from limiting the ability of a multichannel video programming distributor to carry into the local market (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) of such station a television signal that has been deemed significantly viewed, within the meaning of section 76.54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, or any other television broadcast signal such distributor is authorized to carry under section 338, 339, 340, or 614 of this Act, unless such stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted by the Commission.”.

(c) GOOD FAITH.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall commence a rulemaking to review its totality of the circumstances test for good faith negotiations under clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)).

(d) MARGIN CORRECTIONS.—Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(C), by moving the margin of clause (iii) 4 ems to the left; and

(2) by moving the margin of paragraph (7) 2 ems to the left.

(e) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 104. DELAYED APPLICATION OF JSA ATTRIBUTION RULE.

A party to a joint sales agreement (as defined in Note 2(k) to section 73.3555 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) that is in effect on the effective date of the amendment to Note 2(k)(2) to such section made by the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Report and Order adopted by the Commission on March 31, 2014 (FCC 14-28), shall not be considered to be in violation of the ownership limitations of such section by reason of the application of the rule in such Note 2(k)(2) (as so amended) to such agreement before the date that is 6 months after the end of the period specified by the Commission in such Report and Order for such a party to come into compliance with such ownership limitations.

SEC. 105. DELETION OR REPOSITIONING OF STATIONS DURING CERTAIN PERIODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 614(b)(9) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.

534(b)(9)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) **REVISION OF RULES.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall revise section 76.1601 of its rules (47 C.F.R. 76.1601) and any note to such section by removing the prohibition against deletion or repositioning of a local commercial television station during a period in which major television ratings services measure the size of audiences of local television stations.

SEC. 106. REPEAL OF INTEGRATION BAN.

(a) **TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.**—The second sentence of section 76.1204(a)(1) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, terminates effective on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **REMOVAL FROM RULES.**—Not later than 545 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall complete all actions necessary to remove the sentence described in subsection (a) from its rules.

(c) **PRESERVATION OF WAIVERS.**—Any waiver of section 76.1204(a)(1) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act or granted after such date shall be extended through December 31, 2015.

(d) WORKING GROUP.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Commission shall establish a working group of technical experts representing a wide range of stakeholders, to identify, report, and recommend performance objectives, technical capabilities, and technical standards of a not unduly burdensome, uniform, and technology- and platform-neutral software-based downloadable security system designed to promote the competitive availability of navigation devices in furtherance of section 629 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 549).

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall file a report with the Commission on its work under paragraph (1).

(3) **COMMISSION ASSISTANCE.**—The Chairman of the Commission may appoint a member of the Commission's staff—

(A) to moderate and direct the work of the working group under this subsection; and

(B) to provide technical assistance to members of the working group, as appropriate.

(4) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The initial meeting of the working group shall take place not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 107. REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS OF STATUTORY LICENSING MODIFICATIONS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that analyzes and evaluates the changes to the carriage requirements currently imposed on multichannel video programming distributors under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated by the Commission that would be required or beneficial to consumers, and such other matters as the Comptroller General considers appropriate, if Congress implemented a phase-out of the current statutory licensing requirements set forth under sections 111, 119, and 122 of title 17, United States Code. Among other things, the study shall consider the impact such a phase-out and related changes to carriage requirements would have on consumer prices and access to programming.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations for legislative or administrative actions. Such report shall also include a discussion of any differences between such results and the results of the study conducted under section 303 of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 1255).

SEC. 108. LOCAL NETWORK CHANNEL BROADCAST REPORTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the 270th day after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on each succeeding anniversary of such 270th day, each satellite carrier shall submit an annual report to the Commission setting forth—

(A) each local market in which it—

(i) retransmits signals of 1 or more television broadcast stations with a community of license in that market;

(ii) has commenced providing such signals in the preceding 1-year period; and

(iii) has ceased to provide such signals in the preceding 1-year period; and

(B) detailed information regarding the use and potential use of satellite capacity for the retransmission of local signals in each local market.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—The requirement under paragraph (1) shall cease after each satellite carrier has submitted 5 reports under such paragraph.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “local market” and “satellite carrier” have the meaning given such terms in section 339(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 339(d)); and

(2) the term “television broadcast station” has the meaning given such term in section 325(b)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(7)).

SEC. 109. REPORT ON DESIGNATED MARKET AREAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(1) an analysis of—

(A) the extent to which consumers in each local market have access to broadcast programming from television broadcast stations located outside their local market, including through carriage by cable operators and satellite carriers of signals that are significantly viewed (within the meaning of section 340 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 340)); and

(B) whether there are technologically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of designated market areas to define markets that would provide consumers with more programming options and the potential impact such alternatives could have on localism and on broadcast television locally, regionally, and nationally; and

(2) recommendations on how to foster increased localism in counties served by out-of-State designated market areas.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOSTERING INCREASED LOCALISM.**—In making recommendations under subsection (a)(2), the Commission shall consider—

(1) the impact that designated market areas that cross State lines have on access to local programming;

(2) the impact that designated market areas have on local programming in rural areas; and

(3) the state of local programming in States served exclusively by out-of-State designated market areas.

SEC. 110. UPDATE TO CABLE RATES REPORT.

Section 623(k) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(k)) is amended to read as follows:

“(k) **REPORTS ON AVERAGE PRICES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall annually publish statistical reports on the average rates for basic cable service and other cable programming, and for converter boxes, remote control units, and other equipment of cable systems that the Commission has found are subject to effective competition under subsection (a)(2) compared with cable systems that the Commission has found are not subject to such effective competition.

“(2) **INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall include in its report under paragraph (1) the aggregate average total amount paid by cable systems in compensation under section 325.

“(B) **FORM.**—The Commission shall publish information under this paragraph in a manner substantially similar to the way other comparable information is published in such report.”.

SEC. 111. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS TO EFFECTIVE COMPETITION PETITIONS.

Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) **STREAMLINED PETITION PROCESS FOR SMALL CABLE OPERATORS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking to establish a streamlined process for filing of an effective competition petition pursuant to this section for small cable operators, particularly those who serve primarily rural areas.

“(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to have any effect on the duty of a small cable operator to prove the existence of effective competition under this section.

“(3) **DEFINITION OF SMALL CABLE OPERATOR.**—In this subsection, the term ‘small cable operator’ has the meaning given the term in subsection (m)(2).”.

SEC. 112. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

TITLE II—COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. REAUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(d)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “clause” and inserting “paragraph”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “clause” and inserting “paragraph”; and

(2) in section 119—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)(E), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”; and

(B) in subsection (e), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 202. TERMINATION OF LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 of title 17, United States Code, as amended in section 201, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) TERMINATION OF LICENSE.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2019.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (17 U.S.C. 119 note) is repealed.

SEC. 203. LOCAL SERVICE AREA OF A PRIMARY TRANSMITTER.

Section 111(f)(4) of title 17, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence—

(1) by inserting “as defined by the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission,” after “television station,”;

(2) by striking “comprises the area within 35 miles of the transmitter site, except that” and inserting “comprises the designated market area, as defined in section 122(j)(2)(C), that encompasses the community of license of such station and any community that is located outside such designated market area that is either wholly or partially within 35 miles of the transmitter site or,”; and

(3) by striking “the number of miles shall be 20 miles” and inserting “wholly or partially within 20 miles of such transmitter site”.

SEC. 204. MARKET DETERMINATIONS.

Section 122(j)(2) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by moving the margins of subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) 2 ems to the left; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) MARKET DETERMINATIONS.—The local market of a commercial television broadcast station may be modified by the Federal Communications Commission in accordance with section 338(l) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338).”.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY**SEC. 301. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the bill into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer yet another outstanding example of bipartisanship and thoughtful policy-

making from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The STELA Reauthorization Act is an important piece of legislation that ensures that millions of satellite TV subscribers continue to receive broadcast TV programming from their chosen satellite provider.

We have reached across party lines and across the two houses of Congress to craft a compromise for this must-pass legislation that will improve the video marketplace for TV viewers across the country.

In addition to reauthorizing the distant signals offered by satellite providers, we were able to include targeted reforms that in fact will enhance the video marketplace and allow consumers to access the programming that they want when they want it.

These reforms are prime examples of the kinds of deregulatory changes that we are looking at as we work to replace the 80-year-old Communications Act. They are going to spur investment in communications networks, promote competition, and, yes, create needed American jobs.

For example, the bill eliminates the costly CableCARD integration ban that has increased the cost of cable-leased set-top boxes and makes them less energy efficient. Ultimately, this is a double whammy for consumers because, after being forced to pay for an unnecessary and antiquated technology, consumers then have to pay a penalty in the form of higher electric bills.

Although we eliminated the whole mandate in our original bill that we passed through our committee, we worked with our Senate colleagues and agreed to sunset the provision in 1 year.

This will provide time for the FCC to hold a working group on successor solutions to CableCARD without unduly delaying the benefits to consumers who choose to lease equipment from their cable provider.

The bill also evens the playing field for all video providers. It seeks regulatory parity for cable and satellite providers when it comes to protecting broadcast signals during Nielsen sweeps. It also provides satellite operators and broadcasters with the opportunity to modify local markets, like cable operators already have the ability to do.

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We hope that in our updated Communications Act that we can find additional ways to eliminate regulatory differences that no longer serve a meaningful, technical purpose or that distort business and consumer incentives.

The bill provides other positive, bipartisan reforms, and it is our intent that as we update the Communications Act in the coming Congress that it con-

tinue along that very same path. That being said, the matter before us is the reauthorization of these provisions for the millions of satellite viewer subscribers that depend on them. The clock is ticking, and the bill will ensure when folks flip on their TVs, yes, their favorite show will be available when they want to watch it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for the bill as this Congress is quickly drawing to a close.

I particularly want to thank Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chair GREG WALDEN, Ranking Members HENRY WAXMAN and ANNA ESHOO, and Judiciary Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, as well as our respective staffs for their bipartisan and hard work on this very important legislation. I also want to thank our Senate colleagues JAY ROCKEFELLER and JOHN THUNE for their willingness to work with us to find common ground.

I am proud of our committee's record of bipartisan results. As we work toward the Communications Act update next year to modernize our Nation's communication laws for the innovation era, continued cooperation will be critical to that success. Without this bill, without this reauthorization being moved forward, satellite viewers—millions of Americans—will have those sets turned off. It is important that we reauthorize this bill, and I am pleased to do so in a very bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5728, the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization. This is the continuation of our bipartisan efforts this year to ensure that 1.5 million satellite subscribers don't lose access to broadcast programming when the current satellite television law expires at the end of this year and to make some targeted reforms to the video marketplace. The bill before us today represents a compromise with our colleagues from the Senate, and I look forward to working with them to quickly see it passed into law.

In July, the House passed H.R. 4572, to reauthorize the expiring communications and copyright law that allows households across America, but especially those in rural areas, access to broadcast content. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee on which I serve was able to come to agreement on several key reforms to our video laws to benefit the TV-watching public.

H.R. 5728 maintains these bipartisan provisions from the bill we adopted in July, in particular addressing the abuses in the retransmission consent process. The bill prevents two non-commonly owned broadcasters from colluding to jointly negotiate for retransmission consent.

The Energy and Commerce Committee heard extensive testimony about how this practice drives up prices for consumers and potentially threatens access to local broadcast content. I also want to emphasize that this language does not permit broadcast stations that are deemed “commonly owned” as a result of the joint sales agreement to negotiate jointly for retransmission consent.

Our colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee proposed additional pro-consumer reforms, and I am pleased that we were able to include those in H.R. 5728. Mr. Speaker, these provisions include an FCC rulemaking to assess the standard for determining whether parties are negotiating in good faith for retransmission consent, a prohibition on broadcasters preventing significantly viewed signals from being carried in local markets, and greater transparency for consumers by including retransmission consent payments in the FCC’s report on cable rates.

H.R. 5728 also makes further changes to the provisions that were heavily debated in the House during consideration of H.R. 4572. The bill now extends by 6 months the deadline for broadcasters to unwind certain joint sales agreements, a rule which the FCC tightened earlier this year to address concerns that broadcaster coordination in local markets were undermining localism, competition, and diversity.

Finally, H.R. 5728 reflects further compromise on the FCC’s cable set-top box rules. The FCC’s integration ban—the rule written to promote competition in the cable set-top box market—will sunset in 1 year. This well-intentioned rule has not resulted in the kind of competition Congress envisioned and has actually caused significant energy inefficiencies in cable set-top boxes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are including an idea from our Senate colleagues to create a working group that is charged with identifying a successor solution. I support further efforts to promote competition in the set-top box market and look forward to engaging with the working group and the FCC on this issue.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN, and on the Senate side, Chairman ROCKEFELLER and Ranking Member THUNE, also our ranking members on our side of the aisle, Ranking Members WAXMAN and ESHOO, and other Democrats on our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the distinguished chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, last July the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act, by unanimous vote. Today, after extensive consultation with our colleagues in the Senate, we are offering a second version of STELA’s reauthorization, which will extend the copyright and retransmission consent provisions for distant signals retransmitted by commercial satellite providers for 5 years. Now, if we don’t act to extend these provisions by the end of this Congress, there will be 1.5 million subscribers to satellite television, including many in my home State of Oregon, that just won’t have access to broadcast network programming come New Year’s Day.

This bill represents the best of how Congress can work together and get things done. Today’s version of STELAR is a compromise bill that incorporates the previously passed provisions—these were passed unanimously by the House earlier this year—with the provisions that passed by voice vote out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Now, by coming together to produce legislation with strong, bipartisan, bicameral support, we have demonstrated our clear commitment to the continued availability of broadcast programming to millions of subscribers and to some targeted and, in some cases, much-needed reforms to our communications laws.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, this bill sets a date for the sunset of the FCC’s integration ban on cable-leased set-top boxes. That clears the way for innovation and new investment by lifting an unnecessary regulatory burden that has cost the cable industry and its consumers \$1 billion. One billion dollars, Mr. Speaker, since 2007 it has cost.

I especially want to thank Vice Chairman BOB LATTA, who is right here, and my Democratic colleague from Texas, GENE GREEN, whom you have just heard from, for their thoughtful, bipartisan work on lifting the integration ban.

Now, the bill offers a glide path for those companies that currently rely on CableCARD and urges the consumer electronics manufacturers and MVPDs to work together to find a next-generation solution for a competitive set-top box market.

Our bill also opens up the ability for satellite operators and broadcasters to modify local markets so that consumers can receive programming that is relevant to their communities. Broadcasters have long had the ability to reach such agreements with cable systems, and this bill creates parity, allowing broadcasters to ensure their programming is reaching the right communities via satellite, regardless of DMA boundaries. Our bill also provides

parity by removing a government restriction on cable’s ability to drop broadcast signals during the Nielsen sweeps. Additionally, the bill ensures that consumers will be able to access locally relevant broadcasts from outside their local markets without interference from local broadcasters.

Mr. Speaker, we have also sought to stabilize the retransmission consent regime. This bill prohibits broadcast stations in single markets from negotiating jointly with cable and satellite operators. The bill also seeks to allow policymakers to gather more information on retransmission consent by requiring cable operators to report annually on their payments for broadcast programming. This bill also asks the FCC to reexamine the meaning of “good faith” in retransmission consent negotiations, but, importantly, it does not predetermine any outcomes for that rulemaking.

The STELA Reauthorization Act is yet another example of true bipartisanship with support from all sectors of the communications industry. This type of collaboration has long been the hallmark of our committee, and I am pleased to see the legislative result before us today. As this Congress is drawing to a close quickly, I urge my colleagues to join me in getting this important legislation onto the President’s desk and signed into law before the authorization ends at the end of the year.

Now, it takes many hands to make light work, and this bill is no different. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the staff from the House Commerce Committee’s staff, David Redl, Ray Baum, Grace Koh, Shawn Chang, Margaret McCarthy, and David Grossman; as well as Senate Commerce staff Ellen Doneski, John Branscome, Shawn Bone, David Quinalty, and Hap Rigby. They spent many hours working to find common ground on this bill, Mr. Speaker, and their effort has paid off for consumers.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican whip and a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman UPTON for yielding and for his leadership, as well as Chairman WALDEN of the subcommittee and the ranking members, for bringing a good bipartisan bill to the floor that addresses some real problems and starts to lay some groundwork for important future discussions about the video marketplace.

Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, that the STELA Reauthorization Act will give certainty and ensure that 1.5 million satellite consumers across the

country don't have to fear losing their signal at the end of this year, which will happen without passage of this legislation. So it is very important that immediately we get this resolved so that we don't create that uncertainty across the country.

Also, Mr. Speaker, why this bill is important is it finally starts to implement some important and much-needed reforms to our video marketplace laws. I have been saying this a long time: If you look at the laws that we have on the books, we have a 21st century marketplace, we have a dynamic industry that has evolved and grown, and the technology has advanced in a dramatic way over the last few decades, but, unfortunately, the laws have not changed to reflect the current marketplace. We have started that conversation with a few of the provisions in this bill, and I was happy to work with the chairman, the ranking member, and others on some of those provisions; and we also talked about the need to have a deeper conversation about a Communications Act update next year in the new Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on that as well. But in the meantime, it is important that we pass this bill and that we urge the Senate to move quickly as well to create that certainty for those customers all across the country that are counting on us to get this done.

Again, I congratulate the chairman and ranking member for working in a bipartisan way to bring this bill to the House floor and pass it along.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, at this point I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the vice chair of the subcommittee.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the full committee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5728, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014. I am pleased to see the bipartisan and bicameral effort that took place to bring forth this must-pass legislation.

Through the leadership of Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN and with the bipartisan support of Ranking Member WAXMAN and Subcommittee Ranking Member ESHOO, this legislation underscores a commitment to ensuring that our communication laws maximize the potential for investment, innovation, and consumer choice.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased this bill incorporates a bipartisan and pro-consumer provision to eliminate the current set-top box integration ban, similar to the one that I, along with Congressman GENE GREEN, sponsored in the House. Repealing this outdated technological mandate will fos-

ter greater investment and innovation in the set-top box market. It is clear that the integration ban is simply unnecessary and does not reflect the technological advancements or consumer demands of today, which have been agreed upon and supported on a bipartisan level, even by the Progressive Policy Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and support this bipartisan legislation. Again, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

□ 1300

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the House will consider joint Judiciary and Energy and Commerce Committee legislation, H.R. 5728, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, to ensure that all of our constituents continue to have access to network channels on America's two satellite carriers.

Title II of the legislation extends the expiring section 119 copyright license for another 5 years, as this committee has done on previous occasions, most recently in 2010. This license ensures that when our constituents do not have access to a full complement of local network television stations, they can have access through satellite television carriers to distant network television stations. This helps ensure that consumers in rural areas, like mine in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, have the same access to news and entertainment options that consumers in urban areas enjoy.

Without enactment of this legislation, many of our constituents would potentially lose access to certain networks altogether on December 31, when the current license expires.

I would like to point out that although numerous stakeholders interested in video issues have contacted the committee on a variety of issues, they all agree that this license should not expire at the end of this year. Other issues of interest in this area will be the subject of further discussion as my committee continues its ongoing review of our Nation's copyright laws.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan, pro-consumer legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of science-based policies. Throughout my career, I have always welcomed expert scientific advice and relied upon facts and scientific evidence to legislate. But the bill we are considering today is not a sound science bill; it is actually an anti-science bill. It would take away the ability of decision-makers to rely on published, peer-reviewed studies to protect our health and our planet.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am opposed to the next bill that we will consider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas continue to yield time on this legislation, H.R. 5728?

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I continue to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want Members to know I am going to put a statement in the RECORD supporting this legislation and urging all of our colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5728, the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization. The House passed H.R. 4572 in July, a bill that extends the expiring satellite television law and makes targeted reforms to the video marketplace. Since that time, we have engaged in bicameral, bipartisan negotiations that produced the compromise bill before us today.

First and foremost, H.R. 5728 ensures that 1.5 million satellite subscribers across the country will not lose access to broadcast content when current law expires at the end of the year.

H.R. 5728 maintains the key provisions designed to address abuses in the video marketplace that received bipartisan support in the Energy and Commerce Committee. In particular, it prohibits the collusive practice of joint retransmission consent negotiations by two or more broadcasters in the same market.

I want to note that the language is carefully crafted to ensure it does not become a loophole for broadcasters who are deemed "commonly owned" under the Joint Sales Agreement attribution rules to continue to jointly negotiate retransmission consent deals with distributors.

Further, we adopt additional reforms proposed by our colleagues in the Senate Commerce Committee.

For example, the FCC must re-examine its standard for determining whether parties are negotiating in "good faith" for retransmission consent and provide greater transparency for consumers by including retransmission consent payments in the agency's report on cable rates.

Finally, H.R. 5728 reflects further compromise on two provisions that were the subject of extensive negotiations here in the House earlier this year.

The bill alters a provision we included to address concerns about implementation of new FCC limits on broadcaster coordination through Joint Sales Agreements. We now provide a simple six month extension for broadcasters required to unwind those agreements under the new FCC rule.

Second, the bill delays by one year the sunset of the FCC's "integration ban," which is a rule intended to stimulate competition in the cable set top box market.

We also added another good idea from the Senate bill by creating a working group tasked with identifying a successor solution. The well-intentioned integration ban has had the perverse effect of hindering energy efficiency in set top boxes.

Removing the integration ban from the FCC's rule books does not eliminate the separable security requirement that ensures competitive access to cable companies' own decryption technology for set top boxes. But it does allow for innovation in the delivery of cable TV in ways that will increase energy efficiency.

I support further efforts to promote competition in this area and know that my colleagues will be actively engaged with the working group next year.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting H.R. 5728.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5728, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014.

Nearly four months ago, the House passed legislation to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). The language before the House today reflects a compromise reached with the leadership of the Senate Commerce Committee and paves the way for an extension of STELA prior to the expiration of the statute on December 31, 2014.

Like the bill passed by voice vote in July, H.R. 5728 reauthorizes STELA for a period of five years, ensuring that approximately 1.5 million satellite subscribers can continue accessing broadcast television signals. Reflecting my belief that our video laws are outdated and in some cases are even being abused, H.R. 5728 requires the FCC to re-examine its 'good faith' rules to ensure retransmission consent negotiations are conducted fairly and in a timely manner.

To better understand how retransmission consent fees impact a consumer's monthly bill, H.R. 5728 requires the FCC to include aggregate data as part of its annual report on cable rates. This provision will bring about much needed transparency because retransmission consent fees are estimated to rise from \$4.3 billion this year to an estimated whopping \$5.1 billion in 2015.

H.R. 5728 also includes a provision I strongly supported during committee debate to ensure broadcasters cannot team up against pay-TV providers for leverage during retransmission consent negotiations. This is an important step toward rebalancing the playing field and ultimately protecting consumers from unacceptable blackouts and increased rates.

Finally, H.R. 5728 improves on language included in the bill adopted in July by delaying repeal of the cable set-top box 'integration ban' by one year and establishing a stakeholder working group tasked with developing a

successor solution. Importantly, this provision does not negate a cable operator's obligation to promote the competitive availability of set-top boxes under Section 629 of the Communications Act. While I continue to believe repeal of the ban should be conditioned on an industry-wide adoption of a successor to the CableCARD, this is a compromise I support. With an eye to the future, we can fulfill a goal I set out to achieve nearly 20 years ago and that is to give consumers an alternative to having to rent a set-top box from their local cable company every month.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5728.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5728.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4012.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4012.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1310

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding me this time.

H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, is a short, commonsense bill. It requires the Environmental Protection Agency to base its regulations on public information. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, for introducing this bill.

Costly environmental regulations should only be based upon data that is available to independent scientists and the public. However, the EPA does not adhere to this practice. In fact, nearly every major air-quality regulation from this administration has been justified by data that it has kept secret. This means the Agency's claims about the benefits of its rules cannot be verified by independent scientists.

This includes the recent plan to regulate our entire electric system. This proposal will kill thousands of jobs and increase electricity costs, all for no discernible effect on global temperatures.

This also includes upcoming ozone regulations, which even the administration admits will be the most expensive in history. Unachievable standards will result in economic hardship, stalled new road projects, and burdened local governments.

Unfortunately, EPA clearly sees transparency and accountability as a threat. Speaking before the National Academy of Sciences, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said that her agency needed to keep the science "from those not qualified to analyze it." But the public deserves better, and this administration promised more. In 2012, the President's science adviser testified:

Absolutely, the data on which regulatory decisions are based should be public.

The chair of EPA's own Science Advisory Board testified that EPA's advisers recommend "that literature and data used by EPA be peer reviewed and made available to the public."

Americans agree. A recent poll from the Institute for Energy Research found that 90 percent of Americans believe that studies and data used to make Federal Government decisions should in fact be made public.

Reforms to the EPA's regulatory process are consistent with the data access requirements of major scientific journals, the White House scientific integrity policy, and the recommendations of independent groups like the Administrative Conference of the U.S. and the Bipartisan Policy Center. Deans of major universities, former EPA scientists, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and dozens of experts and organizations all support this bill.

A letter from more than 80 scientists and academics stated that:

Complying with H.R. 4012 can be accomplished without imposing unnecessary burdens, discouraging research, or raising confidentiality concerns.

The signatories include professors, two former chairs of EPA science committees, medical doctors, statisticians, deans of major universities, and environmental scientists.

The Secret Science Reform Act prohibits the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information protected by the law. Instead, it stops EPA's use of unverifiable science.

□ 1315

For those who are concerned about the regulations already on the books, the act is not retroactive. It applies only to new future regulations issued by the Agency.

The act requires the EPA to base its decisions on information to which all scientists will have access. This will allow the EPA to focus its limited resources on quality science that all researchers can examine. This will promote sound science and confidence in the EPA decisionmaking process.

This bill ensures the transparency and accountability that the American people want and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, this bill does not permit me to mince words. This bill is an insidious attack on EPA's ability to use the best science to protect public health, and its consideration on the House floor today is the culmination of one of the most anti-science and anti-health campaigns I have witnessed in my 22 years as a Member of Congress.

The genesis of this legislation is the Republicans' longstanding obsession with two seminal scientific studies conducted by Harvard University and the American Cancer Society.

These studies link air pollution with increased illnesses and death; moreover, those results were confirmed by multiple independent researchers and organizations including the National Research Council and the Health Effects Institute.

The Republican majority has harassed EPA for more than 2 years in an attempt to get access to the raw data used in those studies, presumably in an attempt to cast doubt on the conclusion that air pollution is bad for the health of Americans and to prevent EPA from trying to keep the air we breathe clean.

The EPA told my Republican colleagues that since the studies involved the personal health information of hundreds of thousands of volunteers, the raw data was stringently protected from public disclosure; therefore, even if they were the legal custodian of this data, they could not lawfully hand over such sensitive information.

Instead, in compliance with the law, EPA provided the Science Committee with all of the "de-identified" data within its possession, which ran to hundreds of pages of data rolled in like a grocery cart. This was not enough for my colleagues, and so they have decided to pursue this pernicious piece of legislation.

Rather than explain the problems with this legislation myself, I will simply quote from a letter we received from the American Lung Association and the American Thoracic Society, two leading and trusted public health organizations. They state:

The legislation will compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to either ignore the best science by prohibiting the Agency from considering peer-reviewed research that is based on confidential patient information or force EPA to publicly release confidential patient information, which would violate Federal law.

This is an untenable outcome that would completely undermine the ability of the EPA to perform its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act and myriad other Federal laws. The legislation will not improve EPA's actions; rather, it will stifle public health protections.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will wrongly claim that this legislation is consistent with the requirements of major scientific journals, the White House's policy to promote public access to federally-funded research, and recommendations from independent groups like the Administrative Conference of the United States. This is simply not true.

All of those entities recognize the balance between making data public and protecting confidentiality and personal privacy. They do not paint scientists or the EPA into a corner and tell them that the only way their research can be used or considered is if all of that data is available in a form—let me quote from the bill—"that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction."

That phrase is critical to understanding the implications of H.R. 4012. According to a letter from the American Cancer Society to EPA, they "are not aware of any way to create a de-identified version of the Cancer Prevention Study II data set sufficient to protect confidentiality of the participants while at the same time allowing a true replica of the studies."

Because legitimate researchers like the American Cancer Society must publish their peer-reviewed results in a de-identified form, if this bill becomes law, the EPA will not be able to rely on those important studies to protect public health and the environment.

I would like to quote Dr. Ellen Silbergeld from Johns Hopkins University, a witness at a hearing the Science Committee held on this bill. She states:

If the EPA is unable to access the peer-reviewed literature because raw data are not

available as proposed in the "Secret Science" bill, then we move to the dysfunctional situation where the EPA will be unable to sustain its decisions because these will be based on inadequate or incomplete science.

This is not a position that I can support. Let me be clear: this bill is an attempt to constrain the EPA under the guise of promoting transparency.

A diverse set of voices from the scientific, public health, legal, and environmental communities agree with me and have criticized this legislation. I have received letters from more than 50 organizations expressing their concern with H.R. 4012, including the American Lung Association, the American Thoracic Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the Association of American Universities, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund.

Whatever views my fellow Members may have about specific EPA rules and regulations, I would hope that they will see this bill for what it is, a malicious assault on EPA's ability to protect public health. Limiting or prohibiting what science EPA uses as part of its rulemaking would be a consequence of this bill. The American people deserve better.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, at the end of my opening remarks, I will enter into the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairmen of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I continue to be stunned at some of the hyperbolic language that seems to be moving around this piece of legislation.

Transparency, it is an incredibly powerful concept and a fairly simple one in this aspect: if you are going to make public policy, do it by public data and public data for the concept of refinement and creation of public policy.

Is there anyone in this body when we all ran for office that did not commit to transparency? Well, H.R. 4012 is part of that commitment. If you have faith in our higher learning institutions, if you have faith in the American people, this data belongs to them.

Partially, one side belief I have is, as the crowd has the opportunity to analyze and collect and look at data, whether they be from the right, the left, or just academic, we will end up with finer-crafted solutions.

How would any of us know if the EPA has set optimal rule sets? Well, one of the ways you discover this is by having lots of voices in the mix. This bill

keeps that commitment, and I have no idea why my brothers and sisters on the left seem to be trying to shut down that commitment to transparency.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, August 22, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I write concerning H.R. 4012, the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2014." As you are aware, the bill was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, but the Committee on Energy and Commerce has a jurisdictional interest in the bill and has requested a sequential referral.

Given the implications of H.R. 4012 for agencies within its jurisdiction, the Committee on Energy and Commerce remains committed to working on scientific transparency. However, because of our mutual interest in having this important legislation considered by the House before the end of the 113th Congress, I will not insist on a sequential referral of H.R. 4012. I do so with the understanding that, by foregoing such a referral, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters, and the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4012 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, August 27, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for agreeing to withdraw your request for a sequential referral of H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will insert copies of this exchange into the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4012 on the House floor. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of the Science Com-

mittee, so I wasn't part of the deliberations, but when a bill is presented as being about transparency and openness and relying on science, I ask myself: "Well, of course, why would there be any partisan difference on something like that?"

Then you start looking at different things that make you wonder if that is what this is really about. This is a bill that came out of the Science Committee, and I looked at the list of the supporters. There is not a Democrat on the list. As I understand it, the vote was on a party-line basis. Would that mean that Democrats don't believe in these things? Or is something else going on?

I submit that Republicans don't have a lot of credibility when they talk about wanting more science because I have seen so many areas where Republicans have tried to ignore the science, deny the science.

The best example of this irony is that when Republicans are claiming they are for sound science, they have had so many anti-science proposals on the House floor. I think even the Flat Earth Society recognizes that there is some overwhelming consensus on some things like climate change or that man is causing climate change and that it is a serious threat to our planet. Republicans undercut their statement of support for science when they have voted repeatedly to deny that climate change exists.

Well, we have a Republican majority here. It is even a larger majority for the next year. They may be able to write our Nation's laws, but they can't rewrite the laws of nature.

The list of anti-science votes in this body that this body has cast is embarrassing. House Republicans voted to defund the U.S. contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading international body assessing the science of climate change.

They voted to bar U.S. funding for the Global Climate Change Initiative which funds U.S. efforts to understand climate change. They voted to eliminate funding for EPA's greenhouse gas reporting rules so scientists would not be able to track emissions.

House-passed budgets have repeatedly slashed funding for our Nation's leading science-based agencies like NIH; the National Science Foundation; and ARPA-E, which invests in cutting-edge energy research. The Energy and Commerce Committee, despite requests that were repeatedly made to the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, they wouldn't even allow a hearing where scientists could come in and talk about the issue of climate change.

Now, we have a bill where the Republicans are saying they want science, they want more transparency, they want more openness.

I looked into this, and this is a fight about something quite controversial that happened some years ago at EPA, when those who were against EPA action claimed that EPA shouldn't rely on the science unless all the information were put out, including confidential information that served as the basis for some of the scientific conclusions, but the scientific conclusions were not refuted. In fact, they were reaffirmed in other studies. They are not scientifically invalid.

If this bill passed, the conclusions based on the evidence which cannot be made public because it interferes with people's confidential information would not be available.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield an additional minute to the gentleman.

□ 1330

Mr. WAXMAN. So what we are seeing is something that sounds good from a party that has no credibility to say that they are for more science information. What they would do is limit what EPA would be able to use to determine, based on the science, what the regulations and their other pronouncements could be. They would keep information away from EPA and keep EPA from acting.

I want to urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I underscore that this is not pro-science policy. It seems to me it is anti-science and making it difficult for government to act to stop pollution, which can hurt people's health and destroy the atmosphere on our planet.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN).

Mr. HULTGREN. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4012, and I thank the gentleman from Arizona and the chairman of the Science Committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

H.R. 4012 is a critical step in restoring the public trust necessary for EPA to accomplish its core mission. Transparency was a major campaign promise the current President made to the American people, and here is a way we can help the President finally follow through on one of his goals. This should be a strong bipartisan effort for anyone that believes their government has a duty to be accountable to the American public we serve.

H.R. 4012 follows a basic tenet that nearly all Americans agree on: public policy should be dictated by public science. Unfortunately, transparency, along with oversight by the American people's duly-elected representation, has been something EPA scoffs at. This must change.

The President continues to use his regulatory agencies to bypass the will

of the legislature in a number of cases, and policy from EPA has been one of the worst offenders. Everyone here believes in clean air, clean water, and necessary regulations, but what we have now is a regulatory agency attempting to put in place legislation which this Congress previously rejected in prior sessions. This is not a government that is working for you.

Americans also believe in clear laws and a fair judicial system where both sides can state their case and an adequate resolution can be found. This is why this closed-door regulatory approach is so frightening.

When someone accuses you of a crime in a court of law, they must stand before that court and make that claim. Your deposition is given to both sides, and you cannot hide behind secret testimony which is only given to the prosecutor. This is what we have now happening at EPA.

EPA legislates through regulations, and the defendant has no chance to see where EPA's claims are coming from. It is time for the American people to see behind the curtain, and it is unjust to continue using claims from the Agency that cannot be contested only because they cannot be seen.

I would also like to correct unfounded claims made by opponents of this legislation. Nothing disallows EPA from using the most up-to-date scientific information to make public health decisions. It would certainly be my hope that the research institutions would make this available, but it would ultimately be their decision whether or not EPA could use their data. If I dedicated my life to studying these complex issues, I would want to make sure it could be used.

The other claim is that this bill will make public personal health care information, which would be against the law. This legislation makes clear that nothing in this bill requires the "public dissemination of information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law." The data sets must only be made available in a manner that is "sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results."

Numerous congressional hearings and testimony from experts have made it clear that this information can easily be made anonymous. This is how data sets are presented to the peer-review community and published for journals already.

This is the transparency the American people deserve. They should no longer be held guilty from data they can't see or black box economic analyses deemed proprietary. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), the second most senior member of the full committee on the Democratic side.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this bill. I really believe that the so-called Secret Science Act is in fact a direct attack on American science.

I am a very strong supporter of transparency in government, as well as in science, and in Silicon Valley, where I am from, we believe more data in more hands benefits everybody, but I think this bill is not in fact an open data bill. It will be a data reduction bill.

It doesn't give the EPA greater authority to provide the raw data it uses. It actually reduces the kinds of data that can be used by prohibiting the EPA from using any data that can't currently be publicly released.

That sounds reasonable except that in fact there is some data that you can't actually release under current law—medical records, confidential business data, trade secrets—all of which, if made publicly available, would run afoul of various provisions of law.

I believe that we could work together on a bipartisan basis to figure out how to fix the barriers to release of data while maintaining necessary confidentiality for some data. I think we should all agree on that.

I want to point out another way that the bill is a problem, and that is the additional cost that is going to be incurred per study. The estimate, according to CBO, is that there will be an additional \$10,000 to \$30,000 added per study. That means that if this bill were to become law, it would cost an additional \$500 million to \$1.5 billion a year to do science studies.

I would love to be disappointed, but I don't believe that the Republicans intend to add additional funding to the EPA to cover the cost of the science studies that this bill would create. In fact, this bill does not address that issue.

What this would do would be to actually cut the number of science studies that the EPA is able to do. I think that that is a result that would be very unfortunate for the country. What we need is more science, not less.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Chairman, our constituents have a right to know whether EPA's regulations are based on sound science and do these regulations actually benefit the American public.

The Secret Science Reform Act, which I have cosponsored, is a simple and straightforward message to government bureaucrats that they cannot propose costly new regulations without the transparency that the American people deserve.

It makes you kind of wonder if the opponents of this legislation believe, like Mr. Gruber, that the American people are too stupid to understand the

cost of the EPA overreaching regulations. Trust me when I say Americans are not stupid, and they deserve and demand the truth from the start.

When given a bad prognosis from their doctor, I wonder how many of the proponents of the bill would say they don't really care about the details or the data. That is interesting.

EPA's regulatory agenda should not be based on secret science and 30-year-old data in order to sell it to the American people. It is long past time that Congress increases the transparency of the EPA. This legislation will do exactly that by prohibiting the EPA from proposing or finalizing regulations based upon a science that is neither transparent nor available for review.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Congressman SCHWEIKERT for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, before I yield to my next speaker, I would like to enter in the RECORD a series of letters from outside groups opposed to this legislation, including the American Lung Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, League of Conservation Voters, and many others.

In addition, I would also like to place a Statement of Administration Policy threatening a veto of this bill into the RECORD.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION,
AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY,
November 17, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We are writing to express our opposition to H.R. 4012 the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014. The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. The Lung Association mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. We achieve our mission through research, advocacy and education. The American Thoracic Society is a medical professional society dedicated to the prevention, detection, treatment and cure of pulmonary disease, critical care illness and sleep disordered breathing through research, education and advocacy.

Science is the bedrock of sound regulatory decision making. The best science underscores everything our organizations do to improve health. We strongly believe in a transparent and open regulatory process. A vital element of research is patient confidentiality. Physicians and researchers have earned by trust of their patients by steadfastly maintaining patient confidentiality. Patient confidentiality is a clear legal obligation and a sacred vow.

The legislation before the Congress will compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to either ignore the best science by prohibiting the agency from considering peer-reviewed research that is based on confidential patient information or force EPA to publicly release confidential patient information, which would violate federal law. This is an untenable outcome that would completely undermine ability the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act and

myriad other federal laws. The legislation will not improve EPA's actions, rather it will stifle public health protections.

We note that the kind of information disclosure envisioned in this legislation exceeds that required by peer reviewed journals. We believe much of the intent of this legislation is already achieved through the current peer review process required by all academic journals. The vast majority of peer reviewed journals require manuscript authors to register any trial using human subjects with clinicaltrials.gov. This public registry collects key information on the study population, research goals and methods that allow outside reviewers and scientists to either challenge or attempt to reproduce study results. Additionally, the peer review process and publication of results invites the broader scientific community to debate study findings. Trial registry and manuscript publications are only part of the process by which scientific endeavors operate in a transparent environment.

Private organizations, public charities, research universities, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, corporations and many other entities conduct medical research. Many of these organizations compile large longitudinal data sets that track patients of a period of time. These data serve as the basis of many studies that permit epidemiologists to track disease and risk factor information for large patient populations.

The published peer-reviewed information from such data often may inform regulatory decision making at the EPA and other federal agencies and inform future research. Not only do these data inform regulatory action, they help inform efforts to educate the public about the magnitude of a disease, risk factors and steps individuals can take to improve their health. In order for EPA to set the most appropriate standards it must be informed by the best information.

Understanding the impact of air pollution on human health and the magnitude of harm caused by pollution at specific levels helps the agency meet its obligations under the Clean Air Act. Absent these data, it is unclear upon what basis the agency could make sound decisions.

We urge the House of Representatives to reject H.R. 4012.

Sincerely,

HAROLD WIMMER,
*National President &
CEO, American
Lung Association.*

STEPHEN C. CRANE, PhD,
MPH,
*Executive Director,
American Thoracic
Society.*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2014.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
*House Majority Whip, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTHY: As leading U.S. science, engineering, and academic institutions, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014 (H.R. 4012). As the new House Majority Leader we encourage you and your colleagues to take additional time to evaluate the unintended consequences of this bill before considering it on the House floor.

The research community is concerned about how some of the key terms in the bill could be interpreted or misinterpreted, especially terms such as "materials," "data," and "reproducible." Would the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) be excluded from utilizing research that involved physical specimens or biological materials that are not easily accessible? How would the agency address research that combines both public and private data?

With respect to reproducibility of research, some scientific research, especially in areas of public health, involves longitudinal studies that are so large and of great duration that they could not realistically be reproduced. Rather these studies are replicated, utilizing statistical modeling. The same may be true for scientific data from a one-time event (e.g., Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill) where the data are being gathered in real time. We could foresee a situation whereby the EPA would be constrained from making a proposal or even disseminating public information in a timely fashion.

Finally, the legislation could impose additional uncompensated burdens of cost and effort on those recipients of federal research grants where the research results are expected to be "relied on to support a covered action." The bill is not clear on whether it is the EPA's or the research institution's responsibility to cover the costs associated with sharing and archiving this information.

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 required that the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) work with federal agencies to establish access to data policies that relate "to the dissemination and long-term stewardship of the results of unclassified research, including digital data and peer-reviewed scholarly publications." Agencies are expected to finalize their data access policies by the end of the year, and given the complexities associated with access to research data as outlined above we suggest that the Congress wait to review the agency policies before imposing new statutory requirements via H.R. 4012.

American Anthropological Association; American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Geophysical Union; American Geosciences Institute; American Meteorological Society; American Physical Society (APS Physics); American Political Science Association; American Society for Microbiology (ASM); American Society of Agronomy; American Society of Civil Engineers; Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography; Association of American Geographers; Association of American Universities; Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU); Bard Center for Environmental Policy; Biophysical Society; Brown University; Consortium for Ocean Leadership; Consortium of Social Science Associations; Cornell University; Crop Science Society of America.

Duke University; Ecological Society of America; Entomological Society of America; Harvard University; Indiana University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; National Council for Science and the Environment; Society for Conservation Biology; Soil Science Society of America; Stanford University; Stony Brook University; The Ohio State University; The University of Texas at Austin; University of California System; University of California, Davis; University of California,

Irvine; University of California, Riverside; University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Maryland; University of Michigan; University of Oregon; University of Pennsylvania.

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Re Oppose H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795:
An Attack on Scientific Integrity and
Public Health

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The Scorecard is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795.

H.R. 1422, the so-called EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would undermine the ability of the Science Advisory Board to provide independent scientific advice to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This bill would allow industry participation on the Scientific Advisory Board, while preventing subject experts from being included. Additionally, new burdens imposed on the Board would needlessly delay necessary public health and environmental protections.

H.R. 4012, the so-called Secret Science Reform Act of 2014 would endanger public health by preventing the EPA from using the best available science. The bill contains favorable exemptions for industry and would severely restrict the health studies that the EPA is able to use by prohibiting the use of peer-reviewed studies with confidential health information. These types of studies are the basis for the best research on pollution's effects on people. This legislation cripples the EPA's ability to develop effective public health safeguards.

H.R. 4795, the so-called Promoting New Manufacturing Act is an attack on clean air protections. This bill would create unclear procedural requirements and loopholes that could allow newly permitted industrial facilities to be exempted from the most recent national air quality standards set by the EPA. This legislation effectively creates amnesty for new facilities while delaying the permitting process and threatening public health.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 1422, H.R. 4012, and H.R. 4795, a collective attack on scientific integrity and public health. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills in the 2014 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

GENE KARPINSKI,
President.

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE; CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT; CLEAN WATER ACTION; COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA; DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE; EARTHJUSTICE; ENVIRONMENT AMERICA; ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND; INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA (UAW); LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS; NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL; PUBLIC CITIZEN; SIERRA CLUB; SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (SELC); SOUTHERN OREGON CLIMATE ACTION NOW; UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA (UWUA); WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters we strongly urge you to oppose the trio of anti-EPA bills hitting the floor this week: the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2014" (HR 4012), the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013" (HR 1422), and the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act" (HR 4795). Collectively, these misleadingly named bills would radically diminish EPA's ability to protect public health. Under these bills, EPA would be required to ignore significant science; the Scientific Advisory Board would be required to ignore conflicts of interest; and enforcement officials would be required to ignore pollution emitted in violation of the law. These bills are broadly written and would have damaging impacts far in excess of what their sponsors will admit.

The "Secret Science Reform Act," HR 4012, is based on a faulty premise. Its notion of "secret science," based on claims about studies of fine soot pollution conducted almost two decades ago, is unfounded despite lengthy congressional inquiries. The bill would deny EPA the ability to rely upon peer-reviewed medical studies that involve commitments to patient confidentiality, when the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities to safeguard public health and the environment. Further, this bill would effectively amend numerous environmental statutes by forbidding EPA to use certain kinds of studies in setting health standards. It would also make it impossible for EPA to use many kinds of economic models it routinely relies on because those models are proprietary. This marks a radical departure from longstanding practices. Its end result would be to make it much more difficult to protect the public by forcing EPA to ignore key scientific studies.

HR 1422 would attack EPA's scientific process in a different way. This bill would significantly weaken the content and credibility of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reviews—a textbook example of making a government program function poorly to the benefit of polluting industries and at the expense of public health and independent science. The bill will add unnecessary new burdens on the SAB, distorting its mission and altering its process with no benefit to EPA or the public. The worst provision would mandate allowing the participation of scientists with financial conflicts of interest, as long as those conflicts are disclosed. This is inconsistent with a set of nearly universally accepted scientific principles to eliminate or limit financial conflicts. The bill also significantly broadens the scope of the SAB and creates a comment process that

will add needless delay to the Board's work. The result would be further stalling and undermining of important public health, safety, and environmental protections.

Lastly, HR 4795 is a substantive attack on our nation's right to clean air protections. It would grant amnesty from national clean air health standards, create red tape and cause unintended burdens to local businesses. The bill would exacerbate air pollution nationwide, causing harm to public health and making the jobs of state and local officials harder to perform. Newly permitted industrial facilities would be allowed to operate in violation of national health standards, while other local businesses and local communities would have to "pick up the slack" and be penalized for the new facility's amnesty and pollution. In so doing, the bill repeals a health safeguard in place for nearly 40 years under the Clean Air Act, making it more difficult for states to permit new facilities while also keeping their air clean.

This legislation will obstruct the implementation and enforcement of critical environmental statutes, undermine the EPA's ability to consider and use science, and jeopardize public health. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

BlueGreen Alliance; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Effective Government; Clean Water Action; Communications Workers of America; Defenders of Wildlife; Earthjustice; Environment America; Environmental Defense Fund; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); League of Conservation Voters; Natural Resources Defense Council; Public Citizen; Sierra Club; Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC); Southern Oregon Climate Action Now; Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA); WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 4012—SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014
(Rep. Schweikert, R-AZ, and 53 cosponsors,
Nov. 17, 2014)

The Administration strongly supports regulatory transparency, but strongly opposes H.R. 4012. The bill would impose arbitrary, unnecessary, and expensive requirements that would seriously impede the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ability to use science to protect public health and the environment, as required under an array of environmental laws, while increasing uncertainty for businesses and States.

H.R. 4012 could be used to prevent EPA from finalizing regulations until legal challenges about the legitimate withholding of certain scientific and technical information are resolved. The bill also could prevent EPA from making crucial decisions, including those concerning the cleanup of contaminated sites, if the data supporting those decisions cannot, for legitimate reasons, be made publicly available. For example, some scientifically-important data is not made broadly available in order to protect the privacy of test subjects or Confidential Business Information, and H.R. 4012 could prevent EPA from taking actions based on protected data. In short, the bill would undermine EPA's ability to protect the health of Americans, would impose expensive new mandates on EPA, and could impose substantial litigation costs on the Federal government. It also could impede EPA's reliance on the best available science.

Instead of an overly broad bill that would tie EPA's hands, the Administration urges

Congress to support the Administration's efforts to make scientific and technical information more accessible and regulations more transparent. A bill consistent with the principles expressed in the Administration's Executive Order 13563 "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review" and the December 2010 Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Memorandum on Scientific Integrity, as well as implementation of the Administration's recent open data and public access initiatives (e.g., OSTP's February 2013 policy memorandum on Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research) would greatly benefit the American people. EPA also has embarked on several initiatives that enhance access to and transparency of data and science used to inform policy and regulatory decisions.

If the President were presented with H.R. 4012, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is a dangerous attack on the power of knowledge.

Supposedly, this bill prevents the Environmental Protection Agency from using secret science to issue regulations. Supposedly, by requiring the EPA to only consider publicly available data when drafting regulations, this bill will make the EPA more transparent.

Mr. Chairman, nothing could be further from the truth. Science has shown over and over that air pollution causes health problems, such as asthma. This is not a disputable fact.

Scientists have spent years comparing data on air pollution with data on health problems. Those results are very clear. They have been replicated, they have been peer-reviewed, and the EPA has issued regulations accordingly.

But the data in these studies cannot be made public without risking the violation of the privacy of Americans who voluntarily participated in them by releasing their personal health information. Rather than argue with the indisputable facts on air pollution—a losing bet—this bill attempts to discredit the science as "secret," when in fact there is nothing secret about it.

The only secret here is the true intent of this bill, a dangerous attack on science itself. For this reason, I have cosponsored an amendment proposed by Mr. KENNEDY. The amendment clarifies that nothing in this bill will prevent the EPA from using sound peer-reviewed science to issue regulations. One cannot oppose that without opposing science itself.

Science has brought us to the Moon, it has brought us the electric lightbulb, and yes, it demonstrates a link between air pollution and asthma. The American people rely on us to make decisions based on facts, not to legislate

away facts that are politically inconvenient.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire on the time remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 19½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Texas has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

It is interesting to listen to this debate. You hear one hyperbolic statement after the other from our friends on the other side. Two Members have used the claim that this is anti-science. One Member just said this is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Mr. Chairman, it makes you wonder, doesn't it, why the defensiveness about transparency, why the defensiveness about the truth, why the defensiveness about more participation as it relates to science, and here is the answer: they have got to defend something, Mr. Chairman, and they have got to defend something that is indefensible.

What they have to defend is the orthodoxy that allowed the other side to create ObamaCare. The architect of ObamaCare, Jonathan Gruber, said this is a tortured way to make sure CBO scores it this way and so forth and so on, and they basically had to trick and manipulate and so forth.

The irony is that the very folks who are claiming to shroud themselves in the truth are actually doing the exact opposite.

Here is the point: I represent manufacturers. I represent all kinds of people who are in business and science, Mr. Chairman. What they want is to be able to participate in this process. They want to know that the regulations that are being foisted upon them from Washington, D.C., at least are based on good science and are not based on bumper stickers and other nonsense. They want to make sure that the decisionmaking is transparent and that it makes sense.

This is a great bill. We should all vote for it.

□ 1345

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the one scientist we have with a Ph.D. in physics in our body who is retiring and, as of next year, will become the CEO of AAAS.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady, my good friend from Texas, and I rise in opposition to this legislation.

The bill concerns me, not only about the interference with protection of public health, but also the harm it would do to science and the science

process. In sum, H.R. 4012 would prohibit the EPA from using any scientific studies that are not publicly available and cannot be independently reproduced.

Now, while this sounds virtuous and laudable, it is, at best, a blatant misunderstanding of how scientists operate, of the peer review process, and a violation of health privacy laws and an affront to science.

Now, I see the other side saying, oh, no, it is not a violation of health privacy laws because anything that violates the health privacy laws won't be used. Well, that is the point.

Mr. Chairman, I will enter into the RECORD a letter from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, dated November 4, which says, "the proposed legislation is so broad that it could be used to prevent the implementation of nearly any regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency."

These are not partisans who are talking about this. These are people who want the science used so that we have good regulations. They are not trying to interfere with EPA's work.

Consider epidemiology. This is the science that investigates the patterns in disease and health, like trying to understand the spread of diseases like Ebola, or in understanding why smoking causes cancer. Now, not surprisingly, collecting these epidemiological data requires getting information that is legally prohibited from disclosure under the health privacy legislation, data about illness and treatment and family history and so forth.

So when H.R. 4012 says EPA must use studies where the information is public, it is saying EPA may not use many, perhaps most, epidemiological studies because the researchers are prohibited legally from making their data publicly available. There is no question that H.R. 4012 strips EPA of the ability to use the best available science.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. HOLT. Were it to become law, studies that might be used on regulations to keep drinking water safe or to prevent exposure to dangerous pesticides or other chemicals would be null and void.

Let's be honest. The not-so-hidden motivations behind this are to restrict the availability of academic independent science and to strengthen the hand of biased industry input. It is entitled the "Secret Science Act," which is a direct aspersion on science and the peer review process. It suggests that scientists are conspirators in lab coats trying to pull one over and bring in unnecessary regulations.

Everyone wants transparency, reproducibility, accountability. The science

community, the publications, the universities, the funding agencies are working on this all the time. They don't need this help, so to speak, from Congress.

Science is a system of progress toward knowing what is right. It is better than the private marketplace or industrial manipulation. Let's let science work.

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES
FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY,
Bethesda, MD, November 4, 2014.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) would like to express its opposition to H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014. As a federation of 27 scientific and engineering societies, representing more than 120,000 biomedical researchers, we clearly understand and support the principle that federal regulations must be based on sound science. We are, however, concerned that the language of the proposed legislation is so broad that it could be used to prevent the implementation of nearly any regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and, by precedent, lead to similar restrictions on other agencies. We agree that federal agencies should base regulations on sound science. However, we are concerned that this legislation will not increase transparency, and is, in fact, duplicative of existing policies.

According to a March 9, 2009 Memorandum from the White House on the subject of Scientific Integrity, "when scientific or technological information is considered in policy decisions, the information should be subject to well-established scientific processes." Additionally, under Section (d), unless information is prevented from being disclosed by statute or other regulation, "an agency should make available to the public the scientific or technological findings or conclusions considered or relied on in policy decisions." In accordance with this Memorandum, the EPA has its own Scientific Integrity Policy. As the policy notes, the EPA is in compliance with the 2002 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Information Quality Guidelines, the 2005 OMB Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, the EPA's Quality Policy for assuring the collection and use of sound scientific data, and the EPA's Information Quality Guidelines for establishing the transparency, integrity, and utility of information used and published by the agency. This extensive and comprehensive set of regulations more than ensures that the science upon which EPA bases regulations is of the highest technical merit, transparent, and reproducible.

Steps to enhance and put back transparency across all disciplines of science are already underway at several other federal agencies. For instance, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is developing a training module for graduate students to enhance experimental design to increase the reproducibility and transparency of research findings. Funding agencies, including NIH and the National Science Foundation, require inclusion of data management plans as part of the grant application. These efforts enhance work already being done by the agencies to

ensure the transparency, availability, and reproducibility of data produced by federally-funded research.

As working scientists, we are dedicated to the open circulation of our work, much of which is funded by federal agencies that require dissemination, including the EPA, NIH, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. We are equally committed to seeing that our research results contribute to the good of the Nation, including the quality of its environment and the health of its people. Establishing unreasonably broad and burdensome requirements for the implementation of already well-supported regulations, as H.R. 4012 appears to do, could weaken the scientific foundations of government policy, contrary to the stated goals of the bill.

For these reasons, FASEB opposes the Secret Science Reform Act in its present form. Sincerely,

JOSEPH R. HAYWOOD, PhD,

FASEB President.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my buddy who actually went to MIT and knows something on the subject.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act.

Before I came to Washington, I spent 6 years studying science, math, and engineering at MIT. We were taught there and we learned very well that transparency and reproducibility are the basic tenets of science. In fact, one of my favorite things that I learned—and this comes from engineering, where you apply science—is, without facts, all you have is an opinion.

That is what the other side needs to learn today. They are hiding behind this false narrative, unfortunately, that the EPA will be unable to use certain data because they would have to release confidential or private information. This is patently untrue.

Look, the FDA, the CFPB, the Census Bureau, which one of those organizations does not collect data that has sensitive and private information in it? Yet they still use the data. They can still disclose the data, and it is transparent, and we can look at it.

This is a solvable problem. In fact, the National Academy of Sciences, in 2005, said nothing in the past suggests that increasing access to research data without damage to privacy and confidentiality rights is beyond scientific reach.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I will introduce into the RECORD a memorandum from the President's own OMB to the executive heads of departments and agencies that encourages more transparency. This is a May 9, 2013, memorandum.

Clearly, we have the same goals with the administration, so I don't understand why the other side is against this. In fact, this memorandum from the President's own OMB says, "Making information resources accessible, discoverable, and usable by the public can help fuel entrepreneurship, innova-

tion, and scientific discovery—all of which improve Americans' lives and contribute significantly to job creation."

But are they worried? Are they worried that you can't release data, that you will violate somebody's privacy or confidentiality?

No, they are not. In fact, the President's own OMB Director references the standards that we have. This is what science is about. It is about standards. It is about units of measure. It is about numbers. And we have standards for this. The NIST has standards for guidelines and definitions for releasing data while maintaining confidentiality, integrity, and availability. So they are clearly hiding behind a false narrative.

The EPA Administrator, Ms. McCarthy, said in a March 7, 2014, letter to Congress that the Agency's efforts ultimately resulted in the CDC reaching the conclusion that all of the research data could be provided without the need for de-identification.

So there is really a false narrative here. I don't know how the other side, who purports to be for science—and I am for science, with my background. I don't know how the other side can make these arguments with a straight face.

I would just say the American people would be better served with access to this data. I support the bill.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2013.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Subject: Open Data Policy—Managing Information as an Asset

From: Sylvia M. Burwell, Director; Steven VanRoekel, Federal Chief Information Officer; Todd Park, U.S. Chief Technology Officer; Dominic J. Mancini, Acting Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Information is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset to the Federal Government, its partners, and the public. In order to ensure that the Federal Government is taking full advantage of its information resources, executive departments and agencies (hereafter referred to as "agencies") must manage information as an asset throughout its life cycle to promote openness and interoperability, and properly safeguard systems and information. Managing government information as an asset will increase operational efficiencies, reduce costs, improve services, support mission needs, safeguard personal information, and increase public access to valuable government information.

Making information resources accessible, discoverable, and usable by the public can help fuel entrepreneurship, innovation, and scientific discovery—all of which improve Americans' lives and contribute significantly to job creation. For example, decades ago, the Federal Government made both weather data and the Global Positioning System (GPS) freely available to anyone. Since then, American entrepreneurs and innovators have used these resources to create navigation systems, weather newscasts and warning systems, location-based applications, precision farming tools, and much more.

Pursuant to Executive Order of May 9, 2013, Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information, this Memorandum establishes a framework to help institutionalize the principles of effective information management at each stage of the information's life cycle to promote interoperability and openness. Whether or not particular information can be made public, agencies can apply this framework to all information resources to promote efficiency and produce value.

Specifically, this Memorandum requires agencies to collect or create information in a way that supports downstream information processing and dissemination activities. This includes using machine-readable and open formats, data standards, and common core and extensible metadata for all new information creation and collection efforts. It also includes agencies ensuring information stewardship through the use of open licenses and review of information for privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions to release. Additionally, it involves agencies building or modernizing information systems in a way that maximizes interoperability and information accessibility, maintains internal and external data asset inventories, enhances information safeguards, and clarifies information management responsibilities.

The Federal Government has already made significant progress in improving its management of information resources to increase interoperability and openness. The President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government instructed agencies to take specific actions to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration, and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Open Government Directive required agencies to expand access to information by making it available online in open formats. OMB has also developed policies to help agencies incorporate sound information practices, including OMB Circular A-130 and OMB Memorandum M-06-02. In addition, the Federal Government launched Data.gov, an online platform designed to increase access to Federal data assets. The publication of thousands of data assets through Data.gov has enabled the development of numerous products and services that benefit the public.

To help build on these efforts, the President issued a Memorandum on May 23, 2012 entitled Building a 21st Century Digital Government that charged the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO) with developing and implementing a comprehensive government-wide strategy to deliver better digital services to the American people. The resulting Digital Government Strategy outlined an information-centric approach to transform how the Federal Government builds and delivers digital services, and required OMB to develop guidance to increase the interoperability and openness of government information.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), who is ranking member on the Environmental Subcommittee.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014, a short bill with a long list of problems.

Now, I applaud the sponsor of the bill, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, for his goal on transparency. Transparency

is something our constituents care about and deserve. But transparency is something we should accomplish through collaboration with and input from the scientific community. This bill, unfortunately, passed out of the Science Committee on a party-line vote and is opposed, for good reason, by research institutions and scientists from across the country.

As the cornerstone of its regulatory process, the EPA relies on peer-reviewed science conducted by the brightest minds at our Nation's universities and other research organizations. The EPA already publicly discloses the studies that support regulatory action.

Large cohort studies like the American Cancer Society and Harvard Six Cities studies, which made an association between air pollution and mortality, are vital to the Agency as it pursues its mission of protecting public health. These studies that were peer reviewed have, since they were conducted, been subject to reanalysis with their findings confirmed.

This Secret Science Reform Act, which looks simple on its face, will actually encumber, if not eradicate, the EPA's ability to perform its most fundamental duty: protecting Americans from significant risks to human health and the environment. The EPA would only, under this bill, be able to rely on publicly available data and studies that are reproducible, making it virtually impossible to use many reports and other sources of scientific data.

I want to add that this act also perpetuates the incorrect notion that the science relied on by the EPA is somehow hidden. It is not. This misconception is based on conflating the meanings of "secret" and "confidential." One thing should be made clear in this debate. None of the information used by the EPA is secret. Some information may be confidential if it includes, for example, the personal health information of millions of Americans who participated in a study about air quality.

Finally, another concern about this act is that it attempts to block access to good science, in part, because the Science Committee majority has not been able to obtain data it requested through a subpoena, data containing the personal health information of millions of Americans that was part of the Harvard Six and American Cancer studies. The EPA responded to that subpoena with all of the information in its possession that it was legally authorized to provide—boxes and boxes and stacks and stacks of data and information—and apparently that was not enough. Now the Secret Science Reform Act is going further, with chilling consequences for the EPA and for every American who deserves to enjoy clean air and clean water.

Let's bring back common sense. Using the personal health information

of Americans as a bargaining chip is unacceptable. I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation.

Let's go back to the drawing board, work collaboratively to make this a better bill, and let the EPA go back to protecting the public health of Americans.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire into the time remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014.

This much-needed legislation will finally start to shed light for the American people on the underlying science that the EPA uses to justify their new rules and regulations. Not only would the EPA have to share the evidence they are using or the science they are using on the rules, but they would have to specify the need for the rule. But most importantly, the results of the EPA's analysis would have to provide enough information so that the public can independently reproduce the results so that we can check the EPA's work.

As I travel up and down my district visiting small, medium, and large manufacturing companies, I hear a common theme over and over again. At almost every stop these companies are telling me they are dealing with new or proposed rules coming out of the EPA. Whether it is a mom-and-pop brick manufacturing company, an international steel manufacturing company, or a coal-fired power plant, they are all dealing with new and very costly new EPA rules. If the EPA and environmentalists get their way, some of these companies will simply go out of business because the rules are unattainable and they apparently don't really move the needle toward improvements in public health.

I say "apparently" because we don't have all the facts and data that the EPA is using to justify these new rules, and we can't validate and verify what they are telling the public.

Thousands of direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs are at risk because of these proposed and pending rules. We owe it to these hardworking men and women to share the science with the public so we can verify what the EPA is saying before they lose their jobs over unverified studies.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. CRAMER. I thank Chairman SCHWEIKERT for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues and the sponsor have done a good job of describing what the bill is and what it does and why it is necessary. I want to talk a little bit about what is at stake.

I think the first thing that we have to consider that is at stake is the unilateral disarmament of the American economy by virtue of destroying, really, our global competitiveness. It is an interesting time to talk about it.

Our President just came back from making a deal in China, a climate deal in China, where the Chinese are allowed to continue to pollute for 16 years, create more jobs of their own and take some of ours, while we put standards and requirements, emissions requirements on our industries that won't be able to keep up and put our jobs at risk.

In my home State of North Dakota, there are 4,000 megawatts of low-cost electricity—the jobs that producing that electricity creates and the competitiveness that that electricity provides for our economy—that is at stake, all based on EPA rules that are based on some 1970s, decades-old data and studies that are only available to the bureaucrats.

□ 1400

We have, for example, in western North Dakota a brick plant in Hebron, Hebron Brick, that is subject to the MACT rule, which is a rule based on studies that are tightly held, again, and only visible to the bureaucrats. We have countless acres of private farmland and ranch land in our State and in the States around us that have been owned privately for generations. It is up for grabs if this Waters of the U.S. rule continues to go forward, a rule that really took forceful inquiry by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to find, to get, to reveal the secret maps that the EPA was creating as part of this massive land grab.

It really comes down to this, Mr. Chairman: we are at a time in our country when there is very, very low confidence by the public in our government. I am just saying let's restore America's confidence in America's government, and let's provide the one great safeguard to corruption that we can provide, and that is transparency.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Have you ever had a moment at which you are approaching the microphone—and you have got to accept that we are all passionate about our views—and you have heard some things that, shall we say, start to get your blood pressure moving a bit, but let me see if I can do this without being hyperbolic and then walk through some of the realities of the information that is laid out in front of me right here.

First, I do want to respond to something that Ranking Member JOHNSON said. I want to first caveat that she has always been very kind to me, but we have the confirmation from the EPA, itself—and we will put the documents into the RECORD—that they are perfectly capable of blinding anything that is confidential, anything that is personal. I mean, we have the comments from Administrator McCarthy on March 7 walking us through that they can do this, and they didn't see it as a real problem.

Let me walk through something else that I am finding sort of absurd, and I am having a little trouble finding the best way to articulate this. We spent about an hour in our office sort of just searching the Internet on this subject. If you go back about a decade ago, a number of our friends on the left were demanding something almost identical to this. So what is different? It wouldn't happen to be a different philosophy, a different President, a different party in the White House, would it?

Let me back up and say: Why do I embrace this Secret Science bill, H.R. 4012?

I genuinely, in every fiber of my being, believe that we will get better policy, better design, more creative ideas because, whether you are on the left, the right, or are just an active addition, you do not know whether the EPA rule sets are optimal. You may believe they are, but we are doing it on faith. Peer review is wonderful except for the fact that the peer reviewers don't see the underlying data. The beauty of this piece of legislation is that neither you nor I right now knows, in the absolute collective analysis, whether the EPA is even going far enough or whether it is going too far or whether there is another approach that would be dramatically more efficient.

What happens when that researcher gets his hands on a linear data set and matches it up with something else that no one had thought of putting in there and, all of a sudden, discovers the noise in the data that there are opportunities to do it better, faster, more efficiently, to save lives, or to maybe even do it cheaper?

You will not know that until the cabal that right now has the franchise on the information, on the brokerage of the data, is broken up. What is so stunningly disheartening here is that much of this concept, if you go back and look at the speeches from the President in 2007 and 2008, and at memos from the President 18 months ago, from OMB, demanding this, saying this was the wave of the future if you embrace science—but not the science of an elite few. The fact of the matter is our Nation—our country—and our world is made up of really smart people who have the right and the ability to give us input to do this better.

I beg of my fellow Members here to stop being afraid of true transparency. Stop defending the incumbent class that thinks it has the only legitimate scientists who have the right to put forward what our future looks like.

I may be behind this microphone in a couple of years from now if this bill passes, saying: I never knew we weren't going far enough. You may be behind that microphone over there, saying: The crowd analysis of the data says there was a dramatically better way. But we need to pass this bill to have that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2014, regarding the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) response to a subpoena duces tecum (subpoena) from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Committee).

As you note in your letter, during and immediately after my November 14, 2013, appearance before your Committee, we agreed to additional dialogue regarding the EPA's response to the subpoena. I understand that our staffs have had several discussions since that date, and made significant progress toward a common understanding of this matter. I want to thank you and your staff for your willingness to engage in these discussions, as I believe they have been both productive and constructive.

Your subpoena sought data from the American Cancer Society and Harvard Six Cities cohorts, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data. In particular, the subpoena sought data from studies that utilized data from the American Cancer Society and Harvard Six Cities cohorts. Once the EPA received the subpoena, we conducted a diligent search for data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data that were already in our possession, custody, or control that would be responsive to the subpoena. In addition, we considered what data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data, were not in our possession, custody, or control on the date we received the subpoena, but that may still be within the scope of the Committee's subpoena. For data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data, that were not in the EPA's possession, custody, or control but that could still be considered within the scope of the subpoena, the EPA sought to identify a legal authority for the agency to obtain that information so that it could be provided to the Committee. In this case, the Shelby Amendment (Public Law 105-277) provides the EPA with the authority to obtain certain research data that was not in the agency's possession, custody, or control on the date we received the subpoena, and the EPA utilized that authority to obtain that data.

The actions taken in response to the subpoena are detailed in an enclosure (Enclosure 1) to this letter, and included multiple interactions with the third party owners of the research data in an effort to obtain that data. Once the agency successfully obtained the research data, we undertook a review of

this data to determine whether the release of the data would raise privacy concerns. The agency sought the assistance of the Centers for Disease Control in this inquiry as well, in an effort to ensure the privacy of the subjects of the data was not compromised.

Through its efforts, the EPA located within its possession, custody, or control, or obtained through its authority, the data for five studies listed in the subpoena. Any other data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data, that may be within the scope of the subpoena, whether specifically listed in the subpoena or not, are not (and were not) in the possession, custody, or control of the EPA, nor are they within the authority to obtain data that the agency identified. However, the issuance of the subpoena does not provide the agency with any additional authority to obtain data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data, that we otherwise do not have the authority to obtain.

All responsive data, as well as analyses and re-analyses of that data, located or obtained during our efforts to respond to the subpoena have been provided to the Committee. The EPA provided that data to the Committee through letters sent prior to our receipt of the subpoena, and then our letters responding to the subpoena of August 19, 2013, September 16, 2013, and September 30, 2013. The EPA provided the Committee with the data for these five studies in exactly the same format the data were provided to us. Importantly, the agency was able to work through the various privacy concerns so that we would not need to de-identify any of the data. As of the EPA's letter of September 30, 2013, the agency has provided the Committee with all of the data covered by the subpoena that the agency has obtained or has the authority to obtain under the Shelby Amendment. Additionally, the EPA has not withheld any data in our possession that is responsive to the subpoena. Thus, the EPA has completed its response to the subpoena. The EPA acknowledges, however, that the data provided are not sufficient in themselves to replicate the analyses in the epidemiological studies, nor would they allow for the one to one mapping of each pollutant and ecological variable to each subject. For the reasons explained in our previous letters on this topic, these acknowledgements do not call into question the EPA's reliance on these studies for regulatory actions.

Your February 14, 2014, letter also requests the grant agreements related to the studies covered by the subpoena, and those documents are being provided with this letter. These EPA grant agreements span from 1998 to 2006 and contain a variety of data access provisions. Despite that variation, the EPA has reviewed each of the agreements and determined that each grant agreement contained data access provisions that are consistent with the EPA grant regulations at the time of the award. The EPA's current practice is to incorporate into our grant agreements a reference to the agency's regulations regarding access to research data funded by the grant.

Thank you again for the opportunity to explain the actions the EPA took in responding to your subpoena.

Sincerely,

GINA MCCARTHY.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, I hope we can all agree that it is in the nation's best interest to allow EPA to use the best available science to protect our health and well-being. This means the science that EPA uses should be held to the same standards as any other science. I

support transparency in scientific research, but it is important to recognize that the data from many of the studies that EPA depends on cannot be made publicly available without violating the privacy of individuals.

As a member of the Science Committee, I have supported increased public access to scientific data in science journals. However, there are exceptions to the types of data that can be shared publicly. EPA studies often rely on personal health records or proprietary computer models to characterize the harmful effects of pollutants. We must not mistake EPA's legally-mandated shielding of personally identifiable information as dubious "secret science."

These studies undergo a rigorous review process including peer review and sometimes replication. If the goal is more replication, Congress should provide funds to conduct additional studies, not throw out studies that depend on sensitive information. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that up to 50 percent of the studies that EPA uses rely on such sensitive materials. Through these studies, we gain a deeper understanding of our natural environment that is invaluable to informing public health policy. This bill would eliminate these insightful scientific studies from being used to protect our clean air and drinking water.

This bill could also dangerously impact participation in future public health studies if privacy of study participants cannot be ensured. It is unclear how EPA would make data "publicly available in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results," without divulging identities. With the large amount of personal information available on the internet and in public archives, it can be relatively easy to identify an individual based on limited information.

Our businesses, our environment, and our families depend on EPA to work with the best available science to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink. I cannot support a piece of legislation that impedes their ability to do so.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
Mr. Chair, I submit the following letters.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, September 5, 2014.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, As president-elect of the American Statistical Association, with 19,000 members, I write regarding H.R. 4012, the "Secret Science Reform Act." We generally applaud the idea that researchers and federal agencies strive to make data available to others—under strict pledges to maintain confidentiality of data provided by individuals and establishments where necessary—and to encourage reproducible research. Access to data and reproducibility of research are crucially important for science to advance.

While H.R. 4012's intent is to make data more widely available, we have several concerns and urge the bill to be revised significantly before further consideration. Our concerns include those voiced by others (especially the American Association for the Advancement of Science) that the bill's statements do not account for the complexities common to the scientific process on research

that involves biological materials or physical specimens not easily accessible, combinations of public and private data, longitudinal data collected over many years that are difficult to reproduce, and data from one-time events that cannot be replicated. The bill as written could have far-reaching consequences that would ultimately hamper or undermine the scientific process generally and EPA's work specifically. We also agree with the point that it would be prudent to see the EPA's data access policy—in accordance with the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010—expected by year's end before further action on H.R. 4012.

Our nation should be striving for transparency in government and, as noted above, data accessibility, but these goals also must be balanced with the necessity to protect individuals' and businesses' privacy. The bill's language of "publicly available" except when "prohibited by law" acknowledges this balance, but that language is vague and may be insufficient to protect individuals and businesses. In particular, some data sets may not fall under "prohibited by law," yet the data are still collected under a pledge to protect the identifiability and confidentiality of the reported values. For example, the government, as well as private and nonprofit sectors, routinely collects data—including private business information and private health information—under strict pledges to protect confidentiality. In some studies, this is backed up with penalties for violating those pledges. Such data should not be publicly available to every person who might ask for them. Rather, data subjects' confidentiality should be protected, for example by policies and procedures that provide data access to trusted users (i.e., approved users committed to appropriate protections of the confidentiality of study participants) while discouraging breaches of confidentiality and/or by data redaction techniques developed in the statistical and computer science communities. Under the current wording, a choice may have to be made between maintaining data confidentiality and issuing needed regulations.

To emphasize the challenges and importance of confidentiality protection, we note that simple but necessary de-identification methods—like stripping names and other personally identifiable information (PII)—often do not suffice to protect confidentiality. Statisticians and computer scientists have repeatedly shown it can be possible to link individuals to publicly available sources, even with PII removed. Thus, allowing unrestricted public access without appropriate controls could result in unintended disclosures. These could cause significant harm to the advancement of science and the federal government—especially the federal statistical system—as people may be less willing to provide their data if highly publicized breaches occur.

In short, any requirements for making data available should carefully consider the complexities, challenges, and potential ramifications. We hope you will address these concerns, which would require major modifications to the bill. We would be happy to be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

DAVID MORGANSTEIN,
President-Elect,
American Statistical Association.

NOVEMBER 17, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned individuals and organizations working on public health and science-informed regula-

tion strongly oppose HR 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act, and HR 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act, up for a House vote as early as November 18.

Both bills would severely undermine the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use the best available scientific evidence when making decisions regarding the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

HR 4012, the erroneously named Secret Science Reform Act, would tie the EPA's hands by restricting the information it can use to develop protective regulations. The EPA could only regulate based on publicly available scientific data. This restriction would block the agency's use of many different types of public health data, such as those for which public release would violate privacy protections, or data from corporations that are designated as confidential business information.

It also would restrict the use of scientific data that is not "reproducible." This provision seems to adopt a very narrow view of scientific information solely based on laboratory experiments. As major scientific societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have noted, such a restriction would eliminate the use of most epidemiological and public health data, such as those regarding the public health impacts of air pollution, because these data are collected in long-term studies following individuals longitudinally.

Not only do privacy concerns arise, but such studies are not inherently reproduced in the way a laboratory experiment or a clinical trial may be. It would be unethical to deliberately expose adults or children to air pollution merely to determine whether the increased rates of asthma and heart attacks caused by such exposures can be duplicated, or to encourage teenagers to smoke to re-assess the toxic effects of tobacco.

HR 1422, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would greatly weaken the EPA's advisory process, ensuring that recommendations from its independent Science Advisory Board (SAB) will be dominated by corporate special interests. While the bill has been improved by several amendments offered by minority members of the House Science Committee, it still remains unacceptable.

This bill opens the door to increased corporate influence on the Board, both by encouraging the EPA to accept more SAB panelists with corporate ties, and disqualifying some of the nation's leading experts.

The bill's overly broad restriction that a member of the SAB cannot participate in a discussion that cites the member's own work is counterproductive, and goes far beyond the common-sense limits imposed by the National Academies. Of course, a scientist with expertise on topics the SAB addresses likely will have done peer-reviewed studies and other work on that topic. That makes the scientist's evaluation more valuable, not less.

Even worse, the bill requires the SAB to remain in an endless loop soliciting public comment about the "state of the science" touching on every major advisory activity it undertakes and responding to nearly every comment before moving forward, without being limited by any time constraints. At best, the SAB will be reduced to busy work. At worst, the SAB's assessments will address the concerns of corporations, not the desires of citizens for science-informed regulation that protects public health.

These bills together will greatly impede the ability of EPA, and potentially other

agencies, to utilize the best available science, independently reviewed, to inform regulations crucial to public health and the environment.

We strongly urge you to vote No on HR 4012 and HR 1422.

Sincerely,

Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Annie Appleseed Project; Breast Cancer Action; Center for Medical Consumers; Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies; National Center for Health Research; National Physicians Alliance; Our Bodies, Ourselves; Physicians for Social Responsibility; Public Citizen; The TMJ Association; Woodymatters; Susan F. Wood, PhD, Associate Professor, Director, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health; John H. Powers, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, The George Washington University School of Medicine.

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS,

Cambridge, MA, November 17, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing in strong opposition to H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014, up for a vote in the House as early as Nov. 18. The legislation represents a solution in search of a problem, and would greatly impede the agency's mission to protect public health and the environment.

The EPA already makes the data, methodology, and peer-reviewed research it relies on in its rule-making processes as transparent as possible. Moreover, the additional restrictions imposed by this proposed bill would make it almost impossible to base public protections on the best available scientific information. In particular, if enacted, the language appears to indicate that the agency would be inhibited by the following challenges:

The EPA wouldn't be able to use most health studies. The agency would likely be prevented from using any study that uses personal health data. The confidentiality of such data is usually protected by institutional review boards (IRB); thus, the data could not be made publicly available as demanded. Since many EPA rules are health-based standards, this rule would severely restrict the ability of the agency to base rules on science.

The EPA wouldn't be able to draw from industry data sources. The agency would be prevented from using data provided by industry to the agency. Since information from industry sources is often not publicly available, a law requiring as such would prevent the agency from utilizing industry data, a source of information that often provides otherwise unknown data to inform EPA rule-making.

The EPA wouldn't be able to use new and innovative science. New scientific methods and data may be restricted by intellectual property protections or industry trade secret exemptions. This proposed bill would limit EPA's ability to rely on the best available science including novel approaches that may not yet be publicly available.

Long-term and meta-analyses would be unavailable. Many of EPA's health-based standards rely on long-term exposure studies that assess the link between chronic diseases/mortality and pollutants; or on meta-analyses that include many different studies and locations to provide a more robust look at the science. In HR 4012, the provision that studies be conducted "in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and sub-

stantial reproduction of research" may prevent use of these vital studies by the EPA, as it is unclear whether such spatially and temporally comprehensive studies would be considered "sufficient for substantial reproduction."

I strongly urge you to oppose the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014. The proposed bill would inhibit the EPA's ability to carry out its science-based mission to protect human health and the environment

Sincerely,

ANDREW A. ROSENBERG, Ph.D.,

Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-57. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4012

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. DATA TRANSPARENCY.

Section 6(b) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4363 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) The Administrator shall not propose, finalize, or disseminate a covered action unless all scientific and technical information relied on to support such covered action is—

"(A) specifically identified; and

"(B) publicly available in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results.

"(2) Nothing in the subsection shall be construed as requiring the public dissemination of information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

"(3) In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'covered action' means a risk, exposure, or hazard assessment, criteria document, standard, limitation, regulation, regulatory impact analysis, or guidance; and

"(B) the term 'scientific and technical information' includes—

"(i) materials, data, and associated protocols necessary to understand, assess, and extend conclusions;

"(ii) computer codes and models involved in the creation and analysis of such information;

"(iii) recorded factual materials; and

"(iv) detailed descriptions of how to access and use such information."

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 113-626. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and con-

trolled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 113-626.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 13, insert "online" after "publicly available".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense, one-word amendment to H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act.

My simple amendment adds the word "online" to the disclosure requirements found in this legislation.

The Congressional Budget Office has determined that my amendment would not score and would not affect direct spending or revenues. My amendment is supported by the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, LAMAR SMITH. My amendment also has the support of the sponsor, Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I would like to thank both the chairman, Mr. SMITH, and Congressman SCHWEIKERT for their efforts on this legislation and for their support of my amendment.

As a result of my simple, good governance amendment, the EPA will be required to make all scientific and technical information relied upon for rulemaking available online before proposing or finalizing new regulations.

I strongly support H.R. 4012, and I am proud to cosponsor this commonsense bill offered by my good friend and fellow Arizonan, DAVID SCHWEIKERT. The underlying bill would require the Environmental Protection Agency to utilize actual science when formulating regulations, and it requires that the science be made available for peer review and reproduction.

A recent poll from the Institute for Energy Research found that approximately 90 percent of all Americans support making studies and data utilized by the Federal Government available to the general public. By the way, the general public is not stupid. The intent of the bill is transparency, and I believe the best way to accomplish that goal is to require this information to be posted online.

For far too long, the EPA has used secret studies and so-called "peer reviews" from biased sources to justify regulations that fit their job-killing agenda. Not only does this practice result in a lack of transparency, it also

leads to hundreds of thousands of jobs being destroyed across the country by unreasonable and unnecessary regulations.

A requirement similar to my amendment was adopted by this body when the House passed H.R. 4315 this past July. A provision found in H.R. 4315 required that data used by Federal agencies for Endangered Species Act listing decisions be made publicly available and accessible through the Internet.

Finally, H.R. 4012 protects personal and confidential information and has a provision that makes clear such information will not be disclosed as a result of this act. My amendment would not conflict with such policy.

Again, all my simple, one-word amendment does is require that the scientific and technical information requirements in the underlying bill be posted online. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my commonsense amendment, and I urge the passage of the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. GOSAR's amendment. At least it clarifies the underlying intent of this bill in that this information relied on by the EPA should be thrown up on the Web site.

The peer-reviewed science relied on by the EPA often involves personal health information and other confidential data that is legally protected from disclosure. No legitimate researcher would violate the law and leak confidential information—for example, to make a trade secret or information protected by HIPAA accessible to anyone who has an Internet connection.

This amendment only makes the underlying problems with the bill that much more obvious, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to thank the ranking member for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, we frequently hear my colleagues across the aisle say, "I am not a scientist," in response to a stance they may be taking on a matter which has a strong technical or scientific aspect to it. Well, I am a scientist, and that is why I am standing today in strong opposition to the Secret Science Reform Act.

Even my colleagues in the House who are not scientists, when they have a question of law, they will consult a lawyer, but that doesn't seem to be the case where science is concerned. I think that it would be good if in this House we spent a little while listening

to the scientists who are concerned with these issues.

Today, a letter was introduced into the RECORD from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, signed by 42 organizations representing scientific organizations and research universities. In the letter, they state that the research community is concerned about how some of the key terms in this bill could be interpreted or misinterpreted, especially terms such as "materials," "data," and "reproducible."

Would the Environmental Protection Agency, for example, be excluded from utilizing research that involved physical specimens or biological materials that are not easily accessible? How would the Agency address research that combines both public and necessarily private data?

These are all important questions which this legislation and, sadly, this debate have not addressed, so I stand alongside thousands of my colleagues in science in opposition to the Secret Science Reform Act and in support of what has been referred to in this debate as "so-called peer review." Let us scientists set the scientific standards and not Washington politicians.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I am a scientist and I am a dentist, so I understand both science and HIPAA.

Provision 2 of section 2 of H.R. 4012 protects personal and confidential information and has a provision that makes clear such information will not be disclosed as a result of this act. My amendment would not conflict with such policy.

□ 1415

So you are telling me that President Obama and members of the Democratic Party can yell and scream for the last couple of weeks about the need to make all information available for free at the same speed to everyone on the Internet, the net neutrality issue, but you all have a problem with making the science about which the APA justifies the regulations available online for peer review and reproduction?

Wow, we are really the party of secret science. Can we all say "Jonathan Gruber"? And do videos count? This is an absurd objection from an administration that claims that they were going to be the most transparent administration in the history of this country.

I yield to my friend from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having two Members from Arizona up here.

I am prepared to accept the amendment as the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 113-626.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 3. ENSURING THE USE OF THE BEST SCIENCE.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from considering or relying upon any peer-reviewed scientific publication even if such publication is based on data that is prohibited from public disclosure.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to echo the comments of my colleagues, particularly the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), about the importance of transparency. An open government with transparent rules and regulations is at the core of our democracy, but I also believe in the unassailable value of science.

When this country's greatest minds come together to tackle our greatest problems, we are a stronger Nation. Whether we are talking about advancements and achievements in cancer treatment or clean water, science makes us healthier, stronger, and richer.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today takes science off the table for the EPA, the very Agency entrusted with keeping our air clean, our water safe, and our homes clear from toxic substances. The bill before us leaves the EPA with unworkable standards, prohibiting it from using certain studies simply because they contain information that, by law, cannot be made public. My amendment would fix this oversight.

The Kennedy-McGovern-Clark amendment clarifies that the EPA can and should use the best scientific information available, so long as that data complies with the highest academic peer-review protocols.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the EPA relies on roughly 50,000 scientific studies every year. As written, H.R. 4012 would drastically shrink this number. The bill before us could even prohibit the EPA from using other government-funded research, like NIH studies linking toxic substances to

premature births or CDC research on mitigating the impact of natural disasters and human health.

Imagine if we took this approach across the whole of government. The results could be catastrophic. You don't just have to take my word for it. I have got here, Mr. Chair, a letter from the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals who write:

Research conducted at our hospitals, while not originally undertaken for environmental protection purposes, is sometimes relied upon by the EPA and other Federal agencies to develop scientifically-based policies. Much of this research uses personal health data which is protected by both Federal law and our institutional review board guidelines.

Why would we want to lose research by the best and brightest minds in medicine that could protect the American people?

I am proud to say that the Conference supports my amendment, stating:

By allowing the EPA to consider peer-reviewed scientific publications in its work, this amendment would ensure that the best available science is the foundation for the EPA's important work.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to submit that letter for the RECORD.

CONFERENCE OF BOSTON

TEACHING HOSPITALS,

Boston, MA, November 18, 2014.

Representative JOSEPH KENNEDY,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KENNEDY: On behalf of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, I would like to thank you for your introduction of the amendment to H.R. 4012 and offer our full support for the amendment.

As currently drafted, H.R. 4012, The Secret Science Reform Act of 2014, would greatly impede the EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment by making it nearly impossible to develop policies founded on the best available scientific information.

Research conducted at our hospitals, while not originally undertaken for environmental protection purposes, is sometimes relied upon by the EPA and other federal agencies to develop scientifically based policies. Much of this research uses personal health data which is protected by both federal law and our institutional review board guidelines. Under the proposed law, this valuable research would not be able to be used when developing EPA policies. By allowing the EPA to consider peer-reviewed scientific publications in its work, this amendment would ensure that the best available science is the foundation of the EPA's important work.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JOHN ERWIN,
Executive Director.

Mr. KENNEDY. Furthermore, CBO, in its analysis of the bill, made some troubling conclusions. For each scientific study used, the EPA could incur additional costs of up to \$30,000.

If the EPA continues to operate as it does today, this bill could cost taxpayers an additional \$1.5 billion every year, so this bill ensures that the EPA

would have to spend more money, use fewer studies, all without being able to use the best science available.

There are several protections in place already to ensure that the science that the EPA uses is the best science available and that it is credible.

First, any and all studies go through a significant peer-review process that includes an independent analysis.

Second, the Office of Science and Technology Policy is already working to ensure that all publicly-funded research is available online.

Third, public comment periods allow for anyone, an individual or organization, to submit evidence supporting or opposing a proposed regulation. However, this bill puts limits on the public comment period. It would prohibit the EPA from taking into consideration valuable studies that come to light along the way during that open comment period if they provide private information.

Mr. Chairman, this makes no sense. I urge the House to accept my amendment to clarify that the EPA may use the best science that is peer reviewed and published, while upholding the necessary protections for confidential information.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield myself an additional 20 seconds.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from Massachusetts, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN and Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK, for supporting this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Chairman, as I approach the mike here, I want to make it clear that my friend on the other side, who is speaking for this amendment, has been very kind to me and my office, but the amendment ultimately doesn't do what we just heard.

Let's walk through the sentence. "Any peer-reviewed." It doesn't say "highest and best."

Okay. Let's walk through the next portion of this. Peer review, if you actually look at the methodology and the mechanics, is the study plausible, credible? They don't get the underlying data set.

Do we all remember our Statistics 101 class? The multiple parts of an equation that the sample sets are where so many of the difficulties actually are; yet we are going to rely on peer review, for peer reviewers that never see the underlying data.

The fact of the matter is if any of you have Web access right now, there is Web site after Web site after Web site right now talking about the retraction of peer-reviewed articles.

You are willing to hand hundreds of billions of dollars of potential costs and regulations, you are willing to hand the health of Americans over and not be willing to trust transparency where there is an egalitarian nature, where my university, your university, a researcher here, a researcher maybe on the other side of the world, someone that just happens to be darn good at math, and has some other data sets out there and matches it, but they are excluded because they don't meet the definition of the official science, official reviewers, and even the official reviewers never see the underlying data.

This amendment does not say the finest and the best and the most highest standard of review. It says, "any peer-reviewed."

With that, Mr. Chairman, I request my brothers and sisters here in this building to vote "no" on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for the time.

Mr. Chairman, there used to be a time when our Republican friends respected science. There used to be a time when people like Vern Ehlers, a physicist from Michigan, was welcomed in the Republican Conference. Sadly, those times are long gone. If we can't agree on basic scientific principles, then there isn't much hope for us to agree on much else.

I will remind my colleagues, for the record, up is up, down is down, gravity exists, the Earth orbits the Sun, and climate change is real. It doesn't matter whether the data is private or public. What matters is whether the findings are peer reviewed and can withstand scientific scrutiny.

Scientists understand that the real litmus test for supporting a finding is independent confirmation, using a completely independent method.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 230, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 526]

AYES—194

Adams	Garcia	Neal
Barber	Gibson	Nolan
Barrow (GA)	Grayson	Norcross
Bass	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Gene	Owens
Becerra	Grijalva	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Hanabusa	Payne
Blumenauer	Hastings (FL)	Pelosi
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Himes	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Honda	Pocan
Butterfield	Horsford	Polis
Capps	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Capuano	Huffman	Quigley
Cárdenas	Israel	Rangel
Carney	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Keating	Rush
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda
Clark (MA)	Kildee	T.
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kind	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kuster	Schiff
Cohen	Langevin	Schneider
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
Costa	Levin	Scott, David
Courtney	Lewis	Serrano
Crowley	Lipinski	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Shea-Porter
Cummings	Lofgren	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sinema
Davis, Danny	Lowey	Sires
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Slaughter
DeGette	(NM)	Speier
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	(NM)	Takano
DelBene	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	Maffei	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Doggett	Matheson	Titus
Doyle	Matsui	Tonko
Edwards	McCollum	Tsongas
Ellison	McDermott	Van Hollen
Engel	McGovern	Vargas
Enyart	McIntyre	Veasey
Eshoo	McNerney	Vela
Esty	Meeks	Visclosky
Farr	Meng	Walz
Fattah	Michaud	Wasserman
Foster	Miller, George	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Waters
Fudge	Moran	Waxman
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Galleo	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Garamendi	Napolitano	Yarmuth

NOES—230

Aderholt	Byrne	DeSantis
Amash	Calvert	DesJarlais
Amodei	Camp	Diaz-Balart
Bachmann	Capito	Duffy
Bachus	Carter	Duncan (SC)
Barletta	Chabot	Duncan (TN)
Barr	Chaffetz	Elmers
Barton	Clawson (FL)	Farenthold
Benishek	Coble	Fincher
Bentivolio	Coffman	Fitzpatrick
Bilirakis	Cole	Fleischmann
Bishop (UT)	Collins (GA)	Fleming
Black	Collins (NY)	Flores
Blackburn	Conaway	Forbes
Boustany	Cook	Fortenberry
Brady (TX)	Cotton	Fox
Brat	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (AL)	Crenshaw	Gardner
Brooks (IN)	Culberson	Garrett
Broun (GA)	Daines	Gerlach
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Gibbs
Bucshon	Denham	Gingrey (GA)
Burgess	Dent	Gohmert

Goodlatte	Massie	Roskam
Gosar	McAllister	Ross
Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)	Rothfus
Granger	McCaul	Royce
Graves (GA)	McClintock	Runyan
Graves (MO)	McHenry	Ryan (WI)
Griffin (AR)	McKeon	Salmon
Griffith (VA)	McKinley	Sanford
Grimm	McMorris	Scalise
Guthrie	Rodgers	Schock
Hanna	Meadows	Schweikert
Harper	Meehan	Scott, Austin
Harris	Messer	Sensenbrenner
Hartzler	Mica	Sessions
Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)	Shimkus
Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Hensarling	Miller, Gary	Simpson
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Smith (MO)
Holding	Mulvaney	Smith (NE)
Hudson	Murphy (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Huelskamp	Neugebauer	Smith (TX)
Huizenga (MI)	Noem	Southerland
Hultgren	Nugent	Stewart
Hunter	Nunes	Stivers
Hurt	Nunnelee	Stockman
Issa	Olson	Stutzman
Jenkins	Palazzo	Terry
Johnson (OH)	Paulsen	Thompson (PA)
Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Thornberry
Jolly	Perry	Tiberi
Jones	Petri	Tipton
Jordan	Pittenger	Turner
Joyce	Pitts	Upton
Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)	Valadao
King (IA)	Pompeo	Wagner
King (NY)	Posey	Walberg
Kingston	Price (GA)	Walden
Kinzinger (IL)	Rahall	Walorski
Kline	Reed	Weber (TX)
Labrador	Reichert	Webster (FL)
LaMalfa	Renacci	Wenstrup
Lamborn	Ribble	Westmoreland
Lance	Rice (SC)	Whitfield
Lankford	Rigell	Williams
Latham	Roby	Wilson (SC)
Latta	Roe (TN)	Wittman
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Wolf
Long	Rogers (KY)	Womack
Lucas	Rogers (MI)	Woodall
Luftkemeyer	Rohrabacher	Yoder
Lummis	Rokita	Yoho
Marchant	Rooney	Young (AK)
Marino	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Campbell	Johnson (GA)	Negrete McLeod
Cassidy	Maloney	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	Carolyn	Velázquez
Hall	McCarthy (NY)	

□ 1451

Mr. MULVANEY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mrs. WAGNER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Messrs. AL GREEN of Texas, HUFFMAN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. POE of Texas, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency

from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, and, pursuant to House Resolution 756, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4012 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the proposed subsection (b) the following:

"(4) This subsection shall not apply to any covered action that is in response to an emergency with the potential to harm the health and safety of a community, including—

"(A) a disease outbreak such as Ebola or the pandemic flu;

"(B) a release of toxic chemicals into public drinking water supplies; and

"(C) a nuclear, biological, or terrorist attack."

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona reserves a point of order.

The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to the committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I have already spoken at some length about the problems with the underlying bill. The bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from using the best science in its mission to protect public health.

However, this motion to recommit highlights a specific and very troubling

aspect of this bill. As written, the bill would prevent EPA from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating risk, exposure, or hazard assessments or guidance based on nonpublic information.

I and my Democratic colleagues are concerned about how this language would impede the EPA's ability to respond to emergencies and disasters.

I will give you an example. In my hometown of Dallas, we had a well-publicized case of a man named Thomas Duncan tragically dying after being infected with the Ebola virus. This gentleman was originally sent home from the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital when his symptoms were not initially identified as Ebola.

After Ebola was identified, great efforts were made to disinfect areas the gentleman had contact with while he was infected with Ebola.

I have a picture displayed here.

Here in my hand is EPA's list of disinfectants for use against Ebola virus. The EPA disseminates this critically important information on its Web site.

□ 1500

However, under this bill, the EPA could be prevented from disseminating this type of information because EPA-registered disinfectants are frequently supported by legally protected information or confidential business information.

In my hometown, not my district, two nurses who work at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital contracted Ebola. As a former nurse who worked in Dallas, I think it would be appalling to put our frontline health care workers, as well as the general public, at risk of the deadly Ebola virus or any other infectious disease all so we can take a political shot at EPA.

As another example of how this bill could affect emergency response, EPA could be prevented from providing guidance during toxic chemical spills like the one that occurred earlier this year in West Virginia. If that guidance to local emergency responders were based on confidential business information, which is oftentimes the case when dealing with registered chemicals, then the EPA would be prohibited from disseminating vital information to the local authorities. What is remarkable is that the Natural Resources Defense Council warned the committee of this exact issue in a letter back in February, but the majority chose to ignore those warnings. That is plain irresponsible.

My amendment would fix this problem by exempting any response to an emergency that could harm the health and safety of a community. The amendment won't fix all of the problems with this bill, but it will prevent one of the more morally objectionable outcomes of this legislation.

I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to withdraw my reservation, and I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On this particular occasion, on this motion to recommit, this MTR, it does win a point on creativity. But if we actually just heard part of it, you are telling me that the EPA, when they respond to a spill, they are showing up embracing secret information on how they are responding. It is absurd.

Maybe even the motion may be well-meaning, but when you start using definitions of "emergency," "community," "including" with a long dash, we all know where that leads, and it leads both to chaos, inefficiency, and actually doesn't make a lot of drafting sense. So let's actually move on to what we are really here about: the underlying bill.

I have been shocked at sort of the crazy hyperbole that we have heard today about the secret science bill. This bill is actually very simple. All it does is provide transparency substantially as President Obama campaigned on.

Walk through the mechanics. We were having a little debate in our office whether I should hold these up. This here is a stack of letters, memos, demands from folks on the left. It just happened to be there was a Republican President, and even some of these when they were in the majority here, demanding disclosure of the underlying data from the EPA. There is even part of here where the former then-chairman was demanding the data and saying if he didn't get it he was going after contempt.

So what has changed? Seriously, what has changed here with the left on transparency? Is it just the fact that we now have a Democrat in the White House?

So let's actually walk through what we have all campaigned on in here. Is there a Member here that, when you got in front of your constituents, did not promise more transparency in government? That is what this is about. If you are going to create rule sets that affect every American's life, their health, their economic future, don't they have the right to see the underlying data?

And think of the arrogance that is going on right here. If you believe that the EPA is the sole keeper of all great knowledge, that their cabal is the only one qualified to be creative, to understand is there a better way, a more efficient way, a healthier way, then vote against the bill. But if you believe in the American people, if you believe in our institution, if you believe there is

amazing knowledge all over this country and all over this world, this is the transparency that makes us healthier, that makes us more efficient, that makes decisionmaking coming out of the EPA much more rational. This is what we all campaigned on. This is what we promised. Let's go vote for it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 230, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]

AYES—196

Adams	Doyle	Levin
Barber	Edwards	Lewis
Barrow (GA)	Ellison	Lipinski
Bass	Engel	Loebach
Beatty	Enyart	Lofgren
Becerra	Eshoo	Lowenthal
Bera (CA)	Esty	Lowey
Bishop (GA)	Farr	Lujan Grisham
Bishop (NY)	Fattah	(NM)
Blumenauer	Foster	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bonamici	Frankel (FL)	(NM)
Brady (PA)	Fudge	Lynch
Braley (IA)	Gabbard	Maffei
Brown (FL)	Galleo	Maloney,
Brownley (CA)	Garamendi	Carolyn
Bustos	Garcia	Maloney, Sean
Butterfield	Grayson	Matheson
Capps	Green, Al	Matsui
Capuano	Green, Gene	McCollum
Cardenas	Grijalva	McDermott
Carney	Gutiérrez	McGovern
Carson (IN)	Hahn	McIntyre
Cartwright	Hanabusa	McNerney
Castor (FL)	Hastings (FL)	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Heck (WA)	Meng
Chu	Higgins	Michaud
Cicilline	Himes	Miller, George
Clark (MA)	Hinojosa	Moore
Clarke (NY)	Holt	Moran
Clay	Honda	Murphy (FL)
Cleaver	Horsford	Nadler
Clyburn	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cohen	Huffman	Neal
Connolly	Israel	Nolan
Conyers	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Cooper	Jeffries	O'Rourke
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Owens
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Crowley	Kaptur	Pascarell
Cuellar	Keating	Pastor (AZ)
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Payne
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Pelosi
Davis, Danny	Kildee	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Kilmer	Peters (CA)
DeGette	Kind	Peters (MI)
Delaney	Kirkpatrick	Peterson
DeLauro	Kuster	Pingree (ME)
DelBene	Langevin	Pocan
Deutch	Larsen (WA)	Polis
Dingell	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)
Doggett	Lee (CA)	Quigley

Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader

NOES—230

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger

NOES—230

Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCaul
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen

Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Campbell
Cassidy
Duckworth
Hall
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)
Walz

□ 1513

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 190, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

AYES—237

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger

Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance

Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner

Adams
Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson

Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Schock
Turner
Upton
Valadao

NOES—190

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebach
Loftgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

NOT VOTING—7

Hall
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)

□ 1521

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I voted "yes" on H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014. I would like to express that I intended to vote "no" on H.R. 4012.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ATOMIC ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5681) to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5681

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOV- ERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION ON THE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions for congressional consideration of a proposed agreement for cooperation in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), the amendments to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes, done at Washington, July 22, 2014, and transmitted to Congress on July 24, 2014, including all portions thereof (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Amendment"), may be brought into effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act as if all the requirements in such section 123 for consideration of the Amendment had been satisfied, subject to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Upon coming into effect, the Amendment shall be subject to the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et

seq.) and any other applicable United States law as if the Amendment had come into effect in accordance with the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will share with the Members here that I rise in strong support of this legislation to extend for another 10 years the United States-United Kingdom Mutual Defense Agreement. This agreement has governed our nuclear cooperation with the United Kingdom for 50 years.

As always, I appreciate the cooperation of our ranking member, Mr. ENGEL of New York, for bringing this legislation to the floor. By acting today, we will ensure that this vital cooperation with Great Britain continues uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has no closer ally than the United Kingdom. We all know that. Our societies are founded on a shared belief in freedom and universal human rights. As a result, our close consultation on major foreign policy issues has long been routine; and coordinated action, frankly, is the norm between us and the U.K. We share an unprecedented defense relationship. The advantage of that is it has helped us secure our shared interests and values since the World Wars of the last century. We have fought side by side in conflicts from World War I to Afghanistan. Today, we have joined forces, along with other partners, to battle ISIL. Our intelligence cooperation is unique.

We are both founding members of NATO. We have shouldered a disproportionate share of the burden in NATO. We do that because we understand that the world remains a very dangerous place, but also because we know if we do not do so and we do not lead, no one else will.

Our cooperation on defense includes a unique partnership on nuclear security. This Mutual Defense Agreement is the framework through which this partnership takes place. It enables the exchange of nuclear materials, technology, and information that has been renewed many times. Actually, this goes back to 1958. The bill that we will renew here will take it for another dec-

ade to ensure that our full cooperation on defense can continue uninterrupted.

So I urge my colleagues to support the bill to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to the United Kingdom: a friend, a partner and enduring ally.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 5681. This legislation approves an amendment, as the chairman said, to the United States-United Kingdom Mutual Defense Agreement.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman Ed ROYCE for his bipartisan leadership on this legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor.

□ 1530

Since 1958, the U.S.-U.K. Mutual Defense Agreement has underpinned cooperation between our two countries on defense-related nuclear technology. The U.K. is the only country with which we share this sensitive nuclear technology. It reflects the special relationship that binds our countries together.

Every 10 years, this agreement has been extended to stay up to date with new technologies and build new areas of cooperation. Now, normally, these extensions go into effect automatically 60 legislative days after the updated agreement is submitted to Congress. However, this agreement will lapse on December 31, before we reach that 60-day mark. If that were to happen, the revised agreement would have to be re-submitted in the next Congress, the 60-day clock would reset, and, most importantly, there would be no legal authority to continue defense-related nuclear work with the U.K. for some period of time.

What would that mean?

First, the regular scheduled transfer of nuclear material between the U.S. and the U.K. would grind to a halt.

Secondly, ongoing work on submarine propulsion would be interrupted, which would affect the deployment of our ally's nuclear deterrent.

Thirdly, exchange of sensitive information that benefits both of our nations would be delayed, including information related to threats from other countries.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this agreement to lapse. Passing this bill will protect these critically important defense programs with one of our closest allies.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill. I just want to reiterate the importance of passing this bipartisan, noncontroversial legislation to ensure that there is no lapse in the U.S.-U.K. Mutual Defense Agreement.

I thank the chairman, as always, for his cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ENGEL.

I think, by moving quickly here, we can send this bill to the President's desk.

I am proud to note, I will add, that we recognize this special relationship in the House with the British American Parliamentary Group, which was formed shortly after World War II, and each year Members of Congress and Members of Parliament convene to discuss our partnership.

Last year, Congress dedicated a bust of Winston Churchill that is prominently displayed in this Capitol. We just had an unveiling today of the bust for Vaclav Havel, and it will stand next to that of Winston Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, the United Kingdom remains our closest ally and most important security partner, and the Mutual Defense Agreement is a key element of our unmatched special relationship, as Churchill used to call it.

By renewing this agreement, Congress will ensure the uninterrupted continuation of our close nuclear cooperation with the U.K. and reinforce our joint ability to provide strategic security. So I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3398.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GIRLS COUNT ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3398) to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3398

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Girls Count Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the United States Census Bureau's 2013 international figures, 1 person in 12—or close to 900,000,000 people—is a girl or young woman age 10 through 24.

(2) The data also asserts that young people are the fastest growing segment of the population in developing countries.

(3) Even though most countries do have birth registration laws, nearly one-third of

all children under the age of 5 worldwide have never had their births registered. Moreover, an estimated 45 percent of children under the age of 5 worldwide (about 290 million children) do not possess a birth certificate.

(4) A nationally recognized proof of birth is the key to determining a child's citizenship, nationality, place of birth, parentage and age, without which a passport, drivers license, or national identification card are impossible to obtain. Those who lack such documentation are often prevented from officially participating in and benefitting from the formal economic, legal, and political sectors in their countries.

(5) The lack of birth registration among girls worldwide is particularly concerning as it exacerbates their disproportionate vulnerability to trafficking, child marriage, and lack of access to health and education services.

(6) A lack of birth registration among women and girls can also aggravate what in many places amounts to an already reduced ability to seek employment, participate in civil society or purchase or inherit land and other assets.

(7) Girls undertake much of the domestic labor needed for poor families to survive: carrying water, harvesting crops, tending livestock, caring for younger children, and doing chores.

(8) Accurate assessments of access to education, poverty levels, and overall census activities are hampered by the lack of official information on women and girls. Without this rudimentary information, assessments of foreign assistance and domestic social welfare programs cannot be accurately gauged.

(9) To ensure that women and girls are fully integrated into United States foreign assistance policies and programs, that the specific needs of girls are, to the maximum extent possible, addressed in the design, implementation, and evaluation of development assistance programs, and that women and girls have the power to affect the decisions that affect their lives, all girls should be counted and have access to birth certificates and other official documentation.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) encourage countries to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and enact laws that ensure girls and boys of all ages are full participants in society, including requiring birth certifications and some type of national identity card to ensure that all citizens, including girls, are counted;

(2) enhance training and capacity-building to developing countries, local nongovernmental organizations, and other civil society organizations to effectively address the needs of birth registries in countries where girls are undercounted;

(3) include organizations representing children and families in the design, implementation, and monitoring of programs under this Act; and

(4) mainstream into the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs at all levels an understanding of the distinctive impact that such policies and programs may have on girls.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNTING OF GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to—

(1) support programs that will contribute to improved and sustainable Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS)

with a focus on birth registration as the first and most important life event to be registered;

(2) promote programs that build the capacity of developing countries' national and local legal and policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against girls;

(3) support programs to help increase property rights, social security, and home ownership, land tenure security, and inheritance rights for women; and

(4) assist key ministries in the governments of developing countries, including health, interior, youth, and education ministries, to ensure that girls from poor households obtain equitable access to social programs.

(b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the World Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and programs, and other relevant organizations to urge and work with countries to enact, implement, and enforce laws that specifically collect data on girls and establish registration and identification laws to ensure girls are active participants in the social, economic, legal and political sectors of society in their countries.

(c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator should work with United States, international, and local private sector and civil society organizations to advocate for the registration and documentation of all girls and boys in developing countries to prevent exploitation, violence, and other abuses.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in relevant evaluations and reports to Congress the following information:

(1) To the extent practicable, United States foreign assistance and development assistance beneficiaries by age, gender, marital status, location, and school enrollment status.

(2) A description of how United States foreign assistance and development assistance benefits girls.

(3) Specific information on programs that address the particular needs of girls.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The term "foreign assistance" has the meaning given the term in section 634(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394(b)).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

SEC. 7. SUNSET.

This Act shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and also to include any extraneous material for the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this measure. It is called the Girls Count Act, and I do want to thank Mr. CHABOT of Ohio for his work on this important piece of legislation.

Now, what this does is it aims to increase birth registration rates in developing countries. And usually the births which are not being registered are infant females.

Nearly one-third of all children around the world have never had their births registered by their country's civil registries. Almost hard for us to recognize here—one-third.

A child whose birth is not recorded has no birth certificate to prove her age or his age or parentage or citizenship, making these children especially vulnerable to violations of their basic rights.

The lack of a birth certificate usually prevents individuals from acquiring essential pieces of identification that you are going to need in life—like a driver's license, like a passport—and can also impede any financial transaction you are going to make—taking out a loan, taking out a mortgage. Basically, these girls, tragically, don't count.

For girls in particular, this lack of documentation can undercut existing legal protections against girls being trafficked or made child brides. And as they grow up, girls without an official identity face high barriers to work, high barriers to education or political participation, and all of this in places where we need women and girls to be actively shaping their country's future, to improve prospects for development, to oppose extremism in their communities.

That is why I am pleased that the House is acting on H.R. 3398, because this bill supports efforts to increase birth registration by encouraging the State Department and USAID to work with countries on improving their civil registries.

The bill promotes the development of laws and policies to prevent discrimination against girls and improve property and inheritance rights for women. And lastly, the legislation requires the State Department and USAID to provide more relevant breakdowns of foreign assistance whenever possible so that we can be sure women and girls are from benefiting from our efforts.

So this bill complements other work that the House has done this Congress, particularly our efforts to combat child trafficking and to promote safe international adoptions. Ensuring that every boy and girl is counted can prevent children from being trafficked or prevent them from being exploited or denied a loving home.

I am proud of the House's work thus far to address this critical issue. I believe that this bill in particular is another step in advancing this agenda, and that is why I would just like to recognize Mr. CHABOT for all of the work he put into it and, as well, of course, to recognize Mr. ENGEL's contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 3398, the Girls Count Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Representative CHABOT and Representative MCCOLLUM for authoring this important legislation. It is very good legislation, it is very important legislation, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Around the world, nearly 230 million children under the age of 5 have never had their birth registered or been issued a birth certificate. Most of these unregistered children are girls, and all of them face serious vulnerabilities.

The lack of birth registration makes it much harder to get official documentation and, as a result, these children often become targets for child labor, abuse, human and sex trafficking, child marriage, recruitment into militant groups, and other forms of exploitation.

Unregistered children are often prevented from access to health care, including necessary child immunizations, and from enrolling in school. Down the line, many of these children will be unable to inherit land or money, start a business, or even open a bank account.

This sort of marginalization often hits women the hardest. Unregistered women are more likely to be confined to their homes and invisible to the outside world. Lack of registration limits their choices and opportunities and impedes the long-term development of their communities.

H.R. 3398 will enhance efforts to get more children registered. It reaffirms our strong support for programs aimed at addressing the undercounting of girls in the developing world. It encourages countries to support programs that expand the rights of women, especially property ownership and Social Security rights.

The legislation authorizes the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID to support important civil registration and vital statistics programs focusing on birth registration, and allows them to work with local government ministries to ensure equal access to these programs. This complements the work of organizations around the world that are engaged in the important work of protecting vulnerable children and puts pressure on other governments to act.

While improving birth registration systems helps the most vulnerable pop-

ulations, it has positive ripple effects across a whole society. Governments with better records can provide better services, tailor more effective policies, and bring more people into full participation in their economies. This basic practice can help make entire countries stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I, once again, thank Chairman ROYCE for his cooperation and bipartisanship.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and the author of this particular bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this important issue, and I also want to thank my friends and colleagues, Mr. ENGEL and Ms. MCCOLLUM, for their leadership and their support as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that we are living in challenging times. The international community is having to confront new evils it seems like every day. It is critical that we confront these evils with determination and resolve and intelligence. This bill, the one before us today, really actually does this.

With this bill, Congress has the opportunity to address an injustice that is holding girls back from fully participating in society but, worse, exposing them to the particularly horrific evils of human trafficking.

There are 230 million children around the globe under the age of 5 who have never been recognized as being born. Their births were simply never recorded.

In eastern and southern Africa, for example, only 38 percent of children are registered by their fifth birthday. So think of that; nearly two-thirds of the children born in those regions in Africa are not registered. There is no recording of their birth. They, in essence, don't exist to the government.

These children, a majority of whom are girls, become invisible members of society and miss a critical first step in securing their fundamental human rights. Being recognized by your government is necessary, for example, for determining identity and citizenship and age and obtaining access to education and health care and many other things.

When a girl is not counted at birth, it is difficult, if not impossible, for her to own land or start her own business or vote, and she is at risk of being confined to home and, oftentimes, left unpaid.

Lack of a birth certificate keeps girls from fully participating in society. It increases the risk of child marriage, forced labor, recruitment into militant groups, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

The Girls Count Act would help put an end to these horrors. The bill directs the Department of State and USAID to work with our international partners to support the issuance of birth certificates in developing countries. The bill will ensure that the most important step in a new citizen's life, the registration and recognition of their very birth by their government, actually occurs.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of a birth certificate denies children their fundamental human rights that we as Americans oftentimes take for granted. This bill would make it U.S. policy to encourage the registration of all children worldwide and make sure that girls do truly count.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I want to once again thank Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL for their support and leadership in this.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to again thank the chairman and thank Mr. CHABOT.

Getting children registered at birth helps to get them off to a good start. This bill encourages governments to enact laws and policies that give all children, including girls, a chance to be full participants in society. So I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would like to also mention the contributions of Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM and Congressman CHRIS SMITH.

CHRIS SMITH is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. He is also an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I want to thank the distinguished chairman for yielding and for his leadership in helping to bring this legislation to the floor, and especially Chairman CHABOT for his Girls Count Act of 2013. I am happy and thankful to be an original cosponsor and to urge the House to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, in many parts of the world, girls are discriminated against simply for being female. Indeed, this blatant disregard for the value of the girl child often begins in the womb, especially in countries such as China and India, where we see the horrific practice of sex-selection abortion. This cruel practice, in turn, has led to a gender imbalance that has fed other crimes against women, especially sex trafficking, which has risen exponen-

tially in the People's Republic of China because of the missing daughters, because of this discrimination against the girl child in utero.

Let me point out that, in her book, "Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men," Mara Hvistendahl traces the history of sex selection to population control. Again, we don't count the girl as being of meaning. Of course, this is talking about a physical count, so we have a record of these young ladies, of these young girls, but there are consequences, again, that continue throughout the life or the lack of because she is destroyed early on.

Hvistendahl writes—and I will only mention this briefly—that there are over 160 million missing girls in Asia—in China, mostly, and in India. It is a direct result of sex-selection abortion, and that discrimination of the girl child has profound implications for the region and for the world and, of course, for all of those girls who have lost their lives.

Again, I want to thank Mr. CHABOT for this important legislation and BETTY MCCOLLUM. This is a very important step forward in making sure we know where the girls are after being counted so they can fully participate in society.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I will close now, and I will urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

I thank the chairman, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

This is a bipartisan, important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The point I would make in closing is that, in the wake of the horrors we have seen perpetrated by ISIS against women and Boko Haram against schoolgirls—kidnapping and enslaving them and robbing them of their freedom—we had one of these girls testify before our committee. She had narrowly escaped Boko Haram but lost her mother and her father.

I know so many of us are deeply concerned about the plight of women and girls around the world, and this bill recognizes the suffering and aims to empower those who have been cast into the shadows of their society. Birth registration is one of the first steps in the fight to preserve an individual's basic rights under the law. It is also a critical means to ensuring the full participation of women and of girls in communities and schools. Let's help girls count. That is what this does.

Again, I want to thank Mr. CHABOT and BETTY MCCOLLUM and Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, as well, for their leadership on this measure, which I encourage all Members to support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3398, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 754) condemning the Government of Iran for its gross human rights violations.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 754

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas in violation of these and other international obligations, officials of the Government of Iran continue to perpetrate gross violations of the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people;

Whereas Iranian women are increasingly subject to heinous acid attacks, either condoned by, or sponsored by, the Government of Iran, through the Basij and other vigilante groups;

Whereas the Parliament of Iran recently enacted a law providing legal protection to private citizens to enforce a strict Islamic dress code and other behavior prescribed under Sharia law, emboldening the Basij and other vigilante groups;

Whereas the Government of Iran "manipulates the electoral process", according to the United States Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, "severely limit[ing] citizens' right to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections";

Whereas following voting irregularities that resulted in the election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Government of Iran brutally suppressed peaceful political dissent from wide segments of civil society during the Green Revolution in 2009 in a cynical attempt to retain its undemocratic grip on power;

Whereas the Government of Iran has kept the principal leaders of the Green Revolution, Mir Hussein Moussavi and Mehdi Karubi, under house arrest since February 2011;

Whereas the United States Department of State consistently finds that Iranian authorities have "limited freedom of association through threats, intimidation, the imposition of arbitrary requirements on organizations, and the arrests of group leaders and members";

Whereas the United States Department of State's Virtual Embassy Tehran website highlights human rights violations and abuses in Iran on a weekly basis;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to restrict freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, particularly for journalists and human rights activists;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran found in its August 2014 report that the laws and policies of the Government of Iran “continue to place overly broad restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and access to information”, including “severe content restrictions, intimidation and prosecution of Internet users and limitations on Internet access through throttling and filtering”;

Whereas the ability of religious freedom and human rights activists to freely express themselves, and mobilize civil society, is actively thwarted by the Government of Iran;

Whereas the Special Rapporteur found that the Government of Iran continues to apply capital punishment to offenders convicted of crimes below the international human rights law threshold of “most serious crimes”; political prisoners; and juvenile offenders, including 8 individuals in 2014 believed to be less than 18 years of age at the time of their alleged crimes;

Whereas Iranian women continue to face legal and societal discrimination, as well as rampant domestic violence, which is not specifically prohibited under domestic law;

Whereas, on October 25, 2014, Iranian authorities executed Reyhaneh Jabbari, an Iranian woman convicted of killing a man she said she stabbed in self-defense during a sexual assault, an execution preceded by the lack of due process, including a reported forced confession;

Whereas the United States Department of State issued a statement condemning Jabbari's execution and calling on Iran to “respect the fair trial guarantees afforded to its people under Iran's own laws and its international obligations”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom found in its 2014 Annual Report that the Government of Iran “continues to engage in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, including prolonged detention, torture, and executions based primarily or entirely upon the religion of the accused”;

Whereas the Government of Iran persecutes such religious minority groups as the Baha'is, Christians, Sufi, Sunni, and dissenting Shi'a Muslims (such as imprisoned Ayatollah Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi) through harassment, arrests, and imprisonment, during which detainees have routinely been beaten, tortured, and killed;

Whereas since 1999, the United States Department of State has repeatedly designated Iran as a “country of particular concern” for severe violations of religious freedom pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292), most recently on July 28, 2014;

Whereas the Government of Iran has long persecuted with particular intensity the Baha'i community, the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, who number at least 300,000, and are viewed as “heretics”, and therefore are subjected to repression on the grounds of apostasy;

Whereas according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders;

Whereas ordinary Iranian citizens who belong to the Baha'i faith are disproportionately targeted, interrogated, and detained under the pretext of national security;

Whereas senior governmental, military, and public security officials in Iran are responsible for ordering, controlling, and committing gross human rights violations that, in many cases, represent national policies of the Iranian regime;

Whereas the United States Department of the Treasury, pursuant to section 413 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8753), issued a General License in September 2013 to permit the exportation of services and the transfer of funds for activities related to human rights and democracy building projects in Iran, which facilitate United States non-governmental organizations' activities that increase Iranian access to information and freedom of expression;

Whereas since 2010, the United States Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the United States Department of State, has sanctioned 19 Iranian officials and 18 Iranian entities for their involvement or complicity in serious human rights abuses or in restricting the freedom of expression or assembly of the Iranian people;

Whereas the most recent designation was for Morteza Tamaddom, former Governor-General of Tehran Province, designated May 23, 2014, under Executive Order 13628 for his involvement in censorship and other activities that limit the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly of Iran's citizens;

Whereas the United States led the effort in the United Nations Human Rights Council to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Iran in order to further expose Iranian human rights abuses; and

Whereas it is important that the President of the United States consistently and rigorously exercise the statutory authorities granted by the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 and the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for human rights abuses, engaging in censorship, or engaging in the diversion of goods intended for the people of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the Government of Iran to abide by all of its international and domestic obligations with respect to human rights and civil liberties, including freedoms of assembly, speech, and press;

(2) deplores the dramatic rise in executions of Iranian citizens by authorities since the election of President Hassan Rouhani in June 2013;

(3) condemns, in particular, the recent cruel execution of Reyhaneh Jabbari, an Iranian woman convicted of killing a man she said she stabbed in self-defense during a sexual assault;

(4) deplores the Government of Iran's mistreatment of its religious minorities, including through the deprivation of life, liberty, and property;

(5) condemns, in particular, the Government of Iran for its relentless persecution of its Baha'i minority;

(6) calls on the Government of Iran to release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

(7) notes that the Administration has designated only one Iranian person for the commission of serious human rights abuses under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, as amended, since May 30, 2013;

(8) urges the President to increase the utilization of all available authorities, includ-

ing the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including by freezing those individuals' assets and barring their entry into the United States;

(9) urges the United States Government to adopt and implement the following recommendations of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom with respect to Iran—

(A) continue to seek that violations of freedom of religion or belief and related human rights are part of multilateral or bilateral discussions with the Government or Iran whenever possible, and continue to work closely with European and other allies to apply pressure through a combination of advocacy, diplomacy, and targeted sanctions;

(B) continue to speak out publicly and frequently at the highest levels about the severe religious freedom abuses in Iran, press for and work to secure the release of all prisoners of conscience, and highlight the need for the international community to hold authorities accountable in specific cases; and

(C) continue to call on Iran to cooperate fully with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Iran, including allowing the Special Rapporteur, as well as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, to visit and continue to support an annual United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning severe violations of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief in Iran and calling for officials responsible for such violations to be held accountable;

(10) condemns the undemocratic elections process that denies Iranians the ability to freely choose their own government; and

(11) stands with the people of Iran who seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choosing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this resolution, which condemns the Government of Iran for its gross human rights violations.

This bipartisan resolution, which I have introduced together with my good friend from New York—the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL—comes at a very important moment. The administration, together with the world's powers, is seeking a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear program. We all want

this outcome, though, at this point, it is unclear how an agreement that is in the long-term national security interests of the United States can be reached.

One thing is clear: we can have no illusions about the true nature of the Iranian regime. The history of rogue regimes teaches us that the manner in which these governments treat their own people is a pretty good indicator of how they will treat their neighbors and of whether they will abide by international agreements. This is a regime that has systematically violated the fundamental human rights of large segments of Iranian society since embarking upon the Revolution that brought it to power in 1979. It is a regime that rules by force, preventing the people of Iran from choosing their own government.

The world saw the undemocratic nature of this regime back in 2009 when millions of Iranians took to the streets to peacefully protest a stolen election. Not many are going to forget the images of the young girl bleeding to death in the capital city there, and today, the leaders of the Green Revolution opposition movement are confined to their homes, they are under house arrest, and, of course, at the time, thousands were imprisoned, many disappeared, and hundreds were tortured. It is a regime that has brutally suppressed the voice of human rights activists and journalists and religious minorities. But what I want to focus on today is the plight of women, who, in particular, face heinous treatment.

Recently, the parliament in Iran enacted a law. What they were responding to were acid attacks that had occurred because young men in this Basij militia had taken it on their own responsibility to go up to women who were uncovered and throw acid in their faces. The reason for the enactment of the law—which followed the harassment and arrest of a human rights activist, a woman who protested the fact that young men were themselves taking on this responsibility of enacting shari'a law, and doing it sometimes by motorcycle, driving by and throwing the acid, sometimes by walking up to the women—was that they were doing this with impunity. The state, the government, was not coming in. The argument that these young men were making was, it is shari'a law that they do this, so this is our enforcement mechanism.

What strikes me is the brutality of the law passed by parliament that would enact a law providing legal protection to citizens to enforce a strict Islamic dress code and other behavior prescribed under shari'a law. In other words, it is cover for these young men. It says if you are going to go out there and if you are going to enforce the Islamic revolution, and you are going to do it by throwing acid, you now have protection under the courts to do it.

This law will embolden these Basij. It will embolden them and other vigilante groups, who in recent months have prowled the streets of Iran's cities, conducting these cruel acid attacks on innocent women. I was going to hold up one of these pictures today, but I thought better of it. I think what we should do is appeal to reason here and make an appeal to the parliament in Iran and say, Reverse this law. Reverse this act. You are only going to encourage more acid attacks.

Let me underscore this point: today, Iranian women face the terror of knowing that state-sanctioned vigilantes may attack them by dousing them with corrosive acid, disfiguring them and blinding them. This is an unspeakable reality there. In 2014, the women of Iran, frankly, are under siege, not by an external force but by their own theocratic government. This is not the history of Cyrus the Great. Iran was the home of the first human rights document thousands of years ago. That was Persian culture. What is this?

We who live in freedom have a moral responsibility to condemn this brutal regime and insist that it treat its people with the dignity and respect that they deserve. This resolution stands for the principle that U.S. foreign policy can and must pursue strategic objectives like the dismantling of Iran's nuclear program while promoting the importance of democracy and human rights. Ultimately, the best chance for a peaceful Iran is a democratic Iran. These two go hand in hand.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 754, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its gross human rights violations.

When President Hassan Rouhani was elected in June 2013, he came to office with a reputation as a so-called "moderate." Some hoped that the human rights situation inside Iran would improve. A year later, we know that was a false hope. In fact, on so many fronts, things have gotten worse.

It is interesting when people say Rouhani is a moderate. No moderates were allowed to run for President in the Iranian election. There were six hard-liners at the end who were allowed to run. Rouhani may be the most moderate of those six hard-liners, but he is still a hard-liner, and I think we are seeing it time and time and time again. In fact, we don't even really know that he has the power to make decisions. Supreme Leader Khamenei is the one who really makes all of those decisions. So, while we can hope for certain things, I think we have to deal with things, unfortunately, as they are and not as we wish they were.

For example, Iranian authorities have dramatically escalated the number of executions of Iranian citizens.

This is from the so-called "moderate" Rouhani regime. According to the U.N., there were 852 executions between July 2013 and June 2014.

Last month, Iran executed Reyhaneh Jabbari. She was convicted of killing a man whom she apparently stabbed in self-defense while she was being sexually assaulted. That evidence wasn't allowed to be a part of her trial. While she was in prison, awaiting execution, she was tortured.

We all remember the massive protests, as the chairman mentioned, after the fraudulent 2009 Iranian elections. We all remember the images of tens of thousands of Iranians—brave Iranian citizens—taking to the streets, and we all remember how the Iranian government responded—sending the Basij militia to brutally beat peaceful protesters. The leaders of that Green Revolution remain under house arrest to this very day.

Religious minorities also face constant danger in Iran. This is especially true for members of the Baha'i faith. The Baha'i people are frequently detained and interrogated by Iranian security forces. Since 1979, hundreds of Baha'i leaders have been executed.

The United States has helped to shine a light on Iran's human rights violations. We have pushed the U.N. Human Rights Council to continue the work of the Special Rapporteur on Iran. Now, I have been one of the strongest critics of the Human Rights Council and its outrageous bias against Israel, but this Rapporteur has done important work to reveal the scale of human rights abuses in Iran.

Since 2010, the administration has sanctioned 19 Iranian officials and 18 Iranian entities. We have gone after them for their involvement or complicity in serious human rights abuses or in restricting the basic freedoms of the Iranian people. I am proud of the role that Congress has provided in putting forth these sanctions.

The most recent designation was for Morteza Tamaddon. He was the governor-general of Tehran Province. On May 23 of this year, we singled him out for his involvement in censorship and other activities that limit the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly of Iran's citizens. This designation occurred even while the P5+1 is negotiating with Iran on its illicit nuclear program. Even as those negotiations continue, we cannot and must not turn a blind eye to the horrific abuses taking place in Iran every single day.

□ 1600

The resolution we are now considering urges the administration to use every tool at its disposal to target, expose, and punish those who violate the human rights of the Iranian people because, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, despite the sharp differences between our governments, we have no

ill will toward the people of Iran, to the citizens of Iran.

They are, unfortunately, oppressed by a government that calls itself their government, but it is really a brutal oppressor of the Iranian people.

On the contrary, I believe the people of our two nations should be natural friends. Iran would be the natural U.S. ally in the region, but because of the Iranian regime, this of course cannot happen and will not happen as long as they are in power.

I hope that this resolution will demonstrate to the people of Iran, who are our friends—not the government, but the people of Iran—that we join them in seeking a future for their country based on respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I thank the chairman, as always, for his cooperation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 754, condemning the government of Iran for its gross human rights violations, authored by my good friend and colleague, Chairman ED ROYCE of California.

I want to thank him, especially on the eve of the November 24 deadline for the Iranian-U.S. talks on nuclear, as it is very important to have this discussion on the floor of the House, so your timing as well as the substance is deeply appreciated by all, especially the victims of Iran.

Ironically, Iran wants the world to lift sanctions and trust them with nuclear capabilities, despite ongoing reckless and violent disregard for even the most basic of human rights of its own citizens, as well as U.S. citizens.

U.N. special rapporteur for human rights in Iran, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, noted in a March 2014 statement that hundreds of individuals remain in some form of confinement for exercising their basic rights, including 179 Baha'i, 97 Sunni Muslims, 49 Christians, and 14 Dervish Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, it has now been nearly 2½ years since American pastor Saeed Abedini has seen or hugged his children, Rebecca and Jacob, or his wife, Naghmeh; and she has been a tireless advocate on his behalf. She was back here yesterday on Capitol Hill, pleading for her husband.

Members will recall that Pastor Abedini was arrested in Iran in September of 2012. He was in Iran to help orphans. Orphans. He was arrested while he was there, and he was there with the full knowledge and consent of the Iranian Government.

I have chaired two congressional hearings on Saeed Abedini. His wife testified at both, and to hear this noble, brave, and loving wife present her husband's case brings tears to your eyes.

She testified at a hearing that FRANK WOLF had chaired previous to the two that I had, and you could hear a pin drop when she told her story and told about the agony that both she and her family—especially her two young children—experience, knowing that their father has now been given an 8-year sentence and has been subjected to torture of many, many kinds.

We are also concerned about Robert Levinson, a retired agent of the FBI. His daughter lives in my district. That family is in utter agony. He got 7 years.

Amir Hekmati, a 31-year-old retired U.S. Marine, disappeared while visiting his grandmother in Iran in 2011. He got 10 years.

Now, recently, Jason Rezaian, a Washington Post reporter, has disappeared.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution sends a clear message to the Iranians and to the world that we care about human rights, but I would also ask that the President of the United States invite to the White House the family members of these Americans unjustly held captive in Iran and to ask, petition, push for, and link to our negotiations the release of these Americans and for a fuller expression of human rights in Iran.

I thank Chairman ROYCE for yielding the time.

Mr. ENGEL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), a member of the Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Transportation Committees.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for this legislation, and I offer my strongest support because, if nothing else, it reminds us of what the Iranian regime really is at its foundational core, what its essence is.

With much of today's focus on the prospects of a nuclear deal with Iran and the potential military cooperation of our Nation with theirs against ISIS, we absolutely cannot and must not forget the unacceptable and appalling human rights abuses the Iranian regime commits on a daily basis.

Just today, a U.N. resolution condemned Iran's numerous human rights abuses, which include an "alarmingly high frequency" of the use of the death penalty, the persecution and imprisonment of religious and ethnic minorities, and the suppression of multiple individual freedoms, and the list just goes on.

Firsthand reports continue to emerge, describing how, of the over 800 documented executions over the past

year, 80 percent were for drug offenses, and legal due process was almost never given to defendants. We don't even know if the defendants committed any offenses whatsoever.

Also, disturbingly, in 2014 alone, at least eight people under the age of 18 at the time they allegedly committed their crimes were executed.

Mr. Speaker, President Hassan Rouhani promised to improve the Iranian regime's human rights record. Really? Does anybody take that seriously at all? Realistically, the Iranian regime has only ramped up the oppression of its citizens.

We absolutely must remain clear-eyed when dealing with this extremist regime in all accounts, whether it is a nuclear deal, whether it is in cooperation against ISIS, and certainly when it comes to their human rights violations.

Mr. ENGEL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am here in support of H. Res. 754, and I wholeheartedly support this resolution, and I commend Chairman ROYCE for his important work and leadership on this issue.

Any successful negotiation must be based on mutual trust and respect. Trusting and respecting the Iranian regime as an equal member of the world's community of nuclear power producers would be a tragic mistake, in my view. Iran has not earned our trust or Israel's trust or the world's trust. For 35 years, Iran has done anything but earn our trust.

It is time for Iran to free Christian pastor Saeed Abedini. Iran's horrific human rights violations, their state sponsorship of terrorism, their public condemnations of our own country, and their repeated denials of Israel's right to exist spell potential disaster here, I am afraid. Let's not trust the untrustworthy.

This dilemma reminds me of a scorpion and the frog fable that my friend from Arkansas, TOM COTTON, recently used. A frog is about to cross a river when he is asked for a ride by a scorpion. Now, the frog knew that scorpions are poisonous and untrustworthy. He knew that, if the scorpion stung him on the way across the river, they would both drown.

When the frog asked for assurance from the scorpion, the scorpion replied, "Of course, I won't sting you. If I do, we will both drown." Halfway across the river, of course, the scorpion struck, and as they were both headed for their demise, the frog asked, "Why did you sting me?" The scorpion responded, "Because it is my nature."

Even though the frog knew that the safe way to go was to say “no” to the scorpion, he caved in, dismissed better judgment, and the result was tragic.

Let us not repeat the mistake of the frog. We cannot give Iran a free ride across the Rubicon to nuclear weapons. We must not hand the keys of nuclear proliferation to a scorpionlike regime that cannot be trusted.

So what do we do? We can’t do a bad deal. We can’t walk away, but we also can’t trust Iran. What must Iran do to gain our trust? Treat its people right. Treat its neighbors right. Treat Israel right, with dignity and respect. I think we have many rivers to cross before we get to that state.

As we work on this Iranian nuclear dilemma, which will take years, we need to see concrete progress toward the civil liberties that have been mentioned today. They must stop the crimes against humanity exposed in Chairman ROYCE’s resolution.

To gain our trust, Iran must acknowledge the right of Israel to exist. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1930s, the world trusted a scorpion, thinking that we had achieved peace in our time, and millions paid the price for that mistake with their lives. Let’s not stand here someday and admit that we messed up because we trusted an Iranian scorpion.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentleman from New York for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I have said time and time again that the Iranian Government must improve the status of human rights in their country. Let’s not pretend though that this resolution is taking place at this time outside of any context. There is a context, and the context is that we are closer than we have ever been to reaching a peaceful agreement with Iran on nuclear weapons.

I don’t know what is going to happen on November 24, and I suspect the people who do know aren’t telling the public just yet, but I do know that we have made substantial progress and that we are close.

The context is important that we should stand with the people of Iran and stand for their human rights. I absolutely believe that that is the right thing to do; therefore, I ask for a “yes” vote on this.

I have to ask the question: Is this the most well-timed time for this resolution? I do worry that we could undermine the negotiations, but the four corners of this resolution are right, so I am a “yes” vote.

I think today’s resolution, which highlights the human rights abuses in Iran, also could be improved if it included words and language about the best way to bring those abuses to an end.

I believe improving human rights in Iran is much more likely if we secure a nuclear agreement. The best way to empower human rights leaders within Iran is to engage, not isolate.

Increased sanctions and the threat of war hurts human rights activists because it allows the hard-liners in Iran to claim that they are under imminent threat and, therefore, there is no time or space or room for human rights. I believe that a nuclear agreement will actually increase the likelihood for human rights advocacy.

I don’t want to see us go back to the days when we talked in terms of the “axis of evil.” It didn’t improve the set freedom and security of Americans or anyone. I liked the fact that we have embarked on the path of diplomacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ELLISON. President Rouhani has prioritized diplomacy, and I think this is an important opportunity that we should pursue.

In the final analysis, human rights are what the United States should always stand for, and we in this Congress should never not stand for human rights. I am proud that we are clear on human rights in this resolution.

I simply want to admonish and warn us that taking action that could undermine very delicate negotiations may not be the best timing that we have ever pursued and that for the last 30 years—and I hope for the next 30 years—we will always raise the banner of human rights whenever and wherever, but I think we should be sensitive of the reality of the moment that we are in.

Let me just say thank you to the brave souls who stand up for human rights under very difficult conditions in Iran.

□ 1615

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes to respond.

One of the reasons the timing on this is important is because this is the timing that the Iranian regime has chosen to pass legislation that would protect those young men in the Basij who carry out these acid attacks against women. One of the reasons I am bringing this bill to the floor is because I am concerned about what it tells us about a regime that, rather than come to the defense of these women who admittedly were in violation of the dress code in terms of their facial, in terms of their mode of dress, to allow individuals in a theocratic country to make the decisions that they are the arbitrator of

what is shari’a law and then to exonerate them by saying it is the right of the individual to step in against another and enforce shari’a law rather than have the state do it, this is a theocratic state that is taking a principle against the individual, against individual freedom, and especially against rights of women to an extra step that is so injurious to human liberty, but also the fact that they would do this now and that they would be so unconcerned that we might not even respond to this or that the international community would have a reaction to this, I think it demands a reaction. Because if we do not, in the court of international opinion, hold them to account for these kinds of acts in their Parliament, what is the message that is given to those who are encouraged to further violate women’s rights and minority rights in Iran? That is why I am pushing this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation a little over a week ago with a group of Iranian American women about their experiences in Iran and their reaction to this parliamentary act and their reaction to the acid attacks which are increasing in number to a truly alarming percentage. There have been over a dozen of these now. So that is why the timing of the legislation. It is in response to this. In the process, it catalogs the other abuses that the regime recently has undertaken under President Rouhani at a time when we thought they might put a different foot forward to the international community.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send a message of support to the Iranian people that they build a better future for themselves and their children. Today this House exposes the gross violations of human rights by the Iranian regime. The Iranian people deserve better. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, there were observers that were tempted to believe that Iran’s President Rouhani would usher in a more tolerant attitude at home. I think many of us suspected that might be the case because he did occasionally offer less antagonistic rhetoric than his predecessor, even if he had had the history he did have in the security services. But it turns out that was wrong. That assumption was wrong.

In a new report, the U.N. Special Rapporteur has documented an alarming increase in the number of executions, including political prisoners, juveniles, and religious minorities, such as the peaceful Baha’i, since President Rouhani took office in August of 2013. The motif of this regime is becoming a religious dissident swinging by the neck from a crane, if you watch the news coming out of Iran.

I won't again articulate my concerns about these acid attacks that are going on, but this comes, I think, at a time when millions of Iranians yearn for basic freedoms—basic freedoms—that we in the West take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is incumbent upon all of us, as the House is doing today, to stand with the people of Iran who suffer under this theocracy and to speak out.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 754.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3583) to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 9, 2012, Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by Pakistani Taliban on her way home from school.

(2) In late 2008, Malala began writing a blog for BBC Urdu under a pseudonym pressing the case for access to education for women and girls despite objections from the Pakistani Taliban.

(3) Malala's advocacy for the education of women and girls made her a target of the Taliban.

(4) The Taliban called Malala's efforts to highlight the need for education for women and girls an “obscurity”.

(5) On July 12, 2013, Malala celebrated her 16th birthday by delivering a speech before the United Nations General Assembly in which she said, “So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution.”.

(6) According to the United Nation's 2012 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Pakistan has the second largest number of children out of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural females have never been to school.”.

(7) According to the World Bank, “The benefits of women's education go beyond higher

productivity for 50 percent of the population. More educated women also tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn more income, have fewer children, and provide better health care and education to their children, all of which eventually improve the well-being of all individuals and lift households out of poverty. These benefits also transmit across generations, as well as to their communities at large.”.

(8) According to United Nation's 2012 Education For All Global Monitoring Report, “education can make a big difference to women's earnings. In Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned 95 percent more than women with no literacy skills.”.

(9) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of education to all citizens, but especially to girls and women . . . We are doing all of these things because we have seen that when women and girls have the tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to contribute to their families' well-being, they flourish and so do the people around them.”.

(10) The United States provides critical foreign assistance to Pakistan's education sector to improve access to and the quality of basic and higher education.

(11) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students from all regions, including remote areas of the country, to pursue bachelor's or master's degrees at participating Pakistani universities.

(12) Fifty percent of the 974 Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2013 were awarded to Pakistani women. Historically, only 25 percent of such scholarships have been awarded to women. Starting in the fall of 2013, USAID has committed to provide 50 percent of all scholarships to women.

(13) The United Nations declared July 12, 2013, as “Malala Day”—a global day of support for and recognition of Malala's bravery and courage in promoting women's education.

(14) On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her “struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education”.

(15) On December 10, 2012, the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan launched the “Malala Fund for Girls' Education” to improve girls' access to education worldwide, with Pakistan donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

(16) More than 1,000,000 people around the world have signed the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education petition calling on the Government of Pakistan to enroll every boy and girl in primary school.

(17) Pakistani civil society organizations collected almost 2,000,000 signatures from Pakistanis on a petition dedicated to Malala's cause of education for all.

(18) Engagement with Pakistani diaspora communities in the United States, who have unique perspectives, access, and opportunities to contribute to stability and economic growth in Pakistan, will be a critical element of a successful United States program to promote greater access to education for women and girls.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) every individual should have the opportunity to pursue an education;

(2) every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(3) educational exchanges promote institutional linkages between the United States and Pakistan; and

(4) recipients of scholarships referred to in section 4 should commit to improving their local communities.

(b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially education for women.

SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this Act as the “USAID Administrator”) shall award at least 50 percent of the number of scholarships under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”) to women for each of the calendar years 2014 through 2016.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) CRITERIA.—The scholarships available under subsection (a) may only be awarded in accordance with other scholarship eligibility criteria already established by USAID.

(2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Scholarships authorized under subsection (a) shall be awarded for a range of disciplines to improve the employability of graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship recipients.

(3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Administrator shall make every effort to award 50 percent of the scholarships available under the Program to Pakistani women.

(c) LEVERAGING INVESTMENT.—The USAID Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, consult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani private sector and Pakistani diaspora communities in the United States as part of USAID's greater effort to improve the quality of, expand access to, and ensure sustainability of education programs in Pakistan.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of section 4.

(b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for the most recently concluded fiscal year—

(1) the total number of scholarships that were awarded through the Program, including a breakdown by gender;

(2) the disciplines of study chosen by the scholarship recipients;

(3) the percentage of the scholarships that were awarded to students seeking a bachelor's degree or a master's degree, respectively;

(4) the percentage of scholarship recipients who voluntarily dropped out of school or were involuntarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet program requirements; and

(5) the percentage of scholarship recipients who dropped out of school due to retaliation for seeking an education, to the extent that such information is available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act. I really want to thank the chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. She authored this bill along with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and our colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Earlier this year, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on women's education which underscored the point at the heart of the bill: a modest investment in educating women and girls in the developing world, particularly in areas beset by poverty and radicalism, can pay long-term dividends that help stabilize societies, promote market-based economic growth, and advance U.S. national security objectives.

I have for years expressed concern about the appalling state of education in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan and the subsequent rise of madrasas, those that prey upon the disenfranchised and breed radicalism. And what I am speaking of now are the Deobandi schools, not the other madrasa, but the Deobandi ones in particular.

The situation for women in areas where access to education is actively suppressed is particularly grim. In Pakistan's northwest frontier province and in Balochistan, for example, literacy among women is between 3 and 8 percent—under 8 percent. I visited all-girl schools in Pakistan up in the northwest frontier only to learn later, when I came back for another visit, that they had been destroyed and it was no longer possible to visit that site.

It is therefore fitting that this bill was named after Malala Yousafzai, who at the age of 15 dared to defy the Taliban and survived a brutal assassination attempt, and ultimately inspired a generation of women and girls to demand their fundamental right to be educated. She is known today for leading that effort. Just last month, Malala became the corecipient of this year's Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle, in her words, for the right of all children to education.

This legislation requires that USAID award at least half of the scholarships made available through its existing Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program in Pakistan to women. It adds no new money to the program, but it provides support and policy guidance to make sure that these scholarships are now going half to women.

The bill also emphasizes the importance of working with the Pakistani diaspora, those communities in the United States who already are doing so much back in Pakistan relating to education and to the medical colleges and universities. Tapping into this vast pool of expertise and resources will prove invaluable to our long-term commitment to promote educational opportunity for girls in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her leadership on this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3583, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my good friend, the chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her commitment to girls' education and for authoring this bill. ILEANA works hard at everything she does, and I am very proud of her, as usual, for her good work in this bill.

I also want to thank Mrs. LOWEY for the hard work she has put into this through the years. She has always been a good force on the Appropriations Committee with earmarks pushing for these very, very important things that we are putting forward here in this resolution.

I want to also thank my fellow New Yorkers, GRACE MENG and JEROLD NADLER, who are cosponsors of this bill, as well as NITA LOWEY, as well.

Mr. Speaker, some of the most effective programs we funded in Pakistan in the years since 9/11 are those that support education, and particularly education for girls. The legislation before us today ensures that at least 50 percent of the scholarships that USAID provides in Pakistan are made available to girls and women. As the President has said, if a country is "educating its girls, if women have equal rights, that country is going to move forward. But if women are oppressed and abused and illiterate, then they are going to fall behind."

The World Bank's top economist has said that financing women's education yields the highest rate of return of any investment in the developing world. But there is another compelling reason for the U.S. to support female education in Pakistan and in other countries around the world. Educated women and girls are proving to be some

of the most powerful weapons in the fight against radicalism.

Take the example of Malala, the courageous young woman. We all know about her. She was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. As a teenager, Malala became a vocal advocate for all girls to have the right to an education at a time when the Taliban in Afghanistan prohibited access to education for girls. When she wouldn't follow their orders, the Taliban shot her in the head for defying them. After recovering—thankfully—from the violent attack on her life, Malala's passionate calls for universal education inspired millions—I know she inspired me—and spurred action around the world.

In the speech she gave at the U.N. in July of 2013, Malala said of the Taliban:

They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came thousands of voices.

Mr. Speaker, the positive impact of these voices will only continue to grow in Pakistan and around the world as more and more girls are given the opportunity to get an education. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I thank Chairman ROYCE once again for working with us and for being a vocal voice in all these important resolutions, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, the author of this measure, but also, herself, a former educator who understands only too well the importance of this bill.

□ 1630

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL not only for helping bring this bill, H.R. 3583, to the floor today, but for working in such a smooth, bipartisan manner throughout their time over 2 years—and beyond, to infinity—and helping bring all of our Members together on incredibly vexing issues. Whether it is Iraq or Iran or ISIS or you name it, our committee works in a very smooth way. And it is thanks to the leadership at the top.

I also want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER, KAY GRANGER, and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY of the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee. They joined me in introducing this bill. This bill is as much theirs as it is mine. Also, Senator BOXER, on the Senate side, for her leadership on this issue.

As Chairman ROYCE so nicely put it, I am a former Florida certified teacher. That is what I used to do in my real life. And I am a lifelong student and one of the most senior women in Congress today. I have been around a long time. So I hold the issue of education very near and dear to my heart.

We know that access to education is a game changer for any society, Mr. Speaker. It could transform developing countries. It improves the lives of so many, especially in the vulnerable populations.

Greater access to education for women and for young girls, it leads to an increased respect for human rights, it leads to a rise in prosperity and well-being, and a more peaceful and stable society.

Everyone wins. A society in which women have unfettered access to the education system expands the horizons not just for the girls and women involved, but for everyone in their community and their nation. These countries that limit access to education for young girls and women are missing out. They are missing out on the untapped potential of nearly half of their population.

Imagine how much more productive and how much better off some of these nations would be if they promoted a more inclusive society.

What are they afraid of? It is no coincidence that the countries that are most susceptible to human trafficking and exploitation or the trappings of extremism and terrorism are also those countries that restrict a woman's access to education.

Education is the most important factor in empowering young girls and women to become successful members of our society, protecting them from the ignorance that enables abuse, radicalization, and exploitation.

And that is precisely the case in Pakistan, a country which has one of the highest number of children out of school already. They are not going to school. Two-thirds of all children out of school are girls.

The numbers are troubling. Barely half of all girls in Pakistan are enrolled in primary schools. And that figure drops to 30 percent for secondary schools. These numbers are even lower in rural areas where poverty is ever increasing and girls have even less access to schools.

A lot of this has to do with the Taliban, Mr. Speaker, that radical terror group that seeks to impose Shari'a law and forbids women, forbids girls from access to education.

That is why this bill is so important. We need to help ensure that we can counter the Taliban's efforts to deny fundamental rights to women and limit their contributions to Pakistani society.

The United States provides Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships to Pakistani children. But this bill will ensure that at least half of those scholarships go to women. There is still much more to be done to ensure access to education for all women in Pakistan and indeed throughout the world.

Doing so would mean a safer society, a healthier society, a more stable and

secure world, and so it would be in our national security interest to make it so.

This is but a small step in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank again my chairman, Chairman ROYCE of California, and Mr. ENGEL of New York for guiding our committee in such a wonderful bipartisan way.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to first of all, again, thank Chairman ROYCE for working closely with us on all these pieces of legislation, and thank ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for her hard work and her collegiality as well.

The legislation that we are passing now and the three pieces of legislation that we passed beforehand makes me very, very proud to be the ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I think we do good work on the committee. I think we do good bipartisan work on the committee. It is on issues like this that it is really very crucial and very important for the powers that be all over the world to see that foreign policy in America is bipartisan, that we are strongest when we work together, that we are strongest in tackling foreign policy issues when we do it in a bipartisan nature—and we have done it in the Committee on Foreign Affairs. So I want to tell the chairman how proud I am to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, humanity will never reach its full potential until all children, especially girls, are given the opportunity to get an education. Educated women and girls make critical economic contributions, stabilize whole communities, and serve as bulwarks against extremism. This important legislation would ensure girls and women be given at least 50 percent of the scholarships we provide in Pakistan, a nation that continues to face enormous challenges, including the threat of terrorism.

Again, I want to thank everybody. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL did something especially impactful. He quoted from the speech before the United Nations last year of Malala, in her own words. I thought I would just close by making her closing argument, which was:

The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women. The power of the voice of women frightens them. That is why they are blasting schools every day. Because they were and they are afraid of change, afraid of the equality that we will bring into our society.

I ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as one of the co-sponsors and Co-Chair of both the Children's Caucus and the Pakistan Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3583, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 3583 would provide numerous educational opportunities to Pakistani women in situations similar to Malala Yousafzai.

According to the United Nation's Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Pakistan has the second-largest number of children not attending school, and nearly half of rural girls have never been to school.

The Pakistan-based Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students from all regions to pursue bachelor's or master's degrees at participating Pakistani universities.

The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act would require the U.S. Agency for International Development to award 50 percent of its Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program scholarships to Pakistani women each year through 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Malala Yousafzai is the heroic Pakistani girl who rose to prominence as she stood against the oppressive policies imposed on the citizens of Pakistan by the Taliban.

She is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, and was awarded the honor for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

Malala's devoted service to education, justice, and equality in Pakistan is deserving of recognition, which is why I introduced H.R. 60 to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Malala Yousafzai.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian awards in the United States, and Malala's legacy of inspiring young women around the world is truly commendable and worthy of this honor.

It is fitting that this act, the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, is named in Malala's honor, as she is a symbol of hope in a country long beset by violence, and her actions demonstrate the impact one person can have on the entire world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3583 to help change the lives of Pakistani women, like Malala Yousafzai, by opening doors to education, justice, and equality.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3583, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today is an important anniversary. On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Prior to this famous address, Lincoln arrived at the Gettysburg train station. Earlier this year, the House passed my bill to permanently preserve this historic landmark without utilizing any federal funds.

Currently, this bill awaits consideration by the full Senate.

The Battle of Gettysburg marks a turning point in American history. By preserving the Lincoln train station, I hope to inspire my fellow citizens to learn and appreciate the significance of the Gettysburg Campaign, the Gettysburg Address, the Civil War, and the bravery of the soldiers who, in President Lincoln's powerful words, gave the last full measure of devotion.

HONORING OHIO CITIZENS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the season of Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the precious gifts of family, friends, community, and country, please allow me to pay special tribute of gratitude to some outstanding northwest Ohio citizens whose lives made a significant contribution to building a better community and America.

We honor them for who they were and what they contributed to the betterment of our lives together in what some have called our beloved community.

In particular, let me recognize business leader Barry Greenblatt, his magnificent, ebullient personality as founder of Barry Bagels and a work ethic like no other.

Mrs. Jean Overton was a pioneering woman who gladly assumed the role of mother for our community.

The former Mayor of Waterville, Ohio, three terms, Chuck Peyton, who lived as a man for others, a Navy veteran who logged four decades of public service.

Sheryl Shipman, who dedicated her career to ensuring recreational opportunities for children, older adults, and people with special needs. Oh, she was a leader, and how people trusted her in Toledo.

Finally, Sam Szor, "Mr. Music." Born in Toledo's Birmingham neigh-

borhood, for more than 60 years under his baton delighting hundreds of thousands of people in his incredible music that floated over our community in free concerts for decade after decade after decade.

What magnificent Americans these individuals were.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to lay their life stories in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, as we come to this Season of Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the precious gifts of family, friends, community, and country, please allow me to pay special tribute of gratitude to some outstanding Northwest Ohio citizens whose lives made a significant contribution to building a better community and America. We honor them for who they were and what they contributed to the betterment of our lives together in what some have called our beloved community.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, please let me recognize for outstanding character and achievement:

Business leader Barry Greenblatt, founder of Barry Bagels. Without a doubt, Barry's ebullient personality, creativity, and work ethic produced a business, founded in 1972, that anchored Toledo and Southeast Michigan in their very hearts. Without question, Barry Bagels are the best in America. His deli counter became part of the Toledo and Ann Arbor scenes, appreciated and always dependable. Barry's generosity extended far beyond the walls of his business. His charity was as boundless as his broad smile. He was always collecting for some needy cause—sick children, peace in the Middle East, local ball clubs and youth groups. He worked in his business, hands on, year after year. He was indefatigable. He made an effort to employ local youth and touched the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens with his good humor and community-minded. What a likable human being was he. Customers could often find Barry behind the counter, his happy banter infectious.

Quick to lend a hand, participate in an event, lead an effort or help a friend, Barry Greenblatt was held in high esteem by all who were lucky to know him. He was the perfect example of a compassionate businessman whose focus was on his family, his employees and his community. We shall always remember Barry's smiling face and golden heart. May his wife, children and grandchildren draw strength from his legacy achievements. We join our spirits with theirs and shall deeply miss him.

Mrs. T. Jean Overton was a pioneering woman who gladly assumed the role of Mother for our Community. Jean never stopped giving—to her family, her church, her neighborhood, her community, and to every person whose path she crossed. A talent and broadcast pioneer and graduate of the University of Toledo, in 1952 Jean was the first African American woman to broadcast on Toledo area airwaves. She went on to work for many more years in broadcasting and public relations, but also moved into public service.

Following the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's, Jean assumed leadership roles in Model Cities and other programs to revitalize

Toledo's neighborhoods, with a particular dedication to North Toledo. Jean was a leader. Always with grace, she attended community meetings, founded organizations, counseled youth, testified at public forums, fought the abuses of poverty and discrimination, and ministered to forgotten people and places. Her spirituality, perseverance, and genuine concern were evident and made a difference. Appointed to the Ohio Public Health Council in 1971, Jean led an effort to organize an association for people with sickle cell anemia. Jean was also a neighborhood activist throughout her life. As her son succinctly described Jean, "She would want to be remembered as a mother, first and foremost. And someone who would rather give than receive, to be honest. She was a mother to Toledo." Toledo is a better place because Jean Overton made her life here with us. May God grant her a peaceful rest and bring comfort to her dear family and all those who loved her.

Chuck Peyton truly was a man for others. As a Navy veteran, councilman, municipal administrator and then three term mayor of Waterville, Ohio, Chuck logged four decades of public service. With an easy smile and ability to listen, he happily devoted his years to building a stronger community and country. He was a storyteller, enjoyable company to young and old. His travels as a deep sea diver equipped him with harrowing and adventure-some tales.

Committed to public transit, and understanding the needs of the disabled as he bore lifetime mobility challenges from an accident, he served 18 years as a trustee for the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority for eighteen years. His public service also included various county positions and administration in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Northwest Ohio district office.

Chuck Peyton knew how to achieve progress. He was always thinking forward, whether it was modernizing regional public transit or visioning the new U.S. 24 route between Ohio and Indiana to relieve dangerous conditions on the old Route 24. Our community is better because Chuck Peyton lived among us, and cared about us. May his lovely wife Diane, family, and friends draw comfort from their memories of his living legacy of love and devotion to duty.

Robert O'Connell was "an icon of local tennis." He was a history teacher and renowned tennis coach at Ottawa Hills High School, retiring in 1988. A master of the game, he coached many young people to outstanding high school and college careers, imbuing them with a love of the game. A testament to his character and his coaching is the high regard with which his athletes still hold him. In 2006, the Ottawa Hills tennis courts were named in Robert O'Connell's honor. Even with all of the local and statewide accolades, Robert O'Connell's greatest legacy is his family. We shall not forget this champion.

Sheryl Shipman dedicated her career to ensuring recreational opportunities for children, older adults and people with special needs. She served as a supervisor and manager in Toledo's Recreation Department until illness overcame her. Through several city administrations and many budget challenges, Sherrie fought for the initiatives she developed for

people to play in Toledo's pools, parks, ice rinks, baseball diamonds and community centers. One of her colleagues explained, "She felt all the children of Toledo were her children. That's what allowed her to be a force to be reckoned with." Sherrie Shipman's tireless efforts on behalf of others earned her respect and admiration and will not soon be forgotten. Her son summed it up by saying, "She was a leader, and people trusted her."

Finally, Samuel Szor, "Mr. Music." Born in Toledo's Birmingham neighborhood, Sam's musical talents were soon recognized. A high school standout, Sam performed as part of the University of Michigan Marching Band while earning two degrees. He came home to teach, inspiring students and community alike. Sam began Toledo's famed outdoor summer concert series, "Music Under the Stars" in the Toledo Zoo's amphitheater. For more than sixty years under his baton, Sam delighted and dazzled summer concertgoers with this brilliance. An accomplished musician in this own right, Sam performed with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, eventually leading it himself in the Casual Concerts program of popular and classical music. He also conducted the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra for twenty years. He directed the First Congregational Church motet choir for 37 years. For 53 years Sam led the Toledo Choral Society in its annual December presentation of Handel's "Messiah." A true visionary, Sam Szor enjoyed iconic status in his lifetime. His imprimatur in our community is everywhere as his career was writ large. The gifts he gave us are truly priceless and we will long remember our very own "Mr. Music."

THE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the agency is reopening the comment period for an additional 30 days for the public comment period on their proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered.

This species can be found in 38 States, and if listed under the Endangered Species Act, the consequences could have significant impacts on farmers, foresters, landowners, and the States themselves.

The underlying issue is that neither habitat loss nor human activities have played a role in the losses. The northern long-eared bat is suffering from a fungal disease known as White-nose Syndrome, which wakes subterranean cave-roosting bats out of hibernation in winter. Once awake, these bats leave the cave in search of food and, unfortunately, starve or die during the colder months.

Rather than placing a limitation on land use that has nothing to do with the spread of a disease, I would encourage the Fish and Wildlife Service to focus on research into countering the White-nose Syndrome.

The American people deserve as much.

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow at 1 p.m. Congressman TED DEUTCH and I will convene a hearing on the threats that an Iran nuclear deal will have for global security.

We are just 5 days away from the deadline, and this is what is airing right now on Iranian State-run television: "Iran will not even go back one step from the research and development and the enrichment of uranium."

This leading ayatollah also threatens U.S. military bases and Israel saying that Iranian ballistic missiles can "hit and raze to the ground anyplace in Israel as well as any American base in the region." State-run television.

Iran continues to make these overt threats to us and to our ally, the democratic Jewish state of Israel, yet President Obama engages this evil regime as if the nuclear program exists in a vacuum.

Mr. Speaker, this is an obtuse and dangerous way to approach the greatest threat to global security, and Congress must not allow any deal with Iran to leave in place the possibility that the regime can obtain a nuclear weapon.

AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the American people keep asking: Where have all the good jobs gone? And I truly appreciate my colleagues, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER of New York and Congressman PAUL TONKO of New York, for joining me tonight.

We are talking about jobs that can create a middle-class way of life for the people who occupy them as well as local businesses, jobs that produce living wages, that produce good health benefits and pensions and 401(k)s you can depend upon.

□ 1645

Now, since the 1980s, unlike any period following World War II, because the United States is importing more than we are exporting, we actually have lost millions and millions of jobs.

People complain about a budget deficit. The reason we have a budget deficit is because we have a trade deficit. In fact, since the mid-1970s, every single trade agreement the United States

has signed of any consequence has resulted in more and more and more red ink.

Go to any store in this country. I don't care if you are trying to buy a suit or an automobile or curtains, I really don't care what it is, if you can find something made in America, that is a discovery.

What does that mean? It means that rather than exporting more than we import, we have been driving down the living standard of most Americans decade after decade. Jobs here disappear while capital moves abroad and exploits penny wage workers who have no hope for a better life because they live in places that have no Democratic values.

It is a shocking number to put on the record, but since the mid-1990s, this country has amassed over \$4.3 trillion in trade deficit—and that is a conservative estimate—amounting to a job loss of over 8.5 million good jobs. That is what this red ink is all about. It is a shocking figure. The American people, they sort of know it innately, but when you really put it up there they go, "Yeah." That is what happened.

If you look here, this shows that, with more imports, you get fewer jobs. When the trade deficit keeps getting worse, if you are out of a job yet, keep buying foreign. I am not against trade, I am for balanced trade, but I am not for trade that puts our country in this kind of an economic hole.

This is just one example—and we will go back to it a little bit later—this is the most recent agreement that the United States signed called the Korea Free Trade Agreement. We were supposed to be able to sell 50,000 cars in Korea.

Guess what. We have been able to ship—here is our piddly little shipment over there—750,000 cars. Guess how many they have sent over here. Look at this arrow compared to that little tiddlywink there. Imported vehicles from Korea, over 561,000 compared to 7,450.

So when you start wondering where your job has gone, think about what has happened to these trade agreements and how they have put us deeper and deeper in the trade hole and then in the budget deficit hole.

When I ask individual Americans how their life is going under the corporate globalization model that has been accelerated by the so-called free trade agreements, if they answer honestly and if they are not a multimillionaire investor, consistently, the response is one of great disappointment and too frequently one of great distress. The middle class in America is in trouble.

It is safe to say that this is a direct result of the long list of free trade deals that have benefited only the wealthiest in the global environment in which we live, wealthy investors who can survive anywhere. In fact,

they have a lot of houses—Paris, Geneva, you name it—but each of us has a house that is our most important asset.

We come from little communities across this country, and we have a right to a good life. Our people have a right to a good life because they work so hard. Trade policy is the major reason, in my opinion, that America cannot employ all Americans seeking work.

I wanted to allow my colleagues to also speak this evening. Let me just give you a couple examples, practical examples—actually, the list could go all across this floor if I were to roll it out. Fort Smith, Arkansas, ask the 1,860 workers who lost jobs at Whirlpool when production was shifted to Mexico.

How about the 300 people who worked at the Vise-Grip plant in DeWitt, Nebraska, a town of only 572 residents, who all lost their jobs, and some would say their town identity, when the company moved to China to keep the name competitive.

How about Maytag from Newton, Iowa—one of America's iconic products—shut down, moved to Monterrey, Mexico. If you look at the census statistics from the time that happened over a decade and a half ago until today, poverty in Newton has risen up to a level of 25 percent.

This is happening across this country.

How about the 535 workers who made hearing aids in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, who were laid off when the Starkey Laboratories factory moved to Mexico and China.

Every American listening knows a company or more that has done exactly the same thing. If you go down to those countries and you see how the people live, you couldn't stomach it; you simply couldn't. I have gone down to the maquiladoras in Mexico.

I have asked the workers in those factories, "Take me to where you live," and they do. It is truly sad to see a tiny little crate barrel house powered by a lightbulb connected to a battery, and this is what development brings them. Come now. Come now. The world can do better than that.

13,000 citizens of our congressional district in Ohio had jobs shifted overseas, outsourced to someplace else. Oh, they know this tale all too well.

I would ask my dear colleague from New York—New York has been battered, just like Ohio has been battered—Congressman PAUL TONKO, one of the greatest leaders on economic growth for our country, who has taken time tonight during a very busy week to join us here, thank you so very much for coming to the floor tonight.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you very much, Representative KAPTUR. Thank you for leading us in this discussion. We are going to be joined in a minute with our representative from Rochester, New

York, Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and she and I, we can suggest, live along the Erie Canal Corridor, she at the western end of upstate New York, I at the eastern end.

That corridor became the birthplace of a necklace of communities dubbed "mill towns" with the development of the Erie Canal. Product activity, product discovery, product development was the theme ongoing in that region. People tethered their American dream in these mill towns. They came, they worked their fingers to the bone, they came up with product ideas, and that was the pulse of our community. Manufacturing was alive and well.

Then we saw this onslaught of what was called a trade negotiations process, where we would get into this concept of providing for negotiations, but those negotiations have grown a far distance from trade barriers and negotiations on tariffs. It became a way to encourage public policy in a very veiled kind of concept, so that you were addressing far beyond the tariff measures and the trade burdens.

What we have today, as you indicated, is trillions of dollars in trade deficit where these manufacturing jobs have left our home communities in upstate New York and are now, in many situations, in underdeveloped nations or newly developing nations.

When we look at the Trans-Pacific Partnership that is looming as one of the largest, if not the largest, most complex trade negotiation ever, you are going to look at situations where you have a minimum wage of 25 cents, for instance, in Vietnam, or an average hourly salary of 75 cents.

This is not what we want to bring as a condition for our American workers. We can't compete with that, nor should we. We are holding down the workers' rights, the human rights, of these people in developing nations by agreeing to these sorts of agreements.

I think that we can do better. We must do better. I stand for fair trade. This free trade concept where we sacrifice American workers, we find the rusting of manufacturing towns as a result, is not what the doctor ordered for the American economy.

We need to be fair to the middle class. This is the great many of us who have found our American prosperity developed in manufacturing centers where we were able to raise a family and grow a community and develop a neighborhood simply by a just salary, sound benefits, and the security of knowing that your job was your grounding in that community.

Free trade has taken away that American Dream for far too many, and we need to do better. We cannot continue to endure these trade deficits that are of the trillions of dollars and watch the many, many millions of jobs lost in the ensuing efforts because it is an unsustainable outcome.

I have watched as so many manufacturing centers left our area. I represent the Mohawk Valley Capital District region of New York. We witnessed a huge exodus of jobs. I have people telling me today, as they are closing down factories, they cannot compete with situations in China, for instance, where there are many conditions that favor those businesses because of these sound partnerships that they have with their government, where they will buy the factory and, perhaps, pay the utility bill and then further manipulate the currency.

There is a lot of work to be done on these issues. We need to make certain we go forward and have a sound overview by Congress, so that there is an investment by Congress and we are not circumventing our responsibilities and going forth with sound policy that will strengthen the great many of us called the "middle class of America," provide for the American dream to be tethered in these mill towns, where we have manufacturing opportunities that are paying sound salaries, providing great benefits, and not destroying workers' rights.

I thank you for leading us in this discussion and look forward to exchanging many thoughts here in the ensuing hour.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman TONKO, thank you so much for coming to the floor this evening.

I grew up in a family where the work ethic was really respected, and we believed in it because you could get somewhere. You worked long hours. Sometimes, you worked 7 days a week, but you could save a little bit of money.

Now, you try to save money and the banks pay you .07 percent interest or something like that, so if you are a saver, if you have a good work ethic, if you have a good savings ethic, what does the market yield you really?

What I worry about is the work ethic itself because I talk to many employers now and they say, "MARCY, do you know what, if we have to hire 40 people," let's say, for part-time jobs in a retail store, they say, "you can't believe how many people we have to go through until we find people who really want to work."

Well, one of the things that is happening across this country is large numbers of people don't believe working counts because they have seen what has happened in their own families. We stand to lose the work ethic itself among major segments of this population. That is very worrisome to me, and we see related social problems and rising poverty.

I mentioned in the Maytag situation in Newton, Iowa—and I am not just picking on Newton, Iowa—but there was a community that absolutely lived for that company. It was invented there.

Fred Maytag is buried right there, looking over his town and parks he endowed and all the people whose lives he helped to elevate. To see poverty increase 25 percent of the total community tells you where we are headed. That is just one place, but it is all across our country.

Before I call on Congresswoman SLAUGHTER to add her eloquent words this evening, I wanted to mention Norma McFadden, who worked in my district, one of 150 employees who made crayons for a company called Dixon Ticonderoga, one of Ohio's oldest manufacturers dating back to 1835, before the factory was closed and offshored to Mexico in 2002.

Norma, along with many of her colleagues, took advantage of what was then called "trade adjustment assistance," which since has been eliminated, and she got an alternative degree as a phlebotomist.

Many of the jobs of her fellow coworkers—there were no jobs for them to go to. That poor factory in Sandusky, Ohio, just shuttered. The property hasn't been reused. These were people who made a good product, they worked for years, they were proud of their community, they were proud of their company, and all of a sudden, it was all jerked away. I can guarantee you that the people who are working those jobs outside of Mexico City do not earn a living wage.

What are we doing? What are we doing to this country and what hope do we provide to the people of other countries that their work matters? I say what we are yielding is social instability, instability.

If you look at the murders around this country and what is happening with the drug epidemic in this country, don't think there isn't a connection between hopelessness and what is happening, not to some of the wealthy people that prowl around the Capitol who have the ability to pay to get here or who have lobbying firms here or somehow want to reach a Member of Congress on some very arcane amendment that they wanted.

I am talking about the average person who will never come to Washington, who has a belief in this country, but it is starting to erode at the edges because their economic future is so uncertain.

□ 1700

I want to call on a real fighter for the American people, who has been a stalwart protagonist of enormous dimension here for jobs in America and for the fair treatment of workers everywhere, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER, the ranking member of the Rules Committee. She is such a gifted member.

Thank you for being here tonight.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Thank you so much for putting this together. It is so

important. I hope that people listening to us will understand that some of us here have been trying for years to try to save American jobs from bad trade policy.

Every time the Congress debates a trade agreement, they make these grand promises. I remember NAFTA. They said 250,000 brand-new jobs were going to be coming to Rochester, New York. None of it ever happened. We were promised this great, bright future that didn't show up.

Frankly, over my career here, which has been nice and prosperous and creative, I have never yet seen a trade policy that came out of this Congress of the United States that benefited in any way the American manufacturer or the American worker.

I come from a district that was devastated by NAFTA, and I want to tell you a story about Eastman Kodak. Kodak, one of the great commercial institutions and innovators of the 20th century, once had over 60,000 jobs in the Rochester area. Now, there are only a few thousand left, and this is the trend all across the country.

Eastman Kodak is a name that everybody knows, with Kodachrome and everything that they have done for motion pictures. A study was done once that showed that the word "Kodak," stated to people that heard it, that it was solid, it was good and dependable—Eastman Kodak, the backbone, basically, of Rochester, New York.

They were great patrons of the art, education, everything that they did. Actually, George Eastman made sure that every soldier that went away to the first World War got a camera. It was in a day that you had to send the camera back to the factory to be opened and developed. All these soldiers sent them back and forth while they were overseas fighting—or even in the country. They had this Eastman Kodak camera going back and forth every month.

It would take me all night here to talk about how this is the company that built the Norden bombsight that won the Second World War and engineers that have come from this company, which is now devastated. Now, they have started up some smaller companies, for which we have great hope.

In fact, the laser beam that took down the three Somali pilots that were holding Captain Phillips—if you remember, they shot simultaneously off a major rocking boat, a big one. Captain Phillips and the pirates were in a smaller one.

They shot simultaneously and killed the three pirates with a laser beam from Rochester. The night vision goggles that everybody is so concerned about and the Navy SEALs used to take down Osama bin Laden are component parts from Rochester. We have all that ability there, but we took the jobs right out from under them.

This debate comes down to a thing called Fast Track, which isn't going to mean much to anybody, but in the seventies, we were the largest manufacturers in the world, and we were pretty darn sure we would be forever.

We saw no end to that great prosperity because people were innovators, and we saw the wonderful things we were able to do. Generations of families would work at these major companies in all of our districts, and it was solid as a rock, and you knew it was always going to be there, until it wasn't.

Fast Track came up in the seventies when we were the largest manufacturer, and the idea was that since we were so good and we wanted to help rebuild the economies of other countries and that we would allow the President and whoever negotiated the trade to simply bring the agreement, once they were finished with it, to the Congress of the United States, with no committee action whatever. We are not even told what is in those trade agreements. I personally have tried, on behalf of Hickey Freeman, to find that out about textiles and could not.

The idea was we would simply vote up or down, no amendment, no nothing—just a quick vote and go—taking away the whole reason for our existence here to represent the people who sent us here and to do what we could to keep the United States prosperous and forward looking.

When I was chair of the Rules Committee briefly—because it came under the purview of the Rules Committee—we were able to get rid of it. Unfortunately, the Korea Free Trade Agreement was filed before we were able to get rid of it, so Korea was done under Fast Track, and I appreciate so much what you have shown us with that. It was very troubling to me about Korea.

South Korea, as we pointed out, shows 7,450 cars. There are 26 dealers in South Korea that will sell American cars, but during the same period that we sold 78,000, they sold 561,626 here. We obviously wanted South Korea to prosper. We lost so many lives there. We fought very hard for their freedom.

But we also signed a treaty that if anybody attacks South Korea, the United States is obligated to go and fight. Would you think that maybe with all of that—we rebuilt their economy, we saved their country—that they might sell American cars?

What we have seen and what we tried to say on this floor, the three of us all talking about it, is you are buying a pig in a poke here. This is not going to work because the simple reason is we never had enforcement on a single one of our trade bills. We simply reduce our tariff. Everything comes flooding in here.

It is not tariffs that keeps our goods from selling in other countries. It is the unseen trade barriers. They don't like the bumper. The steering wheel is

wrong. The window doesn't fit. Or they simply let it sit at ports, on docks, rotting and rusting and whatever, but they don't sell, and we have not a single thing to do about it.

I have a bill that I am going to reintroduce in January—I am hoping we can get a lot more attention on it—which is a bipartisan bill with a lot of outside support that simply says that trade agreements being negotiated by the United States of America would also be accompanied by an enforcement part, which would be a person in the Labor Department who would do it, not the people who wrote those bills.

The people who write those bills have such pride of authorship. I don't know of a single time—maybe once or twice with the WTO—where we have tried to do something about unfair labor practices, but we don't really worry about that. We just take it—or our people take it—those who have lost all the jobs.

The bill we have says we can also do what we call “snap back,” that Congress can stop that until they do away with the unfair barriers that prevent our goods from being sold in their countries, as the agreement stated they would be.

We are about to do another one, if you can believe it. This one is a hum-dinger. This one goes over 11 countries. Again, we have no idea what is in it, as I told you. They are trying to get it through Fast Track. We have a good start, I think, on stopping that.

I am trying to get the number here. We have, I think, 30 Republicans that have signed on not to do Fast Track. We have about a total of 150 Members of the House who will not and, certainly, the Senate. We have let the President of the United States as well as the trade negotiator know that Fast Track won't work here.

Food safety is a real crucial issue. One of my colleagues, ROSA DELAURO, said that when you read about delta shrimp, you are probably reading about the Mekong Delta shrimp. The food safety issue is so bad, as we understand it in this trade bill, that if we cause them to lose any money when they bring in bad fish—which, in the first place, frankly, is not tested nearly enough when it comes in—or anything else that causes them to have any economic cost, they can sue us.

Think about this for a minute. They can sue us because we enforced our own clean air standards and our clean water standards and our food safety standards. I will tell you it boggles the mind just simply to think about it.

What we are asking—and we have let the President know and the whole world that we are trying to get to understand—is that this Congress of the United States will not stand by for Fast Track, and to have a bill come up here that will decimate, again, parts of this country in the United States,

threaten our food safety laws, and not have the ability to read the thing, have committee action on it, and to amend it, all that would be gone under Fast Track, and we would only be able to vote up or down.

I will tell you we have had such devastating losses from playing the game that way that it would boggle the mind that we would stand by and watch that happen yet again in cases where it would be even worse.

I am so pleased to be here tonight and join with my friends who try to fight the good fight. This is a magnificent country, and all of us certainly have benefitted from it. Just to be able to be a Representative in the Congress of the United States is remarkable, but with that goes a heck of a responsibility.

That responsibility is to leave this place better than we found it. We can't do that with this trade bill, so I urge all my colleagues, everybody listening, to pay attention to what is going on here and help us to get people that represent you to join us in the fight to stop this trade agreement in its tracks.

As everybody else has said—and I think it goes without saying—I have no problems with free trade—well, free trade I have got a lot of troubles with. Let me back that up.

I have no trouble with international trade. It is the wave of the future. We are doing it. Free trade has always meant that people come in here free and eat our lunch. Fair trade is a whole other issue. Let's have a little fair trade for a change. It would do us a world of good.

Thank you very much, MARCY, for letting me be here.

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank the gentlelady, as busy as you are, for joining us this evening and fighting for jobs for America's workers from coast to coast. Thank you so very, very much.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. It is a pleasure.

Ms. KAPTUR. We appreciate your contributions this evening.

Following on what Congresswoman SLAUGHTER has stated, I can guarantee you that, according to polls done by the Pew Research Center, which is a national polling organization, over half of Americans say that free trade has been about U.S. job losses. They have experienced it. They know that whether it is NAFTA, whether it is the China deal, whether it is CAFTA—in Latin America or Korea, CAFTA has operated the reverse.

Enough people have now, sadly, suffered. They have internalized what is going on, and they are wondering what has happened to this country. Not only have they lost their jobs, but because the economy hasn't grown as fast, we are seeing that there is a downward pressure on wages in this country.

I see people being hired in plants in my district now in the auto industry,

which is doing better because we refinanced it a couple of years ago, but before, people used to be able to go in there and earn \$20, \$30 an hour.

Now, they are starting them at a little above minimum wage. They are working them 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. They are working two and three times as hard because there is this downward pressure on wages.

I mentioned Norma McFadden having worked at Dixon Ticonderoga in Ohio. I can tell you two out of every five of the displaced manufacturing workers who were actually able to be rehired had wage reductions of more than 20 percent.

Congressman TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. I was just going to add to that statement, Representative, that there was a GAO study, a report that was called for by Representative GEORGE MILLER and Representative SANDY LEVIN. That report clearly indicated that the provisions of these trade agreements have not been carefully and well-enough monitored and enforced. Also, violations that were discovered which require investigations were not done expeditiously. There are huge delays.

That ought to raise some concern to Members of Congress who might just casually dismiss this authority that we should have to review these agreements. These agreements, again, are far beyond tariffs and trade barriers.

They include public policy components that would range from worker protection to environmental concerns to food safety to consumer protection. These are all given dynamics that should not first and foremost be part of these agreements, but because they are, can have devastating consequences.

Again, I think this effort here is about greed. It is about providing for those that can control and manipulate that economy at the expense of diminishing the worker. We have seen what has happened here as we have lost American jobs in our manufacturing base.

The people who have been displaced from the manufacturing centers are now working in jobs that are providing for far less dollars—remuneration—for the hard work that they invest into that new job.

We are also watching the developing nations and their workers getting paid with a minimum wage of 25 cents or an average hourly rate of 75 cents. That is really destroying the workers not only in this country, but around the world.

To this Nation and her needs, it is about growing our middle class, growing our economy, protecting our middle class, and when we are sending off jobs in this casual, dismissive type of agreement concept called free trade, it is not a fair outcome, and fair trade is where it ought to be.

We need to go forward. I agree with the comments made by Representative

SLAUGHTER. We need to make certain there is not a Fast Track opportunity where we circumvent the responsibilities of Congress, where we should have debate, where we should allow for amendments, and not just move to a single up-or-down vote.

□ 1715

That is dangerous, that is far reducing the involvement of Congress. It is relinquishing Congress of its responsibilities and its duties and the empowerment that it can bring to the American worker.

So there is much work that needs to be done here. And as one who represents many manufacturing towns that in their heyday provided for great jobs and great opportunity and for the tethering of the American Dream, we need to move forward with progressive responses rather than this attack on working families in this country and around the world.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman TONKO, thank you so very, very much for your comments. And obviously, New York has been battered, as so many other places in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Youngstown, Ohio (Mr. RYAN). He fights every minute of every day for the people of our country, and certainly for the people of his district in northeastern Ohio, a leader here, a rising leader nationally, and we thank him so much for joining us tonight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Thank you.

All these fights are side by side with my friends from Toledo and upstate New York. And you look, upstate New York with Ms. SLAUGHTER, the Great Lakes States, I think we are the ones who have seen over the course of the last two or three decades really what has happened to our manufacturing base. I think both of you have hit the nail on the head.

And you look at the politics and the elections, from 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, in my estimation, these are all about economics. These are about average people not feeling like they have opportunity to latch on to the American Dream.

I think when we talk about these trade agreements, the issue inevitably comes down to manufacturing. How can we reinvigorate manufacturing in the United States again?

And it is not just the trade agreements, but it is what other progressive policies do we have with the Tax Code, with investments and infrastructure, research and development, renewable energy.

You talk about windmills. You have got to make everything that is in that windmill. The tons of steel, all of the component parts need to be manufactured. So why wouldn't we focus on getting that done here in the United States so we can put our folks back to work in manufacturing jobs that pay

more, more secure pensions, more secure and higher benefits? That is, I think, ultimately the ladder up.

I will give you an example where we got this right. We had an opportunity in Youngstown, Ohio, and Girard, Ohio, for an expansion of a new steel mill, up to a billion dollars. And we needed to do some site preparation work, and we were able to get \$20 million from the stimulus package. Then the company said, You need to level the playing field with China.

And so the President put tariffs on the steel tubing coming in from China. And in Youngstown, Ohio, we have a billion dollar steel mill that put our building trades to work for a year and a half to 2 years, over 1,000, 1,500-plus workers to build the facility, 350 new jobs, investments back in the community.

That is when we get it right, when we level the playing field, when we put the tariffs on their dumped products coming into the United States. That, to me, is what this is all about.

You go down the Ohio River, north on the turnpike over to Toledo and Chicago and into the Great Lakes. You go east on 90, and you go through Pennsylvania and into New York. These are the regions of the country that, if we want America to not feel so insecure economically, we have got to get these reinvestments back into these communities.

We can't just give a blank check and ignore what needs to be negotiated. Our opportunity here, our job here, I think, is to lift all of these other countries up and not exploit and then have the bad food come back to the United States or the cheap products come back to the United States, whether we are talking about drywall or baby food or whatever the story is from the last couple of years.

I think we have an opportunity to right the ship. We have got to have a coalition here in Congress that is willing to do that, and we do have an opportunity. Just think about this.

I know my friend from Minnesota wants to speak a little bit as well.

If we had a national manufacturing policy in the United States, if we said we are going to rebuild the United States, how many Members of this Congress, if we said, how much is your combined sewer that you are going to have to invest in the next 10 years? A billion? Some big cities are a billion dollars; hundreds of millions in small-to mid-sized towns like the ones I represent, getting close to actually billions of dollars.

If we put people back to work and made the investment and our building trades all went back to work, union workers, good contracts, good wages, good benefits, we incentivized manufacturing with the Tax Code and research and all the rest, we invested in the renewable energies so that we can

make the solar panels, make the windmills and we move in this direction, we could light up the United States again with a few key changes. But I think having a trade policy that Congress has input on, that levels the playing field, does not sacrifice our clean air, our clean water, our food, is the way to go about it.

So I just wanted to stop in, thank my friends, thank the dean of our delegation in Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, for this leadership. We have got to keep pushing back. So I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here with you and look forward to hopefully beating this thing back.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman RYAN, thank you so very much for your time this evening, for your leadership, for the great voice that you give to America's economic future and to all of those who work to make it possible. Thank you for the respect you show them and for the amount of time that you devote to Make It In America and toward manufacturing in America. Thank you so very, very much.

Mr. Speaker, we have marvelous leaders who have joined us tonight from across the country, obviously, from our sister State of Minnesota, a Great Lakes State that has received its fair share of battering over the years, and a great, great Member, KEITH ELLISON, the leader in our Progressive Caucus, as well as, obviously, a leader in the Minnesota delegation.

Thank you so very much for being with us this evening.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I certainly appreciate it. And I want to thank her for taking up this important issue of trade agreements, trade generally and trade promotion authority.

I just want to say that Minnesota has had its experience with trade agreements. According to policy experts, if you look at the North American Free Trade Agreement, which lifted tariffs and other trade barriers between North American countries, it has led to the outsourcing of over 30,000 Minnesota jobs. It also did bring in some jobs; but the net outcome, after you take the lost jobs and the gained jobs together, is a loss of 13,700 jobs.

So the thing is that some people say, well, trade will help. It will help some people. But when you look at everybody, it has not been a job gainer for us, as it was promised to be. And I think that is very important.

I am glad that Congressman RYAN and you and others have been speaking in a local framework. I am glad to hear about New York and Ohio.

I can just tell you from my own State of Minnesota, we are not afraid of trade. We believe we have got the best workers in the world and we can compete with anybody, but only on the

basis of a fair trade. We believe we can compete, we can make great products, but when other countries are dumping, when they are manipulating their currency, when all types of crazy things are happening like that, then we are not talking about fair trade. We are talking about free trade, and free trade is free-for-all trade, and free-for-all is not going to be good.

I can assure you that when the trade deal comes that really does support labor standards and environmental standards in the right way, I won't be standing against it. But until then, I have to stand against it.

I just also want to say that there has been a lot of talk recently because of this Trans-Pacific Partnership, this deal that has been negotiated over the last several months, and there is a lot of concern about it. But before people get really worried about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is the new trade deal, the new NAFTA, I think they ought to worry about something called Fast Track or Trade Promotion Authority, because here is the thing.

Whether you like these trade deals or you don't like them, I doubt that you believe that they are perfect as they come out of the hands of the U.S. Trade Representative and all these other countries. I doubt you believe that they couldn't benefit from any negotiation or any amendment, because around here, we have never seen a perfect piece of legislation. Even the best can be improved. Yet, if we grant Trade Promotion Authority, we will only have an up-or-down vote. We will literally abandon our national sovereignty to other countries who will be able to sue American companies for lost profits.

I don't mind dealing in an American court, but I do have a problem being in an international court just because we want to ban smoking, just because we want better environmental regulation, just because we want to take care of our people. We may then be sued for lost profits by some foreign company.

Of course, one of the problems is that we don't know what the Trans-Pacific Partnership really is. People have seen pieces of it here and there, but we don't know because it has been negotiated in secret. And my constituents say, Well, KEITH, you send me—Congressman, you send me a copy of that Trans-Pacific Partnership. I want to know what it says.

And I say, Mr. Constituent, I can't send it to you because I don't have it. They haven't let me see it, not in its entirety. They send you pieces of it. You can look at this chapter or that chapter, but you can't look at the whole thing.

So they are going to basically, after they get their Trade Promotion Authority, they are going to give us a few weeks to basically look it over, and then we can only vote it up or down.

Ms. KAPTUR. I say to the gentleman, these agreements are so powerful they actually should be treated as treaties because they involve so much more than just goods. When you get into the legal right to sue and you look at what has happened to our country under these trade agreements—I don't know about Minnesota, but in our part of the country, we have something called the emerald ash borer that has eaten through all of our ash trees. It is a multibillion dollar problem. Cities like Toledo and Cleveland are losing 10 percent of their tree cover—10 percent—and those all have to be replanted. And that critter got in here in packing material. But who gets taken to court from the other country for sending in dirty soil here? There is no legal recourse.

If you look at the U.S. Department of Agriculture budget, in the invasive species account, you will find it skyrocketing as American taxpayers are being charged to try to clean up some of this mess that is happening across our country.

It isn't just the emerald ash borer. It is critters like the Asian beetle, which came in on Chinese packing crate material and is eating hardwoods all across our country. The damage is enormous, and there is no court. There is no place where we can go to hold the importer and the exporter responsible within the laws of our country.

What kind of a crazy system is this where we tie the hands of the American people?

Under NAFTA, we were told that we would have 200,000 more jobs in our country. But when NAFTA was passed, we fell into trade deficit with Mexico; and actually, we lost nearly 700,000 jobs just to Mexico because of NAFTA. So these trade agreements, they say they are one thing, but they actually come back and turn negative numbers, negative numbers.

I look at this Korean account. We were supposed to have 50,000 cars here, and all we have gotten is a handful—7,000. The Koreans have managed to sell over a half a million here.

If you go to those countries and you look at how they keep our vehicles out and how they promote their exports of parts here—the automotive repair dealers were in here a few weeks ago. I ran into them in the hallway. Why were they here? Because when they try to repair a car and the part comes in from a foreign country—let's say you are putting the hood on. The car was in an accident and you have to replace the hood. The fit isn't as good. The metal is more thin. It isn't as good a quality metal, and they can't make it fit the repair. So then the customer in our country gets mad.

These replacement parts are coming in from all over the world. It is an inferior product. It makes our repair dealers look like they are not doing a good

job. It is not their fault, for heaven's sake. They are caught in this system that doesn't work for them, and it doesn't work for us. We have got to figure out a better way.

I think Congressman TONKO wanted to add a remark. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

□ 1730

Mr. TONKO. As we continue to banter on this importance of trade—of free trade versus fair trade—I can't help but be reminded of the pioneer spirit that has taken this Nation to moments of greatness, where that greatness was written by the American worker, oftentimes by the immigrant who came to this country to pursue the American Dream.

What we need to do here is have history instruct us. Let us understand what the greatness of this Nation is about. Our best days lie ahead of us if we do that, if we are willing to take lessons from American history, where our sons and daughters who, as our ancestors—many of them immigrants—came to these shores. It was their creative genius. It was their integrity. It was their ingenuity. It was their work ethic. It was their passion as they tethered that American Dream that grew these opportunities of manufacturing in our mill towns. They were undeniably the impetus.

Today, we need to be instructed by that pioneer spirit. We need to understand that, if given a fair shot, we can continue to grow upon that greatness, but if we suffocate that American Dream, if we suffocate the American worker, if we deny just remuneration for their sweat equity as they pour themselves into that job, if they are denied that job because of these trade deals, these negotiated outcomes that are denying again the worker across the world, then we all lose. It is important for us to understand that we need to invest in the manufacturing base. This is a walking away from history.

This is allowing greed to take over the equation of job creation. This is about providing for greed for a very few. Look at the relationship between the worker and the owner, the manager of these situations. We have reduced the worker. We see what the average income is looking like. We see what the household income is looking like. We have destroyed this. We have put people into lower-paying jobs as they have lost those manufacturing sector jobs. We have not allowed for the job growth.

We look at the chart that Representative KAPTUR has displayed for us here this evening. It is overwhelmingly convincing. When you look at the activity in one direction versus the activity in the opposite direction, it is absolutely, blatantly, obvious that we need to do better, and we don't do that. We don't begin by relinquishing the role of Congress in this process. A Fast Track, as

it has been talked about here this evening, denies the opportunity for fair debate. It denies the opportunity for amendments. It requires a simple up-or-down vote. We don't need to put public policy in for worker protection, environmental standards, child labor issues, consumer protection, public safety. All of these items are tossed into these agreements where there isn't the appropriate discussion and where the worker is held down—25 cents for the minimum wage in Vietnam, 75 cents for the average hourly wage, and then tossing people out of the American Dream here that they wanted to tether.

That pioneer spirit needs to be fed. That pioneer spirit needs to be nurtured. That pioneer spirit needs to be respected. That pioneer spirit needs to be revered. When we do that with sound trade opportunities, we will prosper because we have the intellectual capacity as a nation—we have the work ethic as a nation; we have the creative genius as a nation—to prosper. Give us the fair opportunities to grow our economy and allow for trade policy to initiate a new era of greatness for this country. That is when we are going to respond in justice and in fairness—in social and economic justice—that will allow us again to write these new annals of history that will show yet another era of greatness for the American worker.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman TONKO, thank you for your passion, for the voice that you give to millions and millions of people across this country on the floor of Congress. We know we have our finger on the heart of where the American people are. It is just this city that is out of sync with where the public is, and we have to get them aligned once and for all.

You would think that a place that has been amassing mammoth trade deficits because of trade policies over the last 25 years would not be brain dead, but, apparently, some people are brain dead over on the executive side, and they have allowed America's communities to sink further and further into debt—into trade debt—and job loss. They are completely connected.

If you go to these other countries—and I had this chart up here about Korea, but Japan is the same. If you look at the number of vehicles coming here versus our vehicles going there, we are dealing with closed markets. It is not like these other places like our stuff. They figure out thousands of ways to block our products from going in. Oh, gosh. Twenty or 30 years ago, I went to Japan to figure out: Why weren't they buying U.S. cars and U.S. auto parts? I brought free spark plugs, and I said to the head of Toyota and to the head of Honda and to all of these companies, Please, we will give you free spark plugs. These were the best plugs we made in our country. Just try

them out. In those days, the Japanese would only accept about 2 percent of automobiles in their market from any place else in the world, okay? When our market was open, over half the vehicles on our streets were from every place else in the world—made there rather than here, okay? Today, 30 years later, it is the same in Japan. They may be 3 percent of their market. They didn't even take Yugos, for heaven's sake, when those things were on the market.

You are facing closed markets abroad. You are facing mammoth trade imbalances. The most important things those brilliant people over at the National Security Council economic division should do is pay attention to the United States of America for a change and ask themselves: Why isn't this formula working?

Do you know what? Your decisions are hurting the American people, who are funding your operation over there on the executive side. Somebody had better pay attention to these mammoth, mammoth hemorrhages because I will tell you what—this recent election I don't view as an ideological one. The American people are trying to find a way to start getting a little traction in their economic way of life. They are having trouble, and this city isn't listening. The structures that are there to help the American people are completely out of kilter, and they have been out of kilter for a long time. It is not fair to the American people. It is simply not fair.

We have to raise our voices here. I know there are living rooms out there that are listening to us tonight, and they are cheering what we are saying because they have lived it. They have lived the job loss. They have scratched and tried to get two and three jobs to try to hold their families and their households together. We have seen families split up because of the lack of income, and it isn't their fault. They are trying. They are trying to get a foothold.

I remember one President. I didn't like what he said, but he said, Walk with your feet. If you have got a problem, move somewhere else.

Do you know what? Where we live, our communities, our homes, our families, our neighbors—the communities we have built together—really mean something. It is us. We have invested our lives there—our parents, our grandparents. It isn't so easily cast away. I hope that is not an old-fashioned American idea, but people have labored for years to build our libraries, to build our museums, to build our zoos, our marinas, all of our parks. You just don't so easily walk away. Our homes mean something to us. It isn't fair to the people who have contributed so much to the betterment of this country to have it so rough, and it isn't their fault.

For all of the people I meet who are homeless, for all of the people who

have fallen on tough times, they want to work. These are workers. Why should workers have to go on food stamps, for heaven's sake, in the United States of America? What an embarrassment that is for this country. Then we have certain people here in the Congress who say, Oh, just cut them off. What are they supposed to do? Where are they supposed to go when their jobs have been royally outsourced elsewhere? This is not a few jobs but millions and millions.

I have had the gift in my lifetime of being able to travel, to go follow the job. Go see what happened when Trico moved out of Buffalo. Go see what happened when Mr. Coffee moved out of Cleveland. When you start following these places, then, all of a sudden, it becomes clear: oh, somebody is making a whole lot of money off of the outsourcing of jobs. Do you know what? It wasn't the people in my community. It wasn't the workers. It wasn't even the small business people. It is the capitalists who take the money—those people who are rich enough to own these companies—and who then figure out they can outsource it so they can make more money, not work with the people in these communities who have given their lives, their sweat for these places. It is so disrespectful. It is un-American. It is un-American what they are doing.

Mr. TONKO. The gentlewoman talks about the ownership—the pride of developing community and neighborhood, the investment that the worker made in growing a family, developing a household, building a neighborhood in a strong and powerful and meaningful way. Those are the mill town memories. Those memories guide my heart and soul.

I am from a mill town. I still live in that mill town and represent that mill town here in the House of Representatives, and it was the clamor of that assembly line that resonated to people of all ages in that mill town. It was the activity. It was the hustle and bustle of manufacturing that resonated, that became the pulse of manufacturing, and that became the heart of a mill town. You knew which day the mill was shut—there was silence—but now the silence is deafening, and we need to bring back that resurgence, that opportunity which meant the American Dream, meant an opportunity to earn a paycheck—the dignity to earn that paycheck—and to be able to raise a family and develop and maintain a household. That is what it is all about. It is about economic and social justice.

So we have work to do, and I believe that Washington needs to listen to small-town mill town across this country, to the middle-income community that reminds us it is about the dignity of work; that they want to invest their skill set, that they want to invest their professionalism, they want to invest

their work ethic in building a product, allowing us to taste that greatness of manufacturing.

We look at the data that are assembled that should guide us here, and we see CEO salaries and productivity rising steeply upward. Meanwhile, flattened, if not dipping south, is the average worker's salary. Something is fundamentally unjust about that outcome. Something is fundamentally unsustainable about that outcome. If we are going to enjoy prosperity, every strata of the income ladder is affected if we are not dealing with worker fairness. Then and only then, if we address worker fairness, can we rightfully hope to have a better tomorrow. Isn't that what we are about—providing hope, instilling hope into the hearts and minds and souls of individuals and families, of workers—of the mill towns of the American economy?

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman TONKO, your service gives us hope, and I know it gives the people of your district hope. Thank you for joining us this evening.

I am going to yield to Congressman KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota, who has spent the evening here with us.

Thank you so much for working overtime on behalf of your constituents and all of America.

Mr. ELLISON. Let me thank the gentlewoman.

Again, I just want to point out that President Obama correctly said that income inequality is the defining issue of our time. I think he was right when he said that.

When you look at why do we have the flat and declining wages that the Congressman from New York, PAUL TONKO, just mentioned and that you have mentioned—why? What are the components of this?—I can tell you that it is clear that we have not invested in public infrastructure, which would put people to work and improve productivity. It is clear that we have cut the taxes of the wealthiest and the most privileged people in our society, and, literally, we have added them onto people in the middle, and we have failed to educate people properly. Yet one of the components that we can never forget is this trade policy. You cannot intelligently claim that you want to do something about income inequality and pass these trade deals which ship jobs overseas and put downward pressure on wages here.

This is a key part of how we get the American middle and working classes back to getting raises again.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman so much for that excellent point.

I take it, by the signal, our time has expired. We thank all of those for listening who are present.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN BILL FRENZEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise with several of my colleagues to honor the work and memory of Congressman Bill Frenzel, who passed away on Monday. Congressman Frenzel represented Minnesota's Third Congressional District for 20 years, first elected in 1970 and retiring in 1990.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, many of us tonight had already planned to speak today to express our love and appreciation to Bill from this floor, even before we learned of his death.

Now, it just feels too late, in a way, but one of the benefits of extolling the virtues of people greater than ourselves is that we become better still, so we are keeping with that plan tonight.

I must admit, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, that as I stand here in this Chamber, where Bill did some of his best work, my heart is more full of emotions than my head is full of ideas, and there are many facts that I could recite about the service of Bill Frenzel; instead, I am going to try to capture the man that I knew, the man that we all knew, and the man that we all truly loved and respected.

When I received the news that Bill passed away on Monday, there was a scrap of paper hanging on my wall in my Washington office and also a scrap of paper hanging on my Minnesota wall that became my prized possessions. They are two vintage Frenzel doodles.

There are hundreds of them out there—whimsical, fantastically detailed little drawings that Bill Frenzel did while he was on the phone, while he was in committee meetings, listening to testimony, or during debates. Such was the hyperactivity of this brilliant mind, that when he was required to sit still, his drawing hand had to be moving.

I say that to convey the idea that Bill Frenzel was just more alive than most people that you meet. He was always thinking. He was always creating. He was always pushing positive ideas, and in the interactions that I had with him, it was like he was always leaning forward at you at an angle, like a person walking boldly into a stiff wind.

Bill Frenzel was a serious legislator, often pouring over line by line of the Federal budget. In fact, that practice continued after he left Congress. Every year, he would make a phone call to my office, requesting his copy of the annual Federal budget.

It is amazing to me that anyone would even want this massive document sitting on their bookshelf, but what is truly amazing is that Bill would actually go through this budget line by line for decades after he left this institution.

Bill believed in and dedicated his life to doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and for Bill, the way that he did the greatest good for the greatest number of people was by promoting and advancing international trade.

I suppose it began by looking at the great good being done around the world by many outstanding companies that operate out of the district that we represent in Minnesota, companies that feed and restore health to millions and billions all across the borders of the world.

Bill believed—and he was absolutely right—that there is no force in the modern world that has done more to raise people out of poverty, to foster the spread of human rights, or to expand democracy than international trade.

Within Bill's own lifetime, the United States and Germany and Japan were mortal enemies, doing terrible violence to each other's lands and peoples, but through the experience of being trading partners, they have become our best friends and our best allies.

For three decades, there was no stronger advocate for international trade that was more persuasive than Congressman Bill Frenzel. He was the indispensable man, in many ways, in the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has benefited all of the people of our continent immeasurably and has been the model of our agreements now for all over the world.

Just last month, in October, Bill received the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle—that is the highest honor of the nation of Mexico that can be given to a noncitizen—in appreciation of his work on the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In 2000, he also received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, from the Emperor of Japan for his efforts to advance trade and the U.S. relationship with Japan.

He deserves America's highest honors as well. He worked across the aisle as a consensus seeker because he understood that relationships matter, that relationships make a difference, especially on the big issues like Social Security reform, budget reform, tax reform, welfare reform, and, of course, trade agreements.

After retiring from Congress in 1991, he became a guest scholar in economic studies at The Brookings Institution, and he remained very active in public policy, being appointed to governmental panels by Presidents on both sides of the aisle.

Just 2 months ago—in fact, in September, President Obama reappointed him to the White House Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations. That is a position that he was first appointed to by President George W. Bush in the year 2002.

He also cochaired the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a bipartisan organization dedicated to educating the public about the impact of fiscal policies.

I will just tell you, personally, Mr. Speaker and Members, that I will miss my conversations with Bill Frenzel. I got together with him every 3 or 4 months over coffee, where he would share his years of wisdom, his experiences, and his insights that he gained during that tenure in public service.

There is no doubt that he was a good friend and a mentor in many respects; however, there is no temptation for any of us to try to do a Bill Frenzel imitation because there will never be another like him.

For me, Bill absolutely inspires me to be the best that I can be and search for ways that I can do the greatest good to help the greatest numbers of people.

I offer my condolences tonight, Mr. Speaker, to the Frenzel family; to his wife, Ruthy, who was always by his side; and to his three daughters, Debbie, Pam, and Mitty.

I also want to give thanks to Minnesota's Third Congressional District voters for electing him in the first place and for giving me an amazing set of shoulders to try to stand upon, as well as my thanks to God for the life and service and the example of Congressman Bill Frenzel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the Congressman from the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota, Mr. RICK NOLAN. Congressman NOLAN has a very unique perspective on his friendship with Bill Frenzel, serving with him both in Congress, as well as in the State legislature in Minnesota.

I will just say that, as two public servants of Minnesota for a number of years, both in and out of office, their paths crossed many times, and their friendship exemplifies, I think, Bill's friendly nature and willingness to work with people on both sides of the aisle to get things done for the country and our State.

Mr. NOLAN. Thank you, Representative PAULSEN, and thank you for helping to organize this tribute to a truly great native son of Minnesota, who made us all so proud in so many ways that, as you said, ERIK, it is hard to enumerate all of them.

When it came to public service, when it came to governance, when it came to bipartisanship, when it came to doodling, when it came to baseball—I mean, the list just goes on and on. He truly made us proud in so many ways.

I too want to recognize other friends of the Frenzel family who are here. As you said, Bill and Ruthy were inseparable. They were clearly a team, and that can be so valuable and so important to the success of a legislator, a great public servant, and Bill was so proud of his family and the girls, Debbie and Pam and Mitty. He talked about them often.

I want to thank the family for being there for Bill and for helping to give him the strength to carry on and do all the great things that he did.

As ERIK mentioned, we served together in the State House of Representatives. Bill had been there before me. I followed him to the Congress. Again, obviously, he had been there before me, but he was always such a good friend, offering all kinds of guidance and help negotiating the ways of the State House and the State and the ways of the U.S. House and the ways of the government here.

He was just a wonderfully good friend and a good mentor. I shall always be forever grateful for his mentoring and his guidance, and that was something he did for anyone who had the good judgment to take advantage of it because he was always open. He was always available. He was always there for you, and he was always so incredibly well-prepared.

The thing I liked most about Bill was that he was so respectful of everyone else and their ideas, and you knew if you had an idea—whether it was a good one or a bad one—you were going to get a hearing with Bill Frenzel, and if it was a bad idea, of course, he would be the first to tell you and tell you why.

Quite frankly, more often than not, he was right, and that was just such an important lesson that he gave to all of us and inspired us all. When it came to things like—ERIK mentioned the budget. Most Members will maybe read the summary. Bill Frenzel, he read that thing in its entirety.

He knew where every nickel and every dime was going, and he understood the consequences of it. When it came to trade policy, the same thing. He knew of all of its implications. He understood international trade.

In fact, in many ways, he was an inspiration to me outside of politics as well, in no small measure to the benefits that he articulated to trade because when I left this Congress—what, some 34 years ago—I went into export trading because I had heard Bill Frenzel talk about the incredible opportunity that we had with our technology, our ability to produce food, our ability to produce good consumer

goods, our ability to produce things that improve the lives of people all over the world and why not get out there and aggressively export those goods and those services, which is what I ended up doing for 32 years before I had the weak moment and came back to this institution—no, I am just kidding. I am delighted and thrilled to be back here.

For Bill Frenzel, I feel so much better prepared than I was, quite frankly, when I served years ago, thanks in no small part to Bill Frenzel.

When it came to the rules of the House, Bill understood the importance of the integrity of this institution better than anyone, and I suspect Bill would be on the floor here today, from time to time, calling for the reestablishment of regular order because Bill was never afraid of anyone else's ideas. In fact, he welcomed them.

Bill and I and others, we served in a time when, if anyone had a good idea, they could offer it to the rest of the Chamber in the form of an amendment, and we could debate it, and we could argue it, and we did it in committee, in full committee. We did it in conference committee.

Bill Frenzel understood that that was the foundation of bipartisanship, that was the foundation of a Congress that was effectively governing and getting things done, and that was perhaps his greatest contribution to all of us because only through that process do we get to know one another and build respect for one another and learn where those areas for common agreement and fixing things and getting things done comes from, and we have Bill Frenzel to thank for that.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about his doodling. You know, it was amazing. You would be in a committee or you would be in a hearing, and Bill would be busy doodling away. You would think he wasn't paying any attention at all.

Suddenly, he would rise, and he would have a question, and it was like the best question that anybody asked. He obviously had a two-track brain. One hand was doodling, but, boy, he never missed a thing. He never missed a thing, and that was Bill Frenzel.

Speaking of those doodles—and, boy, they are treasured. To have a Bill Frenzel doodle that has been autographed, I mean, in this town, that is like having a Picasso. These were great doodles, as you have seen, the intricacy and the geometry and the creativity of them. It is just amazing, and how he could do that was amazing as well.

Of course, he was a great Minnesota sports fan, the Vikings, the Twins, the North Stars, you name it. He was one of the stars on the Republican baseball team. He always showed up in those games with his Minnesota Twins jersey on. They used to win a lot of games back in the day.

Then Marty Sabo came along and started managing the Democrats, and things turned on them, but Bill was a great ballplayer. He loved Minnesota. He loved Minnesota sports, and he was just a wonderfully good friend.

As I said in the beginning, whether it was governing, whether it was baseball, whether it was doodling, whether it was family, whether it was bipartisanship, advising Presidents, welcoming new Members, advising and helping others, there was just no greater mentor, no greater public servant that Minnesota ever had in the wonderful Bill Frenzel.

His life will continue to be an inspiration for all of us going forward. Truly, our State, our Nation is a better place for Bill Frenzel.

□ 1800

His inspiration will enable all of us to continue that great tradition forward and continue to make this great Nation of ours a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow Members for the opportunity to stand here and pay homage to a great Minnesotan and a great public servant for our State and our Nation.

Mr. PAULSEN. Well, I thank the gentleman for sharing his perspective, his stories, and some fond memories. I appreciate that very much, and I know the family does as well.

Next I will yield to the gentleman from Maryland, STENY HOYER, the minority whip who served for a decade, Mr. Speaker, with Bill Frenzel until Bill retired in 1991. And that relationship continued after Bill's retirement as both had a passion for working on the Federal budget and bridging the gap between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to our country's spending and tax policies.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman HOYER I think often pointed out Bill's willingness to put all things on the table when it comes to the budget to find common ground with his counterparts on the other side of the aisle. I am happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Congressman PAULSEN, who represents the district that Bill Frenzel represented.

I came here, Mr. Speaker, in 1981. Bill Frenzel was a Member of Congress at that point in time, and as Congressman PAULSEN pointed out, we served together for the following 10 years. But as he also pointed out, we continued to work thereafter because of joint interests that we had.

I think Congressman NOLAN caught the essence of Bill Frenzel very well, and I would associate myself with his remarks. But I would also add that the American people want us to work together. What I have said since the election is, look, all 435 of us share two things in common: one, we are all Americans; two, our people all sent us

here to make America better. Those two things we share in common. And we share the expectations of the American people that we will do that which we can agree on together and not allow that on which we do not agree to undermine our ability to work on that on which we do agree. Bill Frenzel got that message. Bill Frenzel lived that kind of life. Bill Frenzel was that kind of Member of Congress.

Bill Frenzel could be pretty sharp. I don't mean bright, I mean sharp-tongued, if he thought if you were you were going off, as Congressman NOLAN said, in the wrong direction. I am happy to say that I was never the object of that, but Bill Frenzel wanted you to be candid, be straightforward, be intellectually honest and not play games. He was prepared and, in fact, did the same.

Bill Frenzel in his private life working with Brookings continued his public life's commitment to rational, responsible government. As Congressman PAULSEN pointed out, I am a very big advocate of fixing our debt, fixing it in many ways through the kind of policies that Bill Frenzel recommended, policies which say to both sides, look, we both have interests; we have got to accommodate those interests, but we have got to accommodate a bottom line. Be real, in other words.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Frenzel was a Republican, I am a Democrat, but we were first Americans. I felt it a great honor to learn from Bill Frenzel, to respect his intellect and his insights, and to respect the quality of his service and his willingness to work with others to do what the American people expect all of us to do: make their country better.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with Mr. PAULSEN to honor an American who served his country well, an American of whom we can all be proud, of which his family clearly is proud, and rightfully so. But his colleagues were proud of him on both sides of the aisle.

I want to say to his wife, Ruth, we send our sympathies, but we share with you that pride in Bill Frenzel's contribution to his country, to this institution, and to each of us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and former member of the House who passed away on Monday.

Bill Frenzel served the people of Minnesota's Third District for twenty years.

Bill was a Republican.

I am a Democrat.

That difference did not stand in the way of the respect I had for him or our friendship as colleagues in this House.

Though we did not agree on every issue, Bill and I found common ground on our shared concern for fiscal sustainability and the necessity of compromise to achieve bipartisan progress.

As a Korean War veteran, a businessman, and a legislator, Bill exemplified the highest American values of service to community and country.

In the years following his retirement from the House, where he had served as ranking member on the Budget Committee, he continued his service by remaining a powerful voice for bipartisan budget solutions and a more sustainable fiscal future at the Brookings Institution.

He also served as a co-chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

We need more people in Washington like Bill who believe strongly in the importance of bipartisan compromise when it comes to our budget and making the tough choices necessary to afford the investments we need to make in a more competitive economic future and greater opportunities for our people.

I join in offering condolences to his wife Ruth and their three daughters—Deborah, Pamela, and Melissa—their grandchildren, and the entire extended Frenzel family.

May Bill's memory inspire greater bipartisan cooperation in this House in the months and years ahead.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for offering his perspective, as well, in those unique stories and reflections from a bipartisan basis on a truly great American, as Mr. HOYER had mentioned.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will yield to the gentleman from Texas, KEVIN BRADY, my colleague and a good friend who is a very distinguished member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He is also the former chairman and a member of the Subcommittee on Trade. Congressman BRADY is another Member of Congress that benefitted greatly from the wealth of wisdom that Bill Frenzel imparted on important issues like trade and the Federal budget. I know I can speak for many members of the Ways and Means Committee when I say that the work that Bill did at The Brookings Institution, as well as the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, has been beneficial to all of us.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Congressman PAULSEN, thank you for allowing me to join you tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor our late colleague and friend, Bill Frenzel, who faithfully and with great distinction served his constituents in Minnesota for 20 years and, I would say, served his country for a lifetime.

As you can tell from my accent, I am not from Minnesota. I am from Texas. I had a chance to meet Bill when I started on the Ways and Means Committee where I now serve with Mr. PAULSEN, who is one of our, frankly, most respected members, and his predecessor, Jim Ramstad, as well, all following in the Bill Frenzel mold.

When I started on Ways and Means, I just came quickly to appreciate his willingness to share his vast wealth of knowledge on trade issues, big and small. Even though he was no longer an elected official, I was always struck by Bill's just endless willingness to give of himself, of finding ways to advance the cause of free trade and economic freedom throughout the world.

I think it is important to note that historically in Congress, trade has always been a bipartisan issue, Republicans and Democrats working together; and throughout his career, Bill's constructive work across the aisle exemplified the best of this ideal. Everyone knew he was open to new ideas, was a straight shooter, respected others, and worked hard to get people to come and arrive at a consensus.

Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, Bill was elected to do a job, and he just wanted to get things done. And, boy, did he get things done in the trade world. From working on GATT, the Uruguay Round, normal trading relations with China, NAFTA, and helping set the foundation for the World Trade Organization, Bill was at the center of the trade world as a respected Member of Congress and as a thought leader on international trade when he retired from public life.

The truth is Bill Frenzel believed in economic freedom. He believed in our right to buy, sell, and compete around the world with as little government interference as possible. He believed families should have choices, but no government anywhere should decide what is on that grocery shelf and what price you paid for it. That was your choice. That was your economic freedom.

He knew that while America was free, we would see so many "America need not apply" signs around the world; and he knew if we tore them down and gave our American businesses and workers—our Minnesota businesses and workers—a chance to compete, in fact, we would not just grow customers around the world, we would grow jobs here at home. So his leadership on trade, his fingerprints on all things trade can be found not only here in the United States but in foreign capitals around the world where his counsel was sought by many and he was respected by all.

Mr. Speaker, Bill's contributions to our Nation and to this body will always be remembered, and he leaves a towering trade legacy on which we can all build economic prosperity for generations to come. I hope his family understands how special he is that so many of us who you may not have known before, we all consider ourselves Bill's fans and friends.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman. As he mentioned, the members of the Ways and Means Committee absolutely do look at Bill Frenzel as an important role model and inspiration as we look to tackle continued problems and opportunities down the road.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will yield to my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), another Member, like Bill, who is committed to serving the people of Minnesota in the Fifth Congressional District, his constituents.

Bill Frenzel, as was mentioned, was always someone that was willing to work across the aisle to get things

done and accomplished here in Washington. I think all of us in the Minnesota delegation are thankful for the example set by Bill for working together, and we see that example still today. I know I have worked with Congressman ELLISON on similar issues for our constituents back home, and I think that we can thank Bill Frenzel for setting that spirit of cooperation that preceded us both.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Congressman PAULSEN, I appreciate your holding down this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is absolutely true that all of us owe a debt of gratitude to people who walked before us even if we never had the pleasure of knowing them and meeting them.

I am one who believes I owe Bill Frenzel even though I never had the opportunity to get to know him. But it doesn't matter, because Bill Frenzel served the people of the State of Minnesota. He got up every day, and he did his best by them. He has a reputation for reading the bills, understanding the issues, and arguing with passion for values that he held in the best interests of the people whom he represented. For that, I always have to take my hat off to a man such as Bill Frenzel.

Bill Frenzel made a good reputation for Members of Congress who would come to Minnesota before I ever got here. Before I ever got here, people like Bill Frenzel made it so that our colleagues would greet us and expect us to be thoughtful and hardworking like he was, because he laid down that path before we ever got here. So I have had the pleasure of reading about Bill Frenzel since he left us for his reward, and I knew well of him before that.

But I will simply say that there are many people in this world whom we owe a great debt of gratitude to, who paved the way and carved a path for us, whom we never had a chance to thank personally. As a man who believes in reality beyond this one, I just hope that Bill Frenzel knows that I am grateful to him, and I thank him for his great service while here.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman because those words he mentioned about being hardworking and thoughtful certainly reflect Bill Frenzel's spirit which we need to continue to embody on this House floor.

Mr. Speaker, next I will yield to the Congresswoman from Minnesota, MICHELE BACHMANN, my colleague and good friend. She is the Representative from Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and somebody who, like me, has served after Bill Frenzel's congressional career came to a conclusion but has benefited also, I think, from Bill's service. As we know, she will also be leaving our delegation and retiring

from Congress, and we are thankful for her service to Minnesota. I know that she will look to the example that was also set by Bill Frenzel and stay very active and involved in public policy issues that face our country even after her House tenure comes to an end soon.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I want to say thank you to my wonderful colleague, ERIK PAULSEN, who has exemplified the spirit of Bill Frenzel in the Third Congressional District seat; and it really is because our former colleague, Bill Frenzel, set a standard.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to think in Minnesota that we are a trendsetter, and we have often called ourselves the Brainpower State. Well, could the Brainpower State have ever been better exemplified than by a man like Bill Frenzel? He really was a thinking man's person. He also was an individual who was completely willing to open himself to new ideas from other Members. I think it is very evident from the Members that we heard from this evening on both sides of the aisle that this was a complete, unfettered outpouring of not just admiration, but love—love and appreciation for what this man did.

As Representative PAULSEN had just said, I will, too, soon be leaving this House floor. This will be one of the last speeches that I ever give from this privileged well. There is no greater bastion of a few square yards of freedom than this area. We are allowed to do this. I am allowed to speak here tonight because I was privileged to be given an election certificate just like Bill Frenzel. He earned the trust, he earned the admiration, and Bill earned the respect of the people in the Third District. One thing I can tell you, Bill Frenzel never disappointed. He kept faith with those who gave him that election certificate.

Mr. Speaker, I know when I first ran for Congress, it was in 2006. I began the journey a little bit before then. And as I was in Minnesota, usually all of us made our way over to the Third Congressional District, because in the Third Congressional District resided a lot of the people who paid for the campaigns in the State of Minnesota. And everyone knew Bill Frenzel.

So I would meet and have lunch, breakfast, and dinner, and lunch, breakfast, and dinner, and coffees and coffees with people in the Third Congressional District. When it came to finding those who wanted to get behind efforts in Minnesota in running for campaigns on either side of the aisle, it was usually out of the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, this is what I want the family, who this evening—for those who are watching across the Nation on C-SPAN, it is important to know that Bill was so highly loved. His family is

here this evening. They are joined here in the gallery, and they are able to hear what every family needs to hear.

□ 1815

Yes, there is sorrow at the passing of a loved one, but there is also great joy. Joy that is made in reliving memories, memories of those we admired, those we served with, those that we loved. It is good to remember them forever. It helps to deepen in our memory book the importance of what this life meant; Bill's meant something. Bill contributed, Bill was a positive force for good, not just for the Third District, not just for Minnesota, but for the Nation. It was his character, first of all. That is what I want the family to know.

When I sat down in coffee after coffee, breakfast after breakfast, inevitably, Bill's name came up. I am sure that ERIK PAULSEN would agree. Bill's name came up. Why? Because people would say to me, "MICHELLE, you know Bill Frenzel, don't you? Bill is a friend of mine." I heard that over and over: "Bill is a friend of mine." He was a respected colleague, yes; a thinker, yes. But he was people's friend.

So people would always speak with Bill in the terms of raising the bar and setting a standard.

I hope that I was able live up to that standard of a Bill Frenzel for my brief 8 years in Congress. I give Bill a lot of credit. He served for 8 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He served for 20 here in the United States Congress. Think of that: 28 years of public service. That is amazing. I was able to put in 8 here. Think of 20 years here, pouring out his life on behalf of this Nation. It really is an accomplishment.

To think that during all of those years it wasn't that Bill just had 1 good year or 2 good years, Bill had 20 great, fabulous years that not only can the family be proud of but that our Nation, and, as a fellow Minnesotan and successor colleague, I am proud of.

I also just briefly want to mention one thing that Bill also did for his Nation, and that is he was willing to lay down his life when he served our country in the Navy. He was a veteran. I am thankful for what he did.

The Holy Scriptures say: "Greater love hath no man than this, but that he would lay down his life for his friend."

Bill Frenzel willingly put himself on the line so that he could do that. Thank goodness, his life wasn't required and he came back to serve in this distinguished body. As a distinguished man, he singularly served this body.

And so with great humility I want to say again to Ruthy, to the three girls, to the grandchildren: Be so proud of the legendary Bill Frenzel. His name will not be forgotten in this institution. His work won't be forgotten in this institution.

As one who is about to depart, I can tell you, you think about that: What I did here, did it matter? The speeches I gave, the work I did, the late nights, the early mornings, the weekends—the sacrifices that he made and the sacrifices that you as a family made.

Bill would be the first one to say, I couldn't have done this without Ruthy, I wouldn't have done this without the girls, I couldn't have done it without those who loved me. He would be the one to say that.

So I thank the family, Mr. Speaker, who are in the gallery, for what you did to support this legendary man because he made a distinct contribution, and he couldn't have done it without you making that sacrifice.

So I am very grateful for what they did. I thank God our country is a better place because of Bill Frenzel.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank my colleague. As you mentioned, he was a veteran, a public servant, a thinker, opening himself to new ideas and certainly offering ideas himself.

There is sadness, but, as you mentioned, great joy as we reflect on the opportunities to be a role model to help others. So I thank the gentle lady for her comments tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that several Members were unable to attend and be with us on the floor tonight, but they will be submitting statements for the RECORD. These Members include Congressman PAUL RYAN from Wisconsin. He is the next chairman to the Committee on Ways and Means. Although their time in Congress did not overlap, I know that Congressman RYAN valued his friendship with Bill Frenzel and often sought his counsel on trade and other matters while he was still learning his ropes on the Committee on Ways and Means. In fact, when we had our coffees together, he would often reflect and ask questions about Congressman RYAN and his future.

Congressman DAVE CAMP, the current chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, as well may offer some comments. We had a conversation earlier today and also reflected on the contributions that our former colleague Bill Frenzel had made to the institution at the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we lost a true leader, a true role model who represented the absolute and very best in public service. Bill Frenzel was a statesman who continues to be an inspiration in many ways to the folks in this body and on this House floor and all of those who continue to be focused on issues like tax reform, welfare reform, budget reform, and advancing a trade agenda and economic freedom throughout the world.

And so tonight, as we close, we close noting that we are honoring an American that contributed greatly to giving

the greatest good to the greatest number of people. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this past week, we lost one of our former colleagues, Bill Frenzel. Bill served in the House for 20 years, during which he gained a vast amount of knowledge and an even greater amount of respect. He was a leading voice for fiscal responsibility, serving as the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. He also served on the House Ways and Means Committee, specifically the Subcommittee on Trade. He took on the work with relish, serving as a congressional representative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva for 15 years. He was so knowledgeable on the topic that he was indispensable—so much so that after he left Congress, three successive presidents sought his counsel.

Bill's hard work won him respect in the House and around the world. After he retired from the House, he kept active on fiscal issues, serving as co-chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. In 2000, the emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. And just this year, Bill received the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle. I think other countries saw in Bill the same thing we did—a man who loved his country and wanted it to be a force for good in the world. He understood that trade wasn't a form of competition so much as a form of collaboration—of countries working together to build a better life. He understood that the free world was stronger when we banded together, and he wanted to strengthen those bonds.

We'll remember his know-how. We'll remember his wit. (He once called gridlock the best thing since indoor plumbing.) But most of all, we'll remember his character. He served his country in both war and peace. He spent his life in public service. He was a Midwesterner, a man of the House, a voice for fiscal responsibility—an American through and through.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Minnesota's true dedicated public servants: former Congressman Bill Frenzel.

For twenty years, Bill represented the Third District of Minnesota in the U.S. House of Representatives with distinction. During his time in this chamber, he established himself as an expert in fiscal responsibility and trade issues setting himself apart from his colleagues as a leader on the Budget and Ways and Means Committees.

His service to our country did not end after his time in the House. He was instrumental in the passage of NAFTA as a special adviser to President Clinton and worked with President George W. Bush on the Social Security Commission and Advisory Committee.

As we honor his career and service, it is easy to see that Bill truly worked to represent all he served by crossing the aisle, time and again, to produce solutions for Minnesotans and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in sending prayers to Bill's wife, Ruthy; his daughters Debby, Pam, and Mitty; and the entire Frenzel family.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Bill Frenzel,

U.S. Representative of the 3rd District of Minnesota from the 92nd through the 101st Congress, who sadly passed away on Monday, November 17th at the age of 86. Bill retired from Congress right as I was elected to office to serve Minnesota, but I was lucky enough to have gotten to know him during my tenure in the Minnesota Senate and later serving as the Representative from the 7th District on Minnesota. He left a great legacy and was an honorable public servant.

Born in St. Paul in 1928, Bill attended Dartmouth College where he received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Following graduation, Bill served as a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve during the Korean War from 1951 to 1954. Prior to his election to the U.S. Congress, Bill served for 8 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives, amongst other boards and executive committees. Bill had a successful career representing Minnesotans during his tenure in Congress. Rising to Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee, and a long tenure on the House Ways and Means Committee, he became known around Washington as an expert in budget and fiscal policy. He served as a Congressional Representative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for 15 years. After serving 10 terms, Bill decided to retire, telling the Star Tribune, "You ought to go out when you're hitting .300, rather than deteriorating."

Following his retirement from Congress, Bill did not slow down. He served as Chairman of the Ripon Society until 2004, and has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution since his retirement, serving as a director of the Brookings Governmental Affairs Institute. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Bill as a special adviser to help work with the Republican party to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement. Subsequently, President George W. Bush appointed Bill to the Social Security Commission, and to the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations. Up until his death, Bill continued to chair numerous boards and commissions, furthering his legacy as a devoted public servant and policy maker.

Not only a brilliant mind, Bill had a knack for lighting up a room around him. He had an engrained sense of integrity that he embodied throughout his life and career. Known around Washington for his "doodles," Bill was able to maintain a sense of lightness and humor, while navigating difficult policy negotiations. Bill Frenzel leaves behind a monumental legacy in Washington and Minnesota, but his crowning achievement was that of his family: his wife Ruthy and his three daughters, Debby, Pam and Mitty, and two grandchildren. My prayers go out to them during this time of grief and loss.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bill's life and legacy, as he was truly a giant in Washington and the U.S. Congress. It is in that sense that I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering his service, and that we may all serve to honor his work.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, Bill Frenzel of Minnesota, who passed away on November 17 at the age of 86.

Bill served in the House for ten terms from 1971 to 1991. During his time on the Hill and

upon leaving Congress, he was a strong advocate for trade and economic growth.

So many of our colleagues did not have the privilege of serving with Bill. I respectfully submit this Washington Post article from November 19, 2014, on his passing.

BILL FRENZEL, MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN AND FISCAL AUTHORITY, IN U.S. HOUSE, DIES AT 86

Bill Frenzel, a Minnesota Republican who became a prominent congressional authority on federal budget and international trade issues during 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, died Nov. 17 at his home in McLean, Va. He was 86.

The cause was cancer, said a daughter, Pam Lindon.

Mr. Frenzel was an executive at his family's warehousing operation and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives before winning an open congressional seat in 1970. He represented his district in the Twin Cities suburbs until 1990, when he declined to seek reelection.

By then he had become dean of the Minnesota delegation, ranking Republican on the House Budget committee and an influential member of the tax-writing Ways and Means committee. On both sides of the aisle, he was admired for his deeply researched positions on complicated fiscal matters.

"Loud and brainy, partisan and thoughtful, he puts his stamp on every debate in which he participates," read his profile in the Almanac of American Politics.

Among Mr. Frenzel's principal legislative interests were promoting free trade and balanced budgets. He helped negotiate the major 1990 deficit-reduction deal, a significant achievement at a time when Mr. Frenzel had become increasingly frustrated by what he described as the Republican Party's "seemingly permanent minority." Democrats "think they were born to be kings," Congressional Quarterly quoted him as saying, "and that there's a servant class, and that's the Republicans."

In an effort to invigorate his party, Mr. Frenzel nominated Newt Gingrich for party whip, a position that the Georgia Republican won in 1989. Gingrich's fiery style contrasted with Mr. Frenzel's more moderate one, but Mr. Frenzel said he had concluded that the party "needed to take some risks."

In 1994—four years after Mr. Frenzel's retirement—Gingrich led the GOP to recapturing control of the House. Mr. Frenzel remained involved in public affairs, including in the Democratic administration of Bill Clinton. Clinton tapped Mr. Frenzel as an adviser on the North American Free Trade Agreement, a centerpiece of the president's first-term agenda, and tasked him with helping rally GOP support.

"I took a position up in the Rayburn Building and I think I met with every member of the Republican caucus," Mr. Frenzel told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "The idea was to get the vote nailed down before you bring the bill to the floor. Some of the members were difficult and slippery." He continued, "For instance, some of the members said, 'We don't think the Mexicans know anything.' We flew them to Mexico City and had them meet with President [Carlos] Salinas and his cabinet, who, of course, were all University of Chicago PhDs and who bowled them over. That was very effective." NAFTA was passed in 1993 and enacted the next year.

Mr. Frenzel later served under George W. Bush, a Republican, and Barack Obama, a Democrat, on advisory commissions on Social Security and trade policy. He was a guest scholar with the Brookings Institution

think tank for more than two decades and was a co-chairman of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Government, both based in Washington.

Years after he left office, he remained sought after for his insider's perspective on politics.

"Republicans used to be interested in not running continual rivers of red ink," he told the New York Times in 2012. "If that meant raising taxes a little bit, we always raised taxes a little bit. But nowadays taxes are like leprosy and they can't be used for anything, and so Republicans have denied themselves any bargaining power."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that the rules do not permit references to those in the gallery.

IRAN AND DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE JOINT PLAN OF ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight because I know that in a short period of time it appears that the President of the United States will issue an executive order related to immigration that could very well be outside the constitutional limits of his authority.

And I believe that is going to create a great reaction in this country, Mr. Speaker. As important as it may be, it is also going to coincide with the date of November 24, when the interim agreement that this President signed with the nation of Iran will essentially expire. Then it will either be renewed or some type of agreement will be reached—or the effort will be abandoned.

I am deeply concerned that the importance of this event could be obscured by the media frenzy that potentially will follow this President's executive order on immigration.

So I come to the floor tonight to speak to that issue, Mr. Speaker, because the pursuit of nuclear weapons by the nation of Iran is an issue of the most profound significance to the national security of this country and to the peace and security of the entire world.

It seems very important to me that we do not let that issue be obscured by others, as important as they may be.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in this body are all too familiar with the endless parade of terror groups that have seemingly come onto the world stage in recent years.

But if we are startled by the rapid rise of ISIS and its subsequent march across the Middle East, during which it has beheaded, raped, crucified, and sold into sex slavery scores of men, women, and children alike; if we are concerned about the crushing video of the innocent woman whose hands and feet were

tied to two cars that subsequently drove in opposite directions and ripped her in half, or the Christians who were beheaded and whose decapitated heads were used as soccer balls;

If we are outraged at the activities of Boko Haram and its brutal displays of violence against any group that doesn't stand alongside its inhuman ideology, including its raids and its bombings across Nigeria, its systematic abduction of young schoolgirls, as young as 12, who are said to be raped every day in their months of captivity;

If we are shocked at the activities of al Shabaab, whose attacks have killed hundreds upon hundreds of civilians, including teenage girls lined up before firing squads as well as the numerous suicide bombings and other such horrific methods;

If we recoil at the thought of groups such as the Taliban, whose atrocious violations of basic human rights, roadside bombings, and suicide attacks marked so much of the United States' early struggle in Afghanistan;

If we recall, as so many of us do, precisely where we were when we learned of al Qaeda's attack on September 11 that claimed thousands of innocent American lives, just one of those senseless attacks by that group;

Mr. Speaker, if we are stunned and outraged at this rise of militant Islam in the world, then, sir, how will we feel if we allow President Barack Obama to stand idly by and watch the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, this deranged Islamist regime in Iran, lay hold upon nuclear weapons?

Mr. Speaker, shortly before the midterm elections earlier this month, President Obama penned a so-called letter of collaboration to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

This is the same Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who just a couple of days ago released his detailed, nine-step plan on how to wipe Israel off of the map.

Mr. Obama's incredibly naive attempt at collaboration is with a man whose sermons have included such edifying lines as "The Zionist cancer is gnawing into the lives of Islamic nations."

This is just one of the recent very telling glimpses at just how out of touch with reality this President truly is as Iran continues its sprint toward a nuclear weapons capability.

The Obama State Department was recently confronted by the somehow shocking revelation that Iran was now defying the interim agreement by feeding uranium into the IR5, the most technologically advanced centrifuge currently available in the world.

Inexplicably, Mr. Speaker, the administration responded with the sort of naivete that has become so characteristic of Obama foreign policy, stating: "We raised that issue with

Iran as soon as the International Atomic Energy Agency reported it. The Iranians have confirmed that they will not continue that activity as cited in the IAEA report, so it's been resolved."

To rephrase that, upon learning that the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism had defied an agreement on which the safety of the free world ostensibly rests and that indeed Iran was still conducting activities that could help it obtain nuclear weapons with which to carry out its threats to destroy the United States, the Obama Administration, so sophisticated is their "understanding" of what is presumably a tragically misunderstood Iranian regime, was assured by a pinky promise that the Iranians won't do it again.

Mr. Speaker, such naivete would be heartwarming on an elementary school playground, but on the world stage, when this President seems poised to personally usher in an age of nuclear terrorism, it becomes a very grave thing indeed.

Mr. Speaker, this administration's attempted punitive measures have been so halfhearted and demonstrably ineffective that they have at times actually benefited the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.

For instance, last week, the organization United Against Nuclear Iran released its updated analysis of the joint plan of action. That is the plan agreed upon by this administration and the Iranian regime. The Iranian government reported a 4.6 percent increase in their gross domestic product for the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year compared to that same period last year.

According to the Central Bank of Iran, this is the first time the Iranian economy has experienced positive growth in more than 2 years.

□ 1830

Meanwhile, Iran's inflation is down 24 percent since July 2013, from an estimated 45 percent to 21.1 percent at the end of September. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the entire Iranian Stock Exchange has seen a 57 percent increase since roughly this time last year.

Mr. Speaker, how bitterly ironic that this President has done more to benefit the Tehran Stock Exchange than he has done to benefit the New York Stock Exchange.

These statistics directly controvert assertions made by administration officials that, despite the sanctions relief provided under the joint plan of action, Iran would still find itself even deeper in the economic hole. That is what they told us, Mr. Speaker.

Let us not forget that Iran's economic bounce, which is occurring in the midst of what are supposedly sanctions designed to punish its economy, follows an agreement, the meaning of which neither party can even agree upon.

The Iranian regime has publicly stated its belief that the agreement—which specifically references an "inalienable right" to use nuclear energy—guarantees Iran's right to continue enriching uranium. That is contrary to all of the U.N. Council resolutions saying that they had to dismantle such capability. The White House, meanwhile, has stated that it doesn't understand the agreement to mean that.

From Iran's perspective, Mr. Speaker, they have signed on to an agreement that gives them a guaranteed right to ongoing uranium enrichment, giving them a breakout capability that—for a nuclear weapons capability not within years but rather within months, and then, as a reward for signing that agreement, which gives them nearly everything they have ever wanted, the Obama administration has also agreed to lift sanctions, providing a further boon to the Iranian economy.

Mr. Speaker, what part of this approach is supposed to convince the jihadist Iranian leadership that they should reconsider their current course? Is it our concession to their nuclear rights? Is it our help in facilitating an economic windfall for them?

Just last week, a Wall Street Journal op-ed revealed that an upcoming London forum will bring together Iranian firms with a range of international counterparts—ranging from law offices, telecom operations, business consultancies, and even art auction houses—to explore how capital might be moved into Iran as the country transitions into a "post-sanctions" environment.

This is hardly the face of an Iran that fears the effect Mr. Obama's sanctions will have on what looks to be a very lucrative future.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could see some method to this madness if, for example, the President had managed to secure other concessions from the Iranian Government, a commitment perhaps to address its atrocious human rights record; instead, the election of Hassan Rouhani—again, a man heralded by many on the left as a harbinger of a more reasonable era in Iran—what has transpired has been described by some as an "execution binge," with nearly two executions occurring every day, often performed as a public spectacle as a punishment for such times as refusing to convert to Islam.

In fact, since Rouhani's election last year, over 900 such executions have taken place. Meanwhile, Mr. Rouhani's promise to ease Internet restrictions remains unfulfilled. An American pastor and a citizen of the United States of America remains in prison in Iran, where he has been tortured for his Christian faith.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how one may try to give this President the benefit of the doubt, there is simply no way to

make the Obama approach make any reasonable sense.

If the goal has been to keep Iran from being able to obtain a nuclear weapon, then Mr. Obama has failed. If the goal has been to punish the Iranian economy for the regime's radical pursuit of nuclear weapons, then Mr. Obama has failed.

If the goal has been to have an impact on Iran's human rights record, then Mr. Obama has failed. If the goal was to reduce the chances of the world's children stepping into the shadow of nuclear terrorism, then Mr. Obama has failed.

This President's only conceivable victory lies in his hope that, like a would-be modern Richard Nixon opening the doors to China, history will somehow consider Mr. Obama a hero for blazing new trails into Iran and for his mindless refusal to take the Iranian regime at its word, no matter how many times they have expressed that their real goal is the destruction of America and Israel.

Mr. Speaker, very simply, the Obama foreign policy is a gutless political correctness on the global stage. It is the cynical pursuit of legacy without regard for the cause of human freedom. It is the belief that tepid appeals to some hollow concept of tolerance are all that are necessary to tame the most savage of beasts.

The entire Obama legacy, Mr. Speaker, rests on the desperate hope that history will hand out an award for blind trust in the promises of jihadists.

Mr. Speaker, former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton once said:

Diplomacy is not an end in itself if it does not advance U.S. interests.

This President's take on that principle seems to be:

U.S. interests be damned, so long as everyone considers me diplomatic.

It is for all of the above reasons that I am pleased to join my colleague in the Senate, Senator TED CRUZ, in introducing H.R. 5709, the Sanction Iran, Safeguard America Act of 2014.

The bill would eliminate many of Mr. Obama's waiver authorities over sanctions and would oppose severe sanctions on Iran once again. Included in the legislation are sanctions on Iranian crude oil, oil transportation, financial institutions, petroleum—including sanctions on the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, and marketing of petroleum products—and the Iranian automotive sector, among others.

The bill also includes a prohibition on funding for any additional negotiations with Iran until a joint resolution of approval by Congress is passed, certifying that all Iranian-held American prisoners of conscience are released; the IAEA has determined Iran has dismantled its nuclear program, ceased enrichment activities, and released all stockpiles of enriched uranium; the

Central Bank of Iran is no longer considered a primary money laundering concern under the PATRIOT Act; and Iran has renounced their state sponsorship of terrorism designation by admitting to participation in terrorist acts.

Mr. Speaker, I would adjure this body that we must legislatively fill, insofar as it is possible, this vacuum of leadership left by a President who is asleep at the wheel while radical terrorists move toward placing their fingers on the nuclear trigger under his paralyzed stare.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we got word earlier this afternoon that President Obama intends to issue an oral decree followed by a written decree—as any good monarch would—indicating that he has decided to change the law regarding immigration.

An article here from The Washington Post has a quote from Secretary Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, which he says:

“Legislative action is always preferable,” Johnson said, “but we have waited for Congress to act, and the Congress has not acted. The President has waited.”

That is what leaders in places like Venezuela—many places historically where that statement has been made, we have waited for parliament or the legislature or Congress to change the law. They didn't do as we dictated to Congress they had to do, and therefore, we have decided to change the law.

This President is creating a constitutional crisis, and it happens when a President is allowed to continue pushing the envelope and pushing the envelope and exceeding the envelope, and you have an incorrigible opinion written—as the majority for the Supreme Court did on ObamaCare—that is the height of hypocrisy.

How the Supreme Court majority could say, on page 14 and 15, that the mandated penalty in ObamaCare was not a tax—the Supreme Court said if it were a tax, of course, under the anti-injunction statute many decades old, we would not have jurisdiction—plaintiffs wouldn't have standing.

But since clearly the penalty is just that—it is a penalty—then it is not a tax because, if it were a tax, we wouldn't have jurisdiction, plaintiffs wouldn't have standing, and we would all be out of luck, and we wouldn't be able to issue an opinion, but since it is not a tax, it is a penalty, then we will go forward and be able to issue an opinion.

Then you get over about 40 pages, and the opinion says, since it is a tax

after all—even though 40 pages or so ago it wasn't—now, we found that it is, therefore, it is constitutional.

So we have had all three branches help create a constitutional crisis. The President on one hand, by continuing to overstep the boundaries of the Constitution as he usurps more and more power; the Supreme Court by issuing decisions that are nonsensical; and Congress, if we continue not to use the powers of the purse to stop the lawlessness by this administration.

The Supreme Court has had opportunities to stop it—they have stopped it on many occasions—set a record for numbers of Supreme Court opinions ruling against an administration unanimously, so the President does have that part of his legacy going, but apparently, the legacy continues to be stretched to the bounds of absurdity.

The Washington Post said—this was from today:

President Obama will announce Thursday that he will use his executive authority to expand temporary protections to millions of undocumented immigrants, according to several individuals who have been briefed on the decision. Obama will travel to Las Vegas on the heels of that announcement to rally support for his initiative on Friday.

It shouldn't be a surprise. While the President slept and four heroes—including one ambassador—in Benghazi were killed, he got up and headed for Las Vegas.

□ 1845

Now, he is going to announce this constitutional crisis he is creating by deciding to legislate and then take off for Las Vegas again, gambling with the jobs of Americans as he goes.

Getting back to the article again, it says:

Congress will receive official details on the move Thursday, according to a senior Democratic Party official.

Even before final confirmation of the President's plans, outside advocates began readying events to promote the administration's immigration policy.

“We hear there will be a primetime Thursday evening announcement, to preview, and full unveiling in Vegas on Friday,” immigration advocate Dawn Le wrote in an email to other activists, which was later inadvertently sent to a group of reporters Wednesday morning. “Can folks begin to work and plan watch parties for Thursday and/or Friday? Unclear whether Thursday night content will be what is ‘celebratory,’ but Friday will be where we need a lot of energy guaranteed.”

That is, of course, while the President is in Las Vegas, gambling away American jobs.

The article goes on:

Obama launched his push for immigration reform in January 2013 in Las Vegas, outlining a plan that would allow many of the Nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants to earn citizenship.

Now, it is important to note the article goes on to say:

Johnson said the administration has concluded it has “wide latitude” to take action.

"It can't be that we are not allowed to lift a finger to fix our broken immigration system," he said. "And we will."

That is what creates the constitutional crisis, Mr. Speaker. Jefferson once recommended that we shouldn't bring up a bill for a vote until it has had a year on file for people to review. That would eliminate all these legislating-by-crises situations, but we have seen crises generated.

We know the former Chief of Staff for the President of the United States once quipped that you never want to let a good emergency go to waste; obviously, there is a feeling that this would be the time to usurp congressional authority.

Now, the sad thing is the crisis is not as bad right now as it has been in the past. Any time the President talked about amnesty or legal status, Border Patrolmen—some on the record, some in articles—have pointed out any time the President—or anybody in Washington, but especially the President—talks about amnesty or legal status, the numbers of people coming in illegally, the number of people dying trying to get in, increases.

The number of people wishing to get lost in the masses from Central America and Mexico coming in from countries where radical Islamic activities abound are coming in, in greater numbers.

Interestingly, the White House has shown it has the ability to foment a crisis unilaterally, and then by fomenting the crisis unilaterally, justify the crisis they created to usurp congressional authority granted to Congress and no one else in the Constitution.

There is an article from my dear friend, Senator TED CRUZ. "The Constitution designs a system of checks and balances for our Nation, and executive amnesty for illegal immigrants unilaterally decreed by the White House would seriously undermine the rule of law.

"Our Founders repeatedly warned about the dangers of unlimited power within the executive branch. Congress should heed those words as the President threatens to grant amnesty to millions of people who have come to our country illegally.

"To be clear, the dispute over executive amnesty is not between President Obama and Republicans in Congress; it is a dispute between President Obama and the American people. The Democrats suffered historic losses in the midterm elections largely over the prospects of the President's executive amnesty. President Obama was correct: his policies were on the ballot across the Nation in 2014. The elections were a referendum on amnesty, and the voters soundly rejected it. There was no ambiguity.

"Undeterred, President Obama appears to be going forward. It is lawless. It is unconstitutional. He is defiant and angry at the American people. If

he acts by executive diktat, President Obama will not be acting as a President, he will be acting as a monarch.

"Thankfully, the Framers of our Constitution, wary of the dangers of monarchy, gave the Congress tools to rein in abuses of power. They believed if the President wants to change the law, he cannot act alone; he must work with Congress.

"He may not get everything he wants, but the Constitution requires compromise between the branches.

"A monarch, however, does not compromise. As Alexander Hamilton explains in Federalist 69, a monarch decrees, dictates, and rules through fiat power, which"—as TED CRUZ points out—"is what President Obama is attempting. When the President embraces the tactics of a monarch, it becomes incumbent on Congress to wield the constitutional power it has to stop it."

He goes on to make good points.

It is important that someone speak for the tens of millions of American citizens who had a dream, who hoped to have work, who hoped to provide for their families, who hoped to have enough to pay back student loans, who hoped to buy their children bicycles for Christmas, but they are out of work. They lost work.

Oh, I know the books have gotten cooked, and we are told that the unemployment rate is dramatically better, but a big reason that the American voters did not indicate that at the polls is they don't feel it, and the reason they don't feel that the employment numbers are better is because they personally know they are not. They are not better.

In fact, this article is from September 5 from CNS News:

A record 92,269 million Americans 16 and older did not participate in the labor force in August, as the labor force participation rate matched a 36-year low of 62.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

The labor force participation rate has been as low as 62.8 percent in 6 of the last 12 months, but prior to last October had not fallen that low since 1978, which, hypothetically or parenthetically, was during the August—I say sarcastically for those on the left that don't know sarcasm—days of the American economy during President Carter's glorious years as President.

This article goes on:

BLS employment statistics are based on the civilian noninstitutional population, which consists of all people 16 or older who are not in the military or an institution such as a prison, mental hospital, or nursing home.

In August, the civilian noninstitutional population was 248,229 million, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of that 248 million, 155,959 million, or 62.8 percent, participate in the labor force, meaning they either had a job or had actively sought one in the past 4 weeks.

The 92,269 million who did not participate in the labor force are those in the civilian

noninstitutional population who did not have a job and did not actively seek one in the last 4 weeks. Because they did not seek a job, then the administration did not count them as unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, as the President intends to announce tomorrow—and party in Las Vegas—going into more detail about how many Americans are going to be displaced from their jobs by people the President is going to provide amnesty to, somebody needs to be speaking up for that union member that would love to pay union dues if he just had a job, or for the single moms that have approached me in tears, saying they got forced into part-time work because of ObamaCare and the change in the law that was entailed in the ObamaCare bill.

There are people hurting across America that are American citizens that once had a dream. Maybe we should label the President's unconstitutional actions as the American citizen dream killer, instead of any type of DREAMer act.

We have seen statistics that indicate that possibly less than 10 percent of people who have come into this country illegally are actually working, so the President provides amnesty for millions of people who are illegally here.

I hope that he will also provide an apology to the Hispanics and people from different places around the world that my office is trying to help achieve visas, achieve citizenship legally, some taking years.

I am sure the President is not going to feel like apologizing. Apparently, the indication is he wants to celebrate the unconstitutional actions he is going to announce in Las Vegas, but somebody with the government needs to apologize to the American people that 92 million-plus Americans are not even looking for a job any more when they are eligible for jobs, they could have jobs, most of them would like to have jobs, but they have given up. They have lost their dreams under this administration.

As the President announces making millions of more people who have come illegally eligible to take American citizens' jobs in the next 2 days, I hope that our Congress on both sides of the aisle will do what is right and say, "Wait a minute. Secure the border, Mr. President. That is what is exclusively within your control."

The Supreme Court has said States and local authorities can't secure the border. It is up to the administration, and the mere fact is that this administration has turned their back on protecting Americans from the illegal aliens that have come in and killed Americans, raped Americans. Thank God most of them don't do those things.

□ 1900

But for the millions of people who have been the victims of crimes by people who have come in illegally, those crimes would never have occurred if we had had an administration that secured the border so people who came across with criminal records in their past in the countries they came from would not be allowed in here, and those crimes they committed in America would not have been committed.

Those that have been deported and come back in after they committed crimes here and commit more crimes, as I personally saw as a judge happen in Smith County, Texas, those wouldn't be happening if we had an administration that would properly secure the border.

The Clinton administration didn't do it. The Bush administration didn't do it. And now, this administration has set records for how poorly they have prevented people from coming in illegally, the damage that has been done to American citizens, crushing dreams, taking dreams.

I hope and pray the President will remember his oath, that this precursor that was released today about the damage the President wants to do to American citizens who are trying to find jobs, that he will have second thoughts and not do it.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people who spoke very loudly and clearly when they came out to vote will let the President know, in person, through email, through phone calls, that American citizens still need jobs.

Why don't you help the economy get going stronger so that we need more people to come in and have those jobs?

Our oath is to the American people, and when you have nearly a third of the United States, or getting close to half of people eligible to work that have even completely given up on looking for jobs, the economy is not good. Americans are suffering.

Now the President wants to bring in, just provide amnesty to people who will then be able to compete and put American citizens out of work. It really is heartbreaking.

Now, if you stay aboard, say, an Air Force One and you only go to rallies or golf courses where everybody is doing great, wealthy, you only talk to high-tech industry people that are just knocking down billions of dollars, it is easy to start feeling like things are going great. But if you go to Sabine County, Texas; San Augustine, Texas; Shelby County, Texas; Angelina County; Nacogdoches County; Rusk County; Panola County; Harrison County; Gregg County; Smith County; Wood County; Upshur County—those are counties all within my district. And in some of those counties, people are really getting desperate. They don't need to compete with 5 million more people for jobs. They would just like a job themselves.

If the Obama administration will take the foot off of the throat of this economy, will help us roll back and repeal ObamaCare.

I got notice again of another hospital in my district this week, there in Gilmer where my nephew was born. Gilmer hospital, where my nephew was born, is now going to be closed. They are not going to be able to handle the continued cuts that ObamaCare has created. There are numerous reasons, but that is a death knell.

Hospitals are closing. People are hurting. So for the 92, between 92 and 93 million people that have given up hope, how sad, because the Obama administration will not secure our borders.

I want immigrants coming in. I love the fact that we allow more legal immigrants in than anybody. I love that. That is wonderful. But when you don't have secure borders and millions come in, millions upon millions, then you are moving toward a day when nobody is going to want to come in because you didn't have a logical immigration process. They overwhelmed the system. They broke the system, and now that shining light on a hill has gone out.

We are moving in that direction: the military becoming too small to adequately protect us, people around the world in hostile environments deciding that America can be pushed around, radical Islamists deciding this is the time to move, Iran figuring out that they have an administration that can be duped over and over again until they have the atomic weapons and the ability to carry them, which they have already got. They can do it with ships, enough to take out the Great Satan, which is the United States, according to them, and the Little Satan, Israel.

And this President is going to have a good time out in Las Vegas. Las Vegas can be fun, but not when the President says he is going to sign a law—wouldn't it be ironic if he decided to sign it at Caesars Palace, because the real Caesar's palace used to see that kind of thing on a regular basis, you know, a dictator, or Caesar just signing a law as he saw fit.

But in this case, you would think a Caesar would not sign a law that would provide the ability to displace millions of Americans who have jobs and force them into the eventuality where 92 million Americans are. They have given up hope. They have given up on their dreams.

If you believe the Bible, as I do, it makes clear that the government is here to protect people, to protect against evil, to encourage good conduct. That means following the law. You provide a protected environment in which people can be peacemakers and be meek and loving and kind and turn the other cheek.

But that is not for the government. The government's role is to enforce the

law as it is. And may God plant the seeds of wisdom in the right people in this administration so they will quit harming Americans who just want a job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 885. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

S. 1093. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 1499. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

S. 1512. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

S. 2141. An Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2539. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An Act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7753. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fresh Unshu Oranges From Japan Into the United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2013-0059] (RIN: 0579-AD85) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7754. A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Import Inspection Application and Certification of Imported Products and Foreign Establishments; Amendments to Facilitate the Public Health Information System (PHIS) and Other Changes to Import Inspection Regulations [Docket No.: FSIS-2009-

0022] (RIN: 0583-AD39) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7755. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report on the payment of a Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus to members of precommissioning programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7756. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel Brian P. Cummings, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7757. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Gilmory M. Hostage III, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7758. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David S. Fadok, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7759. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Major General John W. Nicholson, Jr., United States Army, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7760. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General James F. Amos, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7761. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation: Ocean Transportation by U.S.-Flag Vessels (DFARS Case 2014-D012) (RIN: 0750-AI38) received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7762. A letter from the Director, Naval Reactors, transmitting executive summaries of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's latest report on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7763. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to China Eastern Airlines of Shanghai, China pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7764. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7765. A letter from the Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress: Preservation of Minority National Banks and Federal Savings Associations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7766. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0082] (RIN: 1840-AD17) received October

29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7767. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Program Integrity: Gainful Employment [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0039] (RIN: 1840-AD15) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7768. A letter from the Director, Division of Regulations, Legislation, and Interpretation, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors (RIN: 1235-AA10) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7769. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Green Building Certification Systems for Federal Buildings [Docket No.: EE-RM/STD-02-112] (RIN: 1904-AC13) received October 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7770. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Update on the Adoption of Health Information Technology and Related Efforts to Facilitate the Electronic Use and Exchange of Health Information"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7771. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — AAAPD and AAASD; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0467; FRL-9917-03] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7772. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Ohio PM2.5 NSR [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0385; FRL-9917-92-Region 5] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7773. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Arkansas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-RCRA-2014-0366; FRL-9918-56-Region 6] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7774. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1997 Fine Particle (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0694; FRL-9917-96-Region 2] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7775. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Arkansas [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0765; FRL-9918-61-Region 6] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7776. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Paraquat Dichloride; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0729; FRL-9917-15] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7777. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Prallethrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0659; FRL-9917-30] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7778. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky: New Source Review for Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0486; FRL-9918-68-Region 4] received October 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7779. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Amendments to Gasoline Volatility Standards and Motor Vehicle Refinishing Requirements for Illinois [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0273; FRL-9914-97-Region 5] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7780. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0274; FRL-9917-33-Region 5] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7781. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead and 2010 NO2 NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0888; EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0991; FRL-9917-32-Region 5] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7782. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Revisions to PSD and NNSR Programs [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0242; FRL-9915-94-Region 5] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7783. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain D7; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0569; FRL-9916-13] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7784. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0592; FRL-9917-02-Region 9] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7785. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Lake County Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0412; FRL-9912-71-Region 9] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7786. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0615; FRL-9916-95-Region 9] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7787. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rule on Certain Chemical Substances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0727; FRL-9917-25] received October 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7788. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a certification of export to China; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7789. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense, transmitting a Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7790. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 11-14 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Republic of Singapore; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7791. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7792. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7793. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; (GSAR); Qualifications of Offerors [(Change 59); GSAR Case 2013-G501; Docket No.: 2014-0010; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AJ46) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7794. A letter from the Archivist, National Archives, transmitting Archives' FY 2014 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory, as required by the FAIR Act and OMB Circular A-76; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7795. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a re-

port entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2015", pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7796. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "The D.C. Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board was Substantially in Compliance with the D.C. Official Code for Fiscal Year 2013 but Action is Required for Full Compliance"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7797. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "ANC 8B Financial Operations Were Not Fully Compliant with Law"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7798. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "The Department of Motor Vehicles' Performance Measures Were Effective but Lacked Proper Controls"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7799. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' and Contractors' Compliance with Subcontracting Requirements Needs Significant Improvement"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7800. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the strategic plan for fiscal years 2014-2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7801. A letter from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7802. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers employed at Simonds Saw and Steel Co. in Lockport, New York, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7803. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of the report "Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2014"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7804. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's quarterly report from the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 (October 1, 2013-December 31, 2013); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7805. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report entitled, "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Civil Debts Referred to the Department for Collection Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7806. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) report, 2015-2019, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 2203(b)(1); Public Law 97-248, section 504(b)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7807. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Depart-

ment's report entitled "Department of Energy FY 2013 Methane Hydrate Program"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

7808. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's report entitled "The Department of Labor's 2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7809. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Adelaida District, Creston District, El Pomar District, Paso Robles Estrella District, Paso Robles Geneseo District, Paso Robles Highlands District, Paso Robles Willow Creek District, San Juan Creek District, San Miguel District, Santa Margarita Ranch, and Templeton Gap District Viticultural Areas [Docket No.: TTB-2013-0009; T.D. TTB-125; Ref: Notice No. 140] (RIN: 1513-AB68) received October 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7810. A letter from the Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a letter regarding a new trade agreement in the World Trade Organization aimed at eliminating tariffs on a wide range of environmental goods; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7811. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates—November 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-28) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7812. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the November 2014 Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits in Compliance with Section 2(h)(2)(D)(i) of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7813. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the annual report on the Administration's processing of continuing disability reviews for FY 2012; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7814. A letter from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report entitled "DHS Privacy Office 2014 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

7815. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a response to the Speaker's letter sent on May 20, 2014 regarding a Transportation Security Administration rule; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

7816. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Fifth Report to Congress on the Evaluation of the Medicare Coordinated Care Demonstration (MCCD)—Findings over 10 Years" as required by Section 4016(c) of Public Law 105-33, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2689. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities; with an amendment (Rept. 113-627). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 5737. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibilities with respect to Internet domain name functions unless it certifies that it has received a proposal for such relinquishment that meets certain criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 5738. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for purposes of establishing and maintaining mobile hospital units for responding to an epidemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CAMP, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FINCHER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5739. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 5740. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LARSEN of

Washington, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5741. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require a voter-verified permanent paper ballot under title III of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McKEON:

H.R. 5742. A bill to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. DENT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 5743. A bill to establish a commission to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics, to make recommendations for the resolution of the issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 5744. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require recipients of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communications capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 5745. A bill to direct certain actions of the United States Government with respect to recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Korean Constabulary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER:

H. Res. 759. A resolution recognizing Survivors Victory Day to celebrate and honor the victims and survivors of trauma; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 760. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2, 2014, as World MRSA Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

327. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 15, opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation without approval by the U.S. Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

328. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint

Resolution 26, urging Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states a portion of revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

329. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 15, opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation without approval by the U.S. Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

330. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, relating to certain holiday practices at federal Veterans Health Administration facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 5738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills."—U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 7, clause 1

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."—U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9, clause 7

By Mr. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 5740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 5741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. McKEON:

H.R. 5742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Sec. 3 refers to the managerial authority over property owned by the Federal Government

By Mr. MORAN:
H.R. 5743.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 5744.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TERRY:
H.R. 5745.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, . . .
Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 14—To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces
Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, . . .

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 543: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1041: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1074: Mr. KIND, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1563: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1761: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2073: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 2139: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2330: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2417: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 2591: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2794: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 2945: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MAFFEI, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2994: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LYNCH, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3331: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3410: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3708: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3742: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3877: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4351: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4440: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 4577: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4693: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 4717: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4720: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 4793: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4826: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4930: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4962: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 5065: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 5130: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 5213: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 5241: Mr. PERRY and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5262: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 5269: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 5320: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 5324: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 5381: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 5403: Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5503: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 5504: Mr. HANNA, Mr. LANCE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5505: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 5547: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5578: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 5589: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LOEBBACH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 5632: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 5646: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 5650: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 5656: Ms. DELAULO, Ms. BASS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5658: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 5661: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5693: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 5697: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 5706: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 5733: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.J. Res. 126: Mr. FLORES.

H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. JONES, and Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 72: Ms. HAHN.
H. Res. 596: Mr. RIGELL.
H. Res. 688: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. TONKO.

H. Res. 711: Mr. NADLER.
H. Res. 714: Mr. STOCKMAN.
H. Res. 728: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. MENG, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 755: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H. Res. 758: Mr. STOCKMAN.

SENATE—Wednesday, November 19, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we acknowledge today that without Your protection, we labor in vain. Give rest to the weary and joy to those who work for liberty.

Lord, use our Senators to join You in bringing deliverance to captives and sight to the morally and ethically blind. Grant that our lawmakers will focus more on donation than duration as You remind them of their accountability to You. May looking to You for help become their first option.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 3:00 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 928, 930, 1032, 1033, 1034; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of those nominations, that on Thursday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order above.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY).

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that—we had some nominations on which cloture was filed last night—there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and that all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be im-

mediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that following the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 1034, the Senate consider Executive Calendar Nos. 596, 699, 957, 1044, 1045, and 1056; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we expect these nominations I just listed to be confirmed by voice vote.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The time from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. will be under the control of the Republicans, and the majority will control from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As a reminder, there will be an all-Senators briefing on ISIS at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon in the regular location.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am glad that for a few minutes the President pro tem is here in this body and presiding over the Senate.

For years I have heard from Senate Republicans that they simply wanted to do some legislating; they were tired of being shut out of the legislative process; they were not able to debate legislation and amendments. They have assured the American people they want to be wholly dedicated to open and robust debate on legislation on the Senate floor.

Yesterday a bill that was bipartisan in nature and came out under the aus-

pices of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, after actually years of consternation, debate, and work by so many different people, came to the floor. That was blocked yesterday, blocked from even having a hearing here on the Senate floor. That is wrong. This is a very important piece of legislation. It protects Americans' rights to privacy without sacrificing the U.S. intelligence community's ability to gather information.

I also say through the Chair to my friend the President pro tem of the Senate that it does not matter if you agree with the statement I just made. Maybe some people disagree with this legislation. Certainly there are people who disagree with it. But shouldn't we at least be able to debate the issue here on the floor? Doesn't legislation of this magnitude merit the Senate's consideration? Yet yesterday we were shut down once again—this has been going on for years—before we even got started. They would not even let the Senate debate this very important piece of legislation. We were ready to legislate in good faith. We have been ready to legislate for the last 4 years. We have been prevented numerous times from doing that.

The Republican leader and his caucus will have to do more than just pay lip-service to an open, bipartisan legislative process. At some point they must practice what they preach. Maybe that will be the case come January.

Last night, just after the vote on Keystone, I heard the Republican leader say he will bring this same legislation to the Senate floor early next year. So we look forward to coming to the floor early next year. I would hope we can have an open amendment process and ample debate on that legislation that the Republican leader for months on record has wholeheartedly endorsed.

I feel very bad that the chairman of our Judiciary Committee has worked so hard during the time—when we were in recess, we talked several times about the importance of this legislation and how we were going to try to move it forward. We determined yesterday we are not going to move forward even without a debate or a vote on anything. That is really too bad.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

USA FREEDOM ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate the kind words of the majority leader. He and I have been friends for decades. He worked with me and was in touch with me throughout the recent effort on the NSA reform bill, the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014. He knew we had cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats, from across the political spectrum. This was an effort to do what was best for America and do it at a time when we would not be under urgent deadlines. Several of the authorities we were trying to amend expire on June 1 of next year.

We had a piece of legislation that began in the House of Representatives by a Republican chairman. We added to the bill in the Senate. There was a very clear signal from the House of Representatives that if we had passed the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014 here in the Senate, they would have taken it up and passed it. We would be enacting legislation that would improve not only the security of Americans, but also the privacy and individual liberties of Americans. And we would not do it under a deadline. So it was unfortunate last night that there was a partisan effort to stop it. There was some of the worst fear-mongering I have heard on this floor in 40 years. But I say this as more of a way to thank the distinguished majority leader for his steadfast support.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the reason I feel—and I have made my remarks regarding the Senator from Vermont. There has been no one in modern history who has done more to protect the civil liberties of people than the senior Senator from Vermont. This legislation was drafted toward that effect, to make sure we were able to do the necessary work for this country as it relates to what was in this bill but also to protect the liberties of Americans.

I have such admiration for my friend from Vermont, for his work on landmines. At the time he started the conversation on landmines, he was it, but of course there are now people all over the world who are following his lead on the maiming, people who have been killed, thousands of people. Thousands of people, as we speak, are still being killed by landmines from wars past. So the fact that we were not able to get to this legislation does not in any way take away from the legacy of this good man who has done so much to protect the individual liberties of the people in Vermont and across the country.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA A. GRAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise this morning to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of a soldier from Kentucky who died while serving in uniform. PFC Joshua Gray of Van Lear, KY, lost his life on February 10, 2014, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from a noncombat-related incident.

Private First Class Gray was 21 years old. For his service in uniform, Private First Class Gray received several medals, awards, and decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Josh's life may have been tragically cut short, but it was full of promise. He excelled as a student. He scored a 34 out of 36 on the ACT standardized test in high school, putting his score in the 99th percentile. Friends and teachers from Johnson Central High School, where Josh graduated in 2011, remember how very bright he was.

"Josh was a very high-end student. He was an amazing kid," says John Robinson, one of Josh's teachers. "He was very super-smart. He was always looking something up. He always had this thirst for knowledge—computers, math, science and technology. He was always more than willing to do work. He often came to me with questions—or answers."

Josh's fascination with computers led him to salvage an old, massive IBM server that he brought to school to tinker with. John Robinson remembers the unit was so heavy it should have required two people to carry it. John said:

He was carrying it around like it was nothing. He left it here. I still have it.

Josh was known around school for carrying something else around—Mr. Waddles, his stuffed penguin and constant companion. Though Josh carried the stuffed penguin at first for laughs, it soon became his trademark. As Tim

Adams, district director of operations for Johnson County Schools, said:

He took Mr. Waddles everywhere with him. It started out as a joke, but then it just caught on. Mr. Waddles became part of the class.

Joshua participated on the Johnson Central High School academic team and the SkillsUSA team. Popular with his classmates, he was also named prom king and voted "Most Unforgettable" by his senior class.

Lindsey Patrick, a classmate of Joshua's, stated:

He could have done anything with his life, he was one of the most brilliant people I've ever met, and [service] is what he chose to do and give his life. That is why he is so unforgettable.

Josh was also musically gifted as well. Angie Carriere, his former music teacher, remembers Josh's musical talent:

He was in my violin/fiddle class. He never wanted to learn to read music, instead he insisted on playing music 'by ear.' Actually, he never really needed the [sheet] music; he could just listen to the song and play it.

Josh joined the Army in November of 2012. He completed training at Fort Jackson, SC, and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, NY, as a satellite communications system operator and maintainer. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in January of 2014.

Joshua's funeral was held at Johnson County Middle School. He was buried with full military honors at Highland Memorial Park in Staffordsville, Johnson County.

We are thinking of Josh's family as I recount his story for my Senate colleagues, including his parents Seth William Gray and Robin Rena Gray, his brother Dustin Mollett, his sister Delaney Mollett, his maternal grandparents Andy and Kathleen Price, his paternal grandmother, Irene Gray, and many other beloved family members and friends.

PFC Joshua A. Gray was truly a talented and bright young man who could have done many things. The fact that he chose to serve his country in the U.S. Army is a testament to his character and his patriotism. I hope the family of Private First Class Gray knows that we in the Senate honor his choice to serve and we are grateful for his sacrifice.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE AND ENFORCING THE LAW

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, it is good to be here.

I was disappointed yesterday to see that we weren't able to move forward on the Keystone Pipeline. It has become symbolic in many ways of whether we are willing to embrace the opportunities of more American energy.

The American people clearly have a sense that it is to their advantage for us to take advantage of those opportunities, for us to deal with not only our own economy, with the energy we can produce but even with our next-door neighbors. Canada is our greatest trading partner, and Mexico continues to play a bigger and bigger role as a trading partner—I think now No. 4 and No. 5 of all the countries in the world we have economic exchanges with—but friendly neighbors in North America that can produce energy in ways that meet every logical standard.

I heard some discussions about the pipeline, that once this is built, even though it may create tens of thousands of jobs in building the pipeline, it will only take three dozen or so people to run the pipeline. Of course that is right; it is a pipeline. It is an efficient, safe way to transport the energy we need. But I think it is important to understand that just the jobs to run the pipeline have nothing to do in many ways with the job potential that is created when we embrace the energy potential we have. If we ask about that energy potential, the American people say yes. If we ask about lower utility bills or dependably payable utility bills, the American people say yes. If we ask about price at the pump, the American people say yes.

But beyond that, if somebody is thinking about a manufacturing job or any other job as a job creator, if they have that utility bill they can pay, if they have the delivery system they can rely on, the country is much more likely to make things again, the country is much more likely to compete, and the American people understand that.

Even if we ask specifically about this one small part of that puzzle—the Keystone Pipeline—the American people say yes. Six years is enough. The State Department has evaluated this over and over again under two different Secretaries of State. Both times they have said there is no problem moving forward with this. I was disappointed that we didn't.

Even the White House suggesting they would veto that if it was sent to them seems to continue to indicate to me that nobody is listening to what the people we all work for are saying.

The President said he wasn't on the ballot but his policies were. If his policies were on the ballot, as he said they were, those policies were widely rejected—not just to change next year in the body we get to serve in here, but

also two-thirds of the legislative Houses in the country are no longer run by the President's party, and 60 percent-plus of the Governors are no longer run by the President's party.

People are trying to send a message. It would be a good idea if the White House would get on the receive and begin to figure out what that message is and what is wrong with those policies that the American people don't like. I don't think it is because they don't understand them. I know there would be one sense probably most closely held at the White House: If they just understood what we were trying to do, they would be for what we are trying to do.

I think it is not that way, even though the President might like to think it would be. In fact, the clear message is that people are concerned about costly energy policies, they are concerned about the President's recent overreach on a topic we wouldn't even think people would have engaged on, but they have: net neutrality, where even the Chairman of the FCC, nominated by the President and confirmed by this Senate—even the Chairman of the FCC said: I think the President is headed in the wrong direction there, and we need to do something different than that.

The SBA recently called on the EPA to withdraw one of their proposals and try again because it had too much negative impact on the economy.

I can't think of a similar situation ever, where an administration finds itself so often in conflict even with itself, even having the administration challenged. When the SBA thinks the EPA is off target, and that was empaneled sometime before a rule was laid down—a proposed regulation was laid down—we wonder, why not? Why wouldn't we be managing this discussion in a better way? Why wouldn't we be moving the country forward in a better way?

Ignoring the voters is an incredible tragedy in a democracy. Ignoring the law is an even more incredible tragedy in a constitutional democracy.

According to reports, the President is considering two requirements deciding on the 11 million people who are here without documents who either came illegally or stayed illegally and what to do about that. The President is looking at the length of time as a qualifier. Nowhere in the law is that a qualifier. The President is looking at the ties people might have to others in the country. These requirements, depending on how broadly they are drawn, could wind up with the President's announcement as early as Friday, leaving another 5 million people in the country in a status I don't quite understand and they will not either.

When someone is here based on an Executive order, that is totally dependent on one thing: Who is the Executive?

When someone is here based on the law, that is very dependent on everything having to come together that changes the law before their status will change.

Why would we put people in that kind of jeopardy? Why would we send that kind of mixed message?

After legislation overhauling the immigration process died in the Congress, the President said he is going to act on his own. I can't find that part of the Constitution which allows that to happen. In fact, in statements made more than one time, he couldn't find it either—statements made more than one time where the President said: I can't do this on my own. We are a nation of laws. That is his observation about who we are, not my observation about who we are.

I know there will be people on this side of the Capitol Building who will say: We sent something over there, I didn't vote for it, but it doesn't mean I am not aware that it was sent to the House. But the House sent a bill over here too. Apparently both the House and the Senate are so far from where the other side is that neither is willing to take up the other bill.

But that is the Constitution. The Constitution is designed so that when we change law, we do that in a fairly cumbersome way, but that has served our country pretty well for a long time, and it is not up to the President to decide that can be suspended on a topic he thinks is important and a topic he in fact has previously said he couldn't do on his own.

As he was talking about this the last several months, not just Republicans but Republicans and Democrats—and I will admit particularly Democrats in close races around the country—said the President was overstepping his authority; the President is putting people in jeopardy of not knowing whether they are here on some kind of basis that nobody has quite defined or quite understands even after he acts.

Recently, a union representing thousands of Federal immigration officers raised an alarm that the U.S. Government had ordered supplies to create millions of blank work permits and green cards. According to reports following that union report, the new Federal contract proposal for Homeland Security would allow the government to buy enough supplies to make as many as 34 million immigrant work permits and residency cards over the next 5 years.

We issue immigrant work permits all the time but not at the level that is being talked about here. Nobody has contended, by the way, that we just got a particularly good opportunity to buy a lot of card stock. I haven't heard that given as the reason.

So these people who work with that every day are saying: What is going on here? The President of the National

Citizenship and Immigration Services Council—the union representing 12,000 immigration service agents—called reports about planned Executive action dangerous, people who deal with this every day—his words—said it would increase exponentially the health risks, the threats to national security, and expense to taxpayers that he said are on the rise because of lax enforcement of immigration laws already.

Article II, section 3 of the Constitution declares that the President “shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

Simply put, these constitutional requirements are just that. They are requirements the President shall take care that the laws are faithfully executed, to execute the acts of the Congress, to enforce the law as written. Signed into law by some President and never changed by the current President would indicate that is what the law is and the President is supposed to enforce the law.

Yet President Obama continues to refuse in this and other areas to show a willingness to try to convince the Congress to change the law rather than assume: If the Congress doesn't do this, I will.

As I said earlier, and will say again, I am still trying to find that phrase in the Constitution that says: If the Congress doesn't do this, the President can. Whether it is issuing waivers to States from the work requirements contained in the bipartisan Welfare Reform Act of 1996 or announcing another change in the President's health care law—and I have lost count of how many changes on his own the President has had the administration do—they continue to look for ways to circumvent what the law says: a nation of laws, respect for the laws.

Americans are appropriately concerned the government is just too willing to overreach and at the same time unbelievably dysfunctional, whether it is kids at the border or a Secret Service that can't keep people out of the White House or how we deal with Ebola.

We have a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and when we have a disease control problem we have to put somebody else in charge. What is wrong with that?

That is why I introduced the ENFORCE the Law Act in March, a bill that would allow Congress to authorize a legal case to be brought against a President if he fails to uphold the law as written.

This bill would restore the system of checks and balances reiterated in the Constitution. The ENFORCE the Law Act removes the procedural barriers and then would allow the House or Senate or both together to jointly adopt the resolution that just says we don't believe the law is being enforced.

There is a set of regulations out now on the Clean Water Act which did au-

thorize the Federal Government, the EPA, to monitor and have some authority over the navigable waters of the United States. I don't have any doubt that in the 1970s when that happened, people thought navigable waters meant the same thing they thought navigable waters meant when it was first put into Federal law in the 1880s. Suddenly, navigable waters in the new rule means any water anywhere that could ever become part of water that could become part of water that could become navigable. This is a case that can easily be litigated sooner rather than later, long before people try to comply with an area where the Federal Government will turn out not to have control, as they did in a number of areas this year. So I hope we will look at that again. The House has passed it in a bipartisan manner. The Congress should be concerned about enforcing the law as written. As the Constitution says, both the Members of the Congress and the President of the United States should be concerned about enforcing the law as written.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the time and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR TOM HARKIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 75th birthday of my friend and longtime colleague from our home State of Iowa, Senator TOM HARKIN.

As the Presiding Officer knows, Senator HARKIN will be retiring from public office in a few weeks. At the end of the 113th Congress, Senator HARKIN will then close a chapter on public service that spans more than a half century, including four decades in Congress. He also served 27 years in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserves, 10 years in the House of Representatives, and 30 years here in the U.S. Senate.

Now, I think anybody looking at that would say that is a remarkable and distinguished record of public service. After 40 years of representing Iowans in Congress, my friend TOM soon will leave behind the Halls of the U.S. Capitol. He also will leave behind a legacy of fiery floor speeches, passionately delivered on behalf of individuals with disabilities, also for Iowa farmers, also for the elderly, also for child laborers, and for many causes that he championed such as early childhood education, nutrition and wellness, conservation, renewable energy and the environment, and probably lots of others. But those are things everybody knows that he has worked hard on.

Throughout the years TOM and I have served side-by-side in Washington for the good of our home State. For three terms we worked together in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was here

in the Senate our shared commitment to give rural America a voice at the policymaking table was sown, and for many years we worked together on the Senate agriculture committee, looking out for the millions of Americans who choose to work and earn a living in rural America. We worked together to advocate for rural infrastructure and investment, access to health care, housing, technology, and transportation.

For the last three decades we have served alongside one another in this distinguished body, the U.S. Senate, an institution that both of us hold near and dear to our hearts. Although some of our silver-tongued critics over the years may have ascribed TOM's views as those of a bleeding-heart liberal or mine mischaracterized as that of a cold-hearted conservative, we both, TOM and I, know that our hearts have always been in the right place.

Neither of us was born with a silver spoon in our mouth and we learned early on to appreciate the work ethic of our parents and grandparents. Each of us raised our families with the hopes that our children and grandchildren would achieve the promise of America's prosperity and grow up to enjoy the pursuits of happiness.

As Iowa's U.S. Senators, we have worked to keep alive the dream of hard-working Iowan families.

Now of course it is true that we have vastly different views on the government's influence on America's ladder of opportunity. However, we do wholeheartedly agree it is an honor and a privilege to serve the people of our State. For some reason our respective reelections every 6 years have actually confounded political observers. Many couldn't seem to square the notion that Iowans would continue to elect two U.S. Senators from opposite sides of the political spectrum for the last three decades.

So to explain—or perhaps I don't have to because it is widely understood—Iowans are not casual political observers. Our electorate takes pride in retail politicking and it is first in the Nation's political caucuses. We certainly have given Iowan voters a night-and-day choice between these two U.S. Senators. So while we may not see eye-to-eye on politics and ideology, we do see eye-to-eye when it comes to working for Iowa's best interests. Although our voting records may reflect night-and-day positions on some public policy, you wouldn't see the light of day between us when we worked together on matters that are of most importance to Iowans, including but not limited to natural disasters such as the tremendous floods of 1993 and 2008, Iowa farmers and agriculture, notably recovering from the farm crisis. Renewable energy and rural infrastructure have been our mutual interest. We have also enjoyed welcoming economic

development leaders and constituents to the Nation's Capital.

Between the famous Siouxland steak dinner in Washington and the Harkin steak fry in Indianola, there is no doubt TOM will miss staking out Iowans to discuss politics and policy. However, I have no doubt my home State colleague will continue to champion the causes for which he has devoted a lifetime of service. In fact, I have read in news media about his retirement of what he intends to pursue, and so I have no doubt he is going to pursue out of the Senate what he has pursued in the Senate.

To his credit, my colleague's legacy reflects the priorities he set out to achieve decades ago, to make a difference for those on the downside of advantage.

My wife Barbara and this Senator extend our warmest wishes to TOM and his wife Ruth, and of course to the entire Harkin family, as he starts life's next chapter. I see my colleague on the floor, so I can look at him.

As you start life's next chapter, may you enjoy the blessings of hearth and home, health and happiness. Although TOM is retiring from public office, I am confident he is not retiring from serving the public interest. From one constituent to another, I thank you for your lifetime of public service and I wish you good luck and Godspeed.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

A GREAT ASSOCIATION

MR. HARKIN. Mr. President, first let me thank my friend and colleague for his lifetime characteristic which is being very gracious and very generous in his remarks.

CHUCK GRASSLEY and I have served together since 1974. I like to tell people that in 1974, that was a big wave of Democrats who came in. They called us the Watergate babies. We came in a big wave, won a lot of elections. In fact in Iowa that year they elected a Democratic U.S. Senator and every House seat—I think there were six at that time—six House seats all went Democratic except one, and that was the seat that CHUCK GRASSLEY won that year, bucking the trend—the tide—in 1974.

So it is kind of a funny thing, CHUCK—I speak to my friend across the aisle here—that a lot of times people, this year, have said, "All you Watergate babies are gone now, you and MAX BAUCUS, and CHRIS DODD and on the House side GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. So this is the last of the Watergate babies."

I said, "No, there is one left."

"Well, who is that," they say.

I say, "It is a Republican."

"A Republican? Who is that?"

I say, "My colleague from Iowa, CHUCK GRASSLEY, is sort of, shall I say,

the last man standing from that class of 1974."

Again, it is a tribute to Senator GRASSLEY that through all these years he has won the hearts and minds of the people of Iowa, been elected and re-elected. Of course he came to the Senate before I did. He came in 1981 and I came in 1984. So I like to think we at least share in common bucking the trend a little bit—the tide—because in 1984 someone said, "Harkin ought to run for the Senate in 1984 because there will be a big Democratic landslide," and so I ran. The tide was just the opposite. There was a Reagan landslide here. But I was fortunate enough to win the election. So I think the two of us share the bucking of the tide, so to speak, getting into office when we ran. But it has been a great association all these years.

As I stand here today on my 75th birthday, I guess when you are this age, I think I have two kinds of emotions. One, I wonder where the heck did all the years go and how did they go by so fast. And sometimes I say, gosh, sometimes I wish I could turn the clock back and do it all again. The other emotion is sort of my Irish side of me. The Irish have a saying that any time you are on this side of the grass is a good day. So I am sure happy that I made it this far.

I again want to say that since the time we took our oath of office on January 4, 1975, we have served together both in the House and in the Senate. A lot of the time we were on the same committee, the agriculture committee, working on a lot of different agriculture bills. I remember back in the 1980s working on the credit bill at that time when so many farmers were underwater. As the Senator said, it has been a great honor and a privilege to represent the people of Iowa.

As he mentioned, we belong to different parties, we have different philosophies of approach in government, but I like to think we share a common-sense Iowa way of looking at the world. We are not monolithic out in Iowa. We are not all one philosophy or all the other philosophy. Sometimes I find very conservative friends of mine and I may have a liberal view of one thing and I find liberals and I may have a more conservative view of something else. So the people of Iowa, as my friend has said, think a lot about these things, and they take these things into consideration.

My friend has said, well, a lot of people say how can Iowans elect someone who is conservative and someone who is liberal. I think that is because there are common strains of that wave itself to the people of Iowa in so many ways where there is a cross of conflicts of maybe a conservative approach and a liberal approach.

I say to my friend, I value his friendship and his counsel through all these

years, even though, again, as my friend said, we approach things maybe from a different philosophical standpoint. That is fine. That is okay. But we have never let a disagreement on philosophy ever be the last word between us or the final word or anything like that. It is always, well, that is that. What is next? And the one thing I really appreciate that my friend said is that when it comes to Iowa, you don't find any daylight when it comes to a disaster on what we can do for Iowa and Iowans. We have had a wonderful relationship through all these years and it is one that I have cherished very much.

I heard my friend, in making some notes, say that sometimes they say he is a cold-hearted conservative and I am a bleeding-heart liberal. I am going to set the record straight. He is not a cold-hearted conservative, he is a caring conservative. He cares deeply about people. He cares deeply about the people of Iowa, too. And I hope I am not a bleeding-heart liberal. I hope I am a liberal who believes in individual responsibility—individual responsibility.

My friend has been a very caring conservative through all these years. I think together we have achieved important things for our State: economic development, rural development, agriculture, energy, all these things we worked together on for Iowa. I am proud of the fact that in Iowa right now with regard to energy production, 25 percent of our energy comes from wind energy in Iowa. We produce the blades and turbines and everything in Iowa and all the jobs there. That is something we have worked together on through all these years.

Again, people have asked me why I am leaving the Senate. Well, it was my decision. At the time—almost 2 years ago—I said, you will never hear me ever say bad things about the Senate or denounce the Senate or say terrible things. I love the Senate. This is a wonderful institution. Yes, we hit a few bumps in the road once in a while, but that is to be expected in a legislative process that represents 300 million people in this country. But working together you form friendships and alliances.

I have often said that as a progressive, I want to go this far this fast and the conservatives want to go this far this slow, but by working together, you can make progress. You can make progress, and that is what I think both Senator GRASSLEY and I have worked on together. We try to make progress, especially for the people of Iowa.

I thank the Senator for his kind words. I know we are not supposed to say this on the Senate floor; we are always supposed to speak in the third person. But I never wanted to follow all of the rules anyway. So I wish to speak directly and say: Thank you very much, CHUCK GRASSLEY, for your friendship, your counsel, and for working together through all these years. I

will miss that relationship—working on the Senate floor.

I will be in Iowa. I will be working with the Harkin Institute at Drake University. I will be spending a lot of time on the disability policies and advancing the cause of people with disabilities in some way, shape or form. I don't know how but in some way. It is a nonpartisan institute, and we have a great board of directors. The former chair of the Iowa Republican Party is on the board of the Harkin Institute, and I want to keep it nonpartisan.

I ask that my friend come and speak—and perhaps lead a discussion at some time—at the institute at Drake University. I would be honored if my friend would do that sometime down the road. I don't know when, but sometime when we can work it out. I know my friend will be well received, and I think the young people at Drake need to hear the conservative side of the story as well as the liberal side of the story. They need to have that kind of input. I hope we can work it out.

I say again that I know in the future my friend and his wonderful wife Barbara, a great and wonderful person, and Ruth and I will maintain friendships and our connections as we move into the future. If there is any way we can work together for the benefit of Iowans, just let me know, and I will be glad to be the Senator's lieutenant in the field out there in Iowa sometime.

Again, I thank my friend so much for so many years of counsel and friendship and working together. Thank you, CHUCK.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank my colleague for his kind remarks and for being here and for serving the people of Iowa.

Mr. President, I wish to take 4 more minutes to speak on another subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Saturday, many children and families around the country will celebrate National Adoption Day. It's a day that many adoptions are finalized and youth find their forever families.

It's very comforting and fitting that this day helps kick off the holiday season. Families will be formed and strengthened. This Thanksgiving, many children will celebrate with their new families and not have to worry about their next placement or their next meal. And this month, we give thanks to the men and women who make their dreams come true.

Since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 50,000 children have joined "forever families" during National Adoption Day. In 2013 alone, adoptions for 4,500 children were final-

ized through 400 National Adoption Day events across the country.

These are impressive numbers—numbers that make us proud of the work being done to help children in foster care find loving families. But there is always more work to be done.

Today, there are over 102,000 children in the foster care system. Iowa alone has over 6,200 children in foster care, many of whom are waiting for a loving family to adopt them.

There are so many issues facing foster youth—in addition to being torn apart from their families. They face serious trauma. They are likely to be treated differently and don't get to do the same activities as other kids. They transition from home to home and school to school. They don't know normalcy, and they may never know permanency. And, after years of challenges, some are forced to transition to adulthood on their own. Unfortunately, each year over 23,000 youth age out of care in the U.S.

Too many older children in foster care, especially those with special needs, are often the ones who wait the longest to leave foster care. Foster youth simply desire to have what so many of us were blessed to have—a home with caring, loving parents and siblings. These kids are less likely than younger children to find "forever homes."

That is why I helped form the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. I wanted to draw attention to the challenges that older foster youth face. The caucus has allowed congressional leaders to become more aware of the issues faced by young people and families who are involved in the foster care system.

The caucus cannot function without the input and insight from foster youth. These children are the experts on the foster care system. They tell us what works or what needs to change. They share their experiences and provide us with real world stories about how our policies truly affect them.

The caucus and the youth who share their experiences remind us that no child is unadoptable. No child should be without a mom and dad, and we must remember that foster care should be a layover, not a destination.

November is National Adoption Month, a time to raise national awareness of adoption and celebrate families, advocates, and volunteers involved in adoption. It's also a time to devote more attention to policies and practices that protect the safety and well-being for all children.

I am hopeful that Congress will continue to look for ways to improve the foster care system and promote adoptions. I am glad Congress worked to enact a bill this year to renew the adoption incentives program and to do more to screen and help foster youth who may be trafficked. We must continually examine how the system is

treating youth and whether the policies in place are strengthening families.

There are many youth who will celebrate this holiday season without a permanent family. Hopefully, our celebration of National Adoption Month will raise awareness of the issues they face and the need to find them a mom and a dad. We need to keep working together to break down the barriers to adoption.

So today, I thank all those who have adopted or who have fostered children who needed it, and I thank the many individuals and organizations that work to make permanency possible for children. I know many dreams will come true this Saturday, and I wish the very best to the youth as they begin their journey with their new families.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of National Adoption Month, and I know our great colleague Senator LANDRIEU will be here to also address this important month. She has been such a great leader in fighting for this cause. She has literally gone to Guatemala to make sure that children who are awaiting loving homes in our country get to come to those homes. She literally knows the names of those kids and is hands-on every step of the way and has been the leader in Congress.

She established the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which has brought together Senators and Members of Congress on behalf of children who need loving homes and families who want to welcome them home. We are very pleased with her leadership.

Senator LANDRIEU is joining us right now, and I will be able to flip it over to my friend at any time it is appropriate. But I do wish to speak about National Adoption Month. It is especially important in my home State of Minnesota.

Many people don't know this, but Minnesota actually has the highest rate of international adoptions in the country. Minnesota families have opened their homes and their hearts to children from all over the world—from Vietnam to Guatemala to Nepal to Haiti.

I have had the opportunity to witness the power of adoption firsthand. Before being elected to the Senate, I spent 8 years as Hennepin County attorney,

the largest county in Minnesota. We had jurisdiction over foster care and adoption. I actually worked to speed up those adoptions. I remember saying we need to eliminate this delay and reduce the time it takes for a child who has been going from foster care home to foster care home in half, and we were able to do that because people understood the need for children to have a permanent home.

I know Senator LANDRIEU is here right now and has a busy schedule, and I will turn it over to her as soon as I finish.

In the United States, nearly 400,000 children are living without permanent families in the foster care system. Over 100,000 of these children are eligible for adoption, but too many of them will wait for years and years to be adopted. Some will not be adopted at all.

Last night I attended an event called Kidsave. It is about children who are older and in other countries. This group has actually set up an incredible system where the kids come to our country for a few weeks and many of them end up being adopted. As the kids get older, it becomes harder and harder for them to become adopted.

Senator LANDRIEU and I are aware that as some of these countries, such as Russia, completely close their doors to adoption, there will actually be more and more children who are older that will need to be adopted. We hope the system changes and they do eventually open up their doors.

Around the world it is estimated that nearly 18 million orphans who have lost parents are living in orphanages or are on the streets and lack the care and attention required for healthy development. As a nation, we must open our arms to these children. Just last night at this event, I had the opportunity to hear the story of Jennifer Baumann, a 17-year-old girl from Colombia. She spent years in a broken home and then in a broken foster care system in that country. She was exposed to violence. She would go to bed hungry.

At age 14, she was still in foster care and had lost hope for her future. She was considered too old to be adopted. As she said in her own words, she "cried for a year."

But then, miraculously, she had the chance to visit a family here in America as part of the program that Kidsave organized. The family fell in love with her, she fell in love with them, and in 2011 she was adopted into a loving home. We have seen this time and time again in my State, and that is why I got involved in legislation with my mentor, MARY LANDRIEU.

One of the things we found out is—we had a family called the Makorises, and they were adopting nine children from the Philippines who had first lost their father, and their mother kept them together, and then their mother died, and

it was the two oldest children who held those kids together. When they turned 16 and 17, they couldn't be adopted. The Makorises of Cambridge, MN, had to make a decision: Were they going to strand those two kids who held the family together, leave them in the Philippines, and take the other children? It was like Sophie's choice. That was their choice.

They decided there was a better way. They came to Congress. I led the bill in the Senate with the help of Senator LANDRIEU, Senator SESSIONS, Senator INHOFE, as well as House Members, and we were able to pass a bill that allowed kids who had reached an age where they were not legally allowed to be adopted, to be adopted if a younger sibling had been adopted. That means that retroactively, thanks to the work of Senator LANDRIEU, 10 million children all across the world were allowed to be adopted into loving families. And how fun was it to be in the Makorises' living room and see all nine children, like some Minnesota version of "The Sound of Music," with a place for all of their winter boots and their coats. They came from the Philippines in the middle of the winter to Minnesota; yet they were still as happy and as warm as can be because now they have parents who love them.

The Senator from Maine understands how important adoption is because it has touched his own family. This has touched every Member of the Senate.

As we focus on National Adoption Month, we have to continue to look at policies and changes we can make to our laws to make them better. We passed that law to allow those older siblings to be adopted. We passed a law to allow vaccinations to be allowed in our country to make sure they are safe and that they are actually done. But there is more work to do with these intercountry adoptions, and I can think of no one better to lead that charge than the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU.

So I am here to acknowledge the work we have done with the adoption tax credit, which we have gotten into law, and the work we have done to make sure it is easier for these international adoptions. Every single family out there knows there are problems right now with international adoptions. A lot of them stem from people such as Vladimir Putin. By the way, the reason Senator LANDRIEU was banned from going to Russia is because of the work she is doing for kids, being willing to take Putin on because of the fact that he was closing the doors to kids and using them as pawns for political gain. That is an amazing story, and that shows a fighter.

(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

I thank the Presiding Officer for his work with adoption and his personal story, as well as all the Members on both sides of the aisle who have de-

voted themselves to looking out for these kids who have no one else to look out for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, yesterday we had a very different topic—the Keystone XL Pipeline—on the floor of the Senate. That fight is over for now, but the fight for adoption, foster care children, and all children in the world who are in desperate need of parents to love them and to nurture them goes on.

I could not be surrounded with a better team than Senator GRASSLEY, who has been fighting for this in the Senate since before I arrived—and 18 years ago when I got here, I quickly joined with him to continue the fight—and then AMY KLOBUCHAR joined us a few years ago and has become an extraordinary, effective, and willing soldier to go to the frontlines of this battle. I can't thank the Senator from Minnesota enough. She brings tremendous experience as a former prosecutor, which I didn't have and I don't think Senator GRASSLEY had, and she really understands the inner workings of the court systems in a way that has brought a lot of value to our coalition.

In addition, as she said, we are so proud of Minnesota as the State in our Union that has the highest per capita rate of international adoptions. So the leaders in Minnesota of all political parties and stripes as well as the faith-based community really understand this issue and have stood up time and time again. I wish to recognize Minnesota's leadership and particularly Senator KLOBUCHAR.

This month is November. It is a great month. It is Thanksgiving month. We give thanks for so many things in our country. It is a wonderful celebration—I think in some ways even better than Christmas because we are not so much focused on gifts; we are focused on really understanding the blessings we have received. One of those great blessings is a family.

I am so fortunate to have been born into one of the most remarkable families—not rich when I was born into my family and still not rich, and when I was born into my family we were not at all famous either, but we have two extraordinary parents, and to this day they continue to teach all 9 of us, 37 grandchildren, and now 5 great-grandchildren the value of family.

I have said many times, and Senator KLOBUCHAR has shared this with me, governments do a lot of things well, but raising children isn't one of them. I will repeat that. Governments do a lot of things well, but raising children isn't one of them. Actually, we were created and wired for one human to raise another. It just doesn't happen any other way. Our faith tells us that.

But now, interestingly, some really extraordinary science is being done by

some of the most brilliant scientists in the world and sociologists, and one of them is from my State, Dr. Charlie Zeanah. I want to give him a shout-out. When the terrible tragedy happened in Romania and Ceausescu fell—that crazy man who starved his country and put millions of children in orphanages—Charlie was one of the Americans who got on the plane with me and went to Romania, and he has never left. He stayed—not physically the whole time, but his colleagues stayed and did the most extraordinary science on the planet of what happens to a child who is detached from their birth parent or from a loving caregiver—just detached.

They also did the leading study in the world on institutionalization. The findings are remarkable in such a way that if they can't make us change the way we think—group homes are not sufficient. No matter how well run, they are not sufficient. No institution, no matter how beautifully it is run, no orphanage in the world, no matter how magnificently it is run, how clean and brightly painted—nothing can substitute for what an infant and a toddler and a young child and a teenager and an adult, amazingly, but particularly an infant need when they are born. They actually need it before they are born, and that is a whole other story. But when they are born, it says that the brain literally reacts physically to the fact that there is no caregiver who is consistent, and that is what happens when a child is abandoned. They go through what they are calling now this toxic stress.

The way I like to describe it—and I know maybe I only have 10 minutes, but it is worth talking about. Every adult in this world within the listening of my voice knows what stress is to an adult. We can literally feel it. Some people go out for a run. Some people have a couple of glasses of wine. Some people have long talks with their friends. We can feel that we have to do something. An infant feels that but in multiples, and an infant can't go out for a run, and a toddler doesn't know what to do. So that toxic stress goes right inside of them and they cannot release it. They don't know how. So it begins to affect the development of their brain.

These scientists are saying that when a child doesn't have, from the moment it is born, a constant, caring, confident touch and talk the way that loving parents demonstrate—as we know, as we hold our infant children in our arms, we give them strength. I used to think they just needed food and warmth, but that is not what the science says. The science says it is so much beyond that. We should have known this by our faith, but sometimes we doubt. So now the science is stepping up and saying exactly what we know by faith, which is that it is im-

perative that children have a loving, safe place.

I have been to orphanages all over this world, and I will never forget some of the visions I have seen. This is the most common vision we will see in an orphanage anywhere, particularly an orphanage where they have infants who are in cribs who are let's say around 1 year old. We walk into a room as big as this—sometimes smaller, but I have been in ones as large as this—with cribs everywhere, and the infants just sit there, those who can sit up, and they stare into space and they just rock themselves. The scientists say that is their last desperate attempt to console an inconsolable emptiness. So they just rock and they stare. They don't cry. The reason they don't cry is because they cried incessantly for the first 30 or 60 days of their lives, and then when no one came they just stopped because little babies are really smart. Contrary to popular belief, they are literally born with an exceedingly brilliant brain, but the more toxic, the more distorted it gets. So by the time a child is 3—not 13, not 30, but 3—their brain is like a muscle that kind of—it just doesn't function. It doesn't form correctly. And we can see this on this new imaging.

I know there are those who think this is a soft issue. People look at AMY and they look at me and they look at CHUCK GRASSLEY and think, why do these people keep talking about this? It is like nothing. Well, it is a lot. It is not nothing. It is very serious science, and it is very serious community development, and it is very important for this world to get this and get it quickly.

We wonder why prisons are filled. We wonder why psychiatric wards are filled. It is not because people are born bad because even though—I won't even go into mortal sin and my Catholic background. Let's just say forget that. Children are actually born beautifully made because God made them, and it is what we do to them in the time of their birth and the few years after that really shapes what they are going to be.

So, in my view, as a leader, that is why I have spent a great deal of my time on this subject. It is not a soft issue. It is as hard and as important as any Army or any trade policy, and I am never going to stop talking about it because it is so clearly the truth that I just can't stop talking about it.

So, again, this is National Adoption Month. We have put a resolution on the floor. We always get a remarkable amount of support from our Members.

I want to also give a special shout-out to Senator BLUNT, who has a child and who is very engaged in this issue, and he has really stepped up. He has a child who was adopted, as do I and as do other Members who have adopted children or grandchildren. ROSA DELAUNO has been a remarkable leader

in the House. Her grandchild was adopted from Guatemala. She has become an extraordinary voice. SUSAN BONAMICI, the Congresswoman from Oregon, has also been a great leader. And I just can't say again how happy I am that AMY KLOBUCHAR has been here to help.

I have some amazing photographs to share, and I thank the Huffington Post because that is where they came from. This is National Adoption Month. The Huffington Post has a great picture—and my colleagues can go online and see this—of many of the most remarkable adoption stories on Adoption Day.

These are all children I am going to show you, and I am going to tell you a little bit about them. This is a domestic adoption out of foster care. This is the Michael family. The parents are Tiffanie and Adebayo Michael from New York. The couple fostered two siblings, a boy and a girl who are pictured here. After 2 years and 4 months, the couple adopted these two children out of foster care on National Adoption Day. You can see the smiles.

It is so amazing to see these stories that happen all over the country. On National Adoption Day, this Saturday, many of the judges—this was started by a judge in California. I want to give him credit. His name is Judge Nash.

Judge Nash started this 20 years ago because he was in his courtroom. He was so frustrated—as Amy has been as a prosecutor—that no one was processing these adoption cases that he decided. This was how simple this was. He said: You know what. I am tired of the backlog. I am going to come in on Saturday. That is what he did. He said: I am just tired of it. So staff, we are coming in on Saturday. We are going to process 25 adoptions, 30 adoptions when we are not distracted and where we can get people in.

This is how National Adoption Day started. Judge Nash is my hero. National Adoption Day was started 20 years ago by one judge in one courtroom, and then lots of other organizations joined in. Now it is really a big movement.

This is a happy picture. This is a picture of parents from Baltimore who adopted an infant with a cleft palate from China in 2012. When this little infant was born—I know something about what happens in China and many countries. If an infant is born in almost any country in the nondeveloped world and they have anything wrong with them like a finger is missing or they have a cleft palate or, particularly, if they have something like spina bifida or a leg missing, in some countries they are literally put in rooms called dying rooms. They just leave them because they don't have the same understanding that we do in the United States about A, the dignity of every life, which our faith in this country teaches us; and B, in some countries

they actually think it is a curse by God if a child is born with a defect, so they just sort of take it as if God never meant for this child to have a life.

I don't know what would have happened to this little boy. Trust me; it would not have been happy. The only little problem with him is he had a cleft palate.

This couple traveled a long distance. Under the law now, they would probably have to go back two or three times because we have made it harder, not easier, for these parents. I don't know how many times they traveled, but they probably took their own money, borrowed money—unless they are super rich—from their relatives and went twice to get this little boy and finally brought him home.

The next picture is the Haden family. This is my favorite picture. They have two adopted children. Crew is a 1-year-old. He was adopted from Niger in 2013. Shepherd was 2 years old and was adopted from the DRC in 2012.

The most amazing thing is the biological children, which you can see, were the ones who received the children when they came. I have hardly seen a more beautiful picture than this that represents what the future could be if we would do our jobs.

The fourth picture is the Williams family. Jeff and Kelley Williams are from Nashville, Tennessee. Their faith called them to adopt in 2012. They brought daughter Haley home to Nashville from an orphanage in Ethiopia. This is how many relatives gathered to meet her. The most amazing thing about this picture is how tightly her father is holding her.

The fifth is a picture of the Hardbarger family. They are angels this year. They are from Shreveport. They are an amazing family from Louisiana. Chad is a pastor of a church. He is the senior pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Shreveport. They formed an adoption ministry because they became so moved by their own experience in adopting.

They adopted all of these children. Monique is 19, Chris is 14, Bryce is 11, Jordan is 9, Bailey is 8, and Gavin is 7. He is a pastor of a really wonderful church. They have now taken this as a ministry and are developing—I see the leader on the floor.

I will wrap up in 2 minutes.

They are developing a wonderful ministry in Shreveport, and many of our churches in Louisiana are really stepping up to do this.

You may not believe this because this is a very famous family. They are admired—or otherwise—depending on what circles, so I have a lot of respect for the “Duck Dynasty” family in this area of what they have done. Willie and Korie Robinson have five children, three biological, one adopted, and one fostered. The couple adopted Willie, often called little Will, through a pri-

vate adoption agency when he was born. They have a foster daughter from Taiwan named Rebecca. Since becoming rich and famous, which they weren't always—just a little simple family making duck calls, but now they are one of the most famous families in the world. They were our national angel 2 years ago, and they have continued to promote adoption, both domestic and international.

I wanted to just show a few of the most extraordinary families, both famous and not so famous, who are doing this great work.

I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution, calling on us all in every elective office—Governors, Presidents, Members of Congress, and then at home in our districts, our courts, our judges, our prosecutors—to do everything we can to help.

I want to show you the last picture because this is our challenge. Domestic adoption—I am very proud to have moved this line. I want to give Secretary Hillary Clinton a shout-out—Senator Clinton—who helped to move this line. She really did remarkable work since 1999—basically 2000 to 2014. We now have more children being adopted domestically than ever before at all ages—infants, teenagers, et cetera.

Our challenge is international adoptions have dropped precipitously. I am going to come back to the floor and give a speech about why this is happening and what we have tried to do—a few of us—to turn it around, but our voices are hitting the wall and bouncing off because the State Department is not listening. We will continue the fight. This number is going down dramatically.

There are children such as that little boy in China with a cleft palate who will rot for the rest of their lives. If you want to wonder where terrorists come from, I will tell you where they come from. They come from families that are dysfunctional, and they come from places where there is no hope, no love, and no faith. That is where terrorists come from. If you want to stop it, I would suggest we start turning this line the other way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, a lot of these adoptions wouldn't have happened without Senator LANDRIEU. When we go anywhere in this country on the adoption issue and mention her name, we see nodding of heads of so many parents because they actually know what she has done to fight for domestic adoptions and foster kids and also on the international level. There is so much more work to be done.

Thank you so much. I will be there when you give your speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me add my voice in this chorus because it is true. Senator LANDRIEU, more than any Member of the Congress, has made adoption her cause. We are reminded by Senator LANDRIEU what a difference it makes in the lives of children and their families and the world. I want to commend her. Senator LANDRIEU is the best.

As the grandfather of an adopted child, I know the difference, the joy, the importance of that moment in our family life. I thank her for continuing this battle to make certain that we understand the importance of adoption.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. There was a moment in the Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln sent a message to General McClellan. General McClellan was in charge of the Union troops, but he wouldn't use them. He sat encamped, intense, preparing for battle, and never going forward.

Lincoln, in his frustration, understood as he waited that the Confederate forces were getting stronger and the opportunities were slipping away. Lincoln sent a message to General McClellan. His message was this: If you are not going to use your Army, would you send it my way so I can use it?

I am reminded of that story when I address this issue on the floor of the Senate this morning because the issue I am going to address is the issue of immigration.

I come to this issue with personal and family experience, as so many Members of Congress do when it comes to an issue. In this circumstance, my mother was an immigrant to this country, and she was brought here at the age of 2 from Lithuania. Somehow my grandmother, with my aunt and uncle, made it across the ocean to Baltimore, landing in 1911, and then catching a train heading for the land of opportunity—East St. Louis, IL, which is where many Lithuanian families gathered and where my grandfather was waiting.

That was the city of my birth. My mother grew up there speaking Lithuanian and English—an immigrant family who worked hard and struggled. From family stories, I know they had little or nothing in their lives but the hope that the next generation, their children, would have a better life.

That is my story. That is my family's story, but that is America's story, too.

If we chart immigration as an issue in the course of America, we will find something very interesting. Political parties that become anti-immigrant parties eventually wither and disappear. Why? Because they are denying the fundamentals of America. They are

saying that we are going to close the doors and pull up the ladder, and we don't need any more of those people.

We do need more of those people because the immigrant families who come to this country bring more than just determination and strength and a work ethic. They bring a level of courage that many families can't muster. These are families in different parts of the world who say at some point we are going to America. We may not speak the language, we may not even know what will happen to us once we arrive, but we are going to America—and they do. The vast majority of them who come to this country stay and make a difference. They sacrifice. They work night and day, but their moment comes when they become part of America. They are proud of where they came from but even more proud of the fact that they are part of the United States of America.

When any political party in history has decided to make anti-immigration their standard and their value, they have withered and disappeared as they should. They are ignoring and turning their back on who we are—what America is all about.

I was part of a group 2 years ago. We sat down—four Democratic Senators and four Republican Senators—and we worked for months to write a comprehensive immigration reform bill. I will tell you the names of the Senators so you know there was no secret deal here. JOHN MCCAIN led the Republicans, the former Republican candidate for President of the United States. By his side was LINDSEY GRAHAM, Republican from South Carolina—it was not exactly viewed as a liberal State but a very conservative one—and MARCO RUBIO of Florida, whose father and mother were immigrants to this country, refugees from Cuba; and JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, a conservative Republican by every measure. That was the team on the Republican side of the table.

On our side of the table we were led by CHUCK SCHUMER, from the State of New York, chairman of the immigration subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. I joined him as a member of the Judiciary Committee and someone that has been involved in some of these issues for a long time. There was BOB MENENDEZ, the head of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus, which is a caucus of one at this point, by himself, the son of Cuban refugees who came to the United States; and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado. The eight of us sat down for months, literally for months, hours at a time, sometimes angry and ready to walk out of the room.

We wrote a bill, a 200-page bill to rewrite the immigration laws in America, to fix the broken immigration system. Then we took it to committee, and the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, PATRICK LEAHY, had

open hearings and allowed any amendment to be offered that anyone wished.

Then we brought it to the floor after it was reported from the committee. We again gave an opportunity for amendments to be offered. Significant amendments were offered. Senator CORKER of Tennessee offered an amendment to even strengthen what was a very strong border security section of this bill. The net result of that of course was we brought it to a vote.

I will tell you, it was an incredible day, because on June 27 of 2013 we passed, on the floor of the Senate, comprehensive immigration reform by a vote of 68 to 32. Fourteen Republicans joined the Democrats in a bipartisan effort to fix our broken immigration system. It was a proud moment. We had the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We had the support of organized labor. We had every major religious group in America supporting our efforts. We had the ultraconservative Grover Norquist supporting this and liberals as well came together and said: Finally, we are going to do something about our broken immigration system.

But under the law of the land, passing in the Senate is not enough. The measure was then sent over to the House of Representatives on June 27, 2013. Today, November 19, 2014, the Republican-led House of Representatives has not only failed to have a hearing on this bill, it has refused to bring this bill to the floor, it has refused to bring any immigration bill to the floor. They refuse to address the obvious. We have a broken immigration system. We need to come up with a fair solution to it.

They refuse to act. It is within their power to call that bill today, as it has been every day since June 27, 2013, but for a year and a half the House Republican leadership has refused to act. Oh, they tempted us. They teased us time and again: We are thinking about it. We are going to put out a list of principles that we Republicans believe in, in the House of Representatives. We are going to tell you that maybe we would support something like the DREAM Act—maybe. We are going to tell you we want strong border enforcement, which of course the bill already has.

They have said all of those things and have done nothing. I am reminded of President Lincoln saying to General McClellan: If you are not going to use your Army, may I borrow it? The House Republicans have refused to address the immigration issue almost entirely, with one exception. They did call one immigration matter to the floor. It was one of the most hateful pieces of legislation which I have seen.

Here is what it said. Before they adjourned in August, the Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a measure with only four of their Members refusing to vote for it. Here is what it said. We have created an oppor-

tunity for about 2 million children brought to this country who have lived good lives, finished school, have no problems with the law and want to become part of America. The President has created an Executive order giving these children a chance to come forward, register with the government, pay their filing fee, and not be deported.

Madam President, 600,000 of them have taken advantage of that. This is called DACA. The President's Executive order gives them a chance to live in America, to go to school in America, to get a job in America, to make this a better nation. So 600,000 have done it. We believe 1.4 million more are eligible. They have not signed up yet.

So the Republican House of Representatives, in August, before they adjourned, passed a measure which said: The remaining 1.6 million who may be eligible for this protection cannot be allowed to be part of the DACA Program. Those 1.6 million young people should be subject to deportation—deportation.

Think about that for a moment; brought here at the age of 2 or 3 as infants, living in the United States their entire lives, standing in classrooms across America every morning pledging allegiance to the only flag they have ever known, and the Republicans voted, with an overwhelming majority, to deport them—to deport them.

That is not bad enough. That overwhelming vote that they cast, that hateful vote that they cast—they were so proud of themselves, that after voting they stood and applauded themselves. What a great moment in their minds for the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. What a terrible moment in the history of this Nation. The President of the United States, having waited for a year and a half, having heard all of the promises of the House Republicans, that they would move forward and finally call this bill, having been promised privately and even publicly by many of those Republicans that they were going to do something, now the President has said: I am going to use my authority, my authority under the law, to try to fix at least some part of this broken immigration system.

We are expecting, any day now, for the President to announce his Executive order. He will not be the first President to do this. Past administrations, Democratic and Republican, have stopped the deportation of low-priority cases in our country. Every President of the United States—every

President of the United States since Dwight David Eisenhower has used his Executive authority to improve our immigration system by Executive order, every single one of them.

President George H.W. Bush issued a family fairness policy allowing 1.5 million people in America to apply for deferred action and work permits. It is clear that Presidents have the authority to do this. Yet the Republicans in the Senate and House have threatened this President that if he uses his Executive authority, as every President since President Eisenhower has done: We are going to hold it against you and you are going to pay a price, President Obama.

I hope the President pays little or no attention to that kind of threat. What is at stake is the future of millions of family members who are now subject to deportation. What is at stake is whether the Republican Party will come into the 21st century in this land of immigrants and join us in a bipartisan effort to fix this broken immigration system.

What is at stake are literally the futures of millions of families who just want a chance. That is all they are asking for, to earn their way into legal status in America. It is almost 13 years now since I introduced the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act—I described it earlier—gives young people brought to the United States at an early age, who had no voice in what their families were going to do, to come to this country and eventually find their way to legal status.

At one point even the House Republicans said they supported this so-called DREAM Act. Time and again we have faced filibusters stopping the DREAM Act from passing in the Senate, but it was part of comprehensive immigration reform. This DREAM Act all started with this young lady, Tereza Lee, Korean, brought to the United States at the age of 2, grew up in a poor family in Chicago, had an amazing musical talent and was accepted to the Manhattan Conservatory of Music and the Julliard School of Music. Because she was undocumented she had no place to go.

Her mother called our office. Her mother, who incidentally worked night and day in a dry cleaning establishment in Chicago said: What can we do? The law had no real answer, other than to say to this then-18-year-old girl: Go back to where you came from for 10 years and try to come here legally.

That was the law. I introduced the DREAM Act. Since then we have seen a growth in support for this because it is only fair. We cannot, should not, hold children responsible for the decisions and wrongdoing of their parents. These kids deserve a chance. That is what the President's Executive action is about. That is why the action by the House Republicans was so reprehensible.

Tereza Lee, incidentally made it. She went to the Manhattan Conservatory of Music. She ended up not only getting a bachelor's degree, she did not receive any government assistance. She had friends and sponsors who stepped in to pay for it. She played at Carnegie Hall. She is now working on her Ph.D. in music.

She is now an American citizen, by virtue of the fact that she married this young American jazz musician. They are living in New York and recently had a baby.

I could not be prouder of Tereza Lee and what she has done with her life. There is a picture with her mom and dad. Her dad passed away. He had a serious medical illness that could not be treated adequately because he does not qualify for any kind of government health insurance. They did not have the money to provide him the care he needed.

But Tereza Lee's story is one that inspires me every day to come to this floor and remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, these are real human beings we are talking about. These are not political pawns. These are young people who deserve a chance to become part of the future of America. Sometime soon, I hope very soon, maybe even this Friday, the President of the United States is going to announce his Executive order.

He is going to say that, as he did with DACA, the Deferred Action Program, he is going to give more undocumented people in this country a chance. It will be a narrow category, not as broad as we would like it—at least some of us would like it—but it will be consistent with what every President of the United States has done since President Eisenhower.

It is fair. It is just. It recognizes our birthright as Americans, as a nation of immigrants. It says we are willing to stand and fight for fairness. I would hope—I would just hope that a few Republicans will stand and acknowledge this. I hope a few of them will join us in a bipartisan recognition that our broken immigration system cannot be fixed if the Congress of the United States—particularly the Republican House—refuses to even call the bill for a year and a half.

Instead, the President is using his authority and doing the best he can to make this Nation of immigrants proud again that we are welcoming a new generation of people who will make us even stronger in the future.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order be modified so that the following nominations be added following Executive Calendar No. 1056: Executive Calendar Nos. 966 and 967, with all the

other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am glad I got to the floor to listen to my friend, the Senator from Illinois, the majority whip, make his remarks. It reminds me of his great passion and commitment to the DREAMers and to the cause of repairing our broken immigration system.

While he and I differ on the details, and the feasibility of passing comprehensive immigration reform, we have been trying to do this for—laboring with this for at least the 10 or 11 years that I have been here. We have been unsuccessful. What does that tell us? It tells us we need to try something different. We need to break this down into smaller pieces. In the House, Speaker BOEHNER I know has made this pledge to the President and others. I know Senator MCCONNELL, the new incoming majority leader, believes immigration reform is important and we ought to use our best efforts to make progress.

But unfortunately the message the President of the United States has sent is he is giving up. To listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who support this unprecedented Executive action by the President that is going to be announced on Friday, they have given up. They have given up.

What the Senator from Illinois did not say is even the President's deferred action order involving these young people—by the way, I support providing them an opportunity to become American citizens and productive members of society. I think we are all better off—these young people who are not culpable, they did not commit any offense or crime, they came with their parents, and we are much better off. They are much better off. Their families are much better off.

Our country is better off if we find a solution—which I am confident we could do. But the message the President has given and our Democratic friends have given is: We give up. We are not going to do our job as legislators.

We are going to let the President, with the stroke of a pen, provide an Executive amnesty to millions of people and create an awful lot of harm in the process.

The tragedy is we are a nation of immigrants and proud of it. Our rich, diverse heritage would not have been the

same without the contribution of immigrants who have come from around the world, contributions that have become part of the very fabric of our lives and our society.

Millions of foreign-born immigrants who have come to the United States legally have become successful, patriotic citizens of the United States. We have been the beneficiary because of the opportunities that our Nation provides that nowhere else on Earth provides, and that is the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

But part of what makes the American dream possible is the rule of law. It is our Constitution. It is not Presidents getting frustrated with Congress, issuing an Executive order, defying the Constitution, and ignoring his oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. That undermines the American Dream.

So I listened to my colleague and friend from Illinois saying that this is a question about: Are immigrants good for America or not?

I stipulate they are good for America. As a matter of fact, my ancestors weren't born in the United States. We all came from somewhere else.

This is really, at bottom, whether the President, when he put his hand on the Bible and he took a sacred oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States, whether he really meant it or whether he had his fingers crossed behind his back.

Like many of my colleagues, I have had the privilege of participating in naturalization ceremonies all across my State, where I have seen individuals from Vietnam, India, Mexico, and from countries all around the world take the oath of allegiance to the United States of America. It is an inspiring and heartwarming occasion and, of course, many of them have taken that oath while wearing the uniform of the U.S. military, where they have served with honor and dignity as they await approval of their citizenship.

One of the first bills I passed when I came to the Senate was with Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, the liberal lion of the Senate. What we did is we passed a simple piece of legislation that expedited the process whereby immigrants who serve in the military can become American citizens. That was one of the first bills I was a part of that passed when I came to the Senate.

Of course, these naturalization ceremonies represent a proud day, not only for these new Americans but for all Americans and for our Nation as a whole, where we welcome new citizens with open arms to this country to find a better life for themselves, for their family and, in the process, for all of us.

But the President has now threatened—and he is the one who has made the threat: If you don't do it on my timetable, according to the terms I prefer, I am going to do it myself.

He said that time and time again. There is no President who has abused the authority to issue Executive orders more than the current occupant of the White House. All Presidents have issued Executive orders since President George Washington, but no one has held Congress and the Constitution in such contempt that they feel as if Congress is irrelevant—except when I need them to appropriate money or to help them serve my purposes.

But the President is going to take steps in the coming days that would send men and women—such as those I have mentioned—who came, playing by the rules, pursuing legal immigration to the United States. He is going to basically tell those folks: Get to the back of the line.

We are the most generous country in the world when it comes to naturalization—almost 1 million people a year. But the President is going to tell the people who have been waiting patiently in line, playing by the rules: Get in the back of the line. I am going to put millions of people ahead of you in front of the line who have not played by the rules.

Well, it is a sure way to send a message to the rest of the world that our country does not enforce its own laws, which is an essential part of who we are, and where everybody, from the humblest to the most exalted in our country, are all bound by the same laws, whether you are President of the United States or whether you are one of these new Americans who takes an oath to uphold and defend the laws and the Constitution of the United States.

I have to say, because I come from a big State that sees disproportionate negative consequences of illegal immigration, this is a sure way to continue to reward the criminal organizations that get rich on the status quo. The 60,000 unaccompanied children that came from Central America that were part of this humanitarian crisis we had last summer continue to come, and the criminal organizations that continue to profit from this money-making operation are continuing to get rich. It encourages children to take a perilous journey, for many of whom it ends in kidnapping, sexual assault or death to get to the U.S. border.

The worst part is we just had a national election, as we do every 2 years. I have been in Congress when my side of the aisle wins elections, and we have had a pretty good election. I have been here when we lost, as we did in 2008. But that doesn't mean we can give up on our job, which is to legislate.

One of the saddest parts about what the President is going to do is he will poison the well and make it much harder, if not impossible, for us to do the sorts of things for which a bipartisan, bicameral commitment exists to do, which is to make serious progress on our broken immigration system. I

am not sure whether we will be able to do as much as I would like to do or the Senator from Illinois would like to do, but we all know the status quo is unacceptable.

The President seems intent on provoking a constitutional crisis by adopting policies that he previously said were illegal. He said he didn't have the authority to do it time and time again. Now he has totally done a flip-flop of 180 degrees saying: I have discovered I now do have the authority. I was wrong when I said I didn't have the authority to do it. He seems intent on exacerbating partisan polarization and weakening democratic accountability.

We are the ones who are responsible for making these decisions, and we are accountable to our electorate, our voters. Unfortunately, it is going to make it much harder for us to make necessary progress on a number of different matters next year.

The President says we haven't acted on his timetable in a way that he prefers, so he is going to go it alone. But just think for a moment about the larger implications of that argument.

Every President in history has clashed with Congress. That is part of what we do. That is what the separation of powers is all about. It forces us to build consensus as opposed to pursuing our own agendas, and that is important. That is essential. But failing to get your way in Congress doesn't mean the President can simply override Congress with the stroke of his pen.

There is broad support for passing a series of commonsense immigration reform bills. I know the Speaker has said that publicly. The majority leader in the House, Congressman McCARTHY, I believe, believes that, and I certainly do. The incoming majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has told me he does as well. But what there is no support for, other than purely partisan support, is what the President is proposing to do.

So in other words, if the President were willing to negotiate in good faith—and, yes, when your proposal is that I want everything I want or I want nothing, you frequently get nothing. You always get nothing because nobody gets everything they want, and it requires genuine compromise and it requires hard work. Nothing sustainable or meaningful will ever be done in this place without bipartisan support. We have learned that lesson time and time again.

But the President seems absolutely allergic—allergic—to good-faith negotiating and genuine compromise. In fact, I am not even sure he likes the job he ran so hard to get elected to, because that is part of his job—to work with Congress in a bipartisan way to achieve genuine consensus and compromise where possible.

He is claiming now, apparently, on Friday in Las Vegas, a right that no

other President has claimed and, in fact, that he said he did not have, time and time again.

I know the White House Counsel's office is preparing a convoluted legal case to justify the President's actions. Most Americans will correctly view this as an abuse of power.

Earlier, I asked the President to think about the human costs of encouraging another massive wave of illegal immigration. My State is disproportionately affected, given our 1,200-mile common border with Mexico. It is not only people coming from Mexico; it is from Central America and around the world. But I urged him to think about all the men, women, and children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador who have suffered terrible violence and, indeed, some have died during their long journey through Mexico from Central America.

I urged him to think again about whether what he is doing inadvertently rewards and helps fund the criminal organizations that are creating such havoc in Mexico and in parts of Central America.

I can only hope the President will reconsider. I certainly am not optimistic because now the White House is leaking press reports about this announcement on Friday. But I believe his unilateral action, which is unconstitutional and illegal, will deeply harm our prospects for immigration reform. It will be deeply harmful to our Nation's tradition of the rule of law and deeply harmful to the future of our democracy.

Many Democrats believe, as I do, that this is a mistake. The President should heed their advice, stop making threats, and respect the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NET NEUTRALITY

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to call the Senate's attention to one of the most important economic issues before us, and that is the issue of Net neutrality.

We face a pivotal moment in the fight to preserve an open and fair Internet. Last week, the President called on the FCC to protect the bedrock principle of Net neutrality.

A strong, open Internet is one of the best ways to protect the innovation that supports millions of American jobs. It is one of the best ways to protect the competitiveness of the digital economy.

Now the FCC is working on formulating ways to protect a robust Internet. We know that the FCC received over 4 million comments on the issue of Net neutrality, and it registered many concerns by the public in making sure that we protect what has been a great resource for them.

They have spoken. They want to protect innovation, and they want to protect a free Internet.

Consumers should know for a fact that their Internet service is being held to the same standards as everywhere else. But we know now there are concerns about the concentration of players in the cable and large telephone market as it continues to develop. Maybe two providers will provide as much as 85 percent of the provider market, which raises concerns to many consumers.

Today I am calling on the FCC to take forceful action that adopts the strongest rule possible to provide maximum protection for consumers—maximum flexibility to promote the Internet economy.

I encourage the FCC to adopt robust and durable rules to prevent locking, throttling, fast lanes, and to safeguard transparency for consumers. These rules should apply both to the wired and wireless broadband networks so that your Web browser, your personal computer, your apps on your phone, all are treated in the same way.

This important policy would provide certainty to startup and business communities the same way as it will to support the Fortune 500 companies. In other words, we will treat an entrepreneur who started their company in their garage the same way we treat a big multinational corporation.

We need to send a clear message: We do not want artificial toll lanes on the innovation economy of the future. It is my hope the FEC arrives at a conclusion next year and issues these rules. The Internet has been an engine for unprecedented economic growth for our country. Today, the text-up sector represents 3.9 millions jobs, according to Pew Research, and it is continuing to grow. It really does represent the American entrepreneurial spirit.

YouTube was created in a garage in San Mateo; Facebook launched in a dorm room in Cambridge, MA; Amazon—when Jeff Bezos came to Bellevue, WA—has now become a juggernaut in downtown Seattle for new growth and development. These companies might have started in a garage, but they are supporting thousands of jobs across our country.

So today we want to make sure the Internet is not under attack by those who would prefer a pay-for-play system. The biggest telecom companies are trying to write the rules of the road that would crowd out some of these opportunities for unique entrepreneurs to continue to grow the application economy of the future. That is why we can't allow Internet service providers to set up fast lanes for those who can pay and slow lanes for those who can't. Our innovation economy depends on equal access for ideas.

Between 2007 and 2012, development of applications for smart phones and

tablets created over 466,000 high-tech jobs and generated more than \$20 billion in annual revenue. A tiered Internet system would put all of that at risk. It would allow Internet service providers to cut back from the deals to determine what information America can access on line.

We live in an economy based on speed, and a tiered Internet system would give the power to set speed limits to those few Internet service providers and what they wanted to do. This has a major ripple effect. Imagine your doctor examining a patient via telemedicine or a student trying to access a report through a university server, all of this put at challenge by whether they have fast access.

As an editorial in the Seattle Times said: America's democracy is in trouble when information is throttled or controlled by a few. The FEC must reverse this shameful trend.

What they are really trying to say is that creating additional barriers is tantamount, in my mind, to creating a tax on the Internet. A tiered Internet provider would have the range of control, and it means that individual users could be challenged. Strong Net neutrality rules will help maintain the same Internet we have today, and that is why the FEC should act.

Across the country, innovators, entrepreneurs, are experimenting with different app designs and different content creation and they rely on this open Internet to pursue those new business models. Nearly every startup relies on understanding that their product can reach any user connected to the Internet. So allowing Internet service providers to erect toll lanes would threaten the fundamental nature of the Internet and every business plan of every startup that relies on the consumer's ability for equal access to content.

We must do better than what has been done so far, and I encourage this body to make sure we too are going to stand up and protect the American spirit of entrepreneurship by making sure that Net neutrality is the law of the land.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

(The remarks of Mr. WHITEHOUSE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2940 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank my colleague for allowing me the extra time, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RETIREMENT OF STEVE BACCUS,
PRESIDENT OF KANSAS FARM
BUREAU**

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, agriculture is the lifeblood of my home State of Kansas. It drives our economy, but more importantly, it offers our citizens a way of life that is unique in today's world.

Within that industry I often encounter thoughtful, committed men and women who work every day to raise their families, run their businesses, serve their neighbors, and provide a better future for the next generation. Those qualities are found in Steve Baccus, who for the past 17 years has served on the Kansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors and for the last 12 served as its president.

Kansas Farm Bureau is our State's largest general farm organization, with nearly 105,000 members. Under Steve's leadership, the organization has influenced policy and politics, promoted rural values, and worked to show an increasingly urban population how food is produced and why technology is indispensable to feeding a hungry world.

Steve is a native Kansan, a veteran, a husband, a father of five, and a grandfather. His fourth-generation family farm in Ottawa County produces wheat, corn, soybeans, and occasionally a sunflower or a bit of sorghum.

I met Steve now many years ago when he was on his local farm bureau board, and we grew to be friends over the years. He was always someone I could count on to give trustworthy advice and counsel.

As agricultural issues repeatedly come to the forefront of debate in Washington, DC—from trade and energy, to the economy, overregulation, and the farm bill—Steve has worked to make certain the voices of Kansas farmers and ranchers are heard in the Nation's Capital.

Steve's passion for improving the lives of Kansans and advocating for the future of our rural State has always impressed me. His service on the Kansas Farm Bureau board was inspired by Steve's deeply held belief that there is a better future ahead for Kansas agriculture and for our State. He has always been selfless in his service, often taking time to drive across all 105 Kansas counties over the years to update members of the farm bureau on issues that impact their lives and the lives of their family members in rural Kansas and across our State. KFB members always knew where to find Steve and felt comfortable seeking his help.

In addition to his service as president of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Steve has led multiple boards and organizations, including the Board of the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, whose board he currently chairs. He has led trade missions, presented testi-

mony before Congress and State legislative committees, and has championed the cause of agriculture for much of his adult life.

Steve embodies many traits we can all admire, including a deep love for the great State of Kansas and gratitude for the many hard-working families who provide food, fuel, and fiber on which Americans and the world rely. These traits have earned Steve the respect of his peers across the country. Steve has been a true public servant to agriculture, and he did it for all the right reasons. Not often do you find someone who has such good and clear intentions of service. Kansas farmers and ranchers found that in Steve Baccus in spades. He is a tremendous role model for all of us who want to make a difference in the lives of others.

Steve, we congratulate you for your service and wish you and your wife Patricia well in the next chapter of your life as you retire as president of Kansas Farm Bureau.

**REMEMBERING ROSS AND
MARIANNA BEACH**

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, last Sunday I was at a funeral service in Manhattan, KS, because Kansas lost one of its greatest philanthropists and education advocates when Marianna Kistler Beach passed away on November 1, 2014.

Marianna and her late husband Ross Beach—who passed away in 2010—were residents of my hometown of Hay, KS, for more than 60 years before moving to Lawrence. This devoted couple was well known and well loved for their acts of service and kindness to others. Because of Marianna and Ross Beach, numerous Kansans have been inspired through the arts, and individuals with disabilities and their families have lived healthier, more productive lives.

Marianna was born on November 24, 1919, in Lincoln, KS, and Marianna learned the importance of empowerment through education at a young age from her parents. Elmer and Myrtle Kistler moved their family from Lincoln—including their 15-year-old daughter Marianna—to Manhattan, KS, in 1934 in order to give their children the opportunity for a college education during the Great Depression. Marianna graduated from Manhattan High School and Kansas State University, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Phi Journalism Honorary, and Mortar Board.

Marianna married Ross—whom she always called Rossie—in 1941, and they were devoted to each other for 69 years until his death in 2010.

Ross Beach was a pioneer in banking, radio and television, and oil and gas, and Marianna was a support system behind all that success. Ross was the president of Kansas National Gas Com-

pany and chairman of the board of the Douglas County Bank, and with Marianna by his side Ross created economic opportunities for many Kansans. But the Beaches' business success was overshadowed by Ross and Marianna's generosity.

Marianna Beach worked hard to make certain education and the arts would be a priority of Kansans. She and her husband assisted with the formation of the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University. Marianna was a member of the Mid-America Arts Alliance, president of the Hays Arts Council, and wrote a column on art and city beautification for the Hays Daily News for more than 20 years.

For the Beaches' 50th wedding anniversary, Marianna convinced her husband to establish the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University to ensure that art is accessible to all Kansans. My wife Robba and I have had the honor to serve on the board of visitors of this museum that bears their name. We are able to witness firsthand the positive consequences of the passion and commitment Ross and Marianna had for culture and for the arts in our State.

Marianna's priorities were guided by a belief in the value of each individual, which was illustrated by her lifelong commitment to supporting and uplifting individuals with special needs. Supported by her husband, Marianna worked tirelessly to maximize the potential of handicapped individuals, serving on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation from 1969 to 1975. She was also actively involved at the local level. She did everything personally. In fact, the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas is named in her honor. The research done there focuses on disability policy, employment, family support, and early childhood services.

The Beaches' level of generosity will truly live on for generations to come.

Despite their stature in our community and State, Marianna and Ross Beach always treated every person they encountered with respect and dignity. As a young newlywed couple starting a new life in Hays, the first invitation Robba and I received was to come to Ross and Marianna's home for dinner. There was never a more gracious, caring couple than the Beaches, who wanted to make sure everyone was included.

For a large portion of my life, I joined Ross and other businessmen and professionals for lunch at The Roundtable. While there was a lot of talk about sports and politics, I learned a lot about life by listening to Mr. Beach. My friendship with Ross Beach certainly opened doors for me in business and politics, but more importantly, it gave me the confidence to realize that this smalltown Kansas kid

could one day be able to serve here with my colleagues in the Senate.

While my family and I are saddened by the death of Marianna Beach, we take comfort knowing that the legacy of the Beach family will endure far beyond our generation. While Marianna and Ross Beach donated their talents and treasure, it is their character and generous souls that I and many others will miss the most.

Marianna was loved by all who knew her but especially by her family. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to her daughters Mary, Terry, and Jane, as well as her brother Lee, sister Janet, and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. I know you loved your mother, grandmother, and sister dearly, and she will be greatly missed. I hope you find comfort in knowing that she and Ross are united in their Heavenly home.

We are told that to whom much is given, much is expected. Ross and Marianna Beach more than fulfilled any expectations. I am thankful for having the good fortune of knowing them for more than 40 years.

God bless Marianna and Ross Beach for their life together and let them be a role model for all of us.

Thank you, Madam President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you very much, Madam President.

There is a lot of talk here in Washington and across our country right now about how to fix a very broken immigration system. The message the American people sent us earlier this month was very clear. I don't think anybody should miss it. They want us to work together, and they want us to get things done for the country and move things forward. They know we can still do big things when we put aside partisan politics and sit down together and work in the best interests of the country.

I know that firsthand because of the farm bill. It was not easy. It was complicated. There were regional differences. There were partisan differences. There were differences between the House and the Senate. But we wanted to get it done. We stuck with it, we worked hard, and in the end, a lot of people working together made that happen. So we know how to do that.

We know how to do that in the Senate on immigration as well because a whole different group of people across the aisle sat down with very different ideas. How do we strengthen the border? How do we have a system that works for agriculture and business? How do we create a pathway of earning their citizenship in this country? Peo-

ple worked in a very complicated situation, they worked together, and ultimately, after a lot of amendments and slogging it through on the floor, just as we did on the farm bill, we achieved that. We achieved that. We achieved that 510 days ago.

So 510 days ago we passed overwhelmingly—I believe it was 68 votes—a comprehensive immigration reform bill and sent it to the House of Representatives—510 days ago. What has the Republican House of Representatives done with that comprehensive, bipartisan bill that was sent to them 510 days ago? Nothing. A great big zero. They have done nothing. They refused to even have a vote on it. They refused to suggest changes to the bill and work on the opportunity to bring their ideas to the table. They refused to even debate the bill. Why? Amazingly—amazingly—it is because the Speaker and the Republicans and the House know it would pass if they brought it up. And the public looks at that and says: What? Are you crazy? You don't want to bring up a bill because you know it would actually pass on a bipartisan vote?

But that is exactly what is happening. In fact, that is how it is supposed to work. There was a tremendous amount of effort by this body and by leaders on both sides of the aisle, who should feel very proud of the work that was done. It was sent to the House of Representatives 510 days ago, and nothing has been done. Zero has been done.

So I have a very simple message for Speaker BOEHNER: Let the House vote. Let the House vote. The time is now. The time is now to solve this problem, and it can be solved today if people want to do that.

House Republicans still have an opportunity to show the American people that they can be trusted to do the work that people sent them to do—sent all of us to do. They can do it today. They can do it tomorrow. They can get this done before Thanksgiving. Everyone knows that the bipartisan Senate immigration bill would pass right now with both Democrats and Republicans supporting it if Speaker BOEHNER would simply let the House vote.

As we in the Senate showed over a year ago, people on both sides of the aisle want to fix this broken system that hurts families, workers, businesses, and farmers. I could tell you story after story of crops being left in the field because of a broken immigration system. This is an urgent problem, and the time to act is now.

If our Republican colleagues in the House don't want President Obama to use his authority to help fix the broken immigration system—just as every President, by the way, since President Eisenhower, including Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, has done—all they have to do is simply vote. Just have a vote. Then we don't

have to have this back-and-forth about how do we work together on appropriations or how do we get all the work done that desperately needs to be done. Just vote. It is in their hands.

We cannot afford to wait another 510 days to begin to address this urgent problem, which is why if the House will not act the President has no choice but to act. But the good news is that we don't have to wait.

Americans didn't send us here to talk about impeachment or shutting down the government again. They sent us here to get things done. They sent us here to create opportunities for them to work hard and get in the middle class and stay in the middle class, which is harder and harder to do every day.

So I would say to Speaker BOEHNER: Let the House vote. Let's get the bipartisan immigration bill on the President's desk today. This isn't about the President waving a red flag in front of a bull, by the way—which is, frankly, a lot of bull—this is about waving the bill in front of the House of Representatives.

Yoo-hoo, Mr. Speaker, you have a bill. You have a bill. It passed with 68 votes in the Senate. It will pass in the House of Representatives. It will avoid what you say is going to be a big fight and legal challenges. Just vote. It is that simple.

Let's show the American people that we can put aside our differences, that we can work together and do what is best for the country. It is as simple as having a vote.

Thank you, Madam President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO ABDUL-RAHMAN "PETER" KASSIG

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, this is a speech I hoped to never give and one I give with an incredibly heavy heart. I wish to speak about a young man from my home State of Indiana, Abdul-Rahman Kassig, known to many who loved him as Peter or Pete. He was a Hoosier, a son of Indiana, and we could not feel more proud of him or lucky about the fact that he was one of us.

Abdul-Rahman was a son of the United States of America who served our country and also served the world. He was a man of peace and healing and caring. Abdul-Rahman was with us for 26 years, and what he gave us during his life is so much greater and so much more important than how he died. The intensity and focus and desire to make a difference was the hallmark of Peter's life, and it stands in stark contrast to the cruelty and disdain for human life of the ISIL terrorists who took Peter from us.

Every one of us is heartbroken for his parents Paula and Ed, who have lost

their son in the most nightmarish of circumstances and have been the most extraordinary people during this whole situation. The world mourns the loss of Abdul-Rahman along with us. His life is one to be admired.

As one of his teachers wrote to his parents: "Peter's life is evidence that he's been right all along; one person can make a difference."

While we mourn the loss of our fellow Hoosier in America, we are rightfully angry about his murder and we hunger for justice, but we are challenged to face the fact that there are others still being held by these terrorists, and we must work and pray for those who continue to be held against their will.

Today I want to talk about Abdul-Rahman—Peter. I know his wonderful parents Paula and Ed. They are extraordinary people. I was not lucky enough to meet Peter before he headed over to Syria to help provide emergency medical care there. However, through his folks and these many months, I feel as though I have gotten to know his spirit through his words, his actions, and the many stories from those who loved him. Some stories can be told, some stories can't be told, but he is an extraordinary young man in every way.

This was a selfless, courageous young man with a big heart who saw suffering and wanted to help, and ultimately he laid down his life in service to others. If you look at these pictures, this is Peter at the ambulance that he worked on as an emergency medical technician, and all he did was try to make other people's lives better by helping them when they were injured and wounded. You will hear that when his organization ran out of money, he took his own money out of his own pocket to buy bandages, equipment, and gas for the van. That is the kind of guy he was.

He was a son of Indiana, growing up near Broad Ripple as the only child of Paula and Ed. He graduated from Indianapolis North Central High School, spending his high school days as many kids in Wisconsin do—the home State of the Presiding Officer—running cross country and track and playing his guitar. He then served in the U.S. Army with a brief time in Iraq before being honorably discharged and enrolling in Hanover College back home in Indiana.

Abdul-Rahman was described as an intense young man who was always ready to help his friends in need. One classmate from Hanover said, "From the moment you meet Abdul-Rahman, you know that he is a man that is destined for great things."

Abdul-Rahman left Hanover in 2009 for training and then certification as an emergency medical technician, followed by attending Butler University. It was during his time as a student at Butler that Pete traveled over to Beirut during spring break in 2012. While

other kids were heading to Florida and Texas and the Bahamas over spring break, Pete went to Beirut to try to help people.

He saw the refugee crisis stemming from the Syrian civil war firsthand and decided to stay there.

I wish to read some of what he wrote to his family and friends at that time about the decision he made. These are Peter's words:

I do not know much, every day that I am here I have more questions and less answers, but what I do know is that I have a chance to do something here, to take a stand. To make a difference. Yesterday my life was laid out on a table in front of me. With only hours left before my scheduled flight back home to the United States, I watched people dying right in front of me. I had seen it before and I had walked away before . . .

I am staying in the region indefinitely. I am formally requesting that I be withdrawn from my courses for the remainder of the semester. I have had the conversation with my parents and it was the easiest one we ever had. They knew simply from the sound of my voice. I have never been freer, more alive, happier, or better received than in this place. There is too much work to be done here. Too many people in need of immediate help . . .

This decision isn't one that everyone would make, most people wouldn't I guess, but those of you that really know me understand that this is what I was made to do. My whole life has led me to this point in time.

In May of 2012, Abdul-Rahman moved to Lebanon to work as a volunteer emergency medical technician, serving in a hospital in the region there.

By September 2012, Abdul-Rahman, still in his young twenties, formed his own nongovernmental organization to even better help those in need around him. It was called the Special Emergency Relief and Assistance, or SERA.

In the summer of 2013, Abdul-Rahman moved SERA's headquarters to Gaziantep, Turkey, where the organization provided first response assistance to refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war.

SERA provided food and medical supplies to the refugee camps on both sides of the border. SERA also provided primary trauma care and first-aid training to civilians in Syria so others could also provide that same care.

When fundraising was not going as well as needed, Abdul-Rahman donated his own money, giving not only his time and his talent, but everything he had financially to keep it going and assist those suffering around him. He was working on a project for SERA when he was detained on October 1, 2013.

When he was detained, he was traveling in the back of an ambulance on his way to Deir Ezzour in eastern Syria to help provide medical care. He was in the back of an ambulance when he was taken.

Peter showed incredible strength while in captivity—demonstrating his love for his parents while reflecting on the possibility that he might not make it home.

In a letter written while he was in captivity, and received by his parents in early 2014, Abdul-Rahman wrote:

It is still really hard to believe all of this is happening . . . as I am sure you know by now, things have been getting pretty intense. We have been held together, us foreigners . . . and now about half the people have gone home . . .

I hope that this all has a happy ending but it may very well be coming down to the wire here, if in fact that is the case then I figured it was time to say a few things that need saying before I have to go.

The first thing I want to say is thank you. Both to you and mom for everything you have both done for me as parents; for everything you have taught me, shown me, and experienced with me.

I cannot imagine the strength and commitment it has taken to raise a son like me but your love and patience are things I am so deeply grateful for.

Secondly, I want you to know about things here and what I've been through straight from me so you don't have to wonder, guess, or imagine (often this is worse than the reality). All in all I am alright. Physically I am pretty underweight but I'm not starved, & I have no physical injuries, I'm a tough kid and still young so that helps.

Mentally I am pretty sure this is the hardest thing a person can go through, the stress and fear are incredible but I am coping as best I can. I am not alone. I have friends, we laugh, we play chess, we play trivia to stay sharp, and we share stories and dreams of home and loved ones. I can be hard to deal with, you know me. My mind is quick and my patience thinner than most.

But all in all I am holding my own. I cried a lot in the first few months, but a little less now. I worry a lot about you and mom and my friends.

They tell us you have abandoned us and/or don't care but of course we know you are doing everything you can and more. Don't worry Dad, if I do go down, I won't go thinking anything but what I know to be true. That you and mom love me more than the moon & the stars.

I am obviously pretty scared to die but the hardest part is not knowing, wondering, hoping and wondering if I should even hope at all. I am very sad that all this has happened and for what all of you back home are going through.

If I do die, I figure at least you and I can seek refuge and comfort in knowing that I went out as a result of trying to alleviate suffering and helping those in need.

In terms of my faith, I pray everyday and I am not angry about my situation in that sense. I am in a dogmatically complicated situation here, but I am at peace with my belief.

I wish this paper would go on forever and never run out and I could just keep talking to you. Just know I'm with you. Every stream, every lake, every field and river. In the woods and hills, in all the places you showed me. I love you.

If you look at the pictures, you can see Peter and his mom in this picture and Peter and his dad off fishing in Indiana. This is the story of Abdul-Rahman Kassig. Nothing you have seen on TV over the past 3 or 4 days is the story of Abdul-Rahman Kassig. This is the story. Those are his parents and this is what he did—he devoted his life to others.

He was a young man who was taken from us in the most barbaric way, yet whose life stands for all that is good in our world.

Abdul-Rahman, we will miss you catching more fish than your dad Ed when you went out fishing together and then laughing with him and rubbing it in that you caught more than he did. Best friends right there.

We will miss you giving your mom Paula a big hug and telling your parents how much you love them. Folks around the world and every American will miss you terribly, but we will never forget how kind you were to the sick and injured people you cared for and the sick and injured people you made well, and everyone whose hearts you filled with love and passion and laughter.

This was a man all Hoosiers and everyone else was so proud of, who touched more people and helped more folks in his 26 years than most of us do in a lifetime.

I will close with something that Paula Kassig said on Monday:

Our hearts are battered, but they will mend. The world is broken, but it will be healed in the end. And good will prevail . . .

Abdul-Rahman spent the last years of this life working for good, serving those in the greatest need in the most dangerous of situations because his fellow citizens of the world needed him. He truly believed good would prevail.

Let us keep the Kassigs and those who are still currently being held against their will and their families in our prayers and thoughts.

Abdul-Rahman, we have been humbled by your generosity and your love. May God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

I yield back and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEW REPUBLICAN MAJORITY AGENDA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today is our first full week back in session since the election 2 weeks ago. While we haven't had the change of control yet in the Chamber—it doesn't happen until next year—Republicans are setting out our priorities for the new Congress and looking forward to getting to work.

Two weeks ago the American people spoke. They sent a clear message to Washington that they are tired of the status quo, tired of gridlock, tired of obstruction. They are tired of Washington wasting their money. They

want change, and on election day, they asked Republicans to make that happen.

Republicans are humbled by the trust the American people have placed in us, and we are not going to let them down. We look forward to setting a positive and a constructive agenda and getting the Senate working again for the American people.

Over the past several years, the Senate Democratic leadership has stifled debate, ignored the regular order of business, and wasted the Senate's time on partisan pieces of business that Democratic leaders knew would not pass. That means that very little time has been spent on American families' priorities.

Even many Democrats have grown frustrated with the highly partisan direction the Senate has taken under Democratic leadership. Republicans intend to chart a different course.

Starting in January, we will ensure that the Senate returns to the committee process and that the Senate floor once again becomes a forum for debate and amendments and votes. I am encouraged that this week a number of rank-and-file Democrats abandoned their leadership and joined Republicans to support legislation to approve the Keystone Pipeline and the more than 42,000 jobs it will create. Republicans hope we can continue to have that kind of collaboration in the new Congress.

Americans have had a rough time over the past several years, including a weak economy, few jobs, high prices on everything from health care to electricity, and the list goes on and on. Our first priority in the 114th Congress will be enacting policies that will help create jobs and increase economic opportunity for American families. A good place to start is the dozens of House-passed jobs bills that have been gathering dust on the Senate Democratic leader's desk. Many of these bills passed the House with bipartisan support, and it is high time they get a vote in the Senate so they can get on the President's desk.

We hope the President will work with us on priorities such as expanding trade to open new markets for American agriculture and manufacturing overseas.

I have to say I am a little concerned that the President has indicated his intention of continuing to operate on his own. The American people made it clear on election day that they have rejected his policies, and I hope the President will take that message to heart and rethink his plans to go it alone on important issues such as immigration.

Finally, Republicans will get to work on some of the big-ticket items that need to get done in Washington, including issues such as reforming our Tax Code to make it simpler and fairer and

to make us more competitive in the global marketplace, eliminating the hundreds of inefficient regulations that are driving up prices for American families and killing jobs, and issues such as conducting oversight of the executive branch to ensure that the cycle of abuses such as the IRS scandal and the Veterans Affairs scandal stops now.

Republicans understand the opportunity we have been given and we don't intend to waste it. We are going to make Washington work again, we are going to make government more efficient and effective and stop the waste of taxpayer dollars, and we are going to get our economy going again to put our Nation on a path to growth and shared prosperity.

Divided government has been historically a time when great things have been accomplished. We can go back to Social Security reform in 1983 when we had a Republican President working with a Democratic House or tax reform in 1986 when we had a Republican President working with a Democratic House or 1996 when we had a Democratic President working with a Republican Congress on welfare reform. There are lots of examples throughout our history where divided government has led to big accomplishments and big results for the American people.

I submit that we can do that again. The American people are counting on us. Republicans are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work, and we invite Democrats and the President to join us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, this past Saturday the open enrollment period for the Obama health care law opened in terms of the health care exchange. People who bought health insurance through healthcare.gov or through their State's exchange are finally allowed to see how much their insurance is going to cost next year. Things were pushed back beyond the election so people wouldn't be able to find out before the election what it was going to cost. So the Obama administration had all of this information for awhile, but they intentionally kept it secret until after election day. Now people get to see the prices, and many people across the country are absolutely in shock at the increased costs of the health care law.

Millions of Americans are learning their health insurance is going to cost them a lot more. As a matter of fact, when the exchanges opened November 15, on the front page of the New York Times: "Cost of Coverage Under Care Act Set to Increase." The article says:

The Obama administration on Friday unveiled data showing that many Americans

with health insurance bought under the Affordable Care Act could face substantial price increases next year—in some cases as much as 20 percent.

Substantial price increases, 20 percent.

For some people it is going to be even higher than that.

The Wall Street Journal took a look at it and they had a large story with a picture on Friday and the headline is: "Consumers Still Confused Ahead of Insurance Sign-ups."

The article describes a man named Bob Sorey, who is a real estate salesperson in Mount Juliet, TN. He had a plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield, and he says his premiums are going up nearly 25 percent next year. He told the newspaper, "I just can't absorb that."

President Obama promised the American people they would save \$2,500 per year per family under his health care law. NANCY PELOSI, the former Speaker of the House, went on "Meet the Press" at one point and said everyone's rates would go down—everyone, she said. What does the President have to say now? What will he tell those people whose rates have continued to go up? What does he say to this real estate broker in Tennessee who can't absorb a 20-percent increase?

In Anchorage, AK, a typical plan is going to cost 28 percent more next year. That is for the second cheapest silver plan, what they call the benchmark plan.

In Minneapolis rates are going up almost 19 percent, and that is just for the premiums. For many people their copays are going up and their deductibles are going up as well. In some parts of Georgia 70 percent of the plans sold on the exchange have deductibles of at least \$2,500. Is that affordable for people? Millions of Americans will be paying more in premiums as well as more out of their pocket—millions of people such as Bob Sorey, the real estate broker in Tennessee, who, as he said, just can't absorb the cost.

These skyrocketing premiums may explain why the President's health care law is more unpopular right now than ever before.

According to the latest Gallup poll, only 37 percent of Americans approve of the law. It was supposed to get more popular. That is what the Democrats on this floor told people across the country and told us. Instead, the opposite has happened. People see how much their costs have increased because of the law, and many people are learning that having coverage under the law is not the same as having care. There is a difference between coverage and care.

That is what USA Today found out. They had a front-page article last Friday with the headline: "Rural Hospitals in Critical Condition."

So not just the cost of coverage under the care act set to increase, but

rural hospitals are in critical condition.

Obama critics say the law is speeding up the demise of rural facilities, of rural hospitals. That is the problem.

The article talks about a small hospital in Georgia that had to close in the spring of last year because of all the new burdens of the health care law. People in that town now have to travel many miles to get to another hospital in another town. One of those people was Bill Jones. He was a peanut and cotton farmer who lived about 9 miles away from the old hospital. Bill suffered a heart attack 1 month after the hospital had to close. The ambulance had to take him to another hospital in a town further away. I can tell my colleagues, as a doctor who practiced medicine for 25 years, when someone has a heart attack, every minute counts. Bill Jones didn't survive his heart attack. Maybe he wouldn't have survived a trip to a closer hospital; we won't know that. But the hospital is gone now and it is gone because of the President's health care law. For people living in rural States such as Georgia and my own State of Wyoming, this is a terrifying prospect.

The article says that since January of 2010, more than 40 rural hospitals have closed across the country. There is a map of the country of all the places where hospitals have closed. Ezekiel Emanuel, who worked on the health care law, says that 40 hospitals is not enough. He is one of the architects of course of the President's health care law. He says that over the next 6 years, more than 1,000 hospitals will close. In more than 1,000 American communities, people will be further away from medical care. That is precious lost time for people who have heart attacks or for women with high-risk pregnancies who are further from the help they need to deliver a healthy baby. They may have coverage under the President's health care law, but that is not the same as getting the care they need.

We are also seeing that for people whom the law has pushed into Medicaid—because Medicaid, of course—the President's goal was to push more and more people into Medicaid—that pays less for services than traditional insurance companies pay. A lot of doctors and other providers can't afford to take new Medicaid patients.

There was a front-page story in the Wall Street Journal last Friday that says as more join Medicaid, health care systems feel strained.

As more join Medicaid—the President's goal—health systems feel the strain. The article says that about one-third of all primary care physicians aren't taking new Medicaid patients. One of them is Dr. Holly Abernathy. She is a family physician in Farmington, NM, and she says she just can't afford to take any new patients under

the program. She says: "I would love to see every Medicaid patient that comes through my door." She also says: "If you give people coverage, they should be able to utilize it."

Premiums are going up, out-of-pocket costs are going up. Hospitals are closing. Doctors are having to turn away patients—all because of the President's health care law.

ObamaCare was too long, too complicated, too expensive, and it took away too much from the people who like the care and the coverage they had before the law was passed. That is why Republicans are going to vote to repeal the entire health care law.

Meanwhile, we will also vote to strip away the worst and most destructive parts of the law—parts such as the employer mandate, the arbitrary 30-hour workweek, that has been devastating to part-time workers across the country and others such as the unfair medical device tax that sends American jobs overseas and threatens lifesaving innovation.

Republicans are going to keep fighting for Americans who have been harmed by the President's health care law. We are going to keep offering the real solutions that people wanted all along—access to the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost. That is what the American people are demanding, and that is what they deserve. It is what Republicans are going to give them.

I thank the Presiding Officer, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INNOVATION AGENDA FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to emphasize the importance of keeping our technology industry in the forefront of our global economy. America has made extraordinary strides in innovation. For decades we have been the world's leader in developing new technologies and advancing the Internet age, but we are not the only nation in this hunt.

Across the globe, and particularly in China and other parts of Asia, our international competitors are working furiously to catch up. If the United States is to enjoy continued success in the technology arena, the policymakers must ensure that we have a legal and regulatory landscape that will enable our innovators to thrive.

As chairman of the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force, I have

been working with colleagues and stakeholders to develop an innovation agenda for the coming Congress. Today I would like to highlight several bipartisan initiatives that we should prioritize early next year to help ensure the continued success of our high-tech economy.

First, Congress must act to protect America's innovation and inventiveness. An essential part of fostering innovation is protecting legitimate intellectual property rights. In particular, we must enact legislation to combat abusive patent litigation.

Patent trolls—which are often shell companies that do not make or sell anything—are crippling innovation and growth across all sectors of our economy. It is estimated that abuse of patent litigation costs our economy over \$60 billion every year. With so much on the line, how can we afford not to act? Yet the current Senate did exactly that and ignored the very real opportunity we had, to follow the House of Representatives and pass bipartisan legislation that would be supported by the White House.

Why would anyone walk away from the opportunity to enact pro-innovation policies that would do so much good for our economy?

It is no secret that trial lawyers and others told the current majority leader not to bring patent troll reform up for a vote. We all know when the trial lawyers say “jump,” the only answer for some of my Democratic colleagues is “how high.”

While I am disappointed the Senate failed to act during this Congress, I intend to help ensure we pass legislation next year. Fortunately, combating patent trolls is a priority for incoming Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY and House Judiciary Committee Chairman BOB GOODLATTE.

I look forward to working with them and others who are committed to making long overdue reforms to our patent laws—including mandatory fee shifting, heightened pleading and discovery standards, demand letter reforms, and a mechanism to enable recovery of fees against shell companies or those who are behind them.

In addition, we must improve the quality of patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Low-quality patents are essential to a patent troll's business model. I am optimistic we can reach agreement on how best to improve our patent process.

We also need a high-functioning and well-funded USPTO. A fully funded patent office would, at the very least, mean more and better trained patent examiners, more complete libraries of prior art, and greater access to modern information technologies to address the Agency's growing needs. All of these improvements would lead to higher quality patents that are granted more quickly. The good news is we can

make these changes at no cost to taxpayers since the USPTO is a fee-generating agency.

Now, there are some who argue here that patent troll legislation is not necessary in light of the Supreme Court's decisions in the *Octane Fitness* and *Highmark* cases. Ms. Charlene Morrow and Mr. Brian Lahti, however, writing in the BNA's *Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal* confirm that “nothing in these cases addresses the proposed reforms to make the real parties in interest who are managing patent assertion entities responsible for fees and costs.” This is something I worked on for quite a few months. As these experienced practitioners acknowledge such legislation is essential to address fee-collection concerns faced by defendants in present patent litigation. One of the legislative approaches Ms. Morrow and Mr. Lahti proposed is to make bonding more readily available at an early stage of litigation. I could not agree more.

We must ensure that those who defend against abusive patent litigation and are awarded fees will actually get paid. Even when a patent troll structured as a shell company has no assets, there are other parties with an interest in the litigation. These parties are often intentionally beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. They stand to benefit if their plaintiff shell company forces a settlement and are protected from any liability if they lose.

It is a win-win situation for them and a lose-lose situation for America's innovators. Since we cannot force parties outside of a court's jurisdiction to join in a case, we must incentivize those interested parties to do the right thing.

That is the whole purpose behind my recovery-of-award provision. Under this provision, those who are deemed interested parties may either voluntarily submit to the court's jurisdiction and become liable for any unsatisfied fees awarded in the case or they may opt out by renouncing any meaningful interest in the litigation. If interested parties stand aside and do nothing, the original plaintiff must post a bond to ensure that any shifted fees are paid.

Bottom line: Without such bonding measures, all defendants have is a toothless joinder provision that can be easily circumvented by bad actors with no intention of paying the court-awarded fees for their abusive lawsuits.

I have said this before but it bears repeating. Fee shifting without such a recovery provision is like writing a check on an empty account. You are purporting to convey something that isn't there. Only fee shifting coupled with this recovery provision will stop patent trolls from litigating-and-dashing.

The House has already demonstrated that Members from both sides of the

aisle can come together to craft and pass commonsense legislation to combat abusive patent lawsuits. President Obama supports such efforts. It is past time the Senate does its part. We ought to get rid of this phony attitude of obeisance to the personal injury lawyers and trial lawyers in this country.

I am determined to make such patent reform a priority early next year and to make sure we send the President a bill that he can sign into law for the good of all American innovation.

In addition to patent troll legislation, there is strong bipartisan, bicameral support for creating a harmonized, uniform Federal standard for protecting trade secrets.

Here in the Senate, Senator CHRIS COONS and I introduced the *Defend Trade Secret Act* on April 29, 2014. In the House of Representatives, Representative GEORGE HOLDING introduced the *Trade Secrets Protection Act* on July 29, 2014. Through our collective efforts we have shed light on an often overlooked form of intellectual property.

Trade secrets, such as customer lists, formulas, and manufacturing processes are an essential form of intellectual property. Yet trade secrets are the only form of U.S. intellectual property where misuse does not provide its owner with a Federal private right of action. Currently trade secret owners must rely on State courts or Federal prosecutors to protect their rights.

The multi-State procedural and jurisdictional issues that arise in such cases are costly and complicated, and the Department of Justice lacks the resources to prosecute many such cases. These systemic issues put companies at a great disadvantage, since the victims of trade secret theft need to recover information quickly before it crosses State lines or leaves the country.

Unfortunately, in today's global information age, there are endless examples of how easy and rewarding it can be to steal trade secrets. While the maximum penalty for trade secrets theft is 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, few of these thefts actually result in Federal prosecutions. While \$250,000 may sound like a steep penalty, most stolen trade secrets amount to tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars in lost profits and sales. Even when thefts are prosecuted, victim companies rarely recover the full extent of their losses.

We have made some progress in moving forward trade secret legislation. Earlier this year, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism held a hearing on the importance of creating a private right of action for trade secret theft. The House Judiciary Committee reported its bill—by voice vote—on September 17. Although we did not get the bill across the finish line this Congress, we are well positioned to move the trade secret legislation early next year.

It is past time to enable U.S. companies to protect their trade secrets in Federal court.

Another bipartisan initiative ready for congressional action relates to our privacy laws. I speak about the need to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act or ECPA to require a warrant for all email content within the United States and to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access.

Enacted in 1986, ECPA prohibits communication service providers from intercepting or disclosing email, telephone conversations or data stored electronically, unless such disclosure is authorized. Virtually everyone agrees that Americans should enjoy the same privacy protections in their online communications that they do in their offline communications.

But Congress has not adequately updated the law since its enactment, and technological developments have resulted in disparate treatment. As currently written, ECPA requires law enforcement to obtain a warrant for emails that are less than 6 months old but only a subpoena to access older electronic communications.

Think about your own email account. You may have hundreds of emails that you have received over many years. Additionally, ECPA has allowed law enforcement to access emails that have been opened with just a subpoena, even though a search warrant would be required for a printout of the same communication sitting on your desk.

Those conflicting standards should cause great concern to everyone who values personal privacy. Now to make matters more complicated, ECPA is silent on the privacy standard for accessing data stored abroad. Storing digital information around the world, a practice that did not exist when ECPA became law, is now routine. Moreover, the Federal Government has taken advantage of this statutory silence to apply its own standard, requiring access to data abroad if the company storing it has a presence in the United States.

For that reason alone, Congress should amend the law. That is why, together with Senators CHRIS COONS and DEAN HELLER, I introduced the Law Enforcement Access to Data Stored Abroad Act. The LEADS Act would require a warrant when the government demands customer communications from third-party service providers. Such a warrant would only apply to data stored in the United States, unless the data is owned by a U.S. corporation, citizen or lawful permanent resident.

To provide additional protections, the bill requires courts to modify or vacate such warrants if they would require the service provider to violate the laws of a foreign country. The practice of extending warrants

extraterritorially presents unique challenges for a number of industries which increasingly face a conflict between American law and the laws of the countries where the electronic data is stored.

Additionally, if the United States expects to extend its warrants extraterritorially, we should not be surprised if other countries, including China and Russia, seek to do the same for the emails of Americans and others stored in this country.

Congress must ensure that law enforcement has the tools to execute search warrants where necessary so long as officials comply with the laws of the foreign country where the electronic data is stored.

The LEADS Act also provides needed improvements to the mutual legal assistance treaty process, which are formal agreements for sharing evidence between the United States and foreign countries in international investigations. Currently, the MLAT process is slow and unreliable, sometimes taking several months to access data held by foreign jurisdictions.

The Department of Justice not only needs additional funds to hire more people to handle MLAT requests, but reforms to the underlying program are needed to improve transparency and efficiency. The legislation recognizes, through a sense of Congress, that data providers should not be subject to data localization requirements. Such requirements are incompatible with the borderless nature of the Internet—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Such requirements are incompatible with the borderless nature of the Internet. They are an impediment to online innovation and they are unnecessary to meet the needs of law enforcement. It is time to act to update our electronic communications privacy laws.

Finally, there is widespread consensus and real opportunity for bipartisan bicameral reform of our outdated visa system for economically essential high-skilled immigrants. For too long our country has been unable to meet the ever-increasing demand for workers trained in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics or STEM fields.

As a result, some of our Nation's top technology markets are in desperate need for qualified STEM workers. We face a high-skilled worker shortage that has become a national crisis. In April, for the second year in a row, the Federal Government reached its current H-1B quota just 5 days after it began accepting applications.

Employers submitted 172,500 petitions for just 85,000 available visas,

meaning American companies were unable to hire nearly 90,000 high-skilled workers essential to help grow their domestic businesses, develop innovative technologies at home rather than abroad, and compete internationally. This is one of the principal reasons why I, together with Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR, MARCO RUBIO, and CHRIS COONS, introduced the bipartisan Immigration Innovation or I-Squared Act.

To date the legislation has 26 bipartisan cosponsors. Among other things, the I-Squared Act provides a thoughtful, lasting legislative framework that would increase the number of H-1 visas based on annual market demand to attract highly skilled workers and innovators. The bill also reforms fees on H-1B visas and employment-based green cards for funding a grant-based State program to promote STEM education and worker retraining.

The I-Squared Act addresses the immediate short-term needs to provide American employees with greater access to high-skilled workers, while also addressing long-term needs to invest in America's STEM education. I am confident this two-step approach will enable our country to thrive and help us compete in today's global economy. No doubt, a concrete legislative victory, when there is already considerable consensus, would help build trust and good will among those who disagree sharply over other areas of immigration policy. It would mark a critical first step along the path to broader reform.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues in introducing I-Squared early next year. As Senators can see, there is a lot we can agree on and much we can and must accomplish. Looking ahead to the next Congress, I intend to do everything in my power to enact protechnology, pro-innovation policies that will ensure the continued success of our high-tech economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I rise to voice my continued support for the enactment of the Marketplace Fairness Act this year. There have been a number of editorials and letters and emails and other messages lately that have left out part of the story and have some of the other parts of the story wrong. I am not sure the people behind these messages have read the bill.

Last year the Senate passed this bill with a strong bipartisan vote of 69 Members. I believe that now is the time to get this issue done. I have been working on this sales tax fairness issue since joining the Senate in 1997, because as a former State legislator, mayor and small business owner, I believe it is important to level the playing field for all retailers—in-store,

catalog, and online—so an outdated rule for sales tax collection does not adversely impact small business and Main Street retailers.

In the last century, the Supreme Court challenged us to solve this problem. We have been working on it. Thanks to a suggestion by Senator ALEXANDER, we made this bill a States rights bill. The States passed laws a long time ago that required the collection of sales tax. And those laws say that if the tax is not collected by the retailer out of State, it has to be paid directly by the purchaser in state. Most people do not even know about that requirement, but I do understand in Wyoming we collect about \$1.5 million from people voluntarily realizing the law and complying with it.

But that is a minority of people. Right now, thousands of local businesses are forced to do business at a competitive disadvantage because they have to collect sales and use taxes and remote sellers do not, which in some States can mean that 5 to 10 percent advantage.

I recently talked with a fellow who had a camera store. A person came in. He was interested in this \$2,000 camera and accessories. So of course the store owner helped him to figure it all out and gave him instructions on the camera. Then the guy pulled out his smart phone and clicks on the bar code of the camera and said he could get it cheaper. Of course the owner of the store wondered how much cheaper. It happened to be exactly the amount of sales tax. The small business owner lost the sale.

I am willing to bet that if the person has a problem with the camera, he is going to come back to that store and ask for help with it. Those people who have those small businesses hire locally. It is actually people from the community who are earning money they spend in the same community. They are paying property tax. I would be willing to bet that none of the online companies, unless they are local, are participating in the community the way those businesses are.

Of course, additionally, sales taxes go directly to State and local governments, which brings in the needed revenue for maintaining our schools, fixing our roads, supporting local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency management crews. An interesting part of that is the smaller the town, the more important that is.

In Wyoming the smaller towns rely on their sales tax to provide police protection and fire protection. People in small towns in Wyoming are sometimes surprised to find out that sales taxes support these services, but realize then that they ought to be paying this sales tax. The smaller the town, the bigger the impact.

If Congress fails to let States collect taxes on remote sales this year, we are

implicitly blessing a situation where States will be forced to maybe raise other taxes, such as income or property taxes, to offset the growing loss of sales tax revenue. Do we want this to happen?

There is another side to this too; that is, that some of the people, some of the Governors and legislatures have said: If that passes, we will reduce another tax because sales tax is a more constant flow of dollars that we can rely on more than virtually anything else we do.

So now is the time for Congress to complete action on this issue by enacting the Marketplace Fairness Act this year. Today I want to spend a few minutes debunking some of the myths and allegations that have been raised against the bill. First, some opponents argue the bill is unfairly burdensome to online retailers by forcing them to comply with the various sales tax rates across the country.

In response, I would first note that the Marketplace Fairness Act includes a small seller exemption. It is set at \$1 million in remote sales each year. Until they pass that \$1 million mark in a given year, states cannot make them comply with sales tax laws. If they do pass the million-dollar mark, then the Marketplace Fairness Act requires that the State provide the sellers with software, free of charge, that can calculate the sales and use tax due on each transaction at the time the transaction is completed. It would also file the sales and use tax returns and be updated to reflect any rate changes.

So all they have to know, to be able to do is, is the purchaser's ZIP Code. They are going to have to know the ZIP Code if they are sending something somewhere. So it is not that complicated a process. Incidentally, some of the online companies opposing this bill sell the very same program. They make it available to a number of providers. So it is already being used by retailers across the country to accurately collect and remit State and local sales and use taxes.

In addition, opponents of the Marketplace Fairness Act argue that our bill violates States rights by setting tax rates. In fact, our bill does not change State law. It does not require States to do anything. The bill does not create new taxes or increase existing taxes. It simply gives the States the ability to collect the taxes owed, to enforce their own sales and use tax laws.

Our bill is a States rights bill, which is why the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities support the bill. Wyoming passed a law in 1934. It says: If someone buys something out of State and they do not pay sales tax on it, by the end of the month they have to fill out a form which they have and submit the

money. Our bill makes it easier for Wyomingites to comply with this law. Most people don't realize this, but it is much easier if the person who collects the sales tax is the one who sells the item.

Opponents of the Marketplace Fairness Act also suggest it benefits big business at the expense of small online retailers. Remember I mentioned that \$1 million exemption if a business sells less than \$1 million online? They are not subject to this bill. That is to give small businesses a chance to grow into big businesses—and we do hope they do pass that \$1 million threshold. In fact a \$2 million threshold would be fine with me.

But the exemption already protects small businesses. Last year a Small Business Administration study determined that the small seller exemption included in the Marketplace Fairness Act would exempt 99.96 percent of all sellers from the bill's requirements. So it is just the big ones that fall into this bill.

Opponents of marketplace fairness suggest it creates a massive new tax requirement. The truth is the bill that passed the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of more than two-thirds of the Senate last year does not create any new taxes.

Consumers already owe the sales and use taxes on the goods they purchase if they reside in a State that has a sales tax—whether those purchases are made over the phone, by mail or by the Internet. Unfortunately, as I mentioned, most consumers are unaware that they are required to pay the tax when the retailer does not collect it at the time of the purchase.

Marketplace fairness provides States the authority to reduce the burden of self-reporting from consumers and allow States to enforce the existing State and local sales and use tax laws, and it eliminates the competitive disadvantage for the small retailers in the State. It is an advantage that is currently enjoyed by the remote retailers at the expense of those small businesses.

Additionally, the Marketplace Fairness Act does not tax Internet use. I repeat that it does not tax Internet use. It doesn't even tax Internet services. For many years I have worked with all the interested parties to find a mutually agreeable legislative package to enact this bill.

This Congress, I've worked with Senator DURBIN, Senator ALEXANDER, who as I mentioned inserted the States rights approach to this issue that reduced the bill from about 35 pages down to about 9 pages, and Senator HEITKAMP, who has been involved in the court case as all of these e-fairness challenges have progressed.

When the Supreme Court heard this challenge and realized there are some other things coming along that could

greatly distress States if they don't take some action because of what the courts could do, I worked together with the three colleagues I mentioned and 26 of our Senate colleagues to produce a bipartisan bill that helps sellers, States, and local governments to simplify sales and use tax collection and administration.

We are working with our House supporters, including House of Representative Members STEVE WOMACK, JACKIE SPEIER, PETER WELCH, and JOHN CONYERS, and have found common ground on this important issue that is supported by more than 200 groups. I publicly commend all of my Senate and House colleagues in taking a leadership role in working on this important policy issue.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the goals of States rights and a level playing field for all businesses—making sure the revenue that is owed particularly for small towns makes it to the small towns—by pushing for the enactment of the Marketplace Fairness Act this year.

I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator ALEXANDER, who has done an outstanding job on this subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Senator ENZI has been a leading proponent of the Marketplace Fairness Act. I congratulate him for his persistence in recognizing its importance.

I will make three points in support of what he said: No. 1, why conservatives support it; No. 2, why it is easy to do; that is, to comply with it; and No. 3 is to ask the basic question, which is: Do you trust Washington or do you trust your Governor and your State legislature to decide what your State taxes ought to be? Do you trust Washington or do you trust people closer to home?

I will begin with why conservatives support it. If I were to ask the question, what do the following people have in common, and the following people would be Al Cardenas, the most recent chairman of the American Conservative Union; the late William F. Buckley; Art Laffer, who is President Reagan's favorite economist; Governor Mike Pence, the conservative Governor of Indiana; Governor Gary Herbert; Governor Robert Bentley; former Governor Mitch Daniels; and former Governor Jeb Bush, you might say: What do they have in common?

Well, they are Republicans; that is right. They are conservatives; that is true. But the other thing we could say is they all support the Marketplace Fairness Act or the principles that underlie it.

Why is that? Because the Marketplace Fairness Act is a 12-page bill about two words, which are States' rights. If I am the Governor of Tennessee—which I once was—and I am sitting down there thinking: Well, we

have a State sales tax in Tennessee such as almost every State has, and the way we collect it is this—let's say I am in my home town of Marysville, TN, and I want to buy a television set. I can go downtown to buy it from one of my local stores. They collect the State sales tax, which in our State, including State and local taxes, is nearly 10 percent. They send it to the State.

If I go online or into a catalog and order the same television set, the seller does not collect it. This bill is about allowing the State of Tennessee to decide whether it wants to require the out-of-state sellers to do the same thing that instate sellers do, whether it wants to prefer some distant seller over the local man and woman on Main Street, the mom-and-pop stores. That is the decision.

Whatever decision they would make, the question is this. Do you think we should be deciding that for Tennessee? Our Governor doesn't think so, our Lieutenant Governor doesn't think so, our legislature doesn't think so. They don't trust Washington to make the decision. They trust themselves to make that decision.

Ohio doesn't think so. Ohio has already taken a look at this subject and said: We would prefer to collect our sales tax from everybody who owes it. Rather than have everybody in Ohio fill out a form every time they go online to order from a catalog, Ohio wants to require the out-of-State sellers do the same thing in-State sellers do, and that is to collect the tax when they sell it. Ohio has said if they do that, they will lower taxes.

Ohio has already passed a law and says if Congress passes the Marketplace Fairness Act taxes in Ohio will go down.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks a list of conservatives and Republican Governors who support e-fairness and why they do so.

The other point is how complicated is this for somebody who might sell online? Well, as Senator ENZI said, it exempts 99 percent of all out-of-state sellers. So if you are selling on eBay today and you are worried about this bill, the chances are 99 out of 100 it is not you this bill affects because it has a \$1 million exemption.

But even if it did affect you, how hard would it be to comply with the requirements. It must not be too hard because you could also go on eBay, I am assured, and you can purchase software from eBay that costs \$15 or \$20 and it will do the work for you. In other words, if you are selling something online and you are selling it to Maryville, TN, they will put the zip code in and tell you the tax. You can collect it and remit it to the State government. It is about as easy as what I do every morning.

I go to my computer, I type in "Google," put my zip code in, and I put

"weather." I want to know it is 24 degrees in Washington, DC, this morning. It tells me in an instant.

If you are selling online—unless you are selling more than \$1 million in out of state sales it doesn't affect you at all. If you need some help to figure that out, you can get software that figures out the tax for you.

But remember, all we are asking—we are not even saying that we think if you sell online or if you sell by catalog that you ought to be made to collect the tax when you sell. We are just saying we think States should make the decision about their own tax policy which is consistent with the 10th Amendment to our Constitution.

That leads me to my last point. The real issue here is two words. You can make a lot of good conservative reasons why this bill attracted half the support of Republicans and passed with 69 votes when it was considered by the Senate, and why it has so much support from Governors and mayors of all political persuasions across the country. But the bottom line is all we proposed to do is to let States make decisions about their own tax policy.

The Supreme Court more than 20 years ago said it was too complicated to require businesses to collect, but they invited Congress to create a way that was simple enough to do that. Twenty years has gone by, software is already available, the Internet is advanced, and so today it is very easy to do.

There is no reason in the world for Senators to say: You know, I just flew from Nashville today. It took me an hour. That makes me a lot smarter than the Governor of Tennessee, so I am going to decide for Tennessee whether it can collect all the taxes that are already owed. I am going to say I am going to let the Governor of Tennessee make that decision. If I were the Governor of Tennessee, I would collect it, and I might lower the taxes for everybody. I don't think it is fair to say to shopkeepers in Maryville, TN, that you have to collect the tax and send it to the State, but to say to some seller in Illinois or some catalog seller in North Dakota that you don't have to collect the tax, because that means our local businesses are being dealt with in an unfair way.

I also don't think Tennesseans appreciate what will happen if we don't act, because do you know what is going to happen? The Governor is going to collect the sales tax. How is he going to do it? Well, he is going to have to start auditing everybody.

If you buy online—which everybody almost does today; just think of the Christmas season coming up—you would have to write down every single thing you bought. You would have to put the tax down, and you would have to send it in—that is the law. That is a very difficult thing to do and most people don't do it.

So the easy way to do this and the right way to do this is for Congress to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act, which is a 12-page bill about two words—States rights—and say to Tennessee, Wisconsin or Wyoming, of course you should make your own decision about how to collect your taxes. Let them decide, as Ohio decided. They will collect the State sales tax which is already owed from everybody who owes it. The collectors of the tax will be anyone who sells into Ohio or Tennessee or Wisconsin or Wyoming.

That is the fair thing to do. That is the right thing to do. That is what respects our constitutional federalism and the 10th Amendment to the Constitution. It shows that we in Washington, DC, aren't so arrogant to think that we should make those state tax decisions.

I conclude by saying I just had the pleasure of going through a reelection campaign. A lot of Members, about one-third of the body, were in an election this year. I was trying to remember this morning if one single person came up to me in the past 2 years and said: I just wish you would give Washington more control over how Tennessee collects its taxes.

I don't think one single person said that to me. But I will guarantee that about every other person said to me: I wish you would stop Washington from telling us to do things or decide things that we should be deciding for ourselves.

That is what this bill is about. This bill empowers every State to make its own decision about how to collect its taxes—to do what Ohio did, to do what other Governors have said. We are going to collect it from everybody who already owes it and, when we do, we are going to lower everyone's taxes. That would be a very happy result.

We have 2 or 3 weeks left in the session. This Senate has fully considered this. The bill is in the House of Representatives. I very much hope that the Speaker and the Members of the House will decide that it is time to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act and recognize the principle of States rights in the spirit of the 10th Amendment of our Constitution.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONSERVATIVES & REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS
SUPPORT E-FAIRNESS

William F. Buckley, Editor At Large, National Review: "The mattress maker in Connecticut is willing to compete with the company in Massachusetts, but does not like it if out-of-state businesses are, in practical terms, subsidized; that's what the non-tax amounts to. Local concerns are complaining about traffic in mattresses and books and records and computer equipment which, ordered through the Internet, come in, so to speak, duty free." (William F. Buckley, "Get That Internet Tax Right," National Review Online, 10/19/01)

Arthur B. Laffer, Wall Street Journal: "In-state retailers collect sales taxes at the time of purchase. When residents purchase from retailers out of state (including over the Internet) they are supposed to report these purchases and pay the sales taxes owed—which are typically referred to as a 'use tax.' As you can imagine, few people do. The result is to narrow a state's sales-tax base. It also leads to several inefficiencies that, on net, diminish potential job and economic growth. Exempting Internet purchases from the sales tax naturally encourages consumers to buy goods over the Web; worse, the exemption incentivizes consumers to use in-state retailers as a showroom before they do so. This increases in-state retailers' overall costs and reduces their overall productivity." (Arthur B. Laffer, "Tax Internet Sales, Stimulate Growth," The Wall Street Journal, 4/17/13)

Al Cardenas, former Chairman of the American Conservative Union (ACU): "When it comes to sales tax, it is time to address the area where prejudice is most egregious—our policy towards Internet sales. At issue is the federal government exempting some Internet transactions from sales taxes while requiring the remittance of sales taxes for identical sales made at brick and mortar locations. It is an outdated set of policies in today's super information age, when families every day make decisions to purchase goods and services online or in person. Moreover, it's unfair, punitive to some small businesses and corporations and a boon for others." (Al Cardenas, "The Chief Threat To American Competitiveness: Our Tax Code," National Review Online, 11/8/11)

Charles Krauthammer: "The real issue here is the fairness argument—that if you're an old fashioned store, you have to have your customers and you pay the sales tax and online you don't. Which, I mean, you're already at a disadvantage if you're an old fashioned store: you have to have, you have to cover rent, you have to cover insurance and all that. So I think you want to have something that will level the playing field. You can do it one of two ways. You abolish all sales taxes for real stores and nobody pays. Or you get the Internet people to pay the sales tax as well. I think the second one is the only way to do it, obviously." ("Friday Lightning Round: Internet sales tax bill," Fox News Special Report with Bret Baier, 4/26/13)

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker: "Since taking office, it has been my priority, and the priority of a number of members of the legislature, to provide tax relief to middle class families, and to foster an environment that promotes job creation. I want to make clear, should federal Marketplace legislation become law, my intention would be for any resulting additional revenue be used to provide individual income tax relief for Wisconsin's taxpayers." (Letter to Wisconsin Congressional Delegation, 5/15/2013)

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie: Governor Chris Christie: "I just want to make clear that I have been working on this issue in my role on the executive committee of the National Governors Association because it is an important issue to all the nation's governors. And I too—along with governors like Governor Daniels and others—urge the federal government and the Congress in particular to get behind Senator Lamar Alexander's legislation to allow states to be able to make these choices for themselves. And I think Senator Alexander's legislation would be a great step forward in that regard. It would give states options to decide how they

want to deal with this and not have to any longer deal with the federal prohibition on dealing with it. So, it would allow us to do it in a much more uniform and broader way. So, I'm with Governor Daniels on this and other Republican governors—Governor Snyder of Michigan and others who feel strongly about it. And we've been working on it at the National Governors Association and I know we will continue to and hope to get some type of resolution to it by the end of this year." (Press Conference, Governor Chris Christie, 5/31/12)

Utah Governor Gary Herbert: "On March 24, 2012, Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed into law an affiliate nexus bill that will require certain remote sellers to collect and remit Utah sales tax, effective July 1, 2012. An out-of-state seller will be considered to have nexus in Utah if the seller holds a substantial ownership interest in, or is owned in whole or in substantial part, by a related seller, and the seller sells the same or a substantially similar line of products as the related seller and does so under the same or a substantially similar business name, or the place of business of the related seller or an in-state employee of the related seller is used to advertise, promote, or facilitate sales by the seller to the purchaser." ("Utah Enacts Affiliate Nexus Bill," Sales Tax Institute, 3/24/12)

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam: "The National Governors Association applauds your efforts to level the playing field between Main Street retailers and online sellers by introducing S. 1832, the 'Marketplace Fairness Act.' This common sense approach will allow states to collect the taxes they are owed, help businesses comply with different state laws, and provide fair competition between retailers that will benefit consumers." (National Governors Association Letter To Sens. Durbin, Enzi, Tim Johnson And Alexander Endorsing S. 1832, The Marketplace Fairness Act, 11/28/11)

Indiana Governor Mike Pence: "I don't think Congress should be in the business of picking winners and losers. Inaction by Congress today results in a system today that does pick winners and losers." (House Judiciary Committee, Hearing On "Constitutional Limitations On States' Authority To Collect Sales Taxes In E-Commerce," 11/30/11)

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder: "Technology currently exists to quickly and effectively calculate taxes due on sales and can be easily be integrated into online retailers' operations," wrote Snyder, a onetime venture capitalist and former executive at the computer company Gateway. "It is time for Congress to grant states the authority to enforce sales tax and use laws on all retailers doing business in their state." (Bernie Becker, "Michigan Governor Joins Online Sales Tax Chorus," The Hill, 5/11/12)

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley: "Alabama's Republican governor has urged lawmakers from his state to support online sales tax legislation, adding to the growing roster of GOP officials who are on board with the idea. Gov. Robert Bentley told Alabama's two senators and seven House members the online sales tax bills would improve the state's fiscal situation, and stressed that the legislation would not create a new tax. 'The bills will give Alabama the authority to collect sales taxes—as we currently do from local brick-and-mortar retailers—that are already owed from online retailers,' Bentley wrote in a letter dated April 19. 'Allowing us to effectively close this sales tax loophole would help both our state's finances and our state's small businesses.'" (Bernie Becker,

"Alabama Governor Gets Behind Online Sales Tax Push," *The Hill*, 4/25/12)

South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard: "On March 11, South Dakota enacted S.B. 146, sales tax legislation that requires out-of-state retailers that sell to in-state residents to notify their customers of their personal use tax obligation. Under the law, online sellers are required to provide clear notice to consumers during the checkout process that a South Dakota use tax is due." (Rosemary Hawkins, "Sales Tax Bills Pass In Arkansas And South Dakota," *American Booksellers Association*, 3/31/11)

Maine Governor Paul LePage: "Last week, Gov. Paul LePage, R-Maine, wrote his state's two U.S. senators, Republicans Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, to urge them to back legislation introduced by Sens. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., that would close a loophole left by a 1992 Supreme Court decision. The high court ruled that states can't require retailers such as catalog and now online retailers to collect sales taxes from customers in states where those companies have no physical presence. 'There's no denying that passing the bill would give thousands of small Maine businesses a real boost,' LePage wrote. 'Through no fault of their own, federal policy now gives some out-of-state corporations an unfair advantage over other Maine retailers.'" (Juliana Gruenewald, "Tea Party Governor Is Backing Net Sales Tax Bill," *National Journal*, 3/20/12)

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval: "'The only way to completely resolve this issue is for Congress to enact legislation that, within a simplified nationwide framework, grants states the right to require collection by all sellers,' Sandoval said in a statement." (Ed Vogel, "Gov. Sandoval Reaches Sales Tax Deal With Amazon," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 4/24/12)

Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter: "Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter backs taxing Internet sales to level the playing field between virtual businesses and brick-and-mortar establishments on Idaho's Main Street. Otter made the remarks to Idaho chamber of commerce leaders meeting in Boise on Monday." ("Idaho Governor Supports Internet Sales Tax," *The Associated Press*, 1/30/12)

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley: "'And I will tell you regardless of what happens with Amazon, we want them. I have told them we want you to do business in this state, but we want you to do it on a level playing field. They got free property, they got tax incentives, they got plenty of things. Don't ask us to give you sales tax relief when we're not giving it to the book store down the street or we're not giving it to the other stores on the other side of town, it's just not a level playing field.'" (Press Conference, Governor Nikki Haley, 4/28/11)

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad Supports Federal E-Fairness Legislation: "Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa this week became the latest in a string of top Republican state officials to back federal legislation giving states more freedom to collect online sales taxes. Branstad's letter of support, obtained exclusively by *The Hill*, comes not long after another prominent Republican governor, Chris Christie of New Jersey, also urged Congress to get moving on sales tax legislation. . . . In a letter sent Thursday, Branstad encouraged his home-state senators to support a solution that he said would close a longstanding loophole. 'I understand that the coalition supporting this legislation is now very broad which gives me hope that, under your leadership, this legislation can be passed yet this

year,' Branstad wrote to Sens. Chuck Grassley (R) and Tom Harkin (D). 'The Internet is now a robust, mature and dynamic marketplace that does not warrant special protections,' he added. 'The application of sales taxes only to 'brick-and-mortar' retailers, many of which are small businesses, puts those very entities at a competitive disadvantage.'" (Bernie Becker & Kevin Bogardus, "GOP Governors Bolster Sales Tax Push," *The Hill*, 6/10/12)

Former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels: "[S]ales taxes that [states] impose ought to be paid, and paid by everybody equally and collected by everybody in the retail business. . . . We're not talking about an additional or new tax here—we're talking about the collection of a tax that's existed a long time." (Jeremy Hobson, "Indiana Makes A Deal With Amazon On Sales Taxes," *Marketplace Business*, 1/12/12)

Former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour: ". . . [E]-commerce has grown, and there is simply no longer a compelling reason for government to continue giving online retailers special treatment over small businesses who reside on the Main Streets across Mississippi and the country. The time to level the playing field is now. . . ." (Letter To Sens. Enzi And Alexander Endorsing S. 1832, *The Marketplace Fairness Act*, 11/29/11)

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush: "It seems to me there has to be a way to tax sales done online in the same way that sales are taxed in brick and mortar establishments. My guess is that there would be hundreds of millions of dollars that then could be used to reduce taxes to fulfill campaign promises." (Letter To Florida Governor Rick Scott, 1/2/11)

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I know the block of time for the majority leader starts at 2 o'clock, but I wanted to say while Senator ENZI and the senior Senator from Tennessee are on the floor how much I appreciate and admire their advocacy for marketplace fairness.

It is so unfair. I go home to Nevada and I see in those little strip malls "For Lease." One reason they are for lease and they are not operating is because people who can go online don't want to pay the taxes that support the people of the State of Nevada.

It is so wrong, what is going on, and I can't imagine why we can't move this legislation forward. This has taken years and years. It is so unfair.

Many businesses have gone bankrupt, out of business as a result of not having a level playing field. It is very unfortunate we are having problems getting this done.

I do not understand the House—why they feel the way they do. I don't understand it, but they do, and I think it is unfair.

I don't think we are getting the support we should from retail people. They have to talk to their Members when we go home and talk to Senators. Of course, there are people in town who make a lot of money representing these shopping centers and retail merchants. They get paid a lot of money to represent them in Congress. I think they

are not doing a very good job if they can't convince Members of the Senate and the House that this legislation should have passed a long time ago.

Madam President, the hour of 2 o'clock is almost here. Please explain to me and the people who are watching what happens at 2 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3 p.m. will be under the control of the majority.

The majority leader.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Madam President, today marks the 510th day as so well represented on the poster the Senator from California had on display. That is how long it has been since we passed an immigration reform bill—comprehensive immigration reform. The House of Representatives simply has refused to address this issue. They have refused to address the fact that we have a broken immigration system that needs to be fixed. All the Speaker would have to do is bring this up for a vote and it would pass. The bill that passed here 510 days ago would pass the House overwhelmingly. But he refuses to bring it up.

In this bill we passed 73 weeks ago, we were able to pass comprehensive immigration reform because Senate Democrats and Republicans recognized that our immigration laws are failing the American people. We sent that same bipartisan bill to the House 17 months ago. For the last 17 months, the House Republicans, led by a small, vocal, really radical group, has forced the Speaker, I assume, not to do anything. They have neglected to tackle the real issues affecting our immigration system.

We have talked about 510 days, we have talked about 73 weeks, and we have talked about 17 months. That is enough time for them to consider the bill the Senate considered and passed in just a few weeks, but they still refuse to do anything, even as families across the country have been ripped apart.

I have been present at meetings, meetings—I remember one of the last at the White House—where the Republican leaders of the House and Senate have said: Give us some time, give us some time. We have given them time—510 days, to be exact. And they are always saying: Let's do something. Well, something is not enough, they need to do comprehensive immigration reform, and they refuse to do that.

So in light of the fact that families are being ripped apart—and there is no question they are. The first time I saw this, where I really felt it in my heart, Bill Richardson, with whom I served in the House—he was Secretary of Energy and Ambassador to the United Nations—he came to Las Vegas, and he said: Let's go out to the Rafael Rivera

Center. It was, at the time, a new place, named after the first non-Indian to see the Las Vegas valley—Rafael Rivera. I have a painting in my office that reflects that. So we went to that center, and I can remember so clearly these mostly women crying over the fact that their husbands had lost their jobs, they were being deported, and they had little American boys and girls there with them. These were boys and girls who had been born in the United States. I thought, gee, that is terrible. I mean the suffering and the sadness. I have never forgotten that, and that is one of the main reasons I have worked so hard on immigration reform.

In light of the Republicans' inaction, and our action and our advocacy of this issue, it seems to me what the President said at his State of the Union Address is really applicable here. Here is what he said: If the Republicans continue to do nothing, I am going to be forced as the President of the United States to do something by Executive order. And I am glad. I am glad he is going, in the next couple of days for sure, to use his constitutionally established authority to fix as much of our broken immigration system as is possible. He told everybody he was going to do it in his State of the Union and he has waited and waited and nothing has happened.

Some Republicans are threatening to shut down the government. They have done it once before, so I guess we should take their threat seriously. They want to shut down the government because of what the President said he is going to do and what he is going to do. But this isn't about the Republicans and President Obama, this is about where the Republicans stand with the immigrant community.

My father-in-law, my wife's dad, was an immigrant. He was born in Russia. He came to the United States to escape the oppression in Russia. So this whole issue is about how Republicans stand with the immigrant community.

The immigrant community is what has made this country what it is. Those who will come forward under this Executive action the President is going to take are, with rare exception, hard-working immigrant dads and moms who are supporting their families. They came to America for the same reasons early immigrants came to America, just like my father-in-law, Earl Gould, did. By the way, he changed his name when he came to the United States. He came here as Israel Goldfarb, and he changed his name, as many immigrants have done.

As my father-in-law did, the people who are going to come here under this Executive order can build a better life for themselves and their families. They have deep ties in America. They work hard. As I have indicated, they have spouses and children. Under our broken immigration system, there is no line

for these people to get into, no process for them to sign up for, and no way to remedy this situation. They are in limbo. They are in the shadows. They are in darkness.

President Obama, fortunately, is going to do something to give them just that, a line to come forward, a line that he recognizes must be done to get the system started.

We can't give these people their green cards and put them on the path to citizenship immediately. Only Congress can and must finish the job in overhauling and rewriting these laws. I want to be clear that Executive action is important, but it is not a substitute for legislation, and the Speaker should understand that.

Yes, we passed a bill. The President will be happy to sign such a bill. But because Republicans have refused to legislate, President Obama is taking what steps he can to keep these families together and enforce the laws. The President is acting within his legal authority to use his Executive power to improve the immigration system.

Did he just dream this up one night meeting with his staff? Did someone suddenly come to him and say, I have a great idea. Why don't we try to do something different? He is going to do something that has been tried 39 times since Dwight Eisenhower was President. Virtually every President since Eisenhower was President has done Executive actions as relates to immigration.

I would also say to my Republican friends who are always talking about, boy, we have to do something important financially for the good of this country, why not pass this bill? It would benefit our country to the tune of \$1 trillion.

I strongly support the steps the President is going to take. I support him, and I hope he does it as soon as possible, because his Executive action will help keep families together and focus law enforcement resources on real criminals.

We have waited a long time for House Republicans. Since they won't act, the President will, and he should act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to remind my colleagues that it has been over 500 days since the Senate passed a strong bipartisan bill to fix our broken immigration system.

There is a lot of hand-wringing going on on the other side of the aisle about the President taking Executive action, as he has now announced he intends to do. Republicans are saying that anything and everything is on the table to stop the President from taking Executive action. Well, if the bounds are anything and everything, I have a suggestion. Pass our bill. It is a very simple suggestion.

If the House votes on our bipartisan bill, the discussion about Executive ac-

tion would be made moot. It is the other body of Congress that has led us to the point where we are today. The only reason the administration has to take Executive action is because the House has failed to address our broken immigration system. I think everyone on our side agrees it would be far preferable to pass the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate 68 to 32 than any Executive action.

Let me say a few things. The bill is a bipartisan bill with support from every corner of the political map—business, labor, evangelicals, Catholics—and it has been sitting on the shelf gathering dust for 500 days. So it is the absolute height of hypocrisy for House leadership to say that now Congress should be in the driver's seat on immigration reform when they refused to take the wheel.

And let me say this, Mr. President. I don't think anyone has any faith that if they were given another 3 months or 6 months or 9 months that they would come to any kind of real bill. They can't. They have the tea party. Such a high percentage of their primary voters strongly argue against doing a bill. In fact, many of those tea party types are saying shut down the government.

The dithering and dawdling on the House side is particularly perplexing because our bill would achieve so many goals the Republicans claim are part of their agenda. It would secure the border, create jobs, add economic growth, and cut the deficit.

The bipartisan bill that passed the Senate provides more than \$40 billion to secure our border. This would mean more than doubling the Border Patrol presence on our Southwest border, completing the border fence, setting up much more surveillance technology—sensors, drones, many of which are so good they can detect—these are the drones that surveil, not shoot—they can detect the difference when a deer or a person crosses the border. They are not on the border now.

Yes, the border needs help. Blocking our bill, not passing our bill, keeps the status quo, which nobody likes. Passing our bill solves the problem. With a Republican amendment authored by the Senator from Tennessee, Senator CORKER, and the Senator from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN, that tightens up the border tougher than it has ever been.

The bipartisan bill also strengthens interior enforcement of our immigration laws. So many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle keep saying E-Verify, E-Verify, E-Verify. Well, it is in the bill to crack down on unscrupulous employers requiring an entry-exit tracking system at our airports and seaports to catch people who overstay their visas, and reforming and clarifying the list of violent crimes that make an immigrant deportable so law enforcement officials have the tools they need to keep us safe.

For America to remain competitive, we must have a legal immigration system that works. Right now we have it backwards. We turn away people who would create jobs. Our bipartisan bill will change all that for farm workers, tech firms, entrepreneurs, and so many more, while leveling the playing field for American workers. Because of internal enforcement, when someone crosses the border and doesn't have a real job available and has no family connection, they can't stay. They won't get a job.

Many of our labor friends are for this bill. The construction trades, which probably suffer more from illegal immigration than any other, are strongly for our bill. The bill clears the employment and visa backlogs so American businesses can have access to the workers they need and their families will be united, decreases family wait times at our bridges and ports of entry. It is great for the tourism industry, making it easier for foreign travelers to spend their dollars here instead of somewhere else and, finally, a tough but fair pathway to citizenship.

The other side says it is amnesty. They are listening to Rush Limbaugh—amnesty, amnesty, amnesty. Amnesty means you get away with it without paying a price. Here is the price someone has to pay if they cross the border illegally: No. 1, they have to pay all their back taxes; No. 2, they have to keep working; No. 3, they have to admit wrongdoing; No. 4, they have to pay a fine; No. 5, they have to learn English; No. 6, they have to go to the back of the line, which is what our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have always asked for.

This system was set up by none other than MARCO RUBIO in our Gang of 8, and it says: If somebody crossed the border illegally in 2008, but someone else has waited patiently at the Embassy since 2007, the 2007 person gets to come into this country before the 2008 person.

Because of all this, here is what the bill does:

First, it would grow the economy by 3.3 percent over the next 10 years and 5.5 percent over 20. No Republican tax cut, no Democratic spending program would have that effect—and without any cost to the deficit. In fact, at the same time we are growing our economy with this proposal—this is CBO, not CHUCK SCHUMER—we reduce the deficit by \$150 billion in the next 10 years and \$900 billion over the next 20 years. So \$1 trillion in savings, as we benefit America.

The bill has unprecedented support: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the guardian of business interests; the AFL-CIO, the protector of American workers; the faith community, evangelicals, Protestants, Mormons. The liberal and conservative religious sectors in America are for our bill,

America's farmers, growers, and American farmworkers, law enforcement, the immigrant rights community.

So the historic coalition came together because again this bill strengthens our borders and national security, provides an enormous boost for the American economy, fairly and conclusively addresses the status of people here illegally, and prevents future waves of illegal immigrants.

When we got this bill passed we were almost certain the House would pass it. It is a conservative bill, and try and try and try as they might, they couldn't. So now we are up to the last hours of this Congress and there is one more chance. Just put the bill on the floor, Speaker BOEHNER. You don't have to twist a single arm. It has the votes to pass. It will do America so much good.

I love America. I want to see us stay No. 1 in every way and economically above all. This bill will do it more than anything else we could do.

I would say to my colleagues, don't be afraid of the Tea Party. They are afraid of the word "amnesty," even though the bill is not amnesty at all as I mentioned. But Rush Limbaugh says "amnesty" incessantly, and I know my Republican colleagues—I am a political guy in some ways—they are afraid primary voters that skew far right believe it is amnesty. The Tea Party may be a sliver of the American public, but they are a huge percentage of primary voters in too many Republican districts and that is what they are afraid of. Talk about courage. Talk about loving the country. Talk about doing the right thing. We have to pass the bill.

The real Republican Party position on immigration is pretend to be pro-immigration reform rhetorically but never allow immigration reform to come to a vote. That is the bad news.

The good news is there is still time to fix it. So I urge my colleagues, avoid this conundrum, avoid your dilemma that you will create. Pass the bill, and we will not even have to debate Executive action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about one of the most important issues facing our Nation as we have been hearing for the past 15 minutes; that is, our longstanding, desperate need to finally fix our Nation's broken immigration system.

Too often in the debate about immigration it is difficult for some people to understand that the millions of undocumented families in our country are already an important part of our communities. Immigrants work hard and they pay their taxes, they send their children to American schools, and they make up a critical part of the fabric of our society. They are Americans in all but name.

So when we talk about immigration reform, we are not talking about some vague philosophical issue. This is an issue that impacts families, it impacts our businesses, it impacts our national security, and it impacts what we stand for as Americans.

It is not a new issue either. It is something we have been debating and arguing about for more than a decade, but it is something we have never been able to tackle, and that is not for the lack of trying.

As everyone here remembers, more than 500 days ago now the Senate did something remarkable. Members from different backgrounds and different States and different parties came together to reach an agreement, and in the Senate we passed a real bipartisan coalition of 68 Republicans and Democrats, a comprehensive immigration reform bill that would finally start to fix our broken immigration system.

As we heard from the Senator from New York, it would improve our security, provide businesses with the certainty they need, and provide a real path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are forced to live in the shadows.

Not only was this bill a step toward fixing our broken immigration system, it was good for our economy. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Senate bill would reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion over the next two decades.

So we sent the bill to the House of Representatives knowing the path forward there might not be easy, but we heard from Members of the House on both sides of the aisle that they also knew immigration reform had to happen this Congress.

Back then, in June of 2013, we knew we had time on our side. Speaker BOEHNER had a full year and a half to do one simple thing, bring the bipartisan Senate bill up for a vote. We knew then what we still know today; that if the Speaker brought that bill up for a vote, it would pass with bipartisan support and become law.

But instead of doing that, the Speaker sided with the Tea Party and refused to move our country forward. He has made it very clear that the House will refuse to act this Congress and ignore the historic opportunity we have.

For years and years millions of immigrant families who have played by the rules—paid their taxes, raised their children in the United States—have waited and waited for action. They have organized, they have hoped and they have prayed and they have trusted the system would eventually work. The system has failed. So now it is time to act.

President Obama has made it clear that because the House refuses to act—because the House refuses to act—he will take administrative action before

the end of the year to improve our immigration system, and I support his decision to do that.

The President's authority to take action is well established. In fact, every President since Eisenhower, including Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, has used his authority to improve the administration of our immigration system and to focus enforcement resources on serious criminals rather than on hard-working immigrants with deep roots in our communities.

When the President does act, I have encouraged him to do several things: expand the already successful implementation of deferred action for DREAMers to include people with strong ties to the United States who have not committed serious crimes; to change implementation of our laws to make immigration and border enforcement humane, nondiscriminatory, and respectful of due process; and, finally, I have asked the President to improve the legal immigration system to keep immigrant families together, to protect our workers, and to provide employers—from agricultural producers to high-tech firms—certainty in a system that has often left them without answers.

But I also want to be very clear that administrative action is not a long-term solution. Plain and simple, the only way for us to permanently and effectively fix our broken immigration laws is through comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Administrative action is a bandaid, but it is better than nothing, and nothing is what the House Republicans are offering.

So I also wish to say it has been deeply disappointing to hear that some of my Republican colleagues are now threatening to shut down the government just to keep families from getting some initial relief from the pain our broken immigration system is causing. That is the latest example of extreme Republicans creating uncertainty and threatening to hurt our economy if they don't get their way, and it is the exact opposite of the approach Congress needs to take going forward.

We all know what happens when Tea Party Republicans go down this road. We saw it just last year when we had a 16-day government shutdown that brought the day-to-day workings of the government and businesses across the country to a screeching halt. That shutdown, we all know, was bad for our economy. It hit workers' paychecks, it made families across our country question whether their elected officials could get anything done at all. It was all because of a failed Tea Party political effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the umpteenth time.

Look. Even children understand that flipping the table over doesn't help win the game. It just means someone has to

pick up the mess they just made. When it comes to Tea Party political tactics, we have seen more than enough of that in this Congress.

As we all remember, the budget deal I reached with Chairman RYAN wasn't perfect—I know Chairman RYAN would say the same thing—but it was an important step away from brinkmanship and toward bipartisanship on the budget.

In the next week Republican leaders are going to have an important choice to make. They can choose bipartisanship and continue to push the Tea Party aside and work with Democrats on issues such as the budget and fixing our broken immigration system or they can go back to Tea Party-style governing by crisis, which hurts families and communities and our economy and will make it much more difficult to put in place the lasting comprehensive immigration reform we need.

I urge them to take the bipartisan path. I am ready and willing to work with them if they do, and I know my Democratic colleagues are as well. I know our country will be stronger for it now and for decades to come.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Washington for her strong statement. It makes so much sense.

We have this poster here, "510 Days." That is how long ago the Senate passed the bipartisan immigration bill that Senator MURRAY talked about and Senator SCHUMER talked about. That is 17 months; 510 days is 17 months.

So here is the deal. The Republicans in the House refuse to take up the Senate bill, which strengthens the border while giving a pathway of legality to hard-working immigrants here who are undocumented.

It is pretty simple but comprehensive—common sense. Here is the thing: They will not take up the bill. So then we say: What is your idea? Where is your bill? They don't have one.

So then President Obama, knowing we have 11 million undocumented immigrants living in America, realizes he can't let this matter go on. He has waited 100 days, 200 days, 300 days, 400 days, 500 days. The country has waited for 17 months.

So the President is going to do what Presidents are supposed to do, which is look at a problem that is hurting the country and do his best to fix it. The President has said to the House he would be thrilled to sign the bipartisan immigration bill the Senate passed. Take it up and pass it.

Oh, no. Do you know what their answer is? To verbally threaten the President and, frankly, the American people by such comments as—this is one that I heard the Republican leader MITCH MCCONNELL say: If he does this, if he

takes this action, if he takes action on immigration, it would be like waving a red flag in front of a bull.

No, it wouldn't be. It would be a President who understands that action is needed. Guess what. Eleven other Presidents, Republican and Democrat, have taken Executive action on immigration. I never in all my years ever heard one Republican take to task any of those other Presidents, and I will give you the list of who they are: Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George Bush, Sr., Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and President Obama used his authority for the DREAMers.

The charts are being held up to show you how many actions have been taken. We have these two charts here that show a lot of Executive actions by Presidents on immigration.

What is wrong with my Republican friends? Do they not know history or are they just blindly attacking this President because they are annoyed that he got reelected?

Step up to the plate, smell the roses, look at the reality. The reality is all these other Presidents have taken action. Look what the immigration council says, the American Immigration Council said:

Past Republican presidents have not been shy to use the White House's power to retool immigration policy. In fact, Obama could learn a lot from Presidents Ronald Reagan's and George H.W. Bush's Executive actions to preserve the unity of immigrant families and move past congressional refusal to enact immigration reform.

So, Earth to the Republicans: You refuse to take up the bipartisan Senate bill which strengthens our border while giving a legal path to citizenship or legality to our undocumented, making sure that those who commit crimes are deported. We look at what is happening in our ag community and fix that. They won't do it.

So they are stamping their foot and saying what President Obama wants to do is unconstitutional. Excuse me, unconstitutional? Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Eisenhower—I read the list. They never said that before. They never said that before. Carter, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Clinton, Bush, Sr., Reagan, George W., and Obama. Now they say to the President—and I don't have the exact quote. We heard a comment from the Republican leader. What they are basically saying to the President is, If you do your job, we are going to be mad. And what the President has said to them is, Please do your job. If you do your job, I won't have to take Executive action. I would prefer to have this in legislation. And as Senator MURRAY has said, that is the preferable road. But they either won't do it or they don't want to do it or they want another confrontation with the President.

I think it was JOHN BOEHNER, the Republican Speaker, who said if the

President takes this Executive action, which as I have shown you many other Presidents have done, he will “poison the well.” He is telling the President that if the President does his job—my words—as 11 Presidents have done, it will “poison the well.”

And what are they going to do about it? Who knows. Are they going to try to impeach the President or sue the President? I guess they have to impeach 10 others.

And by the way, I wrote the President a letter and asked him to take Executive action. In my view, it is absolutely necessary, because if you follow the law, 11 million people could be deported—our neighbors, our friends, families would be split up.

I thought Republicans were the party of family values. Family values—I have been lectured on family values. Somehow if one supports a woman's right to choose and to get health care, it is not following family values, but one can break up families and have parents and children separated, and that, I guess, doesn't fall under the definition.

It has been 17 months since we passed our bill and either they are too lazy to take it up or they don't want to take it up. They would rather threaten this President. I just have to tell them, we have a Congress, we have a court system, and we have a President. We don't have President McConnell, we don't have President Boehner, we don't have President Reid, we don't have President Boxer. We have President Obama, and he has to do his job. If you don't like it, that is fine. Lord knows I have served with five Presidents. I didn't agree with them half the time, but I didn't threaten to shut down the government or impeach them or sue them.

Now here is the deal: Why can't they find time to take up our bill? They have voted 50 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act—50 times—but they cannot find time to debate or pass a bill to reform our Nation's immigration laws.

I served in the House for 10 years. The rules in the House are easy. It is nothing like the Senate where you need unanimous consent to do anything, to even open up the Senate. In the House, if the majority, who are now the Republicans, wants to introduce a bill, all they have to do is introduce a bill.

They won't do it. It has been 17 months. Then the President says, oh, my God, we have got an issue here. Everyone agrees we have 11 million undocumented immigrants here. We have issues at the border. We have issues at detention facilities. We have issues in the ag industry. We have issues of families being torn apart. The President is going to do what he can do, just as 10 other Presidents have done previously. So what does he get in response from our Republican friends? Nothing that would allay our concerns. They don't

say, Mr. President, we understand your frustration. Don't worry, we will get a bill done. It may not be the same as the Senate. We have other ideas. They do nothing. They are do-nothing and they want our President to be do-nothing when it comes to immigration.

Frankly, if our President did not take action, it would be a terrible mistake. I have already established that he is within his constitutional rights. He would be joining 10 other Presidents who, by the way, acted on 40 occasions over the last 60 years. So here is a group of Republicans threatening to impeach the President, sue the President, shut down the government over something that 11 Presidents have done over the past 60 years on 40 occasions. I never ever, ever heard one Republican or Democrat threaten to shut down the government when a President took action over immigration.

The Republicans won't act. So what do they think is going to happen, status quo? The status quo doesn't work. It is not working at the border. It is not working for our families. It is not working at the workplace. It is not working in our communities.

I was in the House when President Reagan signed into law a major immigration bill legalizing 3 million immigrants in 1986, and then the Congress didn't do the next step. They didn't take the next step. So he took Executive action to stop deportations that would interfere with family reunification. President Reagan—I didn't hear one Republican threaten to impeach the President, sue the President, take action, shut down the government, make life miserable for the American people. No. But they are doing it now.

In 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush directed his Attorney General to halt deportations of an estimated 190,000 Salvadorans who were fleeing the civil war there, and he used his power to halt the deportation of up to 1.5 million spouses and children. I did not hear one Republican—not one—threaten to sue the President, threaten to take him to court, threaten to impeach him, threaten to shut down the government and make life miserable for the American people.

President Bush's family fairness policy Executive action was sweeping. It affected more than 40 percent of the undocumented population in the United States at the time. He thought big—George Bush, Sr.—he thought big, and this President should think big.

I will tell you why. If you ask economic experts what are the best measures we can do for our economy, they are clear about it. They say one measure we should implement is to raise the minimum wage. We Democrats are trying to do that and we will never give up trying to do that. Reforming immigration is another measure that is one of the best ways to stimulate our economy and create jobs, and it is all laid

out in a USC study which shows that immigration reform with a path to citizenship would inject \$8 billion into my State's economy—my State of California—each year—\$8 billion each year. Nationwide it would increase our gross domestic product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, increase wages for workers, and lead to between 750,000 to 900,000 new jobs. That is almost a million new jobs created, according to the Center for American Progress.

So help me out here, Republicans. What is your problem? You never complained when Republican Presidents took Executive action to fix a broken immigration system. You say you are for jobs and the economy and business, and if you look at the support for immigration reform, it runs right through our society from the Chambers of Commerce to labor and everybody in between. And if we don't act, the dire situation of undocumented immigrants will only get worse. Families will continue to be torn apart. People will continue to live in the shadows. The reason our economy will be thriving once people get out of the shadows is they are not afraid to come out. They are not afraid to buy a house. They are not afraid to spend money. They are not afraid to start new businesses. They are not afraid to hire workers. It is a no-brainer. This is one of the most important things we can do for our economy, for jobs, for prosperity, for our communities.

In closing, because I see my friend from Connecticut is here, and I want to yield the floor, there are two priorities that are at stake: a healthy economy—and I have laid that out—and family values. The American people, including the people of California, support bold and compassionate action on immigration reform. We have already established that the President has the legal authority to act just as other Presidents of both parties have in the past.

I say to the President today, as I have said to him in writing, if you act you will have my strong support and you will have the support of so many people across this country. You will keep our families together, you will strengthen our economy, and you will make our country stronger.

I say to the House again, while you are still here in Washington, if you don't want the President to fill the void for your lack of action, then take up and pass the Senate immigration bill. Get to work. If you don't like that bill, then make another bill, but take care of this problem because if you continue to be a do-nothing House when it comes to immigration, I can assure you this President will not follow your lead and be a do-nothing President when it comes to immigration. That would be terribly wrong. It would be wrong not only for our immigrant community but for every single one of us.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have two articles printed in the

RECORD, along with an article in the National Journal that details the number of times Presidents have used their authority to act on immigration.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From huffingtonpost.com, Nov. 15, 2014]

REAGAN, BUSH ALSO ACTED WITHOUT CONGRESS TO SHIELD IMMIGRANTS FROM DEPORTATION

(By Andrew Taylor)

WASHINGTON (AP).—Two presidents have acted unilaterally on immigration—and both were Republican. Ronald Reagan and his successor George H.W. Bush extended amnesty to family members who were not covered by the last major overhaul of immigration law in 1986.

Neither faced the political uproar widely anticipated if and when President Barack Obama uses his executive authority to protect millions of immigrants from deportation.

Reagan's and Bush's actions were conducted in the wake of a sweeping, bipartisan immigration overhaul and at a time when "amnesty" was not a dirty word. Their actions were less controversial because there was a consensus in Washington that the 1986 law needed a few fixes and Congress was poised to act on them. Obama is acting as the country—and Washington—are bitterly divided over a broken immigration system and what to do about 11 million people living in the U.S. illegally.

Obama wants to extend protection from deportation to millions of immigrant parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, and expand his 2-year-old program that shields immigrants brought illegally to this country as children.

A tea party-influenced GOP is poised to erupt, if and when Obama follows through on his promise.

"The audacity of this president to think he can completely destroy the rule of law with the stroke of a pen is unfathomable to me," said GOP Rep. Steve King of Iowa, an outspoken opponent of relaxing U.S. immigration law. "It is unconstitutional, it is cynical, and it violates the will of the American people."

Some Republicans have even raised the possibility of impeachment.

Here's a timeline of then and now:

1986. Congress and Reagan enacted a sweeping overhaul that gave legal status to up to 3 million immigrants without authorization to be in the country, if they had come to the U.S. before 1982. Spouses and children who could not meet that test did not qualify, which incited protests that the new law was breaking up families.

1987. Early efforts in Congress to amend the law to cover family members failed. Reagan's Immigration and Naturalization Service commissioner announced that minor children of parents granted amnesty by the law would get protection from deportation. Spouses and children of couples in which one parent qualified for amnesty but the other did not remained subject to deportation, leading to efforts to amend the 1986 law.

1989. By a sweeping 81-17 vote, the Senate in July voted to prohibit deportations of family members of immigrants covered by the 1986 law. The House failed to act.

1990. In February, President George H.W. Bush, acting through the Immigration and Naturalization Service, established a "family fairness" in which family members living with a legalizing immigrant and who were in

the U.S. before passage of the 1986 law were granted protection from deportation and authorized to seek employment. The administration estimated up to 1.5 million people would be covered by the policy. Congress in October passed a broader immigration law that made the protections permanent.

2012. In July, the Obama administration announces a new policy curbing deportations for certain immigrants brought illegally to the country as kids. The policy, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), applies to people younger than 30 who were brought to the U.S. before they turned 16 and meet other criteria such as graduating high school. It has now granted two-year deportation reprieves and work permits to nearly 600,000 people.

2013-2014 (Congress). After months of work, the Senate in June 2013 passes, 68-32, a huge immigration overhaul bill that includes a path to citizenship for immigrants who meet strict criteria. The House fails to act. In a televised interview with Telemundo, Obama says expanding the DACA program to cover the parents of children allowed to remain in the country under the program "would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that's not an option."

2014 Frustrated by Congress' inability to act on immigration, Obama announces in June that he'll use executive powers to address other elements of the flawed immigration system. Like Bush, Obama is expected to extend deportation protections to families of U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Obama's anticipated action would not award legal status, but it would offer temporary protection from deportation to up to 5 million people, as well as the possibility of obtaining a work permit. He delayed action until after Election Day. On Monday, Democratic leaders sent a letter to Obama saying they strongly support his plans to take executive action on immigration.

[From the hill.com, Oct. 2, 2014]

WHEN REAGAN AND GHW BUSH TOOK BOLD EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

(By Mark Noferi)

Congressional Republicans are outraged that President Obama may take executive action on immigration reform after the midterm elections—perhaps by deferring deportations and providing work authorization to millions of unauthorized immigrants with strong family ties to the United States. However, past Republican presidents have not been shy to use the White House's power to retool immigration policy. In fact, Obama could learn a lot from presidents Ronald Reagan's and George H. W. Bush's executive actions to preserve the unity of immigrant families, and move past Congressional refusal to enact immigration reform.

The story begins on November 6, 1986, when Reagan signed the last comprehensive legalization bill to pass Congress. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) gave up to 3 million unauthorized immigrants a path to legalization if they had been "continuously" present in the U.S. since January 1, 1982. But the new law excluded their spouses and children who didn't qualify. As the Senate Judiciary Committee stated at the time, "the families of legalized aliens . . . will be required to 'wait in line'."

Immediately, these split-eligibility families became the most polarizing national immigration issue. U.S. Catholic bishops criticized the government's "separation of families," especially given Reagan's other pro-family stances. In early 1987, members of

Congress introduced legislation to legalize family members, but without success.

Shortly after Congress' failure, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) commissioner Alan Nelson announced he was "exercising the Attorney General's discretion" to assure that children would "be covered" by legalization. The administration granted a blanket deferral of deportation (logistically similar to today's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program) for children under 18 who were living in a two-parent household with both parents legalizing, or with a single parent who was legalizing.

Lawmakers and advocates, however, urged Reagan to go further. Spouses and some children who had one parent able to legalize but not the other remained unprotected. A California immigrants' rights group called this "contrary to the American tradition of keeping families together." And as Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) told the INS, "If you have the discretion to protect children, why not a family?"

In July 1989, the Senate moved to protect a bigger group—all spouses and children of those who legalized under IRCA. The Senate passed legislation 81-17 that prohibited the administration from deporting family members of immigrants in the process of legalizing and directed officials to grant them work authorization. The House failed to act on the Senate's bill.

George Bush Sr. then responded in February 1990 by administratively implementing the Senate bill's provisions himself. As Bush's INS Commissioner, Gene McNary, stated: "It is vital that we enforce the law against illegal entry. However, we can enforce the law humanely. To split families encourages further violations of the law as they reunite." Under Bush's "family fairness" policy, applicants had to meet certain criteria, and reapply to the INS every year for extensions.

The Bush administration anticipated its family fairness program could help enormous numbers of immigrants—up to 1.5 million family members, which amounted to over 40 percent of the 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. at the time.

After the Bush administration moved, the House followed. In March 1990, 33 House members introduced legislation with similar provisions to stay deportation of family members. In October, Congress then passed a combined Immigration Act of 1990, with a permanent "Family Unity" provision. The Act broadened Bush's family fairness policy to include children under 21 and increased family immigration visas, ultimately providing more families a path to citizenship.

If voters thought Bush overstepped his authority, the midterm elections didn't show it. In 1990, the Republicans lost a scant nine House seats and one Senate seat (out of 33 up for election)—far lower than average midterm losses by a president's party. Bush then signed the Act in November, hailing it as continuing "support for the family as the essential unit of society" and "our tradition of family reunification." (Bush did issue a signing statement reserving the "authority of the executive branch to exercise prosecutorial discretion in suitable immigration cases.")

The success of the Reagan-Bush family fairness policy serves as a strikingly similar historical precedent for Obama. Bush Sr. "went big" to treat families fairly—deferring deportations for over 40 percent of unauthorized immigrants. Reportedly, Obama's actions could be similarly broad and help up

to 5 million immigrants—over 40 percent of today's unauthorized population. Bush Sr.'s actions gave immigrants a safe haven and spurred the House to act without negative impacts in the subsequent midterms. And the Reagan-Bush fairness policy deferred deportations to protect families, compared to previous uses of presidential authority to protect war refugees or immigrants stranded by a foreign policy crisis.

We don't know what executive action Obama will take. But we can say with certainty that presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush led the way.

CRITICS SAY EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED. THEY FORGET THEIR HISTORY

PRESIDENTS HAVE ALMOST ALWAYS ACTED FIRST TO PERMIT IMMIGRATION OR PREVENT DEPORTATION—WITH CONGRESS RATIFYING THOSE ACTIONS LATER ON.

(By Charles Kamasaki)

The president's announcement that he would soon take executive action to "to do what he could" to fix a broken immigration system in the absence of legislation has prompted critics to assert that this would be unprecedented unless first authorized by Congress. In fact, the record demonstrates the opposite. For at least the last 70 years, presidents have routinely acted first to permit the entry of people outside normal channels or to protect large numbers of people from deportation, with legislation ratifying the executive action coming later.

During World War II, the Roosevelt administration negotiated a temporary worker arrangement with the Mexican government, later known as the Bracero program, an action Congress ratified a year later. When the authorization expired in 1947, the Truman administration continued the program until it was reauthorized in 1951. Before it ended in 1964, millions of workers entered the United States under the auspices of the Bracero program, hundreds of thousands under executive—not legislative—authority. The program was rightly criticized for numerous labor and human-rights violations, but few questioned the executive authority it operated under.

After the war ended, President Truman used his executive authority to permit 250,000 people from Europe to enter or stay in the U.S. outside normal immigration channels. It was only three years after this exercise of discretion that Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, permitting some 400,000 additional entries.

In April 1975, at the end of the Vietnam War, President Ford used parole authority to authorize the evacuation of 200,000 South Vietnamese to this country; it was not until a month later that the Indochina Migration and Refugee Act of 1975 was enacted, providing resettlement funding for 130,000 of those parolees. Full legislative authorization to resettle those fleeing Indochina did not come until 1980, when Congress passed the Refugee Act, resulting in permanent resettlement of 1.4 million Indochinese in the U.S.. Although most entered as bona fide refugees, hundreds of thousands were paroled into the country when statutorily authorized numbers proved inadequate.

But these broad exercises of discretion were limited to refugees fleeing wars a long time ago, right? Wrong. Presidents have exercised their discretion more than 20 times since the mid-1970s to permit people already in the U.S. from being deported. Some sought to avoid return to a Soviet bloc country. Iranians in the 1980s sought protection

from the regime that overthrew the shah and occupied the American Embassy there. Afghans in the U.S. in the 1980s and 1990s were protected first from the Soviet puppet state and later from the Taliban. Others would have been returned to face civil war or natural disasters abroad. Not until 2003, several decades after the practice of country-specific relief from deportation was first deployed, did Congress codify the practice known as "temporary protected status."

The record also shows that Congress made many executive orders of temporary relief permanent, often years after the fact. As Fidel Castro took power in Cuba in 1959, more than 900,000 Cubans fled to the United States, the vast majority paroled into the country by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. Not until 1966, some seven years after the influx began, was the Cuban Adjustment Act passed.

In 1980, 130,000 Mariel Cubans and nearly 40,000 Haitians arrived in South Florida. Most, but not all, of the Cubans were paroled into the U.S. by President Carter. Haitians initially were protected from deportation by litigation challenging the denials of their asylum claims; most of these Haitians, and some Cubans whose entry had been challenged, eventually received discretionary "Cuban-Haitian entrant status" in the Reagan administration. Six years later, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 provided lawful permanent resident status for Cuban-Haitian entrants.

In 1987, Reagan administration Attorney General Edwin Meese directed the Immigration and Naturalization Service not to deport an estimated 200,000 Nicaraguans in the United States without authorization, including those whose asylum claims had been denied. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush instructed his attorney general to provide "deferred enforced departure" status to an estimated 190,000 Salvadorans fleeing civil war. In 1997, a decade after Meese's initial action, Congress passed legislation permitting these groups' adjustment to permanent residence.

In 1989, the Bush administration provided DED status to 80,000 Chinese students in the U.S. who feared returning to the strife that eventually led to the Tiananmen Square massacre and later issued an executive order extending their status. Congress then passed the Chinese Student Protection Act in 1992, three years following the initial executive action, making the students eligible for green cards.

OK, but major exercises of prosecutorial discretion have been used only for foreign policy reasons, right? Wrong again. Executive actions have been used by every modern administration on more than a dozen occasions to further purely domestic policy objectives. After domestic emergencies—the San Francisco earthquake, the 9/11 attack, Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, and others—immigration officials relaxed enforcement efforts to advance public health and safety. Beginning with President Carter in 1980, every administration has instructed immigration officials to reduce enforcement efforts during the census.

Other exercises of discretion went beyond specific emergencies or events. In 1977, Carter administration Attorney General Griffin Bell suspended deportation of about 250,000 people unfairly denied visas by a quirk in the allocation process. It was not until nearly a decade later, via IRCA in 1986, that all of these cases were resolved.

In 1990, INS Commissioner Gene McNary issued a "Family Fairness" policy deferring the deportation of 1.5 million immediate

family members of people receiving legalization under IRCA, building on a more-limited exercise of discretion in 1987 by Edwin Meese. Three years after Meese's original executive action, Congress codified the action in the Immigration Act of 1990.

In 1997, President Clinton provided DED status to some 40,000 Haitians previously paroled into the U.S. At the end of the 105th Congress a year later, legislation passed allowing these Haitians to permanently adjust their status.

The record is clear: Presidents of both parties have used discretionary powers on multiple occasions to protect various groups from deportation for an enormously wide variety of reasons. Except for temporary conditions, Congress acted later—often years later—to ratify the president's decisions.

Looking back now, would we reverse any of these executive actions? Should we have returned Eastern Europeans to behind the Iron Curtain, Cambodians to the killing fields, Ethiopians to a brutal civil war, Iranians to the arms of the ayatollah, or Chinese students to face the tanks in Tiananmen Square? Would we be better off without the Cubans and Haitians who revitalized South Florida over the past 40 years? Were we wrong to prevent the separation of 1.5 million people from family members getting right with the law under IRCA's legalization?

Many of these actions were controversial when first announced. But Congress later affirmed virtually all of them—without explicitly reversing any of them—suggesting that eventually they were widely accepted. Decades from now, people looking back on President Obama's imminent announcement of broad-scale executive action will see that he prevented the separation of families, began fixing a badly broken immigration system, and improved wages, housing, and education for those receiving legal status, thus immeasurably enriching the economy. They'll likely see that Congress later ratified his actions, as happened so often before.

And, they'll wonder: what was all the fuss about?

Mrs. BOXER. I say to my colleagues who have come to the floor this afternoon and are still to come to the floor, thank you.

Republicans have threatened to close down this government. They are having a temper tantrum and refuse to act on immigration and want to paralyze the Presidency.

It is time to get behind this President. It is time to get behind the American people. It is time to take a stand for this economy and for family values.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am grateful for the strong and eloquent words that were said by my colleague Senator BOXER. I am grateful to so many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle for supporting the President as he considers Executive action that would essentially enforce the law on immigration more rationally and effectively, which is what prosecutorial discretion means.

As a former U.S. attorney as well as the State attorney general in my own

State for 20 years, I know about prosecutorial discretion. I know that in exercising his discretion, the President is aware that there is simply no way every undocumented person in the United States of America can be deported tomorrow, let alone this year—probably ever.

There are 11.5 million undocumented people who live in the shadows, and the question is, How do we use the resources of the Federal Government most rationally and effectively to serve the public interest and uphold the rule of law?

The question is, essentially, How should law enforcement use its resources? That question arises every day in the United States when there is a Federal or State prosecution. It arises every day on our borders when the agents of our Federal administrative law enforcement apparatus make decisions about law enforcement. As I have learned from my experience in law enforcement, it best serves citizens when it uses those resources efficiently, effectively, and humanely in a concerted effort to address a direct threat to public safety. Law enforcement has a job to do, and it can't do everything all the time everywhere.

Decisions are necessary in the real world in practical circumstances to preserve public order and protect public safety, and that is what the President is doing by issuing an Executive order which, in effect, directs Federal resources to deport undocumented immigrants who represent a threat to this country by virtue of their criminal activity or criminal background or other circumstances that justify that rational and selective approach to law enforcement.

This approach is hardly novel, and it is highly unoriginal. In fact, President Obama's authority to direct how Federal immigration resources will be marshaled in the service of protecting public safety is very much in the tradition and history of this office. Every President since Dwight Eisenhower, whether Democratic or Republican, has done exactly what President Obama is doing in this Executive order.

In 1990 President George H.W. Bush took Executive action to defer removal and grant work permits to roughly 1.5 million undocumented individuals—nearly half the undocumented population at the time. Think about that for a moment. Out of 3 million people, President Bush decided that 1.5 million of them should, in effect, not be prosecuted. He set law enforcement priorities. That was his job, and that is President Obama's job.

Many of us—and I am very much in this camp—would prefer to address this situation through legislation. I worked hard, along with the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Members on both sides of the aisle of the Judiciary Committee and of this

body, to approve legislation. It was resolved and written up after several days of detailed and painstaking markup. I was told that is the way legislation used to be routinely done in this body—Members trading ideas, exchanging views and perspectives, drilling down on facts, and arriving at a bipartisan solution that eventually was approved by 68 Members of this body from both sides of the aisle. That is a matter of history.

My hope was and still is that we have legislation along the lines of what was approved by the Senate. That legislation was far from perfect. In my view, it was way short of the ideal immigration reform I would favor, but the good cannot be the enemy of the perfect and the perfect cannot be the enemy of the good. What we need now is a practical approach to this problem through legislation. The House refused to take up the Senate bill. It didn't even consider it and never voted on it.

The President has a responsibility, and his job is to take actions that are within his legal authority to address a system that is broken and takes a toll on human lives that is intolerable. It threatens to divide families, to put people out of work—not just undocumented immigrants out of work but citizens of this country because they work for businesses that are owned and operated by those immigrants who might be deported. I have seen that firsthand in Connecticut, and I know it is true around the country.

This measure is not only good for human lives, it is good for our economy. It is essential to make sure our immigration system—a broken, failed system—is at least prepared in the short term while we work toward legislation that is absolutely necessary to comprehensively revise and reform that system.

Every day that the Federal Government fails to act on immigration reform, people in this country are forced to live in fear and the anxiety and apprehension that children suffer when they are afraid they will lose their parents and siblings. Connecticut citizens live in fear of losing their neighbors and their employers, their congregates in church, and members of their immediate and extended families. Millions of immigrants who have lived in this country for years—5 or 10 years or longer—and are working hard, paying taxes, abiding by the law, and contributing and giving back to their communities are forced to live in fear that they will have to leave everything they have worked so hard to build and everything that means so much to them—their families, their homes, and the country they have come to love. They appreciate the freedoms of this country and the opportunities it offers in ways we routinely take for granted. For them, this country is a beacon of hope and opportunity which they ap-

preciate so deeply and fervently that they are willing to lay down their lives for it and, in fact, sometimes do as members of our armed services.

The lack of action on immigration reform hurts everyone. When businesses employ workers under the table, our economy and our Nation are deprived of their taxes. They are often ducking regulations and taxes, which in turn drives down wages for every working American.

Immigrants should be able to come out of the shadows not just for their sake but for the Nation's sake. They are a resource that can be used so much more fully to the benefit of our Nation. When they come out of the shadows, they should be forced to undergo background checks, obtain work permits and proof that they are abiding by the law. That is necessary to show they are not a threat to public safety.

When immigrants live in fear, law enforcement can't know who lives in the communities they police. Immigrants who live in fear are simply not going to be as willing to report individuals living near them and represent a real threat to public safety because they feel uncomfortable reporting crimes and cooperating with authority when they feel they may then be the object of enforcement. Getting more people who are already living in this country into the system will allow law enforcement to go after the truly bad actors—serious criminals, serious national security threats, and people who seriously should not be in this country.

As the American people wait for legislative action and wait for the House to act on the Senate bill and perhaps wait on the Senate to act again, President Obama has both the authority and the moral responsibility to institute these reforms. These reforms are crucial. He has the authority under law to exercise his discretion. He has the moral responsibility to fix this broken system as long and as well as he can using that responsibility.

I am encouraged to hear that the President intends to focus his authority on serious criminals, not law-abiding individuals. At a minimum, my hope is that he will ease the minds of children and put to rest the anxiety children feel when they fear they may lose their parents. Whether they are DREAMers or U.S. citizens, they should be spared that apprehension and anxiety that interferes with everything they do in school or work.

My hope is that he will exercise that authority on behalf of the parents of those children—U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and DREAMers.

My hope is that he will ease some of the arbitrary restrictions that prevent the DOCA program from achieving its full purpose—restrictions like the cut-off age.

As he acts to exercise his prosecutorial discretion with respect to deportation, he should also consider his administration's policies with respect to detention. As I wrote to the President earlier this year, along with my colleague and friend Chairman LEAHY, I believe the administration's decision to dramatically expand the detention of whole families, many of whom have shown a credible fear of being returned to dangerous situations in their home countries, is counterproductive and harmful. Migrants must be given an adequate opportunity to show they have a valid claim as refugees.

The policy of indiscriminately holding families in enormous, privately run facilities leads to inhumane living conditions. Violence against women and children and simply inefficient use of resources are more the rule than the exception. Warehousing young children in complexes that are little more than jails is deeply incompatible with our national values and it serves none of the goals of an effective immigration system.

Tomorrow marks the 25th anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Faith leaders and community members from around the country will be doing vigils and telling the stories of children and mothers who are spending this holiday season behind bars. Yes, in the greatest country in the history of the world, children and their moms will be spending Thanksgiving behind bars.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. These families are not flight risks and they are not dangerous. We owe it to them to do better. I am proud of standing with my colleagues on calling on the President to keep families together, target resources effectively, and run an immigration system that reflects America's values and builds a stronger future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to executive session.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Pepper nomination.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 283 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Pryor
Begich	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—39

Alexander	Burr	Cochran
Barrasso	Chambliss	Corker
Blunt	Coats	Cornyn
Boozman	Coburn	Crapo

Cruz	Isakson	Risch
Enzi	Johanns	Roberts
Fischer	Kirk	Rubio
Graham	Lee	Scott
Grassley	McCain	Sessions
Hatch	McConnell	Shelby
Heller	Moran	Thune
Hoeven	Paul	Toomey
Inhofe	Portman	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Hagan	Landrieu	Vitter
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA PEPPER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Sannes nomination.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs.

HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 284 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Pryor
Begich	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Levin	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall (CO)
Collins	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Coons	Menendez	Walsh
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Harkin	Nelson	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Hagan	Landrieu	Vitter
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF BRENDA K. SANNES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Ex.]

AYES—56

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Pryor
Begich	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boxer	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Levin	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall (CO)
Collins	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Coons	Menendez	Walsh
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—40

Alexander	Enzi	Kirk
Barrasso	Fischer	Lee
Blunt	Flake	McCain
Boozman	Graham	McConnell
Burr	Grassley	Moran
Coats	Hatch	Paul
Coburn	Heller	Portman
Cochran	Hoeven	Risch
Corker	Inhofe	Roberts
Cornyn	Isakson	Rubio
Crapo	Johanns	
Cruz	Johnson (WI)	

Scott
Sessions

Shelby
Thune

Toomey
Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss
Hagan

Landrieu
Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MADELINE COX ARLEO TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote to invoke cloture on the Beetlestone nomination.

Who yields time?

The senior Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about this nomination. This is the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone to be U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She has great qualifications. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, an honors graduate in her undergraduate institution. She has worked now for 19 years at the law firm of Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller, has 19 years of experience in litigation in a wide variety of matters. She worked in education law and has broad experience there. She worked as a journalist as well before she was a lawyer and, during her time working in Philadelphia as a lawyer, as a great advocate for people who don't have a voice and also someone who brings a wide experience to the Federal bench.

I am honored to be working with Senator TOOMEY on this nomination, working together to get these nominations through, and I am so grateful for the work of the Judiciary Committee and especially Chairman LEAHY moving these nominations through.

I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to say briefly that I thank Senator CASEY for the terrific cooperative working relationship he and I have. When Wendy Beetlestone is confirmed, that will make the 11th Federal judge who has been confirmed as a result of the work we have done together.

Wendy is an outstanding candidate, and I think she will make a great Federal judge. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Ayotte	Harkin	Pryor
Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Begich	Heitkamp	Reid
Bennet	Hirono	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boxer	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Levin	Tester
Carper	Manchin	Toomey
Casey	Markey	Udall (CO)
Collins	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Coons	Menendez	Walsh
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Flake	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Cochran	Graham
Barrasso	Corker	Grassley
Blunt	Cornyn	Hatch
Boozman	Crapo	Heller
Burr	Cruz	Hoeven
Coats	Enzi	Inhofe
Coburn	Fischer	Isakson

Johanns	Moran	Scott
Johnson (WI)	Paul	Sessions
Kirk	Portman	Shelby
Lee	Risch	Thune
McCain	Roberts	Wicker
McConnell	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss	Landrieu
Hagan	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF WENDY BEETLESTONE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will have one more vote. As soon as that is turned in, we will go to recess subject to the call of the Chair for a briefing which everyone should go to, and we will come back and do some wrap-up. This is the last vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bolden nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time has been yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Udall (CO)
Collins	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Coons	Menendez	Walsh
Donnelly	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—44

Alexander	Flake	McConnell
Ayotte	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hatch	Portman
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Tester
Crapo	Kirk	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Fischer	McCain	

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Landrieu	Vitter
Hagan	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:46 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 6:31 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the business before the body?

NOMINATION OF JON M. HOLLADAY TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NOMINATION OF MAUREEN ELIZABETH CORMACK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

NOMINATION OF ALLAN P. MUSTARD, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TURKMENISTAN

NOMINATION OF EARL ROBERT MILLER, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

NOMINATION OF JUDITH BETH CEFKIN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE KINGDOM OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU

NOMINATION OF ROBERT T. YAMATE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNION OF THE COMOROS

NOMINATION OF MICHELE JEANNE SISON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF MICHELE JEANNE SISON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Jon M. Holladay, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture; Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Allan P. Mustard, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan; Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana; Judith Beth Cefkin, of

Colorado, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Services, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Kingdom of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu; Robert T. Yamate, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros; Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

VOTE ON HOLLADAY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Holladay nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time, with the Chair's permission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jon M. Holladay, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CORMACK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MUSTARD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Allan P. Mustard, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service,

Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MILLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CEFKIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Judith Beth Cefkin, of Colorado, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON YAMATE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert T. Yamate, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SISON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SISON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career

Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATION SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

Mr. REID. I express my appreciation to the Senator from Iowa for joining me.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 1034, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 955, 1054, 639, 641, 999, 998, 1028, 953, 696, 540, and 962; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollover votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect these votes to be such that we can confirm them by voice vote.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SCHWERI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend of mine and a great friend to the Bluegrass State and the University of Ken-

tucky, Mr. Bill Schweri. Bill recently retired from the University of Kentucky after dedicating over 40 years to working at the university, the last two decades of which were spent as the director of Federal relations.

It has been Bill's job to serve as a liaison between the university and its faculty and the executive and legislative branches of State and Federal Government. I am a proud graduate of UK's College of Law, and Bill has represented my alma mater exceedingly well over the years.

Bill has been a staunch advocate for new research initiatives at the university in fields as varied as agriculture, biotechnology, clean coal technology, energy, engineering, and transportation. He has helped transform UK into one of the most prominent economic drivers in the State.

He has been instrumental in bringing about such UK achievements as the Marty Driesler Cancer Project, the expansion of a teaching space in the College of Nursing, the creation of a bioinformatics core in the university's medical center, and Fedtrak, a project with the Transportation Security Administration to track sensitive material shipments.

Bill also played a key role in UK's Markey Cancer Center being awarded a National Cancer Institute designation. With NCI designation, UK is better positioned to recruit researchers, receive grants, and to develop new breakthrough treatments to lead the fight against cancer. This means that fewer Kentuckians will have to travel out of State to find the most advanced care and clinical trials, and instead will be able to find it within the Commonwealth, which is critical as Kentucky suffers from the highest combined cancer mortality rate in the country.

Bill has worked actively to help maintain congressional support for student financial aid, which is so important to many Kentucky students. He has worked tirelessly to ensure his school's visibility here in Washington, DC and to fight for legislation that is important to UK. And he is fiercely loyal to the University of Kentucky.

Bill is not just an employee of UK, he's also an alumnus. Bill earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Kentucky in 1969 and his master's degree, also in anthropology, from UK in 1978.

In his youth he served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala, and he also served as the past president of the Society of Research Administrators, International from 1997 to 1998. Bill previously served as UK's director of sponsored program development in the 1980s and '90s before becoming the director of Federal relations in July of 1994.

Bill has been a leader in the Science Coalition, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 50 of the Nation's leading research universities

dedicated to sustaining the Federal Government's investment in scientific research. He has also been actively involved in the Council on Governmental Affairs of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities.

Bill is well known and highly respected among his colleagues in Federal relations at other research universities, just as he is throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I wish to personally thank Bill for his service to the University of Kentucky and to our State. Although his retirement is well earned, he will certainly be missed, by me, by my staff, and by the many people across Kentucky who have benefited from his efforts. I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in bidding a fond farewell to Mr. Bill Schweri.

LETTERS IN RELATION TO RESIGNATION

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters related to my resignation as a Member of the U.S. Senate.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
November 12, 2014.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN,
President of the U.S. Senate.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN, please find the attached document officially notifying Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin of my intent to resign my Senate seat on January 3, 2015. I further note that my resignation will be effective at 11:59 AM on that date.

Thank you for your service to our nation.
Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.

U.S. SENATE,
January 17, 2014.

Governor MARY FALLIN,
Oklahoma City, OK.

DEAR GOVERNOR FALLIN, serving as Oklahoma's senator has been, and continues to be, one of the great privileges and blessings of my life. But, after much prayer and consideration, I have decided that I will leave the Senate before the end of my term.

I am therefore resigning my Senate seat effective January 3, 2015. I am giving you substantial advance notice with the hope that you will be able to schedule a special election concurrent with the existing election schedule and not impose any undue burden on Oklahoma taxpayers.

Thank you for your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.

REMEMBERING PHILIP CRANE

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, Illinois lost its longest-serving Member of the House of Representatives and this country lost one of the great leaders of the conservative movement last week when Philip Crane passed away at the age of 84.

For 35 years Phil Crane represented Chicago's northwest suburbs, a region I

know well. He was first elected to Congress in 1969, winning a special election, and ultimately became the longest-serving House Republican when he was finally defeated in 2004. While I served with Congressman Phil Crane in the House of only 4 years, our districts were adjacent to each other and together we fought for many issues important to suburban Chicago and Illinois.

Before conservative principles were fashionable, Phil was leading the way for conservatism, working for Barry Goldwater in 1964 in Illinois. When some said Phil's politics of small government and low taxes were backward looking, he responded with gusto, arguing in support of free markets and trade, prudent economics policies, a strong national defense, and traditional values.

Phil was courageous and had foresight. In 1976 he was the first sitting Congressman to publicly support Reagan in his effort to defeat President Gerald Ford. He also founded the Republican Study Committee, which still exists today in the House of Representatives. He also was deeply involved in the early days of two of the most influential conservative think tanks, the Heritage Foundation and the American Conservative Union.

In 1980 Phil took a run for President, ultimately falling to Ronald Reagan. As a young House staffer, I noted that numerous Congressmen respected Phil for his early advocacy of conservative principles and his ties to the early days of the modern conservative movement. If you want to get a feel of Phil, then read his 1976 book "The Sum of Good Government."

Phil Crane fought tirelessly as a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee for his conservative principles, including for lower taxes and increasing trade. One of his greatest legislative achievements was the North American Free Trade Agreement, which created the world's largest free trade zone, linking up billions of dollars annually.

With the passing of Phil Crane, Illinois and Washington have lost one of its greats. Thank you, Phil Crane, for your service to the State of Illinois and to our country.

CONGRATULATING JOHN COX

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate John Cox the Director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation. On November 24, 2014, Director Cox will be elected as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AASHTO. John is currently serving as the association's vice-president and has worked his way to the top through various positions in AASHTO.

Since 2005, he has continually served Wyoming as the WYDOT director. The

respect for John is deep and widespread. He was appointed by Democrat Governor Dave Freudenthal and reappointed by our current Republican Governor Matt Mead.

John Cox is not your traditional State Department of Transportation director. Director Cox has a 28-year background in law enforcement. As a young patrolman, John patrolled thousands of miles on the rural roads of Wyoming. Director Cox's law enforcement background provided him with a unique perspective on the needs of rural States like Wyoming. John understands rural transportation. He also understands that our transportation system must be whole. I believe his experience and leadership will be key to the success of AASHTO and its members over the next year.

Director Cox and I have worked closely together for over a decade. When I was in the Wyoming Legislature, I chaired the Senate Transportation and Military Affairs Committee. In the Wyoming Legislature, we worked to improve our State's highways. In the U.S. Senate, we worked on the 2012 highway reauthorization bill. In 2014, Director Cox and I focused on improving the current law by cutting Washington redtape and providing flexibility and equity for rural States like Wyoming.

I look forward to continuing to work with Director Cox as all of America can now benefit from his leadership.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. BALLENTINE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor John R. Ballentine, who will retire as the Alma City Mayor after more than two decades of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Alma City Mayor, John was a constant advocate for services, programs and improvements for Alma residents. After leading the city out of debt, John oversaw the construction and financing of the city's first waterpark. In 2000, John opened the Alma Aquatic Center, which has become a centerpiece of the city bringing in more than 50,000 people annually. What started as an idea dreamed up while baling hay became a significant contributor to the City of Alma's economy.

John fought hard to enhance existing public facilities and finance the new construction of amenities including area parks, a \$4 million water treatment plant, an annual Independence Day fireworks show, and the annual Alma flying disk golf tournament which brings in over 100 participants every November.

John's passion for public service extends beyond his most recent position as Alma's longest standing mayor since

1872. In addition, John served on the Alma City Council for 4 years, as a member of the Crawford County Quorum Court for 10 years, and in the U.S. Army Reserves for 21 years.

I congratulate John for his commitment to public service. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Alma, Crawford County and Arkansas. John is truly a public servant. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

CONGRATULATING THE STAMFORD JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

● Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Stamford Jewish Community Center for being the 2014 S.T.R.I.V.E., Sports Teach Respect Initiative Values and Excellence, Organization of the Year. Each year the National Council of Youth Sports, NCYS, recognizes five finalist organizations that most meet the "kids first" approach, evidenced by their implementation of best practices and policies that protect kids and promote safety. Those five finalist organizations are then put on the NCYS website for voting by the public. The award, sponsored by AIG, is presented to organizations that exhibit heartfelt passion and show a committed spirit to helping kids succeed in sports, while maintaining a commitment to safety procedures.

Since opening its doors in 1916, the Stamford JCC has become a valuable community resource, especially well-known for its continuum of safe, supportive, and inclusive health and fitness programs for children and youth of all abilities, backgrounds, and financial circumstances. This year, more than 1,500 kids, ages 3 to 16, have taken part in their "kids-first" recreational activities, created to promote such attributes as teamwork, community engagement, and sportsmanship.

NCYS is the largest known organization in America representing the youth sports industry, and this award is an important recognition that the Stamford JCC is excelling at helping kids in our community. Comprised of the who's who in the youth sports industry, NCYS was founded in 1979, and its membership represents more than 200 organizations/corporations serving 60,000,000 registered participants in organized youth sports programs. Its members include organizations such as the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators—Cheer Safe, American Legion Baseball, American Youth Soccer Organization, Jewish Community Centers Association of North America, YMCA of America, Pop Warner, Special Olympics North America, and the U.S. Tennis Association.

Again, I commend the Stamford JCC for this wonderful achievement, and the great work they are doing in the city of Stamford.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 885. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

S. 1093. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 1499. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

S. 1512. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

S. 2141. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY)

At 1:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1422. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1422. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 19, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 885. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

S. 1093. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

S. 1499. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

S. 1512. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

S. 2141. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7782. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7783. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Internal Affairs Investigations for the period of January 2014 through June 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7784. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-441, "Business Improvement Districts Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7785. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 20-424, "Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Support Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7786. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-437, "Voter Registration Access and Modernization Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7787. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-442, "Extension of Time to Dispose of the Strand Theater Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7788. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-443, "Medical Marijuana Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7789. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-440, "Special Election Reform Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7790. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-439, "Critical Infrastructure Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7791. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-438, "Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7792. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-425, "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Waiver Certification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7793. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-423, "Sustainable Solid Waste Management Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7794. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Council Resolution 20-624, "Transfer of Jurisdiction of a Portion of Reservation 497 (Square 3712, Lots 101-104) Approval Resolution 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7795. A communication from the Director, Policy and Planning Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Modification of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules" (RIN3206-AM86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7796. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2013 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7797. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections Based on Public Law 104-262" (RIN2900-AO93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7798. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Regulation Policy, Tracking, and Control Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designee for Patient Personal Property" (RIN2900-AO41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7799. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanded Access to Non-VA Care through the Veterans Choice Program" (RIN2900-AO24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7800. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exempting Mental Health Peer Support Services from Copayments" (RIN2900-AP11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7801. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7802. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7803. A communication from the Admiral, Naval Reactors, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports relative to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7804. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a consolidated budget justification display that includes all programs and activities of the Department of Defense combating terrorism program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7805. A communication from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7806. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7807. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, Diversions, and Buffer Zones for Perennial and Intermittent Streams" ((RIN1029-AC69) (Docket ID OSM-2012-0010)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7808. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Methane Hydrate Program"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7809. A communication from the Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7810. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7811. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1A IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7812. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Late Payment and Interest Charges on Past Due Assessments" (Docket No. AMS-FV-12-0023) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7813. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Basis in All Cash D Reorganizations" ((RIN1545-BJ21) (TD 9702)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7814. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Earnings and Profits in Tax-Free Transfers from One Corporation to Another; Acquiring Corporation for Purposes of Section 381"

((RIN1545-BK73 and RIN1545-BL80) (TD 9700)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7815. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015 Limitations Adjusted As Provided in Section 415(d), etc." (Notice 2014-70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7816. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Member, IRS Oversight Board, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7817. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was originally declared in Executive Order 13611 on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7818. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7819. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7820. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarifications and Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Spacecraft Systems and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)" (RIN0694-AF87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7821. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Venezuela: Implementation of Certain Military End Uses and End Users License Requirements under the Export Administration Regulations" (RIN0694-AG31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7822. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7823. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7824. A communication from the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, transmitting, pursuant to law, the October 2014 Quarterly Report to Congress of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7825. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" (RIN210-AB60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7826. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Excepted Benefits" ((RIN0938-AS16) (CMS-9946-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7827. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse: Fourth Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7828. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7829. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7830. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans' Employment Redress Laws in the Federal Civil Service"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7831. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Outcomes of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Employment Program"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7832. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-451, "Rent Control Hardship Petition Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7833. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-453, "Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7834. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-452, "Georgia Avenue Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Area Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7835. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-458, "Protecting Pregnant Workers Fairness Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7836. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Annual Privacy Activity Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7837. A communication from the Director, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Retirement System: Present Value Conversion Factors for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees" (RIN3206-AM99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7838. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7839. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7840. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance; Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program—Deadline Extensions and Administrative Correction" ((RIN1660-AA78) (44 CFR Parts 204 and 206) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0004)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7841. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to ten audit reports issued during fiscal year 2014 relative to the Agency and the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7842. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Audit of the Anacostia River Clean Up Protection Fund"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7843. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer,

Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7844. A communication from the Director of the Regulations, Legislation, and Interpretation Division, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors" (RIN1235-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7845. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on the Use of Special Immigrant Status for Citizens or Nationals of Afghanistan or Iraq: Combined Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7846. A communication from the Director of Congressional Activities (Intelligence), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a delay in submission of a report relative to data mining; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7847. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2013 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7848. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Continued Prosecution Application Practice" (RIN0651-AC92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7849. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Permit Delayed Submission of Certain Requirements for Prioritized Examination" (RIN0651-AC93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7850. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees" (RIN2130-AC06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7851. A communication from the General Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule: Safety Standard for Magnet Sets" (CPSC Docket No. CPSC-2012-0050) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7852. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures—Programmatic Agree-

ments and Additional Categorical Exclusions" (RIN2125-AF59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7853. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Relief Program" (RIN2132-AB13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7854. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures—Programmatic Agreements and Additional Categorical Exclusions" (RIN2132-AB14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7855. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Eagle Peak Mendocino County Viticultural Area and Realignments of the Mendocino and Redwood Valley Viticultural Areas" (RIN1513-AB96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7856. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Adelaida District, Creston District, El Pomar District, Paso Robles Estrella District, Paso Robles Geneseo District, Paso Robles Highlands District, Paso Robles Willow Creek District, San Juan Creek, San Miguel District, Santa Margarita Ranch, and Templeton Gap District Viticultural Areas" (RIN1513-AB68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7857. A communication from the Chief of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters" ((WT Docket No. 10-4) (FCC 14-138)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7858. A communication from the Chief of the Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reform of Rules and Policies on Foreign Carrier Entry Into the U.S. Telecommunications Market" (FCC 14-48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7859. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel,

Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7860. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7861. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers; AT and T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services" ((WC Docket No. 05-25) (DA 14-1327)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7862. A communication from the Legal Advisor, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acceleration of Broadband Deployment by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies; Acceleration of Broadband Deployment: Expanding the Reach and Reducing the Cost of Broadband Deployment by Improving Policies Regarding Public Rights of Way and Wireless Facilities Siting; 2012 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations" ((WT Docket No. 13-238; WT Docket No. 11-59; WT Docket No. 13-32) (FCC 14-153)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7863. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Pearsall, Texas)" ((MB Docket No. 13-23) (DA 13-1603)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7864. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Altamont, Oregon); Station KYSF(FM), (Bonanza, Oregon)" ((MB Docket No. 11-167) (DA 13-2003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7865. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Mount Vernon, Illinois)" ((MB Docket No. 14-139) (DA 14-1579)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7866. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Rome, Georgia)" (MB Docket No. 14-141) (DA 14-1577) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7867. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Kansas City, Missouri)" (MB Docket No. 14-140) (DA 14-1578) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7868. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Centerville, Texas); Station KKEE, Centerville, Texas" (MB Docket No. 14-56) (DA 14-1360) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7869. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Toquerville, Utah); New FM Station, Peach Springs, Arizona" (MB Docket No. 14-54) (DA 14-1361) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7870. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Aviation Consumer Protection; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7871. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) 2015-2019"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7872. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery" (RIN0648-BE26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7873. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD535) received during

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7874. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2015 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Limit" (RIN0648-XD515) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7875. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD542) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7876. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD511) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7877. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Temporary Rule that Established Separate Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-BD87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7878. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 21" (RIN0648-BD91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7879. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish Fishery; 2015-2017 Specifications" (RIN0648-BE37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7880. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Ber-

ing Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD544) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7881. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD496) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7882. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD577) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7883. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of the 2014 Gulf of Mexico Recreational Red Grouper Season" (RIN0648-XD479) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7884. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-X100714b) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7885. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2014-2015 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in the Florida West Coast Northern Subzone" (RIN0648-XD586) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7886. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2014 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Porgy Complex" (RIN0648-XD495) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7887. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone

off Alaska; Reallocation of Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Allowances in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD565) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7888. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2014-2015 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in Western Zone" (RIN0648-XD559) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7889. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2014 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-XD504) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7890. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD566) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7891. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Accountability Measures and Closure for Commercial Wrasses in the U.S. Caribbean Off Puerto Rico" (RIN0648-XD549) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7892. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch, Northern Rockfish, and Dusky Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD545) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7893. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments (4); Amendment No. 516" (RIN2120-AA63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7894. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Proce-

dures; Miscellaneous Amendments (113); Amdt. No. 3608" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7895. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (42); Amdt. No. 3607" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7896. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (81); Amdt. No. 3609" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7897. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (48); Amdt. No. 3610" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7898. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; 'Other Rockfish' in the Aleutian Island Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2917. A bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Therese W. McMillan, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

*Lourdes Maria Castro Ramirez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020.

*Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

*Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2020.

*Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2940. A bill to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2941. A bill to combat human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2942. A bill to establish a Hospital Fund for the treatment of individuals with Ebola or other specified infectious diseases; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2943. A bill to amend Public Law 110-299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2944. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2945. A bill to repeal section 910 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2946. A bill to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. Res. 583. A resolution designating November 30, 2014, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 584. A resolution commending Jerold D. Linnell on his service to the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 526

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2159

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2159, a bill to restore long-standing United States policy that the Wire Act prohibits all forms of Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, *supra*.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 570

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 570, a resolution designating October 17, 2014, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day".

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2940. A bill to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here now for the, I guess, 80th time in my weekly series of speeches about carbon pollution to ask the Senate and Congress to wake up to the growing threat from climate change, and today I am also announcing the introduction of the American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act.

Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is changing the atmosphere and the oceans. We see it everywhere. We see it in storm-damaged homes and flooded cities. We see it in drought-

stricken farms and raging wildfires. We see it in fish disappearing from warming and acidifying waters. We see it in shifting habitats and migrating contagions.

All of these things we see carry costs—real economic dollars-and-cents costs—to homeowners, to business owners, and to taxpayers. That cost is described as the social cost of carbon. It is the damage that people and communities suffer from carbon pollution and climate change. None of those costs from carbon pollution are factored into the price of the coal or the oil or the natural gas that releases this carbon. The fossil fuel companies that sell and burn those products have taken those costs and offloaded them onto society—onto the rest of us.

That is not fair. If you rake your lawn, you don't get to dump all the leaves over your neighbor's fence and leave him or her the problem of cleaning up your leaves. If you are located on a river, you don't get to dump your garbage in the river and leave it to the downstream property owners to clean up your mess. Yet the big carbon polluters transfer the costs—all those costs of climate change—onto everyone else—all the rest of us.

The U.S. Government has done some estimating about what that social cost of carbon pollution is and their estimate is that it is around \$40 per ton of carbon dioxide emitted, and that that amount rises over time as carbon pollution creates more and more harm and havoc. So a climbing \$40 per ton is the cost, but the current effective price on carbon pollution is zero.

By making their carbon pollution free, we subsidize fossil fuel companies to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars annually. By making their carbon pollution free, we actually rig the game, giving polluters an unfair advantage over newer and cleaner technologies. It is a racket. It is a form of cheating. And corporate polluters love it because it gives them advantage, and they fight tooth and nail to protect it in this body. But it is wrong.

As University of Chicago economics professor Michael Greenstone recently explained, this concept—that offloading social costs is wrong and that there should be a proper price on carbon—is very widely accepted. Here is what he said:

The media always reports that there's near consensus among scientists about the fact that human activity impacts climate change. What does not receive as much attention is that there's even greater consensus among economists, starting from Milton Friedman and moving into the most left-wing economists that you could find, that the obvious correct public policy solution to this is to put a price on carbon. It's not controversial.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, at the conclusion of my remarks, an article from *The Economist* magazine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The economics editor of *The Economist* magazine—which is certainly no hotbed of left wing sentiment—Ryan Avent, has posted a comment on climate policy and his question is: “Do economists all favour a carbon tax?” He says:

The economic solution is to tax the externality—

That is the offloaded cost.

—so that the social cost of carbon is reflected in the individual consumer's decision. The carbon tax is an elegant solution to a complicated problem.

So today I am introducing this bill to put a price on carbon emissions. It is simple. It will require the polluters to pay a per-ton fee for their pollution and all of the revenue generated by those payments will go back to the American people.

I want to thank Senator BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii for cosponsoring this measure. He has been a great colleague on environmental issues and on our discussion regarding climate change. The bill that we introduce today establishes an economy-wide fee on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, tracking that social cost of carbon, starting at \$42 per ton and going up by 2 percent per year, plus inflation.

We know how much carbon dioxide each unit of coal, oil, and natural gas produces, so we assess the fee on fossil fuel producers, processors, and importers. That makes it simple to administer. The whole bill is only 29 pages long.

For other varieties of greenhouse gases and nonfossil fuel sources of CO₂, we assess our fees only on the very largest emitters—those emitting more than 25,000 tons a year. This is the same universe of companies that we already require to monitor and report on their carbon emissions.

A significant greenhouse gas concern is the methane that escapes throughout production and distribution. To address this, we require annual reports on methane leakage and direct the Treasury Secretary to adjust the fees on fossil fuels to account for that leakage. This fee will promote innovation and help further reduce carbon emissions.

Fossil fuel companies that capture and sequester or use carbon dioxide or innovate new ways to encapsulate it in materials or products will get credits to offset the carbon fee.

We also take care to ensure that American manufacturers are not put at a competitive disadvantage globally. Imports from nations that don't price emissions will face a tariff that the Treasury Secretary is authorized to impose at the border. Likewise, the Secretary is authorized to rebate American producers on their exports.

I would note one thing. Since regulation is usually a response to market failure, a well-designed carbon fee

would also properly open a conversation about which and, indeed, whether carbon regulations are still needed. A carbon fee by itself is much more efficient and predictable than complex regulations, and I am open to that conversation.

That is it. It is that simple. Make the polluters pay the full costs of their products; end the cheating; level the playing field for other forms of energy, such as wind and solar, to compete fairly; keep the fee mechanism simple; and maintain a border adjustment that keeps American goods competitive. Twenty-nine pages.

On the flip side, the carbon fee will generate significant new Federal revenue. The technicians are still working on the official revenue estimate for the bill, but it should be at least \$1.5 trillion and perhaps more than \$2 trillion over the 10-year budget periods we work with in Congress and on the Budget Committee.

Whatever the exact number is, all of it should be returned to the American people. So the bill establishes an American opportunity trust fund to hold the revenue and return it to the American people. This could include through tax cuts, through student loan debt relief, through increased Social Security benefits for seniors, through transition assistance to workers in fossil fuel industries, or even just a direct dividend back to the American family. I am looking forward to deciding with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle what is the best way to return this revenue, but I do believe every dollar should go back to the American people in some form. To use economic jargon, this should be revenue neutral.

This is one example to consider, just a hypothetical: What could we do? We could cut the corporate tax rate in America from 35 percent to 30 percent. That has been a bipartisan goal for a long time. It was part of Romney's Presidential campaign. We could accomplish it with this measure.

We would have enough money left to go to the payroll tax and for every worker rebate the first \$500 they paid in payroll tax. So every American worker who paid more than \$500 in payroll tax would get a \$500 check to spend on whatever they wanted. The first tax reduction at the corporate level uses about \$600 billion to offset. This uses about \$700 billion to offset.

Third, we could add to that a boost to the EITC—the earned income tax credit—which supports many American families at the very low end of the economic spectrum. We could do that by literally hundreds of dollars a year for millions of lower income families. Again, there has been bipartisan support for expanding the earned income tax credit.

Three important goals, all reducing taxes or adding to a tax credit—all should have strong bipartisan support.

The American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act has revenue that could make our companies more competitive, could give every single worker a tax rebate, and could boost benefits for struggling low-income families.

Last month the Des Moines Register ran a column titled "'Carbon tax' would help Iowa, planet." The column said this:

The United States could take the lead by acting on its own, watch its economy grow, and let the rest of the world catch up.

In the process, the United States would gain mastery of the sustainable-energy technology that will drive economic growth in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

George W. Bush's Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson gave the same message earlier this year, saying:

A tax on carbon emissions will unleash a wave of innovation to develop technologies, lower the costs of clean energy and create jobs as we and other nations develop new energy products and infrastructure.

Emphasizing that, coincidentally, is an article in today's New York Times headed "A Carbon Tax Could Bolster Green Energy." As we all know, green energy jobs are exploding in this country, and we need more of them.

Treasury Secretary Paulson continued:

Republicans must not shrink from this issue. Risk management is a conservative principle.

Secretary Paulson is not alone. Conservative figures such as George Shultz, who was Secretary of State under President Reagan, emphatically support a carbon fee as the best way to address carbon pollution.

Art Laffer, one of the architects of President Reagan's economic plan, had this to say about a carbon tax and related payroll tax cut:

I think that would be very good for the economy and as an adjunct, it would reduce also carbon emissions into the environment.

I ask unanimous consent that a 2013 New York Times op-ed be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. In this New York Times op-ed, Bill Ruckelshaus, Christine Todd Whitman, Lee Thomas, and William Reilly wrote:

A market-based approach, like a carbon tax, would be the best path to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

I know the big carbon polluters want this issue ignored. I know that. They want to squeeze one more quarter, one more year of public subsidy for their product from the rest of us. From their point of view, lunch is good when someone else is picking up the tab. But notwithstanding the power of the big carbon polluters, I still believe this is a problem we can solve.

Not long ago this would have been a bipartisan bill. Not long ago leading voices on the Republican side agreed with Democrats that the dangers of climate change were real. Not long ago leading Republican voices agreed that carbon emissions were the culprit. And it was not long ago that leading Republican voices agreed that Congress had a responsibility to act. One Republican Senator won his party's nomination for President on a solid climate change platform. Other Republican colleagues in the Senate introduced, cosponsored, or voted for meaningful climate legislation in the past. Some of the proposals were market-based, revenue-neutral solutions aligned with Republican free market values, just like my bill today.

The junior Senator from Arizona—a Republican—was an original cosponsor of a carbon fee bill when he served in the House of Representatives. That proposal, introduced with former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis, would have placed a \$15-per-ton fee on carbon pollution in 2010, more than \$20 in 2015, and \$100 in 2040. At the time, our colleague from Arizona had this to say:

If there's one economic axiom, it's that if you want less of something, you tax it. Clearly, it's in our interest to move away from carbon.

We simply need conscientious Republicans and Democrats to work together in good faith on a platform of fact and common sense. We know this can be done because it is being done.

At the end of a speech about the American Revolution, the historian David McCullough was asked by someone in the audience why it was that our Founding Fathers had the courage to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of independence when signing the Declaration was signing their own death warrant. He had a very simple answer. He said: It was a courageous time.

Well, clearly in courageous times Americans have done far more than simply stand up to polluters to serve the interests of this great Republic. It only takes courage to make this a courageous time too.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Register, Oct. 4, 2014]

'CARBON TAX' WOULD HELP IOWA, PLANET
(By Richard Doak)

Six years ago, the Canadian province of British Columbia decided to go it alone in fighting climate change. It imposed a tax on fossil fuels—coal gasoline, diesel fuel, propane and natural gas.

By most accounts, the "carbon tax" has been a success. It made fossil fuels more expensive, so British Columbians began to conserve them and use them more efficiently. Revenue from the carbon tax allows other taxes to be reduced, so the province enjoys the lowest personal income tax rates in Canada and some of the lowest corporate taxes in the developed world.

Contrary to fears, the carbon tax did not cause the economy of the province to collapse. Economic growth is slightly better than in the rest of Canada, and the forward-looking energy policy gives British Columbia a reputation as a world leader in green entrepreneurship.

Why can't Iowa be like that?

Indeed, Iowa should be like that, and circumstances might be right for Iowa to become the first American state to employ a full-fledged carbon tax.

Iowa and other states already have partial carbon taxes. We pay them at the pump when we buy gasoline or diesel fuel.

In Iowa, all gasoline and diesel fuel tax revenue is earmarked for highway construction, maintenance and administration. Paying the gas tax is how motorists pay for the bridges and highways.

After the November election, when candidates are no longer afraid to talk about taxes, a consensus will probably develop to raise Iowa's motor fuel taxes. The current gasoline tax of 21 cents per gallon (19 cents for ethanol blend) and diesel tax of 22.5 cents bring in about \$450 million but leave the state an estimated \$215 million short of what's needed for highways every year.

Closing that gap would require raising motor fuel taxes by about 10 cents per gallon.

Instead, why not abolish motor fuel taxes and replace them with a carbon tax?

A carbon tax would apply to all fossil fuels, not just gasoline and diesel fuel. The tax on each fuel would be based on its carbon content. Carbon-dense coal would be taxed more heavily than relatively carbon-light natural gas.

The carbon tax on gasoline and diesel fuel could be calibrated to bring in about the same amount of revenue as the existing motor fuel tax. Additional revenue to close the highway-funding gap could come from the carbon tax paid on coal and natural gas used to generate electricity. This would be a way for electric car owners to begin paying their share of highway maintenance.

Electric cars contribute less for highway maintenance than gasoline- or diesel-burning vehicles. (Electric cars don't pay gasoline tax, but they do pay license fees and use taxes.) In the future, if electric vehicles become ubiquitous, it will be essential to have some source of highway money beyond the gasoline tax. Having a carbon tax would put Iowa ahead of the game of paying for roads in an electric-car future.

Additional revenue from a carbon tax, beyond that needed for roads, could be used to lower other taxes, as in British Columbia. Since the biggest burden of a carbon tax would fall on low-income people, reductions or credits for low-income people should be the first priority. Lowering for abolishing the corporation tax, as an incentive for businesses to locate in Iowa, might be the second choice.

The idea of a carbon tax is to use market forces to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide spewed into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned. Economists use the term carbon pricing. When the price of something goes up, people use less of it. A carbon tax is intended to raise the price of fossil fuels enough to discourage consumption as well as to create an incentive to find alternatives.

As leader in biofuels and wind turbines, Iowa should be for anything that incentivizes the switch to alternatives.

Perhaps Iowans should even be cheering for a carbon tax to be imposed nationally, because, among the states, Iowa may be one of the best positioned to benefit from it.

Of course, a national carbon tax is off the table as long as Congress is full of climate-change deniers who are beholden to the fossil-fuel industries. But, outside of Congress, the carbon tax and other carbon-dioxide-reducing strategies appear to be gaining credibility.

A number of major corporations, banks and institutions have begun to question the conventional thinking that the economy would suffer if carbon dioxide emissions were curbed. Most recently, the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, a group of heavyweight international leaders and economists, issued a report showing that reducing carbon emissions would cost the economy very little and might actually stimulate economic growth. Other research published by the International Monetary Fund suggests that carbon taxes, rather than being a drag on an economy, can be a benefit.

It also appears that cutting carbon emissions can help a country's economy even if other countries don't go along. British Columbia has shown that a state can go it alone without other states.

Nationally, the United States is waiting around for some big international agreement that will require all countries to reduce their emissions in unison. That shouldn't be necessary. The United States could take the lead by acting on its own, watch its economy grow, and let the rest of the world catch up.

In the process, the United States could gain mastery of the sustainable-energy technology that will drive economic growth in the future.

Sadly, the odds of the president and Congress acting that boldly on climate change are roughly nil. But maybe the little state of Iowa, out here in the heart of America, could nudge the nation in the right direction by setting an example on its own.

[From the New York Times, August 1, 2013]

A REPUBLICAN CASE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

(By William D. Ruckelshaus, Lee M. Thomas, William K. Reilly and Christine Todd Whitman)

Each of us took turns over the past 43 years running the Environmental Protection Agency. We served Republican presidents, but we have a message that transcends political affiliation: the United States must move now on substantive steps to curb climate change, at home and internationally.

There is no longer any credible scientific debate about the basic facts: our world continues to warm, with the last decade the hottest in modern records, and the deep ocean warming faster than the earth's atmosphere. Sea level is rising. Arctic Sea ice is melting years faster than projected.

The costs of inaction are undeniable. The lines of scientific evidence grow only stronger and more numerous. And the window of time remaining to act is growing smaller: delay could mean that warming becomes "locked in."

A market-based approach, like a carbon tax, would be the best path to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, but that is unachievable in the current political gridlock in Washington. Dealing with this political reality, President Obama's June climate action plan lays out achievable actions that would deliver real progress. He will use his executive powers to require reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the nation's power plants and spur increased investment in clean energy technology, which is inarguably the path we must follow to ensure a strong economy along with a livable climate.

The president also plans to use his regulatory power to limit the powerful warming chemicals known as hydrofluorocarbons and encourage the United States to join with other nations to amend the Montreal Protocol to phase out these chemicals. The landmark international treaty, which took effect in 1989, already has been hugely successful in solving the ozone problem.

Rather than argue against his proposals, our leaders in Congress should endorse them and start the overdue debate about what bigger steps are needed and how to achieve them—domestically and internationally.

As administrators of the E.P.A. under Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and George W. Bush, we held fast to common-sense conservative principles—protecting the health of the American people, working with the best technology available and trusting in the innovation of American business and in the market to find the best solutions for the least cost.

That approach helped us tackle major environmental challenges to our nation and the world: the pollution of our rivers, dramatized when the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught fire in 1969; the hole in the ozone layer; and the devastation wrought by acid rain.

The solutions we supported worked, although more must be done. Our rivers no longer burn, and their health continues to improve. The United States led the world when nations came together to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals. Acid rain diminishes each year, thanks to a pioneering, market-based emissions-trading system adopted under the first President Bush in 1990. And despite critics' warnings, our economy has continued to grow.

Climate change puts all our progress and our successes at risk. If we could articulate one framework for successful governance, perhaps it should be this: When confronted by a problem, deal with it. Look at the facts, cut through the extraneous, devise a workable solution and get it done.

We can have both a strong economy and a livable climate. All parties know that we need both. The rest of the discussion is either detail, which we can resolve, or purposeful delay, which we should not tolerate.

Mr. Obama's plan is just a start. More will be required. But we must continue efforts to reduce the climate-altering pollutants that threaten our planet. The only uncertainty about our warming world is how bad the changes will get, and how soon. What is most clear is that there is no time to waste.

[From the Economist, Sept. 19, 2011]

DO ECONOMISTS ALL FAVOUR A CARBON TAX?

(By R.A. Washington)

Last week, a Twitter conversation broke out among a few economists concerning whether any serious economists opposed a carbon tax. No, concluded the tweeters, but Tyler Cowen *begged to differ*. Mr. Cowen writes that he personally favours a carbon tax but can imagine a number of principled reasons other economists might not.

Why would we expect economists to support a carbon tax? Its very close to the economic ideal. Global warming is a phenomenon associated with emissions of greenhouse gases over and above natural cycles—largely those resulting from the burning of carbon fuels humans have dug up out of the ground. We expect normal economic activity to maximise social good because each individual balances costs and benefits when making economic decisions. Carbon emis-

sions represent a negative externality. When an individual takes an economic action with some fossil-fuel energy content—whether running a petrol-powered lawnmower, turning on a light, or buying a bunch of grapes—that person balances their personal benefits against the costs of the action. The cost to them of the climate change resulting from the carbon content of that decisions, however, is effectively zero and is rationally ignored. The decision to ignore carbon content, when aggregated over the whole of humanity, generates huge carbon dioxide emissions and rising global temperatures.

The economic solution is to tax the externality so that the social cost of carbon is reflected in the individual consumers decision. The carbon tax is an elegant solution to a complicated problem, which allows the everyday business of consumer decision making to do the work of emission reduction. It's by no means the only economically sensible policy response to the threat of climate change, but it is the one we'd expect economists to embrace.

Mr. Cowen argues for caution on this point for several reasons. A carbon tax will be less effective if it's not universally applied, potentially leading to carbon leakage to countries with looser environmental rules. He worries that where carbon fees have been applied innovation has not been quick to respond. He fears that good substitutes for carbon fuels don't exist, especially in the transport sector, and worries that higher fuel prices might harm the economy. He suggests that a "green-energy subsidies first" policy might make more sense, and he talks about distributional and rent-seeking costs of the policy.

I think the weakness of these arguments is telling, and it's not surprising that Mr. Cowen continues to support a carbon tax. What if a carbon price doesn't immediately drive emission reductions? Then the tax will be an effective revenue raiser, much more efficient than a tax on income. Either way you win. The worry about carbon leakage is a real one, but this dynamic also implies that each new country that prices carbon increases the benefit of existing carbon-price policies in other countries.

Substitution in the transport sector is somewhat problematic, but a viable carbon price would not have much effect on petrol costs at the outset. A carbon tax of \$30 per tonne of CO₂ would only increase petrol costs by about 9 cents per gallon. This is dwarfed by moves in the market price of petrol. The vulnerability of the American economy to oil shocks argues for an increased tax on petrol, but that's a different policy debate. Mr. Cowen seems to ignore the fact that oil is just one small part of the American economy's fossil-fuel use.

A carbon tax would attract rent-seeking, but arguably less than alternative policies, like subsidies or a cap-and-trade system. Importantly, money spent on adaptation or post hoc climate-disaster relief is *also* subject to rent-seeking and corruption issues. Given that many poor countries with weak institutions are likely to feel the brunt of the impact of global warming first and are likely to be poor spenders of the aid money that will invariably flow, a carbon tax looks like one of the policy solutions best suited to the minimisation of these ills.

Mr. Cowen doesn't mention what I see as one of the most important roles of a carbon tax: as a check on other ill-advised programmes. A carbon tax would have quickly made the net dirtiness of corn-based ethanol obvious (by helping to offset subsidies and

making corn-based ethanol more expensive). It would be more difficult to roll out and sustain such misguided programmes with a carbon tax, and the ones that went ahead anyway would do less damage. A carbon tax is also the easiest way to capture whatever low-hanging emission-reduction fruit is out there. Right now, consumers are generally indifferent between similarly-priced goods with wildly different carbon profiles. A carbon tax encourages consumers to realise the easy carbon gains available from switching to good low-carbon substitutes wherever they exist.

The biggest problem with a carbon tax is that America's government seems unable to deliver one. Attitudes may change, however, and near-uniform economist support for the policy (probably) doesn't hurt its odds of eventual passage.

[From the New York Times, Nov. 18, 2014]

A CARBON TAX COULD BOLSTER GREEN
ENERGY

(By Eduardo Porter)

ECONOMIC SCENE

A couple of years ago, the smart money was on wind. In 2012, 13 gigawatts worth of wind-powered electricity generation capacity was installed in the United States, enough to meet the needs of roughly three million homes. That was some 40 percent of all the capacity added to the nation's power grid that year, up from seven gigawatts added in 2011 and just over five in 2010.

But then a federal subsidy ended. Only one gigawatt worth of wind power capacity was installed in 2013. In the first half of 2014, additions totaled 0.835 gigawatts. Facing a Congress controlled by Republicans with little interest in renewable energy, wind power's future suddenly appears much more uncertain.

"Wind is competitive in more and more markets," said Letha Tawney at the World Resources Institute. "But any time there is uncertainty about the production tax credit, it all stops."

Wobbles on the road to a low-carbon future are hardly unique to the United States. In its latest Energy Technology Perspectives report, the International Energy Agency noted that the deployment of photovoltaic solar- and wind-powered electricity was meeting goals established to help prevent temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above the average in the preindustrial era, the limit agreed to by the world's leaders to avoid truly disruptive climatic upheaval.

In the same report, however, the organization noted that other technologies—bio-energy, geothermal and offshore wind—were lagging. And it pointed out that worldwide investment in renewable power was slowing, falling to \$211 billion in 2013, 22 percent less than in 2011.

These wobbles underscore both the good news and the bad news about the world's halting progress toward reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are capturing heat in the atmosphere and changing the world's climate.

The good news is that humanity is developing promising technologies that could put civilization on a low carbon path that might prevent climate disruption.

These technologies allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to pass new rules aimed at achieving a 30 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from American power plants by 2030, compared with 2005.

They allowed President Obama last week to promise that the United States would

curb total greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025—a big step that, White House officials say, can be achieved without further action from Congress. And they allowed China to commit to start cutting emissions after 2030.

The bad news is that civilization is mostly not yet on such a low carbon path. While promising technologies to get there have been developed, it is unclear whether nations will muster the political will and mobilize the needed investments to deploy them.

New energy technologies have become decidedly more competitive. The United States' Energy Information Administration projects that the levelized cost of onshore wind energy coming on stream in 2019—a measure that includes everything from capital costs to operational outlays—could be as little as \$71 per megawatt-hour measured in 2012 dollars, even without subsidies. This is \$16 less than the lower cost projection four years ago for wind energy coming online in 2015.

Similarly, projections for the levelized cost of energy from photovoltaic solar cells have tumbled by more than 40 percent, much faster than the cost projections of energy from coal or natural gas.

Challenges remain to relying on intermittent energy sources like the sun or the wind for power. Still, experts believe that hitching solar and wind plants to gas-fired generators, and using new load management technologies to align demand for power with the variable supply, offer a promising path for aggressively reducing the amount of carbon the power industry pumps into the atmosphere, which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the nation's total carbon dioxide emissions.

And new Energy Information Administration projections to 2040 show prices for renewables falling even lower. By then, electricity from photovoltaic solar plants could be generated for as little as \$86.50 per megawatt-hour, without subsidies. In some areas wind-based plants could produce it for as little as \$63.40.

Nuclear energy is also becoming more competitive. Without any subsidies, new-generation nuclear power coming on stream in 2040 could cost as little as \$80 per megawatt-hour, all costs considered. This is only marginally more expensive than electricity produced with coal or natural gas, even without the added cost of capturing the carbon dioxide.

And there are much more optimistic cost assessments out there than the Energy Information Administration's.

But for all the optimism generated by cheaper renewable fuels, they do not, on their own, put the world on the low-carbon path necessary to keep climate change in check.

Progress is faltering on several fronts. The precipitous fall in the prices of photovoltaic cells from 2008 to 2012 pretty much stopped in 2013, after rapid consolidation of the industry.

The International Energy Agency now projects that installed global nuclear capacity in 2025 will fall 5 percent, to 24 percent below what will be needed to stay on the safe side of climate change. And carbon capture technologies, which will be essential if the world is to keep consuming any form of fossil fuel, remain hampered by high costs, meager investment and scant political commitment.

"The unrelenting rise in coal use without deployment of carbon capture and storage is fundamentally incompatible with climate

change objectives," noted the International Energy Agency in its Technology Perspectives report.

Despite the falling costs of renewable energy in the United States, the Energy Information Administration's baseline assumptions project that in 2040 only 16.5 percent of electricity generation will come from renewable energy sources, up from some 13 percent today. More than two-thirds will come from coal and gas. Without some carbon capture and storage technology, drastic climate change is almost certainly unavoidable.

What is necessary to get us on a safer path?

White House officials trust that the administration has the tools, including fuel economy and appliance efficiency standards, the Environmental Protection Agency's new limits on power plant emissions and regulations to limit other greenhouse gases.

Yet the Energy Information Administration's projections suggest how hard the task will be. Though they were developed before the Environmental Protection Agency issued its new rules, they included hypothetical outlines that could mimic some of its effects. In one, coal power plants were decommissioned more quickly; in another, subsidies to renewable energy were kept until 2040. In another, the price of renewables fell faster than expected. None of them did much to move the carbon dial.

There is one tool available to trim carbon emissions on a relevant scale: a carbon tax. That solution, however, remains off the table.

If a carbon tax were to be imposed next year, starting at \$25 and rising by 5 percent a year, the Energy Information Administration estimates, carbon dioxide emissions from American power plants would fall to only 419 million tons by 2040, about one-fifth of where they are today. Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy in the United States would fall to 3.6 billion tons—1.8 billion tons less than today. By providing a monetary incentive, economists say, such a tax would offer by far the most effective way to encourage business and individuals to reduce their use of fossil fuels and invest in alternatives.

Is this enough? No. This proposal still leaves the United States short of the 80 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions that the White House is aiming for and that experts consider necessary by 2050 to prevent climatic havoc. But at least it's in the same order of magnitude.

Most important, perhaps, the Energy Information Administration's estimates make clear that the real constraint lies not in our ability to develop the necessary technologies but in our political will to deploy them.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself
and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2941. A bill to combat human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce, along with Senator PORTMAN, the Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2014.

Human trafficking is estimated to be a \$32 billion criminal enterprise, making it the second largest criminal industry in the world, behind the drug trade. Many steps need to be taken to combat this problem. But we cannot escape this simple truth: without demand for the services performed by

trafficking victims, the problem would not exist.

The bill we are introducing today would reduce the demand for human trafficking, particularly the commercial sexual exploitation of children, by holding buyers accountable and making it easier for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute all persons who participate in sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking is not a victimless crime. In the United States, the average age that a person is first trafficked is between 12 and 14. Many of these children continue to be exploited into adulthood. A study of women and girls involved in street prostitution in my hometown of San Francisco found that 82 percent had been physically assaulted, 83 percent were threatened with a weapon, and 68 percent were raped. The overwhelming majority of sex trafficking victims are American citizens—83 percent by one estimate from the Department of Justice.

I am encouraged that Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies are taking steps to combat human trafficking. Between January and June of this year, the Federal Bureau of Investigation recovered 168 trafficking victims and arrested 281 sex traffickers in “Operation Cross Country.”

I commend these efforts, but more needs to be done to target the perpetrators who are fueling demand for trafficking crimes—the buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims. Many buyers of sex are “hobbyists” who purchase sex repeatedly. Because buyers are rarely arrested, much less prosecuted, the demand for commercial sex continues unabated.

Without buyers, sex trafficking would cease to exist. As Luis CdeBaca, the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, noted, “[n]o girl or woman would be a victim of sex trafficking if there were no profits to be made from their exploitation.”

The Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2014 would address this problem, by incentivizing federal and state law enforcement officers to target buyers and providing new authorities to prosecute all who engage in the crime of sex trafficking.

First, the bill would clarify that buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims can be prosecuted under the federal commercial sex trafficking statute. This provision would codify the Eighth Circuit’s decision in *United States v. Jungers*, which held that this statute encompasses buyers, in addition to sellers. Despite this favorable ruling, there is no guarantee that other courts will follow this precedent.

Second, the bill would hold buyers and sellers of child sex acts accountable for their actions, even if they claim they were unaware of the age of a minor victim. At times, it can be difficult for a prosecutor to prove that a

buyer was aware of the victim’s age. Successful cases can require the child victim to testify to this fact, subjecting the victim to re-traumatization. The bill would draw a clear line: if you purchase sex from an underage child, you can be prosecuted. Period.

Third, the bill would grant judges greater flexibility to impose an appropriate term of supervised release on sex traffickers. Current law contains an anomaly: a person convicted of violating the commercial sex trafficking statute or attempting to violate the statute may be subject to a longer term of supervised release than a person who is convicted of conspiring to violate the statute. Conspiring to traffic underage children is as serious as attempting to commit this crime and should be punished the same.

Fourth, the bill would require the Bureau of Justice Statistics to prepare annual reports on the number of arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of sex traffickers and buyers of sex from trafficked victims in the state court system. Very little data is available on the prosecutions made under anti-trafficking laws. This provision would provide additional data and encourage state and local governments to increase enforcement against sellers and buyers of sex from trafficked victims.

Fifth, the Combat Human Trafficking Act would ensure that training programs for federal and state law enforcement officers include components on effective methods to target and prosecute the buyers of sex acts from trafficked victims. This would equip prosecutors with the tools they need to target buyers, encouraging prosecution of these perpetrators.

Sixth, the bill would authorize federal and state officials to seek a wiretap to investigate and prosecute any human trafficking-related offense. Under current law, a federal law enforcement officer may seek a wiretap in an investigation under the commercial sex trafficking statute, but not under a number of other statutes that address human trafficking-related offenses, such as forced labor and involuntary servitude. Similarly, a state law enforcement officer may seek a wiretap to investigate a kidnapping offense, but not an offense for human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, or child pornography production. Our bill would fix those omissions.

Finally, this legislation would strengthen the rights of crime victims. The bill would amend the Crime Victims’ Rights Act to provide victims with the right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea agreement or deferred prosecution agreement. The exclusion of victims in these early stages of a criminal case profoundly impairs victims’ rights because, by the nature of these events, there often is no later proceeding in which victims can exercise their rights.

The bill would also ensure that crime victims have access to appellate review when their rights are denied in the lower court. Regrettably, five appellate courts have mis-applied the Crime Victims’ Rights Act by imposing an especially high standard for reviewing appeals by victims, requiring them to show “clear and indisputable error”. Four other circuits have applied the correct standard: the ordinary appellate standard of legal error or abuse of discretion. This bill resolves the issue, setting a uniform standard for victims in all circuits by codifying the more victim-protecting rule, that the appellate court “shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.”

I am pleased that this bill has the support of numerous law enforcement and anti-trafficking organizations: the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Shared Hope International, ECPAT-USA, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, CATW, Human Rights Project for Girls, Survivors for Solutions, Sanctuary For Families, World Hope International, Prostitution Research & Education, MISSEY, and Breaking Free. These groups are on the forefront in the fight against sex trafficking, and I am proud to have their support.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator PORTMAN in supporting this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2941

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING; LOWER MENS REA FOR SEX TRAFFICKING OF UNDERAGE VICTIMS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF RANGE OF CONDUCT PUNISHED AS SEX TRAFFICKING.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or maintains” and inserting “maintains, patronizes, or solicits”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or obtained” and inserting “obtained, patronized, or solicited”; and

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) In a prosecution under subsection (a)(1), the Government need not prove that the defendant knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, maintained, patronized, or solicited had not attained the age of 18 years.”.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking “or obtaining” and inserting “obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting”.

(c) MINIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMMERCIAL CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.—Section 3583(k) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “1594(c),” after “1591.”

SEC. 3. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS REPORT ON STATE ENFORCEMENT OF SEX TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “commercial sex act”, “severe forms of trafficking in persons”, “State”, and “Task Force” have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102);

(2) the term “covered offense” means the provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons; and

(3) the term “State law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(b) REPORT.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall—

(1) prepare an annual report on—

(A) the rates of—

(i) arrest of individuals by State law enforcement officers for a covered offense;

(ii) prosecution (including specific charges) of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(iii) conviction of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(B) sentences imposed on individuals convicted in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(2) submit the annual report prepared under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Task Force;

(D) the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)); and

(E) the Attorney General.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND POLICY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “commercial sex act”, “severe forms of trafficking in persons”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102);

(2) the term “Federal law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term in section 115 of title 18, United States Code;

(3) the term “local law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a unit of local government authorized by law or by a local government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law; and

(4) the term “State law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(b) TRAINING.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice, including each anti-human trafficking training program for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, includes technical training on effective methods for investigating and prosecuting individuals who ob-

tain, patronize, or solicit a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(c) POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that Federal law enforcement officers are engaged in activities, programs, or operations involving the detection, investigation, and prosecution of individuals described in subsection (b).

SEC. 5. WIRETAP AUTHORITY FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(c)—

(A) by inserting before “section 1591” the following: “section 1581 (peonage), section 1584 (involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor);” and

(B) by inserting before “section 1751” the following: “section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor);” and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,” after “kidnapping.”

SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) NOTIFICATION OF PLEA AGREEMENT OR OTHER AGREEMENT.—Section 3771(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea agreement or deferred prosecution agreement.”

(b) APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: “In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.”

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2946. A bill to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2946

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) water and sanitation are critically important resources that impact many other aspects of human life;

(2) the United States should be a global leader in helping provide sustainable access

to clean water and sanitation for the world's most vulnerable populations; and

(3) the “USAID Water and Development Strategy, 2013–2018”, which was released by the United States Agency for International Development in May 2013—

(A) improves USAID's capacity to provide sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance;

(B) advances implementation of portions of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533), and

(C) should inform the Global Water Strategy required under section 136(j) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 6 of this Act.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND SANITATION TO INCLUDE HYGIENE.

Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 135 (22 U.S.C. 2152h), as added by section 5(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as section 136; and

(2) in section 136, as redesignated—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “AND SANITATION” and inserting “, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “and sanitation” and inserting “, sanitation, and hygiene”.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

“(1) USAID GLOBAL WATER COORDINATOR.—

“(A) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this paragraph as ‘USAID’) or the Administrator's designee, who shall be a current USAID employee serving in a career or non-career position in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Administrator or higher, shall serve concurrently as the USAID Global Water Coordinator (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Coordinator’).

“(B) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

“(i) provide direction and guidance to, coordinate, and oversee the projects and programs of USAID authorized under this section;

“(ii) lead the implementation and revision, not less frequently than once every 5 years, of USAID's portion of the Global Water Strategy required under subsection (j);

“(iii) seek—

“(I) to expand the capacity of USAID, subject to the availability of appropriations, including through the designation of a lead subject matter expert selected from among USAID staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h);

“(II) to implement such programs and activities;

“(III) to take advantage of economies of scale; and

“(IV) to conduct more efficient and effective projects and programs;

“(iv) coordinate with the Department of State and USAID staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h) to ensure that USAID activities and

projects, USAID program planning and budgeting documents, and USAID country development strategies reflect and seek to implement—

“(I) the safe water, sanitation, and hygiene objectives established in the strategy required under subsection (j), including objectives relating to the management of water resources; and

“(II) international best practices relating to—

“(aa) increasing access to safe water and sanitation;

“(bb) conducting hygiene-related activities; and

“(cc) ensuring appropriate management of water resources; and

“(v) develop appropriate benchmarks, measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans for USAID projects and programs authorized under this section.

“(2) DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR WATER RESOURCES.—

“(A) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary’s designee, who shall be a current employee of the Department of State serving in a career or non-career position in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Secretary or higher, shall serve concurrently as the Department of State Special Advisor for Water Resources (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Special Advisor’).

“(B) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—The Special Advisor shall—

“(i) provide direction and guidance to, coordinate, and oversee the projects and programs of the Department of State authorized under this section;

“(ii) lead the implementation and revision, not less than every 5 years, of the Department of State’s portion of the Global Water Strategy required under subsection (j);

“(iii) prioritize and coordinate the Department of State’s international engagement on the allocation, distribution, and access to global fresh water resources and policies related to such matters;

“(iv) coordinate with United States Agency for International Development and Department of State staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h) to ensure that United States diplomatic efforts related to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including efforts related to management of water resources and watersheds and the resolution of intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources, are consistent with United States national interests; and

“(v) represent the views of the United States Government on the allocation, distribution, and access to global fresh water resources and policies related to such matters in key international fora, including key diplomatic, development-related, and scientific organizations.

“(3) ADDITIONAL NATURE OF DUTIES AND RESTRICTION ON ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION.—The responsibilities and specific duties of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (or the Administrator’s designee) and the Secretary of State (or the Secretary’s designee) under paragraph (2) or (3), respectively, shall be in addition to any other responsibilities or specific duties assigned to such individuals. Such individuals shall receive no additional or supplemental compensation as a result of carrying out such responsibilities and specific duties under such paragraphs.”.

SEC. 5. PROMOTING THE MAXIMUM IMPACT AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF USAID SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE-RELATED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT AND LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that the Agency for International Development’s projects and programs authorized under this section are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability by—

“(1) prioritizing countries on the basis of the following clearly defined criteria and indicators, to the extent sufficient data are available—

“(A) the proportion of the population using an unimproved drinking water source;

“(B) the total population using an unimproved drinking water source;

“(C) the proportion of the population without piped water access;

“(D) the proportion of the population using shared or other unimproved sanitation facilities;

“(E) the total population using shared or other unimproved sanitation facilities;

“(F) the proportion of the population practicing open defecation;

“(G) the total number of children younger than 5 years of age who died from diarrheal disease;

“(H) the proportion of all deaths of children younger than 5 years of age resulting from diarrheal disease;

“(I) the national government’s capacity, capability, and commitment to work with the United States to improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including—

“(i) the government’s capacity and commitment to developing the indigenous capacity to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors; and

“(ii) the degree to which such government—

“(I) identifies such efforts as a priority; and

“(II) allocates resources to such efforts;

“(J) the availability of opportunities to leverage existing public, private, or other donor investments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, including investments in the management of water resources; and

“(K) the likelihood of making significant improvements on a per capita basis on the health and educational opportunities available to women as a result of increased access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including access to appropriate facilities at primary and secondary educational institutions seeking to ensure that communities benefitting from such projects and activities develop the indigenous capacity to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors;

“(2) prioritizing and measuring, including through rigorous monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, the extent to which such project or program—

“(A) furthers significant improvements in—

“(i) the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1);

“(ii) the health and educational opportunities available to women as a result of increased access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including access to appropriate facilities at primary and secondary educational institutions; and

“(iii) the indigenous capacity of the host nation or community to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors;

“(B) is designed, as part of the provision of safe water and sanitation to the local community—

“(i) to be financially independent over the long term, focusing on local ownership and sustainability;

“(ii) to be undertaken in conjunction with relevant public institutions or private enterprises;

“(iii) to identify and empower local individuals or institutions to be responsible for the effective management and maintenance of such project or program; and

“(iv) to provide safe water or expertise or capacity building to those identified parties or institutions for the purposes of developing a plan and clear responsibilities for the effective management and maintenance of such project or program;

“(C) leverages existing public, private, or other donor investments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, including investments in the management of water resources;

“(D) avoids duplication of efforts with other United States Government agencies or departments or those of other nations or nongovernmental organizations;

“(E) coordinates such efforts with the efforts of other United States Government agencies or departments or those of other nations or nongovernmental organizations directed at assisting refugees and other displaced individuals; and

“(F) involves consultation with appropriate stakeholders, including communities directly affected by the lack of access to clean water, sanitation or hygiene, and other appropriate nongovernmental organizations;

“(3) seeking to further the ‘USAID Water and Development Strategy, 2013–2018’ through 2018; and

“(4) seeking to further the strategy required under subsection (j) after 2018.

“(g) USE OF IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION AND REVIEW OF NEW STANDARDIZED INDICATORS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to use improved data collection—

“(A) to meet the health-based prioritization criteria established pursuant to subsection (f)(1); and

“(B) to review new standardized indicators in evaluating progress towards meeting such criteria.

“(2) CONSULTATION AND NOTICE.—The Administrator shall—

“(A) regularly consult with the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) notify such committees not later 30 days before using improved data collection and review of new standardized indicators under paragraph (1) for the purposes of carrying out this section.

“(h) DESIGNATION OF HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—

“(1) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—Not later than October 1, 2015, the President shall—

“(A) designate, on the basis of the criteria set forth in subsection (f)(1) and in furtherance of the ‘USAID Water and Development Strategy, 2013–2018’, not fewer than 10 countries as high priority countries to be the primary recipients of United States Government assistance authorized under this section during fiscal year 2016; and

“(B) notify the appropriate congressional committees of such designations.

“(2) ANNUAL DESIGNATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall annually make new designations pursuant to the criteria set forth in paragraph (1).

“(B) DESIGNATIONS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Beginning with fiscal year 2019, designations under paragraph (1) shall be made—

“(i) based upon the criteria set forth in subsection (f)(1); and

“(ii) in furtherance of the strategy required under subsection (j).

“(i) TARGETING OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days before the obligation of any funds for water, sanitation, or hygiene projects or programs pursuant to this section in countries that are not ranked in the top 50 countries based upon the WASH Needs Index, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the planned obligation of such funds.

“(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection and in subsection (j), the term ‘WASH Needs Index’ means the needs index for water, sanitation, or hygiene projects or programs authorized under this section that has been developed using the criteria and indicators described in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of subsection (f)(1).”

SEC. 6. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO INCREASE APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) GLOBAL WATER STRATEGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2017, and every 5 years thereafter, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a single government-wide Global Water Strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends—

“(A) to increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in high priority countries designated pursuant to subsection (h), including a summary of the WASH Needs Index and the specific weighting of data and other assumptions used to develop and rank countries on the WASH Needs Index;

“(B) to improve the management of water resources and watersheds in such countries; and

“(C) to work to prevent and resolve, to the greatest degree possible, both intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources in such countries.

“(2) AGENCY SPECIFIC PLANS.—The Global Water Strategy shall include an agency-specific plan—

“(A) from the United States Agency for International Development that describes specifically how the Agency for International Development will—

“(i) carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Global Water Coordinator under subsection (e)(1);

“(ii) ensure that the Agency for International Development’s projects and programs authorized under this section are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability, including by implementing the requirements described in subsection (f); and

“(iii) increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in high priority countries designated pursuant to subsection (h);

“(B) from the Department of State that describes specifically how the Department of State will—

“(i) carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Special Coordinator for Water Resources under subsection (e)(2); and

“(ii) ensure that the Department’s activities authorized under this section are designed—

“(I) to improve management of water resources and watersheds in countries designated pursuant to subsection (h); and

“(II) to prevent and resolve, to the greatest degree possible, both intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources in such countries; and

“(C) from other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, that describes the contributions of the departments and agencies to implementing the Global Water Strategy.

“(3) INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS FOR HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—For each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall—

“(A) develop a costed, evidence-based, and results-oriented plan that—

“(i) seeks to achieve the purposes of this section; and

“(ii) meets the requirements under subsection (f); and

“(B) include such plan in an appendix to the Global Water Strategy required under paragraph (1).

“(4) FIRST TIME ACCESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Global Water Strategy shall specifically describe the target percentage of funding for each fiscal year covered by such strategy to be directed toward projects aimed at providing first-time access to safe water and sanitation.

“(5) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—The Global Water Strategy shall include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and monitoring and evaluation plans required to be developed by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(B)(v).

“(6) CONSULTATION AND BEST PRACTICES.—The Global Water Strategy shall—

“(A) be developed in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies; and

“(B) incorporate best practices from the international development community.

“(k) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

“(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE AGENCY SPECIFIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit an agency-specific plan to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 136(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a)) that meets the requirements of section 136(j)(2)(B) of such Act, as added by subsection (a).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor

Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) is repealed.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 583—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 30, 2014, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. ISAKSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 583

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day through use of the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

(F) all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 30, 2014, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—COMMEMORATING JERALD D. LINNELL ON HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 584

Whereas Jerry Linnell, a native of Minnesota, graduated from the court reporting program of the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis;

Whereas Jerry Linnell, joined the Official Reporters of Debate of the United States Senate in 1982 and became Chief Reporter in 1999 supervising a staff of reporters and transcribers and producing the Senate’s portion of the Congressional Record with remarkable accuracy;

Whereas Jerry Linnell has earned the respect and affection of the Senators, their staffs and all of his colleagues for his professionalism, dedication and good humor;

Whereas Jerry Linnell now retires from the Senate after 32 years to spend more time with his wife Jane, his four children and five grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its appreciation to Jerry Linnell and commends him for his lengthy, faithful and outstanding service to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Jerald D. Linnell.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3949. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3949. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

Subtitle I—Uniform Code of Military Justice Reform

SEC. 591. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Military Justice Improvement Act of 2014”.

SEC. 592. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE TO PROCEED TO TRIAL BY COURT-MARTIAL ON CHARGES ON CERTAIN OFFENSES WITH AUTHORIZED MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF CONFINEMENT OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—With respect to charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that allege an offense specified in paragraph (2) and not excluded under paragraph (3), the Secretary of Defense shall require the Secretaries of the military departments to provide for the determination under section 830(b) of such chapter (article 30(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) on whether to try such charges by court-martial as provided in paragraph (4).

(B) HOMELAND SECURITY.—With respect to charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that allege an offense specified in paragraph (2) and not excluded under paragraph (3) against a member of the Coast Guard (when it is not operating as a service in the Navy), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide for the determination under section 830(b) of such chapter (article

30(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) on whether to try such charges by court-martial as provided in paragraph (4).

(2) COVERED OFFENSES.—An offense specified in this paragraph is an offense as follows:

(A) An offense under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that is triable by court-martial under that chapter for which the maximum punishment authorized under that chapter includes confinement for more than one year.

(B) A conspiracy to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A) as punishable under section 881 of title 10, United States Code (article 81 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(C) A solicitation to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A) as punishable under section 882 of title 10, United States Code (article 82 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(D) An attempt to commit an offense specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C) as punishable under section 880 of title 10, United States Code (article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(3) EXCLUDED OFFENSES.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to an offense as follows:

(A) An offense under sections 883 through 917 of title 10, United States Code (articles 83 through 117 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(B) An offense under section 933 or 934 of title 10, United States Code (articles 133 and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(C) A conspiracy to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) as punishable under section 881 of title 10, United States Code (article 81 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(D) A solicitation to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) as punishable under section 882 of title 10, United States Code (article 82 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(E) An attempt to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A) through (D) as punishable under section 880 of title 10, United States Code (article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(4) REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—The disposition of charges pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to the following:

(A) The determination whether to try such charges by court-martial shall be made by a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces designated in accordance with regulations prescribed for purposes of this subsection from among commissioned officers of the Armed Forces in grade O-6 or higher who—

(i) are available for detail as trial counsel under section 827 of title 10, United States Code (article 27 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

(ii) have significant experience in trials by general or special court-martial; and

(iii) are outside the chain of command of the member subject to such charges.

(B) Upon a determination under subparagraph (A) to try such charges by court-martial, the officer making that determination shall determine whether to try such charges by a general court-martial convened under section 822 of title 10, United States Code (article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or a special court-martial convened under section 823 of title 10, United States Code (article 23 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(C) A determination under subparagraph (A) to try charges by court-martial shall include a determination to try all known offenses, including lesser included offenses.

(D) The determination to try such charges by court-martial under subparagraph (A), and by type of court-martial under subparagraph (B), shall be binding on any applicable convening authority for a trial by court-martial on such charges.

(E) The actions of an officer described in subparagraph (A) in determining under that subparagraph whether or not to try charges by court-martial shall be free of unlawful or unauthorized influence or coercion.

(F) The determination under subparagraph (A) not to proceed to trial of such charges by general or special court-martial shall not operate to terminate or otherwise alter the authority of commanding officers to refer such charges for trial by summary court-martial convened under section 824 of title 10, United States Code (article 24 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or to impose non-judicial punishment in connection with the conduct covered by such charges as authorized by section 815 of title 10, United States Code (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(5) CONSTRUCTION WITH CHARGES ON OTHER OFFENSES.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter or affect the disposition of charges under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), that allege an offense triable by court-martial under that chapter for which the maximum punishment authorized under that chapter includes confinement for one year or less.

(6) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) shall revise policies and procedures as necessary to comply with this subsection.

(B) UNIFORMITY.—The General Counsel of the Department of Defense and the General Counsel of the Department of Homeland Security shall jointly review the policies and procedures revised under this paragraph in order to ensure that any lack of uniformity in policies and procedures, as so revised, among the military departments and the Department of Homeland Security does not render unconstitutional any policy or procedure, as so revised.

(7) MANUAL FOR COURTS-MARTIAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall recommend such changes to the Manual for Courts-Martial as are necessary to ensure compliance with this subsection.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a), and the revisions required by that subsection, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to charges preferred under section 830 of title 10, United States Code (article 30 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), on or after such effective date.

SEC. 593. MODIFICATION OF OFFICERS AUTHORIZED TO CONVENE GENERAL AND SPECIAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 822 of title 10, United States Code (article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph (8):

“(8) the officers in the offices established pursuant to section 593(c) of the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2014 or officers in the grade of O-6 or higher who are assigned such responsibility by the Chief of

Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, or the Commandant of the Coast Guard, but only with respect to offenses to which section 592(a)(1) of the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2014 applies.”.

(b) **NO EXERCISE BY OFFICERS IN CHAIN OF COMMAND OF ACCUSED OR VICTIM.**—Such section (article) is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) An officer specified in subsection (a)(8) may not convene a court-martial under this section if the officer is in the chain of command of the accused or the victim.”.

(c) **OFFICES OF CHIEFS OF STAFF ON COURTS-MARTIAL.**—

(1) **OFFICES REQUIRED.**—Each Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces or Commandant specified in paragraph (8) of section 822(a) of title 10, United States Code (article 22(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as amended by subsection (a), shall establish an office to do the following:

(A) To convene general and special courts-martial under sections 822 and 823 of title 10, United States Code (articles 22 and 23 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), pursuant to paragraph (8) of section 822(a) of title 10, United States Code (article 22(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as so amended, with respect to offenses to which section 592(a)(1) applies.

(B) To detail under section 825 of title 10, United States Code (article 25 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), members of courts-martial convened as described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **PERSONNEL.**—The personnel of each office established under paragraph (1) shall consist of such members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense, or such members of the Coast Guard or civilian personnel of the Department of Homeland Security, as may be detailed or assigned to the office by the Chief of Staff or Commandant concerned. The members and personnel so detailed or assigned, as the case may be, shall be detailed or assigned from personnel billets in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 594. DISCHARGE USING OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) shall carry out sections 592 and 593 (and the amendments made by section 593) using personnel, funds, and resources otherwise authorized by law.

(b) **NO AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OR RESOURCES.**—Sections 592 and 593 (and the amendments made by section 593) shall not be construed as authorizations for personnel, personnel billets, or funds for the discharge of the requirements in such sections.

SEC. 595. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES ON COURTS-MARTIAL BY INDEPENDENT PANEL ON REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

Section 576(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1762) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraph (J):

“(J) Monitor and assess the implementation and efficacy of sections 592 through 594

of the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2014, and the amendments made by such sections.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Preparedness and Response to Public Health Threats: How Prepared Are We?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Protecting our Children’s Mental Health: Preventing and Addressing Childhood Trauma in Indian Country.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2014, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Private Industry’s Role in Stemming the Tide of Phone Scams.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mary Fletcher, a detailee on my staff from the Department of Justice, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING JERALD D. LINNELL ON HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 584, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 584) commending Jerald D. Linnell on his service to the United States Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 584) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For the information of Senators, there will be up to five roll-call votes at 2 p.m. on confirmation of the Pepper, Sannes, Arleo, Beetlestone, and Bolden district judicial nominations.

I would ask of my friend, the Senator from Iowa, how long he is going to speak.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will speak for 20 to 25 minutes.

Mr. REID. For up to 30 minutes.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in his State of the Union Address last January, President Obama announced what he called a year of action. Armed with pen and phone, he promised to take action where Congress wouldn't. At the time, I warned that these threats were a gathering danger to the separation of powers established in our Constitution.

The President is now threatening to implement a mass amnesty from our immigration laws by Executive fiat. He plans to act without the support of Congress or the American people. In fact, he has conveniently waited until after the recent elections to do so in order to avoid being punished at the ballot box. This Executive order will be the culmination of his self-proclaimed year of action.

The President may think of this Executive action as a political victory in a year filled with so many failures and defeats for him and his party, but history will surely view it as a serious blow to the systems of checks and balances established by the Framers. In reality, this was a year in which the President's abuse of Executive power came into clear focus.

Today I would like to review President Obama's pattern of unconstitutional Executive action this year. I would like to explain why the mass amnesty he has been threatening is merely the latest in a long list of abuses of his Executive authority. And I would like to offer a few thoughts about what the Senate can do about these kinds of abuses.

After the President's State of the Union Address, I wrote to the Attorney

General on January 31. I wrote that I was "gravely concerned that the system of checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution [was] threatened by the President's determination to take unilateral action." In short, I made clear that "while the President has a pen and phone, we have a Constitution that places limits on his use of them to issue Executive Orders." Indeed, my concern about the President's threat to take action on his own was "heightened by the administration's record of failing to discharge his constitutional duties to 'take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'"

By then, President Obama had already failed to execute the laws in many areas. For example, the administration was rewriting ObamaCare's deadlines at will and was making little effort to enforce the Controlled Substances Act in some States. These abuses rang like alarm bells—alarm bells in the night—even before the so-called year of action began.

Indeed, in December of 2013 a liberal law professor testified before the House Judiciary Committee that "despite the fact that I once voted for President Obama, personal admiration is no substitute for the constitutional principles at stake in this controversy."

The professor went on:

When a President claims the inherent power of both legislation and enforcement, he becomes a virtual government unto himself. He is not simply posing a danger to the constitutional system; he becomes the very danger that the Constitution was designed to avoid.

Against this backdrop, I asked the President to defend the legal basis for the actions he was threatening. In my letter I asked the Attorney General to direct the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel to publicly disclose its opinions concerning the lawfulness of the Executive orders proposed by the President. That is what the Office of Legal Counsel does—it reviews all Executive orders to determine whether they are constitutional and lawful. Many of its opinions have been made public in the past. I hoped this transparency would allow Congress and then the American people to better understand the alleged legal basis for these orders and challenge them, if necessary.

Providing Congress and the American people with the legal opinions supporting his unilateral actions seemed like a reasonable request of a President who had claimed to support "an unprecedented level of openness" and transparency in government. But February passed, March as well, April came and went, winter turned into spring, and summer was around the corner. Finally, on May 20 I received a response from the Justice Department. In summary, the Department told me no, they wouldn't disclose these opinions to the public. However, the De-

partment assured me that if I had questions about particular Office of Legal Counsel advice documents, it would assist me in understanding them—in their words—to the fullest extent possible. In short, the administration stonewalled legitimate questions from Congress, as it often does, and stymied this Congress from carrying out its constitutional responsibility of oversight.

As it turned out, within a few weeks I and many others in Congress had very serious questions about a specific Executive action and its effect on our national security, and we had questions about the advice provided by the Office of Legal Counsel. The American people had the same questions as well.

In early June the President decided to release five Taliban detainees held at Guantanamo Bay in exchange for SGT Bowe Bergdahl, a U.S. soldier who had been captured in 2009. The detainees were reportedly senior-level Taliban commanders. Some had direct links to Al Qaeda, and all were reportedly determined to be a high risk to the United States and were recommended for continued detention. Nonetheless, President Obama decided to free these prisoners from Guantanamo.

There was one problem, however: The National Defense Authorization Act required the administration to notify Congress 30 days before any detainee could be transferred from Guantanamo. Under this statute, the notification was required to include lots of detailed information about the basis for the transfer—why it was in our national security interests and any actions taken to prevent detainees from returning to the battlefield. In fact, none of this information was provided to the Congress before these detainees were released, as the very law requires. And perhaps not coincidentally, this was information that Members of Congress and the American people were very interested in learning. There were and still are serious questions about whether releasing these detainees from Guantanamo was a good idea.

So the President decided to act alone, without regard to Congress's role in our system of checks and balances and directly contrary to a law the President had recently signed.

Then the administration began changing its story about why it broke the law. First, they said it was Sergeant Bergdahl's health that required his release—his release without notifying Congress. Then they said it was operational security surrounding the release itself. Then they said it was the nature of the negotiations with the Taliban.

But there was one point administration officials were clear about—the Department of Justice had provided legal advice that justified transferring these detainees from Guantanamo without

informing Congress as the law required. This was difficult to square with the limited powers of the Executive established in the Constitution.

In *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company v. Sawyer*, otherwise known as the steel seizure case, the Supreme Court set a clear precedent establishing what a President can and cannot do. In that case the Supreme Court held that President Truman's Executive order seizing steel mills to avoid a strike during the Korean war was unconstitutional. In doing so, the Court emphasized that the Executive isn't above the law as written by Congress.

The Founders of this Nation entrusted the lawmaking powers to the Congress alone in both good and bad times. It would do no good to recall the historical events, the fears of power and the hopes for freedom that lay behind their choice. Such a review would but confirm our holding that this seizure order cannot stand.

Moreover, Justice Jackson emphasized that point here:

When the President takes measures incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress, the authority of the President is at its lowest [ebb].

Just as the Supreme Court held that President Truman had unlawfully seized the steel mills, President Obama's release of the Taliban detainees without a required notification effectively rewrote the law contrary to the will of Congress.

In short, there didn't seem to be a lawful basis for what the President had done. In fact, it seemed plainly illegal.

So I took the Department up on its offer. In a letter to the Attorney General dated June 5, I requested that he direct the Office of Legal Counsel to make public "its opinions, analyses, and conclusions concerning the lawfulness" of the transfer without compliance with the statute that required congressional notification. I went on to say:

It is obviously too late for Congress to express its concerns about these transfers in time to prevent them. However, this measure of transparency will at least allow the American people to better understand the Administration's purported basis for ignoring the legal requirement that Congress be notified in advance, and shed additional light on this controversial decision.

It is now 6 months later, and the Attorney General hasn't given me the courtesy of a response to my letter. We still don't know how the Department justified the release of these detainees. We don't know the legal basis or the underlying facts that were relied upon. That should not be acceptable to anyone, but sadly it has become commonplace with the Obama administration.

It turns out that to this Justice Department, assisting me "to the fullest extent possible" is actually indistinguishable from ignoring my request completely.

Shortly thereafter, in August, the Government Accountability Office con-

cluded that the administration acted illegally when it released these senior-level Taliban commanders from Guantanamo without notifying Congress, as the law recently signed by the President demanded.

Let's be clear. That wasn't a Member of Congress reaching that conclusion. It wasn't a political operative or a talking head on television. It was an independent, nonpartisan government agency. So the GAO effectively said: President Obama, you broke the law.

So perhaps it makes sense that the Department of Justice couldn't respond to my letter. Maybe even the very smart lawyers in the Office of Legal Counsel couldn't come up with a justification for what happened that could pass the laugh test.

But that wasn't the only rebuke the President suffered this year after trampling on Congress's role under the Constitution. The Supreme Court was forced to rein in President Obama as well in a dispute over his powers to make recess appointments.

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution provides for only two ways in which Presidents may appoint certain officers. First, it provides that the President nominates and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints various officers. Second, it permits the President to make temporary appointments when a vacancy in one of those offices happens when the Senate is in recess.

Back in 2012, President Obama made four appointments to various executive branch positions. They were purportedly based on the recess appointments clause. But he took this action even though they weren't made, in the words of the Constitution, "during the recess of the Senate" because the Senate was still in session.

No President in history had ever tried to make recess appointments when the Senate said it was in session, but this President once again decided to go around Congress.

In June of this year, the Supreme Court struck down these appointments as unconstitutional. It wasn't a split decision. It wasn't 5 to 4 along party lines. It was unanimous. Every Justice agreed—those appointed by both Republicans and Democrats. That included two Justices appointed by President Obama himself. It was the Supreme Court's biggest rebuke to any President since 1974, when it ordered President Nixon to produce the Watergate tapes.

This was a case where the Office of Legal Counsel's opinion didn't pass the laugh test again. So the Supreme Court unanimously said: President Obama, you broke the law.

So this purported year of action has brought into focus a President with little respect for the roles of the coequal branches of government, unwilling to explain the legal basis for his actions,

and rebuked by the courts and independent agencies for overstepping his bounds—quite out of character with somebody who proudly says he is a professor of constitutional law.

Now, again, the President is threatening to act unilaterally on immigration. If we thought this year's events so far would have given the President pause about his "go it alone" approach, apparently we would be wrong.

Of course one of the reasons I oppose mass amnesty is because it is bad policy. Immigration reform should begin with securing our borders. Border security is among the most basic responsibilities of any country and somewhat the definition of what sovereignty is all about.

But this administration hasn't done that. To the contrary, according to recent news reports it has freed alleged kidnappers, rapists, and murderers into communities in the United States rather than deport them. It has sacrificed public safety in order to provide relief for people who are here illegally.

But the President's unilateral action on immigration isn't just bad policy, it is contrary to the rule of law. It is unconstitutional for the executive branch to nullify or even unilaterally rewrite the immigration laws that the people of the United States through their elected representatives have chosen to enact.

We have been hearing about the possibility of an Executive action on immigration for many months. It will apparently involve steps to allow millions of people illegally present in the United States to live, work, and collect benefits here.

The Democratic leadership wants to compare what is being threatened here to the Executive actions of past Presidents on immigration, but the actions of Presidents Reagan and Bush were merely tying up loose ends, carrying out a law Congress at that time had just passed. They established policies that were later put in the statute in 1990. President Obama is threatening to act directly against the wishes of Congress and on a far greater scope and scale. That is why I and 21 other Senators wrote to the President on April 24 to express our grave concerns about the lawfulness of what was reportedly under consideration, and apparently our warnings were not heeded.

Now, if the President acts after repeated calls by congressional leaders not to do so, it will severely damage his relationship with the new Congress elected by the American people.

But the core issue is this: Under our Constitution, the Congress makes the law. Under article II, section 3, the President is charged with taking care that these laws are faithfully executed. But if President Obama effectively legalizes people who are here unlawfully, no one will be able to reasonably argue that he is faithfully executing our

laws. Once again, that doesn't pass the laugh test.

So, like the Government Accountability Office and the Supreme Court earlier this year, I say: President Obama, if you take this Executive action on immigration, you will be breaking the law, and even more than that, you will be violating the Constitution.

And the President knows this. Just a few years ago he conceded:

This notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. The fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of getting . . . comprehensive [immigration] legislation passed by perpetrating the notion that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true. We live in a democracy. We have to pass bills through the legislature, and then I can sign it.

That is the end of a quote of the President that speaks to exactly what the responsibilities of a President happen to be and how they should be viewed and how he ought to be acting now. The President was right then, even if he doesn't want to live by his own words now. There are no shortcuts to following the Constitution.

Now what we are likely to hear from the administration is that this Executive action is simply a lawful exercise of enforcement discretion. It is not. It is simply not an exercise of enforcement discretion. Lawful enforcement discretion is exercised on an individual case-by-case basis. So whether enforcement action takes place is informed by a careful evaluation of the facts in a particular case as each case presents itself. Lawful enforcement discretion isn't selecting entire categories of individuals and telling them that going forward the law won't be applied to them. That is what President Obama is threatening to do.

This shouldn't only concern constitutional scholars and lawyers. It is no exaggeration to say that the freedom of the American people is at stake. That is what the Framers believed. Listen to Federalist Paper 51. James Madison wrote that "separate and distinct exercise of different powers of government" is "essential to the preservation of liberty."

Moreover, in the Steel Seizure case I quoted, Justice Frankfurter warned that "the accretion of dangerous power does not come in a day. It does come, however slowly, from the generative force of unchecked disregard of the restrictions that fence in even the most disinterested assertion of authority."

President Obama's actions this year wreak of unchecked disregard for the restrictions of his authority. In his remarks after the recent elections, President Obama repeatedly emphasized that his Executive actions would be lawful, but, as this year has shown, he has repeatedly acted illegally even

though the Department of Justice evidently had assured him otherwise. The Office of Legal Counsel doesn't appear to be providing independent legal advice to the President; it is simply rubberstamping whatever he wants to do. So it is cold comfort for the President to assure us that anything he will do is legal.

Let's go back to the bedrock principles of our country's Founders. The Framers of the Constitution knew an abusive Executive when they saw one. They sent the Declaration of Independence to a King who had ignored and abused their legislatures and laws. The Framers would also have recognized the specific kinds of Executive abuses as reflected in President Obama's mass amnesty. They would have referred to them as the royal suspending and dispensing powers. But George III didn't even try to abuse colonists with these powers. Why? Because Parliament had denied them to the King 100 years before the American Revolution.

You see, the Kings of England had traditionally asserted the power to suspend the operation of certain laws or to grant dispensations prospectively excusing particular individuals from compliance. But as deference to the King's authorities eroded, these powers became more controversial.

As part of the Glorious Revolution in the late 17th century, these royal powers were terminated. The first two articles in the English Bill of Rights of 1689 made it illegal for the King to exercise the "pretended power of suspending the laws and dispensing with the laws." This happened a century before our own Constitutional Convention. So when the Framers met in Philadelphia, these were abuses long since remedied in England. Instead, the Framers charged the President with the constitutional duty to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

With his talk now of mass amnesty, President Obama is threatening to abandon his constitutional duty. He is threatening to reassert royal powers that even the Framers thought were long abolished. He is threatening to take our country backward a century before the American Revolution.

When talking about immigration policy, the President has acknowledged that he isn't a King, so common sense tells me he shouldn't act like one.

During the President's remaining 2 years in office, how should the Senate respond to his illegal Executive action on immigration or any other Executive abuses? In some cases we can use the power of the purse to defund them. In other cases we may use our congressional oversight tools to expose them. In still other cases, we may be able to pass legislation to do away with them completely. These tools have been available to the Senate since President Obama was elected. It should come as no surprise that the Democrats in the

majority didn't use them to confront his abuses of power. So in the 114th Congress, we Republicans intend to use that.

The best course of action for the President is this: Learn from President Clinton. He lost control of the Congress 2 years after he became President. He decided to show leadership and work with the Congress of the United States. Great things happened with a Republican Congress and a Democratic President. We had welfare reform. We had 40 percent of the people leave the welfare rolls. We had tax reform. We had budgets that were balanced and paid down \$568 billion on the national debt. There are things we can do together very early.

The President wants patent trolling and corporate tax reform. There are a lot of things we can work on together.

I have been led to believe that the President is very much a free trade person, and I believe he is. We could pass trade promotion authority. We could work together with the President in the early months of next year and we could gain credibility. Under his leadership, we could reform an immigration system that needs reform. But, no, I think the President is going to take another route and retard the cooperation that is potentially available to him just as it was when President Clinton was President.

I hope the President will rethink what he wants to do and show the same leadership that President Clinton did so we can get off to a very good start next year.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARK R. ROSEKIND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE DAVID L. STRICKLAND, RESIGNED.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MATTHEW STUART BUTLER, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2015, VICE ROSEMARY E. RODRIGUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES J. BURKS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. SCOTT H. SWIFT

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAY E. CLASING

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 19, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JON M. HOLLADAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAUREEN ELIZABETH CORMACK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

ALLAN P. MUSTARD, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TURKMENISTAN.

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

EARL ROBERT MILLER, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

JUDITH BETH CEFKIN, OF COLORADO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

ROBERT T. YAMATE, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNION OF THE COMOROS.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 19, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

MYRNA PEREZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2015. VICE ROSEMARY E. RODRIQUEZ, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR NIH AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to vote to fully fund the National Institutes of Health as we consider appropriations for FY2015.

Restoring the agency to its pre-sequestration spending level is critical to American health and medical innovation. The consequences of insufficient funding for the agency's work are not always immediately apparent but are significant. Serious investments in research are required if we hope to develop new cures, treatments, and vaccines for complex diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.

Without this type of significant commitment, the costs of Alzheimer's to Americans in 2050 will be a predicted \$1.2 trillion dollars.

As recent events have demonstrated, global health is also becoming a national security issue. We have seen how research conducted at the National Institutes of Health can be key to protecting American health and playing our part as a global health leader. Restrictions on research based on funding limitations can also hinder our efforts to combat such health crises.

Mr. Speaker, as a world leader in research and innovation we must dedicate the appropriate level of funding to the National Institutes of Health.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia Southern University on the grand opening of their new Center for Continuing Education in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Established in 1993 by Dr. Robert Mayes, Columbia Southern University offers individuals with demanding schedules a way to achieve their dreams of higher education through online learning. By 2001, Columbia Southern was granted accreditation through the Distance Education and Training Council. Columbia Southern went on to become one of the first United States universities to offer a degree program in Vietnam. After Dr. Mayes' death in 2005, his son, Robert Mayes, Jr., was appointed President. Robert built on his fa-

ther's success and continued to expand Columbia Southern's footprint.

Mr. Speaker, the new Columbia Southern Education Group Center for Continuing Education will include staff offices, meeting rooms and a large training area that can be partitioned off to accommodate a variety of training needs. The 10,600 square foot facility will also serve as the regional training center for the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission.

I am proud of the work Columbia Southern does to promote higher learning, and I take pride in knowing they are located in the heart of the First Congressional District. I know I join with many others in saying congratulations on the new facility, and we look forward to continued growth and success.

HONORING JOHN C. ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John C. Adams. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending John C. Adams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING BANDERA, TEXAS AS THE COWBOY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1852, despite the danger posed by Indian raids at the time, a group of entrepreneurs acquired land on a cypress-lined bend in the Medina River. The following year, members of the group surveyed the town of Bandera and opened a sawmill and commissary. The town quickly became a thriving settlement due to the success of the founders' water-powered lumber mill.

In the years that followed, local farmers and ranchers prospered, supplying products to United States Cavalry troops at Camp Verde, growing and ginning cotton, and raising cattle, sheep, and goats.

In the 1870s, as the threat of Indian attacks receded, the county became a staging area for cattle drives and its population grew markedly. It is estimated that between 1874 and 1894, seven to 10 million longhorns and one million horses were driven by 30,000 cowboys to a staging area near Bandera, a major gathering point connecting with the Western Trail. During this time, Bandera became known as a place where cowboys could relax and buy supplies.

Dude ranching began in 1920 when the Buck Ranch took in paying summer guests, with the Bruce Ranch taking the overflow. In the 1930s, the dude ranching industry continued to expand and over 30 dude ranches were operating near Bandera.

Rodeos began in the 1920s when cowboys who worked on ranches displayed the skills they used at roundups and on cattle drives. The first advertised rodeo near Bandera was held at Mansfield Park in 1924. Bandera cowboys became rodeo world champions and were inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The citizens of Bandera are heirs to a rich western heritage. Today this charming town continues on as a living testament to the courage, talent, and vision of the men and women who shaped the Old West. Since 1920 the community has been a popular tourist destination, each year drawing visitors from around the state and beyond to attractions that include area resorts, dude ranches, rodeos, and hunting and camping areas.

The wild and rugged town of Bandera has long displayed the qualities that earned it the designation, "Cowboy Capital of the World" in 1948.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the rich history of Bandera, Texas and pay tribute to its citizens' many contributions to the Lone Star State.

HONORING DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate a dedicated public servant and a dear friend, Dr. Julian Crocker.

Dr. Crocker has honorably served the educational community for 50 years. He began his career as a classroom teacher after earning both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Vanderbilt University and later earning his doctorate from Harvard University. He has

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

served school districts around the country, primarily serving as the superintendent for multiple school districts over the course of his career including the San Mateo City School District, Palo Alto Unified School District, and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

This year marks 16 years of Dr. Crocker's remarkable career as the County Superintendent of Schools for the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. Drawing upon his distinguished career in education, Julian's leadership has helped generations of students successfully prepare for the future. His passion and tireless efforts have succeeded in closing achievement gaps and improving student achievement.

Beyond his role as Superintendent, Julian has served on numerous committees and task forces dedicated to serving the schools, employees, students, and youth of the Central Coast. As an active member and leader of several educational associations throughout the state of California, he has earned the respect and admiration of so many in the educational field. Julian has also served as an adjunct faculty member of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as in the School of Education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

As a military veteran, educator, and community leader, Julian's commitment to helping others and strengthening our Central Coast community is truly inspiring. I thank him for his passion, dedication, and friendship and join our community in wishing him the best in retirement and in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PANHANDLE HONOR FLIGHT

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 33 veterans from Texas who visited Washington, D.C., on October 10, 2014, through the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight. My wife, Sally, and I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming these heroes to the Capitol.

The veterans on this flight were: Brown, Jerry; Chambers, Obra Gerald; Crittenden, Max; Ediger, Walt; Elliott, Glenn; Godowic, Paul; Hartley, Gary; Hickey, D.W.; Howell, Jack; Hunter, Vaughn; Hutson, James; Jones, Dick; Keller, Walt; Kennedy, James; Kinser, David Wayne; Lewis, Carroll; Mantooth, Billy; McManaman, Dennis; Megert, Russell; Merrick, Jim; Morris, Jerry; Pollard, Patrick; Putnam, Julian; Runion, Thomas; Saiz, Jimmy; Schramm, Bert; Smith, Berry; Smith, Benjamin; Stratton, Henry; Swearengen, Gordon; White, Pete; Wilhelm, Tom; Williamson, Norman.

It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit with these veterans and the volunteers who traveled with them and to show them a symbol of their dedication to this country and the democracy for which they fought. The willingness of the men and women in our military to put their lives on the line to protect our

country and all of the freedoms we enjoy deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. I hope that their visit to Washington, D.C., and the Capitol was a small token of our appreciation for all they have given us throughout the years.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I want to extend a significant thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, and the America Supports You Texas for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without all of the financial and emotional support of those people.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century, energy has become vital to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day because refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer—whether in our homes, in restaurants or during the process of trade. Cell phones, computers, televisions and other electronics require electrical power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world. As we have seen in the current Ebola epidemic, it is necessary that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they do not lose their potency.

It is both unfortunate and unnecessary that more than half a billion Africans, especially in rural areas, live without electricity.

Perhaps, the great irony is that Africa has more than enough energy capacity to join the rest of the world in utilizing modern technologies that require regular energy supplies. Ironically, 30% of global oil and gas discoveries over the past five years have been in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet currently, only 290 million out of 914 million Africans have access to electricity, and the total number lacking such access continues to rise. Bioenergy, mainly fuel wood and charcoal, is still a major source of fuel. Hydropower accounts for about 20% of total power supply in the region, but less than 10% of its estimated potential has been utilized.

A hearing I convened last week examined the current and prospective impact of U.S. government programs such as Power Africa and Electrify Africa, as well as private international energy projects.

Last year, Chairman ROYCE—backed by Ranking Members ELIOT ENGEL and KAREN BASS—and I introduced H.R. 2548—the Electrify Africa Act. This legislation seeks to build the African power sector—from increased production to more effective provision of energy. H.R. 2548 passed the House this past May, but has languished in the Senate ever since. If no Senate action is taken during the remaining days of this session of Congress, this legislation will have to be reintroduced next year.

Days after the Electrify Africa Act was introduced in the House, the Administration an-

nounced its Power Africa initiative and has committed up to \$7.81 billion in various types of U.S. technical and credit assistance and other aid to build the capacity of the African power sector.

It seems that every few months, there is yet another discovery of petroleum or natural gas in Africa. Nevertheless, African countries remain net importers of energy, and the distribution of power from the many new sources of energy in Africa remains unfulfilled. This constrains trade and economic progress, social development and overall quality of life in Africa. Even now, one country—South Africa—accounts for two-thirds of Africa's electricity generation. All of Africa produces less than 10% of the energy produced in the United States.

Meanwhile, people across the continent are forced to meet their energy needs by gathering or purchasing charcoal or wood, often putting women in dangerous situations too far from home. Even when such fuels are safely brought back home, their use produces indoor pollution that too often contributes to sickness and early death.

The current situation cannot continue much longer. Even with 13% of the world's population, Africa represents only 4% of the world's energy demand, but this situation is changing. According to a report this year by the International Energy Agency (IEA), since 2000, sub-Saharan Africa has seen rapid economic growth and a rise in energy use by 45%.

We often speak of the rise in African economies, but for that rise to be truly realized, the rates of power generation and supply must match the growing demand for power. Those cell phones that are transforming all forms of commerce in Africa must be charged. The consumer goods the growing African middle class is purchasing need electricity. Africans are increasingly unwilling to accept the blackouts and power surges that have made life so difficult for so long. Africans who have traveled or lived elsewhere know this doesn't have to be their lot in life. In fact, even those who don't travel have seen how others live on their televisions—when power is available for them to operate.

During the colonial period in Africa, countries were limited in their industrialization, but that period is now long past. It must no longer be used as the reason why African countries are behind in the process of industrialization or power generation. Today, this lag in power generation is more due to inadequate or unrealistic regulation, lack of finance for significant power generation projects, underinvestment in power generation even when financing is available, the disconnection of rural populations from national and regional power grids, high costs for electricity and other factors.

These obstacles can be overcome, but they will require international and national collaboration, public-private partnerships and the will of governments and their citizens. We will not get to the point we believe is necessary overnight, but we will not get there at all if we do not take serious measures now and implement them faithfully and completely.

African people, like people everywhere, deserve the benefits that modern technology has produced. Africa has become a prized global consumer market, but that market cannot be fully realized without electricity. Anyone visiting

stores in Africa can see the many modern technologies offered to African consumers today; they merely need guaranteed electricity for those goods to be useful.

With regular electricity, young students can not only study under electrical light, but also use computers to advance their studies. Homemakers can keep food fresh longer with refrigerators and can stretch household income farther. And hospitals can preserve blood plasma and medicines that can save lives.

The two panels at the hearing I held last week examined international and national programs to achieve regular, sufficient electrical power in Africa and private projects to add to the supply of energy on the continent. The future of energy in Africa is brighter than it has been in the past, but diligent actions must be taken now to seize the opportunities that lay before us.

HONORING LONE OAK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lone Oak United Methodist Church, a congregation that has been an integral part of the Lone Oak community for generations.

The history of Lone Oak United Methodist Church can be traced back to 1854 when eleven charter members gathered in the private home of Rufus Elliott at the Sabine Forks, west of Lone Oak, forming the Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South. The members met in the home until 1858 when the church was moved to the Hunt School Building in Lone Oak where they continued to worship until 1871, when the congregation merged with the Hall Church.

The Hall Church, originally known as Hefner's School or Chapel, was a building constructed for the education of the children of the community, but was also available to the circuit riders and itinerant Methodist ministers and to the local Masonic lodge. Having been destroyed by fire in 1884, a new site was selected at 218 Main Street in Lone Oak. The Vernacular Gothic Revival church structure was completed in 1889 and continues to serve the congregation today.

In 1939, Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South merged with other Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestants meeting in Lone Oak to form the Lone Oak Methodist Church. In 1968, with the merging of the Methodist Church USA and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the church became Lone Oak United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the congregation of Lone Oak United Methodist Church for 160 years of fellowship and worship, and 125 years in their present building. May God continue to bless this congregation and their ministry.

H.R. 4012 AND H.R. 1422

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, one of the last actions this Chamber took before recessing for the elections wasn't to act on comprehensive immigration reform or pass a funding measure to avoid another Republican government shutdown. We didn't exercise Congress's constitutional role in debating issues of war and peace and take up an Authorization for Use of Military Force in response to the threat of ISIS. And we didn't address our nation's crumbling infrastructure by passing a long-term transportation bill.

Sadly, just as they did then, the most anti-environmental House majority is once again engaging in science suppression and denial simply because they disagree with the findings and the responsible actions taken based on those findings to protect public health and preserve the environment.

H.R. 4012, for example, is an attempt to tie the EPA's hands by restricting the information it can use in drafting safeguards. If passed, this bill would exclude a host of important data, including university research that is protected by privacy and confidentiality laws, as well as proprietary business information.

Not to be outdone, H.R. 1422 would weaken the EPA's advisory process and make it easier for special interests to be appointed to and influence the Science Advisory Board. Do we really want to have the impartial analysis of our nation's leading experts replaced by big corporate interests? What could go wrong with that?

Unfortunately, the public has grown accustomed to the House majority's repeated efforts to gut important environmental safeguards that protect public health. All told, my friends on the other side of the aisle have voted more than 200 times to block action to address climate change, to halt efforts to reduce air and water pollution, and to undermine protections for public lands, coastal areas, and the environment. The bills before us this week are more of the same.

This know-nothing approach fails the public we are sworn to protect and serve. As elected officials, we have to recognize the valuable role science must play in making good public policy. Not anecdotes . . . not false narratives . . . science.

I urge my colleagues to reject these bills, abandon this war on science, so that we can turn our attention to the pressing issues our country demands we address.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE
GREGORY C. PITTMAN FOR
RECEIVING THE LIVING LEG-
ENDS AWARD

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gregory

C. Pittman and his commendable service to Michigan's Western District as a Muskegon County Probate Judge.

After graduating from Michigan State University with his Bachelor's Degree, Judge Pittman went to Indiana University to obtain his Juris Doctor. After receiving his law degree, he returned to his birthplace in Muskegon, Michigan. On January 6, 1998, Governor John Engler appointed Judge Pittman to the Muskegon County Probate Bench. Judge Pittman has now served the Muskegon County Court System for 16 years, and he currently serves as the presiding Judge of the Muskegon County Family Court. Judge Pittman also promotes the strengthening of Michigan families, and in 2001, was awarded the Michigan Family Forum's Champion of the Family award.

Throughout his career, Judge Pittman has been committed to serving his community, and this has led to him being active in many educational, social, and civic organizations. He has served as the President of the Muskegon Heights Public Schools Board of Trustees, as well as a Trustee of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District. Judge Pittman currently serves his community in many other ways as well. He is a member of the Hackley Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County Board of Trustees. Judge Pittman is also a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Association Foundation.

For all of his work and commitment, on November 22, 2014, Judge Pittman will be receiving the Living Legends Award at the Muskegon BEAT Awards Ceremony. I want to congratulate Judge Pittman for receiving such a prestigious reward, and thank him for his service to Muskegon County and the state of Michigan.

HONORING DAUGHTERS OF
PENELOPE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from the bipartisan Hellenic Caucus to recognize the 85th Anniversary this week of the Daughters of Penelope. Founded on November 16, 1929, this organization works to improve the well-being of women and afford them the opportunity to make important contributions to the United States.

The DOP is a preeminent international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage.

Since its founding, Daughters of Penelope has worked through its 250 worldwide chapters to promote the Greek ideals of philanthropy, education, and civic responsibility. Throughout its history, local chapters have identified pressing needs and developed solutions to make a difference in their communities.

Through DOP's sponsorship of affordable housing for seniors, domestic violence shelters

in Mobile, Alabama and Brockton, Mass., and many other efforts, its members continue to embody the best ideals of citizenship.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had the privilege to see the significant contributions of the Daughters of Penelope in the Greek American community both in New York and across the country. I am proud to say that DOP has lived up to its mission to contribute to the development of America through Hellenic ideals, and I look forward to its continued success.

HONORING NATHANIEL J.
BRANCATO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel J. Brancato. Nathaniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathaniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathaniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Nathaniel J. Brancato for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FIGHTING EBOLA: A GROUND
LEVEL VIEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world community has known of the Ebola Virus Disease, more commonly called just Ebola, since it first appeared in a remote region near the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976. In previous outbreaks, Ebola had been confined to remote areas in which there was little contact outside the villages or areas in which it appear. Unfortunately, this outbreak, now an epidemic, spread from a village to an international center for regional trade and spread into urban areas in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone that are crowded with limited medical services and limited resident trust of government. The unprecedented west African Ebola epidemic has not only killed more than 5,000 people, with more than 14,000 others known to be infected. This situation has skewed the planning for how to deal with this outbreak.

In our two previous hearings on the Ebola epidemic, on August 7th and September 17th,

we heard about the worsening rates of infection and challenges in responding to this from government agencies such as USAID and CDC and NGOs operating on the ground such as Samaritan's Purse and SIM. The hearing I held yesterday was intended to take testimony from non-governmental organizations providing services on the ground currently in the affected countries, especially Liberia, so we can better determine how proposed actions are being implemented.

In its early stages, Ebola manifests the same symptoms as less immediately deadly diseases, such as malaria, which means initial health care workers have been unprepared for the deadly nature of the disease they have been asked to treat. This meant that too many health care workers—national and international—have been at risk in treating patients who themselves may not know they have Ebola. Hundreds of health care workers have been infected and many have died, including some of the top medical personnel in the three affected countries.

What we found quite quickly was that the health care systems in these countries, despite heavy investment by the United States and other donors, are quite weak. As it happens, these are three countries either coming out of very divisive civil conflict or experiencing serious political divisions. Consequently, citizens have not been widely prepared to accept recommendations from their governments. For quite some time, many people in all three countries would not accept that the Ebola epidemic was real. Even now, it is believed that despite the prevalence of burial teams throughout Liberia, for example, some families are reluctant to identify their suffering and dead loved ones for safe burials, which places family members and their neighbors at heightened risk of contracting this often fatal disease when patients are most contagious.

The porous borders of these three countries have allowed people to cross between countries at will. This may facilitate commerce, but it also allows for diseases to be transmitted regionally. As a result, the prevalence of Ebola in these three countries has ebbed and flowed with the migration of people from one country to another. Liberia remains the hardest hit of the three countries, with more than 6,500 Ebola cases officially recorded. The number of infected and dead from Ebola could be as much as three times higher than the official figure due to underreporting.

Organizations operating on the ground have told us over the past few months that despite the increasing reach of international and national efforts to contact those infected with Ebola, there remain many remote areas where it is still difficult to find residents or gain sufficient trust to obtain their cooperation. Consequently, the ebb and flow in infections continues. Even when it looks like the battle is being won in one place, it increases in a neighboring country and then reignites in the areas that looked to be successes.

The United States is focusing on Liberia, the United Kingdom is focusing on Sierra Leone, and France and the European Union are supposed to focus on Guinea. In both Sierra Leone and Guinea, the anti-Ebola efforts are behind the pace of those in Liberia. This epidemic must brought under control in all three if our efforts are to be successful.

Last week, I, along with Representatives KAREN BASS and MARK MEADOWS of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, introduced H.R. 5710, the Ebola Emergency Response Act. This bill lays out the steps needed for the U.S. government to effectively help fight the west African Ebola epidemic, especially in Liberia—the worst-hit of the three affected countries. This includes recruiting and training health care personnel, establishing fully functional treatment centers, conducting education campaigns among populations in affected countries and developing diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

H.R. 5710 confirms U.S. policy in the anti-Ebola fight and provides necessary authorities for the Administration to continue or expand anticipated actions in this regard. The bill encourages U.S. collaboration with other donors to mitigate the risk of economic collapse and civil unrest in the three affected countries. Furthermore, this legislation authorizes funding of the International Disaster Assistance account at the higher FY2014 level to effectively support these anti-Ebola efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST AFRICAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION
CHURCH, SAN JOSE FOR 150
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose for 150 years of service, fellowship and stewardship to the San Jose community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Mother Church, was founded in New York City, in October 1796. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was named the Freedom Church because it struggled mightily for the dignity and emancipation of Black people in America.

In 1864, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose was founded in San Jose and has continued in the tradition of the Mother Church to fight for the dignity, emancipation and rights of all people and has been recognized by the City of San Jose as the oldest Black church in San Jose.

On November 23, 2014 the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will celebrate 150 Years of service to the San Jose community and is planning for the community service demands of the future.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT
CHAMBERLIN ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM SOURCEAMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize E. Robert Chamberlin on the occasion

of his retirement from SourceAmerica at the end of this year. Located in my district, SourceAmerica is a national non-profit that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chamberlin leads a network of more than 500 affiliated non-profit agencies that participate in the AbilityOne Program, which currently provides employment to more than 128,000 people in the United States who are blind or have other significant disabilities. I, and more than 100 of my colleagues, are proud to partner in these efforts as AbilityOne Congressional Champions.

Mr. Chamberlin joined SourceAmerica as Vice President of Operations in December 1999, following a career with the U.S. Armed Forces, and he was appointed CEO in January 2001. During his Navy career, he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and held key positions afloat, overseas, and ashore. Later, as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served as the Department of Defense's representative on the AbilityOne Commission, the Federal agency which oversees the AbilityOne Program.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chamberlin has been tireless in his efforts to improve the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition to promoting the hundreds of thousands of individuals employed through the SourceAmerica network, Mr. Chamberlin has provided critical leadership on a number of new employment initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment, the Pathways to Careers Employment Initiative, and the AbilityOne Design Challenge for assistive technology. In addition, he has helped to expand SourceAmerica's outreach to the private sector through new partnerships with large corporations and franchise organizations. Those efforts are particularly important for preserving work opportunities given the current constraints on federal agency budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished military service and career accomplishments of Mr. E. Robert Chamberlin, and I want to personally commend him for his commitment to safeguarding the rights and opportunities for all Americans, especially those with significant disabilities.

HONORING JACOB P. COGLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob P. Cogley. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably,

Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jacob P. Cogley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF FETHULLAH
GÜLEN

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exceptional work of Fethullah Gülen. Mr. Gülen has long stood as a pillar of peace and humanity and as a model for opposition in the face of rising dictatorship.

A respected member of the Pennsylvania community, Fethullah Gülen has worn many hats throughout his life. A vocal leader of the Turkish civic movement, Mr. Gülen has been forced to live in a self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania for fear for his safety.

The founder of the 'Gülen Movement,' Fethullah Gülen has long been a voice of reason in a world of turmoil. Widely known as a highly-respected leader, he has encouraged Turkish citizens to vote for those who are respectful to democracy and the rule of law, rather than one party or another. He has consistently promoted a moderate blend of Islam in a time of growing radicalism and is well known for his global network of educational establishments, extending to over 140 countries. His views promote a tolerant Islam, emphasizing hard work and education, as well as building bridges between the Muslim and Western world and science and religion.

While the global community looks to Turkey with both growing concern and enduring hope, it is my honor to commend Fethullah Gülen for his tireless efforts to promote the ideals of peace, democracy, an educated electorate, and the human rights of the Turkish people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
SMITTCAMP

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Earl Smittcamp who passed away on the morning of October 20, 2014 at the age of 96. Earl's passion for farming and education exemplify the meaning leadership.

Earl was a prominent agriculture business leader. He alongside his wife Muriel, founded Wawona Frozen Foods which currently leads the industry in development and distribution of fruit and fruit products. A 1939 graduate of Fresno State, Earl recognized the value of hard work and education and spent his time giving back to his community.

Earlier in his life, Earl honorably served our country in the U.S. Marines Corps during World War II. Upon his return, he and his wife

purchased her father's 200 acre fruit ranch. Their small business went on to dominate the frozen food market, making Wawona Frozen Foods one of the oldest peach processors in the U.S.

Wawona Ranch flourished into a full agricultural operation ranging from fruit farming, packing, frozen-food production to food processing. Earl's sons Bob and Bill manage the business. The Smittcamp's success made a \$2 million donation to Fresno State in 1997, possible. This generous donation helped establish the Smittcamp Family Honors College. The Honors College offers a rigorous academic program for top students. The Smittcamp Family Alumni Center was also later established and opened in early 2000.

In addition to his businesses, Earl also received the following government appointments: Sixth Acting Disaster Governor of California by Governor Ronald Reagan from 1966 to 1972, served on the California State Board of Agriculture from 1970 to 1972, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon to the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition in 1969, served as chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board in 1971, and finally in 1976 Earl was appointed to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Regulatory Programs.

In 1993 Earl's hard work was recognized by The Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Leon S. Peters Award. Other awards include Clovis' Outstanding Citizen in 1962, Fresno State's Outstanding Alumnus in both 1963 and 1980. In addition, Earl was inducted into the Frozen Food Hall of Fame in 2005.

Earl met his wife Muriel at Fresno State in 1940 and the two happily married. In 2009 he was preceded in death by his wife. They are survived by their four children and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Earl Smittcamp. Earl's children, grandchildren, relatives and many friends have an outstanding role model that they will hold in their hearts forever. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will surely live through the Smittcamp family's deep commitment to supporting the community and the university.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,955,187,358,115.74. We've added \$7,328,310,309,202.66 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BEULAH LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON ITS PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven community and all of those gathered this evening in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Beulah Land Development Corporation—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization.

Dedicated to making a difference in a distressed community, the Beulah Land Development Corporation was founded in 1994 with a simple mission—to improve the quality of life for area residents through providing homeownership opportunities for families, the creation of affordable housing for seniors, and supporting innovative economic development initiatives. BLDC also seeks to empower community residents by providing or acting as a gateway to programs and initiatives that provide education, technical and financial assistance to repair and beautify their homes, improve their economic status, and prepare for a sustainable future.

Over the course of the last two decades, BLDC has invested millions in the revitalization of blighted properties. The Orchard Street Townhouses and additional revitalization of several properties along Orchard and Henry Streets have enabled first-time homebuyers to realize their dreams. The Walter S. Brooks Elderly Homes, named in honor of one of the founding members of BLDC, provides safe, affordable rental units for our seniors. Looking to the future, BLDC has recently worked to develop a brownfields site where they plan to provide accessible community based health services.

Perhaps what is most special about BLDC is that it is a family affair. The Brooks family have been and continue to be dedicated community activists. Bishop Theodore Brooks and his late brother, Walter, seeing a real need, opened the doors of BLDC as a way to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Today, BLDC is still led by President and CEO Bishop Theodore Brooks and his son, Darrell, works tirelessly by his side. They understand that a home is not simply a place to rest your head—it is a source of comfort and security for families. By making these investments, they are not only leading by example, they are empowering residents and inspiring a renewed pride in and commitment to their community.

For their many invaluable contributions to the Dixwell neighborhood and the New Haven community, I am honored to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Brooks, his son Darrell, the Brooks family and the staff and supporters of the Beulah Land Development Corporation as they celebrate the organization's platinum anniversary. I have no doubt that even as they celebrate this special occasion, their vision and leadership will continue to make a difference in our community and in the lives of others for many more years to come.

CONGRATULATING MERLE SIDENER ACADEMY FOR HIGH ABILITY STUDENTS, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Merle Sidener Academy for High Ability Students in Indianapolis, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that the Sidener Academy is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 420 schools nationwide received nominations, only 287 were chosen as National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Since opening its doors in 2008 as a magnet school for Indianapolis' gifted and talented students, the Sidener Academy has grown to nearly 400 students and offers a 2nd–8th grade curriculum. The school was named in honor of Merle Sidener, a prominent figure in the Indianapolis community. After making a successful career in journalism, Sidener eventually served as the President of the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at the Sidener Academy give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to the Sidener Academy. I am very proud of you.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JUSTICE MARVIN BAXTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to

recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his honorable service to the state of California. For decades, Justice Baxter served as a dedicated leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talent to make our state a better place.

Marvin Baxter was born in Fowler, California on January 9, 1940. He grew up on his family farm as a second generation American. All four of his grandparents emigrated from Armenia in the early twentieth century. After graduating from Fresno State, he went on to the University of California's Hastings School of Law, where he earned his law degree in 1966.

Justice Baxter began his lifelong career in law in 1967 as a Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. Two years later, he continued on at a private practice focusing on civil law. Justice Baxter worked with the firm Andrews, Andrews, Thaxter, Jones & Baxter for 14 years before he moved back to public service acting as Appointments Secretary to Governor George Deukmejian. In that capacity, Mr. Baxter advised the Governor on judicial and executive appointments.

After working in the Governor's office for five years, Mr. Baxter was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal for the Fifth District. In 1991, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Subsequently, in 2002, Justice Baxter was elected by the California voters to serve an additional 12 years as associate justice.

Throughout his career, Justice Baxter has been a part of many landmark decisions. He is known amongst his peers for being straightforward and clear headed in the courtroom. Colleagues will miss the most senior Supreme Court justice for sound feedback they could regularly count on.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his service to the state of California. Although his time on the California Supreme Court has come to an end, Justice Baxter has made a lasting impression and we commend him for his hard work and dedication.

HONORING AIXA TORRES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Aixa Torres, a tireless advocate for New York's working families. Born in Santurce, Aixa moved with her parents and sisters to New York City in 1955. Attending public school, she graduated from Central Commercial High School as a certified Bookkeeper. She has lived for over 50 years in the Lower East Side (LES) with her siblings Silvia, Aurea and Arthur.

In 1971, Aixa married the late George Carmona, Jr. and had two children, George III and Liza Noemi. She still lives in the LES with her daughter and grandchildren Mia Noemi and Elijah Michael Daniel.

Aixa has committed her life to caring for her community. For more than three decades she

assumed leadership roles on numerous committees and boards for various organizations in the city including parent associations and Action for Progress Adult Day Care center. For twenty-two years she has advocated for District 1 families.

Aixa was elected President of Alfred E. Smith Resident Association in 2010, representing over 4,300 tenants in twelve buildings. Now serving her second term as president, Aixa has stood out as a courageous, committed and caring fighter for Smith residents. She has worked to end neglect and abuse by city agencies, helped stop attempts to develop luxury apartments on open spaces, while caring for residents in the crisis of Hurricane Sandy.

During her tenure as president she and the association have received citations from the New York City Council and recognition from the New York State Assembly and Senate for her work on behalf of Smith residents. Aixa was honored by the New York City Council Women's Caucus at the Inaugural #WOMENLEAD Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, this month, Aixa will be retiring from her post as a District 1 Family Advocate. While she is leaving her position with the New York City Department of Education, anyone who knows Aixa recognizes she will certainly remain an active and welcome voice in our community. Today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting someone who has been a champion for New York residents and a stalwart defender of our city's families—Aixa Torres.

IN MEMORY OF RICK RICHARDSON

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a great Georgian, patriot, and personal friend—Rick Richardson, who passed away on November 14th from a sudden stroke.

Rick served the Georgia GOP for 25 years as the president and a national board member of the State Young Republicans, and 4th District chairman.

He had a tremendous impact on his fellow staff, the chairmen of the State Party, and all 159 counties in Georgia through his humble and hard-working attitude.

Rick was not only the party's "go-to guy" for history on any level but a great friend to all who knew him.

Rick's father and mother should take great pride in raising a son who touched many lives and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

In return, Rick, who lost his father at a young age, stayed by his surviving mother of 92, whom he cared for and loved.

Today, may we reflect on Rick's singular character and the tremendous work he did for Georgia, his family, and country.

Let us not forget him—a proud son, faithful servant, and example of what it means to be a selfless leader.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS INHUMAN, BARBARIC, AND A TERROR ON THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Iran there is no freedom of speech or press. Criticize the government of Iran and you can be arrested, tortured, and even killed. The MEK, an opposition group that only wants freedom for the Iranian people, has seen that firsthand. Hundreds of its members have been executed for doing nothing more than protesting the government.

It isn't just political dissidents who are persecuted in Iran. There is no freedom of religion in Iran. If you are not a Shiite Muslim, you never know when you might be dragged off to jail.

Just like religious minorities, women too are treated like second-class citizens and denied basic human rights. Domestic violence, that evil tactic of cowardly men, is not illegal in Iran. In October, a string of acid attacks injured women deemed "badly veiled." Again, the people rose up. But these protestors were also met with tear gas, violent beatings, and arrests.

But there's a remarkable thing, Mr. Speaker, about repression: it cannot suppress the innate desire in all of us to be free.

In 2009, we saw the people of Iran fight against tyranny. Thousands of Iranians marched defiantly in the streets, protesting the fraudulent election of Ahmadinejad.

In response, police on motorbikes ran over protestors, fired tear gas, beat them with batons, tortured them, shot them. Over a hundred protestors were murdered in the 2 weeks that followed the election.

Today, President Rouhani would like us to believe that life in Iran has changed. The truth is that life in Iran has not changed. President Rouhani's words are empty lies.

The Iranians are freedom-loving people, and they deserve the basic human rights. Today, with this bill we tell the people of Iran that they do not fight alone. That we stand together with them against the Supreme Leader and all his cronies. And one day, hopefully soon, we will stand with them in Tehran to celebrate the downfall of the Iranian regime.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING HONORARY CONSUL BERJ K. APKARIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian upon his appointment as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno. This is a monumental occasion for not only Berj but for Fresno's entire Armenian community.

In 1979, Berj immigrated to Fresno, California, from Syria, and he has since been a

very active member of Fresno's Armenian-American community. He is the Executive Director of Physician Relations at Community Medical Centers and is also a professor at California State University, Fresno, where he leads the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies.

In 2009, the City of Fresno established a sister city partnership with the city of Etchmiadzin in Armenia. The partnership enhances the bond between Fresno and Armenia, and Berj was instrumental in forming the relationship. To further strengthen our city's ties with Armenia, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Armenia was established on August 14, 2014.

As Honorary Consul, Berj will continue to play an integral role in strengthening our Valley's relationship with Armenia. In addition to forming a stronger relationship with Armenia, Berj plans to take a team of medical professionals to Armenia to educate and provide healthcare services for residents living in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian as he begins to serve as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno.

CELEBRATING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join those celebrating the month of November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to thank the Pulmonary Hypertension Association for its work in furthering understanding of this life-changing disease.

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening lung disease marked by elevated blood pressure in the lungs. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) is a nonprofit organization that seeks ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension and to provide hope for the PH community through support, education, advocacy and awareness. I am particularly proud of the work that the PHA Midwest Chapter is doing to provide support for people living with pulmonary hypertension and those who care for them. Their efforts to raise awareness and push for research into improved treatments and, ultimately, a cure are critical.

PHA is a young organization that is changing the history of this illness. From simple beginnings—four women around a kitchen table in Florida in 1990—PHA has evolved in size and complexity. When the association was founded, there were no support groups to help individuals and caregivers cope with this disease. Today, PHA serves more than 13,000 members and supporters with over 245 support groups that provide knowledge, support, hope and empowerment for the PH community. PHA continues to work every day to find a cure for pulmonary hypertension and believes that no one should face this disease alone.

On November 22, PHA Midwest and the PH community will mark Pulmonary Hypertension Month by hosting the inaugural O2 breathe Hearts PHor Hope Gala. The gala is an opportunity both to focus attention and to recognize the accomplishments and advances made in the PH field, while honoring those who made these advances possible. This special evening will honor Stuart Rich, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine with the 2014 Heart PHor Hope Legacy Award. A dedicated researcher, passionate physician and continuous supporter of PHA, Dr. Rich has been a groundbreaking leader in the pulmonary hypertension field for more than three decades and continues to show his dedication and support of the PH community.

The PHA Midwest Chapter is a valuable resource, and I am grateful for the job that it is doing to raise awareness through next week's gala and the annual marathon, to provide assistance, and to push for greater research and medical breakthroughs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHELE MARLENE VENABLE

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michele Marlene Venable and extend my condolences to her family.

Michele, a resident of Florida's 23rd Congressional District and a long-time constituent of mine from the city of Hollywood, tragically passed away on November 8th after a battle with stomach cancer.

All of us that knew Michele could tell you that she represented the very best in our community.

She was dedicated to selflessly helping others, putting her community first, and empowering the most vulnerable.

She was a beacon of light for so many.

She will be tremendously missed, but never forgotten by our South Florida community.

I will remember Michele most for her work as Director of Social Services at the Jubilee Center of Broward County.

In this position, Ms. Venable coordinated delivering food, clothing, and vital personal items to Broward County's homeless and needy.

She also worked to connect countless numbers of South Floridians with legal aid, veteran's services, Medicaid assistance, and emergency shelters.

She has capably led the Jubilee Center over the past decade and raised it to new heights.

It is worth noting that Volunteer Broward recently honored the Center as the "Agency of the Year" for all volunteer groups serving Broward County.

This is a tribute to Michele's tireless and fierce leadership.

She always demanded the best from herself and those around her in the service of others.

Poverty and despair can be powerful forces in society, but they certainly met their match when confronted by Michele's force of will to bring hope to others.

It is also not surprising that before her tireless efforts at the Jubilee Center, she served our community through her ministry work as a pastor.

Anyone who has ever worked with her will tell you that Michele was driven by an astounding love for people.

I and many of my Congressional District Office staff as well as my children, have had the honor of joining Michele every year to help the Jubilee Center serve Thanksgiving dinner to the less fortunate in our community—a job Michele did with grace and pride.

This year on Thanksgiving we will again gather to help our community—Michele Venable's community.

I am sure that we will all be missing Michele's warm smile and bright disposition.

But we honor her memory if we carry on her amazing commitment to helping those less fortunate in our community.

In this way her spirit of compassionate altruism lives on and inspires others to walk in her footsteps.

In this time of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for Michele Venable and a life well lived in service to our South Florida community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ANNUAL COWBOY CHRISTMAS COOK-OFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off which takes place each December, in Mission, Texas.

The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an International Barbeque Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds benefiting the Silver Ribbon Community Partners, who provide emergency relief assistance and educational programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Talented barbeque chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken. The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star-style food and music and I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HARRIS

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Harris for being the recipient of the 2014 Agriculturist of the Year award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. John has made countless contributions to California's agricultural economy, and his efforts deserve to be honored.

John was born into a family with strong agricultural roots. His parents grew cotton and grain on their family farm. John attended the University of California at Davis (UC Davis), and later, founded Harris Ranch. Harris Ranch is one of the leading producers of agricultural goods in the nation. His products include: almonds, pistachios, citrus, and various vegetable crops.

Under John's leadership, Harris Ranch has been a leading beef producer in California's Central Valley for years. Additionally, Harris Ranch is the largest cattle feeder ranch in the state, and it produces over 150 million pounds of beef a year.

Harris Ranch also breeds thoroughbred racing horses. This year, Harris Ranch received national media attention because of the racing horse champion, California Chrome.

John served as the president of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and is currently a member of the executive committee in the association. John is also a member of the California Horse Racing Board and served as a chairman in 2004, 2005 and 2009. He also is a member of the Jockey Club, and is a very dedicated man to the sport of horse racing.

John is an active community member, and he is a strong supporter of Saint Agnes Medical, the California Cattlemen's Association, and Western Growers Association. Additionally, he supports agricultural education and donates to UC Davis, California State University, Fresno, and the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. John Harris. He is truly deserving of this recognition, and I thank him for all of the contributions he has made to California's San Joaquin Valley.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. MEREDITH CARTER FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career and accomplishments of Dr. Meredith Carter. For more than three decades, Dr. Carter has served as an educator, nonprofit administrator, member of the Hamilton County Council and so much more.

Born on May 27, 1939, in Cutler, Indiana, Dr. Carter is a lifelong Hoosier. After graduating from Cutler High School, Dr. Carter earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in biology from Butler University. He then went on to earn an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Ball State University.

Dr. Carter began his tenure on the Hamilton County Council on January 1, 1983. Since then, he has been a leading contributor to the exceptional economic growth and development Hamilton County has experienced. His leadership played a critical role in endeavors such as the building of the County Judicial

Center, remodeling of the County Courthouse and the building of multiple transportation infrastructure projects.

Along with his academic achievements and 32 years as an elected official, Dr. Carter is a fixture in the Hoosier education and development communities. Dr. Carter taught for eight years in the public school system before completing a 38 year distinguished tenure as a professor, administrator and chancellor with Ivy Tech Community College. He also serves on the boards of JANUS Development Services, Inc and Aspire Indiana. JANUS is an organization committed to providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to join the workforce and play an active role in their community. Aspire Indiana provides comprehensive community mental health services, working on issues ranging from youth and family services to helping people overcome substance abuse.

With these accomplishments and many more, it is clear to see that Meredith Carter has been a strong advocate for the people of Hamilton County and the State of Indiana. I am proud to represent a district with a legacy of dedicated public servants like Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter has dedicated his life in service to Hamilton County, the state of Indiana and the United States. I join the entire Hamilton County community in thanking Dr. Carter for his service and congratulating him on a remarkable career. Although his tenure as an elected official is coming to a close, Hamilton County looks forward to many more years of having Dr. Carter as a key figure in the community.

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Career Development Month.

In conversations with businesses across my home state of Rhode Island, I have been hearing a constant refrain: Employers have job openings but are unable to find local, skilled workers with the expertise necessary to fill the open positions. Meanwhile, job seekers find it hard to acquire these skills without the proper training, a vicious cycle that continues to hold back our economy.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, closing the skills gap is one of my top priorities. In order to match students with the skills they need, I have introduced the bipartisan Counseling For Career Choice Act. This bill would help to make sure that school counselors and students know of the full range of options available to them post-graduation. By tracking workforce trends and increasing collaboration between employers and educators, we can help students to make informed decisions regarding their career paths.

Comprehensive career counseling is a vital component of skills training and helps to better align school curricula with local workforce trends and available post-secondary opportu-

nities. While not every job will require a college degree, some sort of postsecondary education will be necessary. Whether it comes from a community college, a skills training program, or on-the-job-training, we need to change what it means to be college- and career-ready. We need to provide students with the knowledge and experience that will truly prepare them for what's next.

However, we cannot neglect the skills gap that remains for people already in the workforce. Many workers need to learn new skills to advance their careers, and although they may not have the option to work with a school counselor, they can foster connections with career development professionals.

Across the nation, career development professionals help students to achieve their goals by providing professional development resources, scientific resources and advocacy. Each November, career development professionals celebrate the achievements of their clients with career-focused events and activities including the National Career Development Association (NCDA) Poetry and Poster Contest. In fact, this year marks the 49th successful competition, which is appropriately titled, "Reimagining Life's Possibilities: Celebrating First Jobs Through Encore Careers."

NCDA represents a broad range of members that provide career intervention and support services. Members include school and college counselors, One Stop Career Center counselors, Veterans Administration counselors, and private practice counselors, coaches and consultants. NCDA supports its members by providing research, advocacy and training. Last year, NCDA celebrated its 100th year of providing professional service to individuals seeking career advancement and success.

I would like to thank all career development professionals for their dedication to helping Americans improve their skillsets, find quality employment and achieve their professional and personal goals.

RECOGNIZING THE 55 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BARTLETT, IL BY MR. BILL "TIK" TIKNIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. Bill "Tik" Tiknis, a resident of Bartlett, Illinois, in my Congressional district.

Bill Tiknis moved with his family to Bartlett in 1956 and dedicated his life in service to his community. Bill gave a remarkable 55 years of service in jobs including serving as Village President, Village Trustee, and the Founder and President of the Bartlett Chamber of Commerce. He was a volunteer Fire Fighter and later District Commissioner of the Bartlett Fire Protection District and was a Charter Member of the Bartlett Rotary and President of the Hanover Township Foundation. Bill's leadership in these roles left an indelible mark on Bartlett and has created a lasting legacy.

Apart from his time spent in local government, Bill helped organize youth football in

Bartlett and created the Bartlett Park District. While he was Village President, he helped preserve a town landmark by working to purchase Bartlett Hills Golf Club with overwhelming support from the community. The Village now has a "Bill Tiknis Golf Classic" in his honor.

Recently, the Village of Bartlett has named the seventh of April as Bill Tiknis Day and Hanover Township Administration Center renamed their building the "Bill Tiknis Campus" at a ceremony attended by over 200 community members and leaders. He is a true living legend in the Village of Bartlett.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mr. Bill Tiknis as a wonderful example of citizenship and service and wishing him much success in his next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Fresno Historical Society's Civil War Revisited celebration, taking place on October 18–19, 2014.

On September 29–30, 1990, more than 10,000 visitors in Fresno's Kearney Park were able to travel back in time to witness four battles between Union and confederate soldiers that originally took place in 1864 near Atlanta, Georgia. Three hundred volunteers from throughout California were sponsored by the Civil War Reenactment Society to assemble and act in authentic Civil War battles complete with cannon volleys, musket fire, rebel yells, costumes, and charging horses.

These volunteers were educated in depth about the lives of the characters they portray, leaving visitors with a broader view of the times and lives of people during the time period. Such authenticity allowed the audience, and over 4,000 students to learn firsthand, vivid history lessons from conversations with soldiers in the 1864 setting.

Over the 25 years of its existence, Civil War Revisited has grown to be one of the largest civil war reenactments in the Western United States. So much so, that it is often referred to as "an American history class for thousands."

In 2001, the event expanded by adding a school day program called "Time Travelers at the Civil War." This program allows students to interact with historical figures such as President Lincoln, Clara Barton, Walt Whitman and Harriet Tubman. Additionally, they are able to speak with military re-enactors to learn about life as a part of the war effort, but they are also able to speak to blacksmiths and dressmakers in order to get a glimpse into day to day life in the era.

A unique component of the school day program is a play, featuring a cast of students who bring the voices of children of the Civil War period to life, known as Readers' heater. Students often rehearse at school leading up to a performance during the Civil War reenactment. To date, the Time Travelers program

has hosted 22,000 students from throughout the San Joaquin Valley since its establishment. This allows students to learn about history using a more interactive, unique perspective, as opposed to solely reading about the period in textbooks or watching videos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of the Fresno Historical Society in its 25 years of excellence in accurately reenacting such an important point in American history.

THE DEDICATION OF A BUST OF VÁCLAV HAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, Democrats and Republicans from both the House and Senate came together to dedicate a bust of former Czech President Václav Havel that will be displayed prominently in the U.S. Capitol building.

President Havel was both a playwright and a freedom fighter. His literary works artfully undermined the totalitarian Communist system under which Czechs languished from 1948–1989, and he co-founded the Charter 77 Movement that called out the Communist regime for human rights violations as well as the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted, which supported dissidents. He was among the leaders of the Velvet Revolution twenty-five years ago this month, which ended Communist rule and finally opened the door to democracy and freedom of expression.

To his credit, President Havel navigated the difficult process of fostering a democratic political culture in the Czech Republic's new institutions of government while instilling hope for the future in a people whose yearnings and optimism had been suppressed for a generation. In office, he oversaw the first free and fair elections in over four decades and worked to build friendly ties with nations that had been shunned by the Communist bloc. When he retired in 2003, the Czech Republic had developed a vibrant democracy, had joined NATO, and was on the cusp of entering the European Union.

Václav Havel died in 2011, but his legacy continues to inspire freedom fighters and democratic activists throughout the world. In an op-ed in the Washington Post earlier this week, Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy, wrote about Havel's affection for the United States and the values it embodies: "When he addressed a joint session of Congress just three months after the revolution, Havel spoke with deep feeling about his country's indebtedness to the United States, including for President Woodrow Wilson's great support for the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, U.S. sacrifice and leadership in three wars—two hot and one cold—to save freedom in Europe, and the American founding documents that 'inspire us to be citizens.'" President Havel's advocacy on behalf of dissidents and freedom fighters around the world created a forceful, universalist legacy.

President Havel once wrote: "The real test of a man is not how well he plays the role he has invented for himself, but how well he plays the role that destiny has assigned to him." Václav Havel passed that test in sharp contrast to another leader who today is failing it miserably.

Russian President Vladimir Putin came into office in 2000 with an opportunity and an obligation to help the people of his nation transition from the ills of Soviet Communism and foreign aggression to real democracy and peaceful coexistence with other nations. Sadly, over the past fourteen years he has sabotaged Russia's democratic transition by suppressing dissent, fostering a cult of personality, and pursuing violent and aggressive actions against Russia's neighbors.

This has been on full display over the past year in Ukraine, where one year ago courageous protesters gathered in Kiev's Maidan Square to reject Putin's attempts to pull their country closer into Russia's orbit and away from greater democracy and economic opportunity. The Maidan protests and the regime's violent response to them ushered in a new beginning for Ukrainian democracy, with free and fair elections held earlier this year. Unwilling to accept the decision the Ukrainian people have made about the future they want for their own nation, Putin's Russia has violated Ukraine's sovereignty by illegally annexing Crimea as well as sending troops and equipment across the border into southeastern Ukraine, much as it has done in the nation of Georgia.

Vladimir Putin could have used his leadership of Russia to meet the challenge history presented to him and his nation after the fall of Communism. Instead, he seeks to reverse the course of history through his desire to recreate an autocratic and expansionist Russian empire. Putin might have played the role destiny assigned him, but instead he crafted a character that will surely be remembered as one of the chief antagonists of our age—not only for the democratic world but for the Russian people who yearn to be part of it.

The world needs more leaders, philosophers, activists, and humble agents of positive change like Václav Havel, and not those like Vladimir Putin who subvert democracy and upend regional peace and security. I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to President Havel and remembering his extraordinary contributions to his nation, to Europe, and to the world.

CONGRATULATING HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Junior High School in Fishers, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that HSE Junior High is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 420 schools nationwide received nominations, only 287 were chosen as National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Serving more than 1,200 students in the 7th and 8th grades, HSE is one of the largest junior high schools in Indiana's 5th district. The high level of performance displayed by HSE students is undoubtedly a product of the community's dedication to educational excellence.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at HSE Junior High School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School. I am very proud of you.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION AND THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the partnership between the Economic Opportunities Commission and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. WIC provides care for women with low to medium income, who are pregnant or have a child who is less than five years old.

In 1968, CBS aired a documentary titled "Hunger in America," that shed light on widespread malnutrition across low income communities. The following year, the White House formed a council to address the issue and a recommendation stemming from the council was to focus on providing nutritional food and education to low income pregnant women and children.

When the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 was amended in 1972, the WIC was authorized as a pilot program for two years. The EOC was

one of the agencies participating in the WIC as a pilot program, and they issued the first WIC vouchers in the state of California.

In 1975, the EOC established WIC as a permanent program based on the premise that early intervention during critical times of growth and development can help prevent future medical and developmental problems. The Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program is a federally-funded health and nutrition program for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, post-partum and children under 5 years.

Throughout the years, the caseload of the EOC WIC has steadily risen to its present high of 37,500 participants. WIC consists of 72 staff members made up of Registered Dietitians, WIC Nutrition Assistants, Local Vendor Liaisons, Breastfeeding peer counselors, and administrative support staff.

The goal of WIC is to enhance the quality of life for women, infants and children by providing them with healthy food and the knowledge and opportunity to make healthy choices in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Women, Infants and Children has provided support for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under five years of age and their mothers for nearly 40 years, and they will continue to give them physical aid and knowledge to help improve the quality of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program in providing aid and support to mothers and children who are in need.

REMEMBERING CARL E. SANDERS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of former Governor of Georgia and Chairman Emeritus of Troutman Sanders LLP, Carl E. Sanders, and thank him for his service to country and community.

A Georgia native, Sanders excelled in athletics and attended the University of Georgia on a football scholarship. In 1943, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to fight in World War II and served honorably as a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber pilot. After the war he completed his degree and entered the University of Georgia Law School. In 1947, he received his LL.B. degree, was admitted to the bar, and married Betty Bird Foy. They settled in Augusta, where their two children, Betty Foy and Carl Edward, Jr., were born.

Sanders's political career began in 1954 when he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and again two years later when he advanced to the State Senate. In 1962, Sanders became the first Georgia Governor elected by popular vote. At the time, he was the youngest governor in the country at 37. He substantially expanded and advanced transportation and education, and supported the Civil Rights movement in a place and in a time where the movement wasn't as popular.

After leaving the Governor's office in 1967, Sanders founded the law firm now known as

Troutman Sanders LLP, which has grown into an international firm with more than 600 attorneys. Sanders managed the firm for 25 years and continued to serve the firm as Chairman Emeritus and as a partner—who continued to come to the office most days until his passing.

Sanders was a role model and community leader, his colleagues and friends will always remember Sanders as a mentor and inspiration to Georgians and Americans everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Carl E. Sanders's wife of 67 years, Betty and the rest of his surviving friends and family during this most difficult of times.

THE U.S. AND UK HAVE A UNIQUE BOND ACROSS THE POND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Great Britain have come a long way since we overthrew the tyranny of King George and claimed independence, liberty and freedom. Today, both of our nations stand for those three words.

From the Nazis to the Soviets, throughout the 20th century our two countries have fought those who wanted to take away freedom from others.

That fight continues today. Our troops spilled blood together fighting al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. We oppose the mullahs in Iran that want to build a nuclear weapon and use terrorism to kill Americans and Britons in Iraq. We decry the anti-semitism at the UN. We beat back the aggression of the Russian bear. We fight for the freedom of the Internet. Pick almost any conflict around the world and Great Britain has our back.

We have nuclear agreements with lots of countries, but our agreement with the UK is the most comprehensive. That is fitting. It shows how deep our relationship runs.

H.R. 5681 would extend the U.S.-UK nuclear agreement, which has to be renewed every 10 years.

I am an original cosponsor of this bill because the UK is a strong ally of the United States. It is in the interest of the American people that the U.S. and UK continue to strengthen one another.

A RESOLUTION HONORING MONSIGNOR FELIX S. DIOMARTICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following resolution:

Whereas Monsignor Felix S. Diomartich is the oldest priest in the City of Los Angeles and the Sibenik region of Croatia;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich was born on November 2, 1914 in Zlarin, Croatia making him 100 years old;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich is celebrating 77 years of service in the priesthood;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich began his life's journey at the parish of Vodice as the Associate Pastor;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich earned two doctorate degrees theology and church law at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy and obtained the title of the lawyer of the Sacra Romana Rota;

Whereas after Monsignor Diomartich came to the United States and served at three parishes in the Archdiocese of New York before he was invited to serve at St. Anthony Croatian Church in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich served for 36 years as an administrator and as a pastor at St. Anthony Croatian Church;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich supported organizations such as the St. Ann's Altar Society for Women and the Holy Name Society for Men;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich founded two new societies for American-born young adults called the Anthonians and the St. Anthony's Women's Guild;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich's other accomplishments at the parish include the St. Anthony's Annual Picnic Festival, the building of a new rectory, and remodeling and expanding the original parish hall;

Whereas Pope Paul VI awarded Monsignor Diomartich the title of Monsignor in 1978;

Whereas the Croatian National Association and Foundation awarded Monsignor Diomartich with its Lifetime Achievement award in 2008;

Whereas although Monsignor Diomartich has retired from its administration, he continues to reside at the St. Anthony Croatian Church, helping with masses and confessions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes that Monsignor Diomartich through his passion of spreading the word of God, has inspired and guided the residents of Los Angeles and has brought unity and pride to the Croatian community.

RECOGNIZING THE HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy Trinity) of Fresno, California in celebration of their 100th anniversary. Holy Trinity's service and dedication to bettering the quality of life in the Fresno community deserves to be recognized.

The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church that stands today on the corner of Ventura and "M" Street was constructed in 1914. It was the first church ever built in the tradition of Armenian Church architecture in the United States of America. The gorgeous brick church was designed by Fresno's first Armenian architect, Lawrence Karekin Cone. Upon its completion, a handful of soil delivered from the Monastery of St. Krikor the Illuminator Erzeroum, Armenia, was placed in the infrastructure. Additionally, sacred objects from St.

James Monastery in Jerusalem were brought as a symbol to bridge the church with the homeland and Holy Land. Holy Trinity is the first and oldest Armenian Church in the western United States. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 31, 1986.

For the past 100 years, Holy Trinity has served the spiritual needs of Fresno's Armenian community. The church has a strong history of assisting the Armenian community by providing various services to those in need. Most notably the church was essential to the lives of immigrants fleeing from fear of genocide by the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. The church continued these charitable efforts by providing aid and services to displaced persons during World War II, after the fall of the Soviet Union, and wars in the Middle East.

Holy Trinity works daily to build upon a strong community. The social hall, Sunday school building, and Fresno's first Armenian day school are all resources used by individuals to connect with one another and demonstrate their faith. Holy Trinity's goal to keep the Armenian Apostolic tradition alive through service to the Armenian and Fresno community is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Fresno, California as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Holy Trinity's outstanding history and service to the Fresno Community deserves to be honored.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 14, 2014 I was not present to vote on H.R. 5682, legislation approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. Had I been present for roll call No. 519, I would have voted "YES."

HONORING RAFFAELA CICARELLI ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to wish Raffaela Cicarelli a very happy 100th birthday! Rae, a cousin of my mother Luisa, has been a very special part of my family's life and today she joins my mom as a centenarian!

Rae's story is like that of many others of her generation. Born in Amalfi, Italy in November of 1914, her father left Italy for America when she was just a toddler. At the age of five, she, her mother and her uncle traveled to America to join him. Her family settled on Wooster Street in New Haven, Connecticut. Along with my grandparents, her parents ran Canestri's Pastry Shop above which both families lived.

Rae received her education at Dante and Columbus Schools in New Haven and when she was old enough to work, she was employed by Strouse Adler located in New Haven, making garment labels for brassieres and corsets. She worked at Strouse Adler for thirty-two years. And, much like my own mother, after working her day job, Rae would come home and work at the pastry shop as a sales person.

At just twenty-six years old, Rae married in St. Michael's Church in the heart of Wooster Square. After her wedding, she and her husband settled in a home on Lighthouse Road and lived there for thirty-one years. She raised three children, two sons, Anthony and Albert, and one daughter, Joanne; and today she is the proud grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of another eight. After her husband passed away in 1979, Rae moved to Quinpiac Avenue to live with her son.

When Rae was young, she enjoyed basketball and baseball. At 100 years young, Rae enjoys doing word search puzzles, and watching and listening to her television. She is involved in recreational activities such as exercise groups, special events, entertainment and playing games such as Bingo, Pokeno, trivia, Five-Card Bingo and more. She is very active and recreates independently, praying the rosary, and reading prayers daily.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Rae's life. Over the years, she has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress—indeed, she has lived through some of the most exciting times on our nation's history. I am honored to call her family and very proud to stand today to wish Raffaela Cicarelli a very happy 100th birthday! My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENE DIGIROLAMO

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania State Representative Gene DiGirolamo of Bensalem Township has been honored for more than a decade of legislative work to combat drug and alcohol addiction in Bucks County and across our commonwealth. For his commitment, Representative DiGirolamo is being recognized by Steps to Recovery, a Bucks County behavioral health treatment center.

Amid rising problems of opiates, such as heroin, and abuse of prescription pain medications which have contributed to a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths, Representative DiGirolamo has remained an outspoken advocate in the fight against these trends.

His legislative advocacy led to Senate Bill 1182, the "Good Samaritan" law. This law includes provisions that give families and all emergency personnel access to the life-saving drug, Narcan, which is used to counteract the deadly effects of a drug overdose. In Pennsyl-

vania, the law also allows fire and police personnel to have Narcan on hand for a drug overdose emergency.

Therefore, I congratulate my friend Representative DiGirolamo for his dedication, compassion and outstanding leadership and wish him continued success.

RECOGNIZING ERNA'S ELDERBERRY HOUSE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erna Kubin-Clanin, proprietress and chef of Erna's Elderberry House Restaurant. Erna's Elderberry House is a small town treasure located in Oakhurst, California.

In 1982, Erna purchased a nine acre property for the restaurant. In the beginning, she had to overcome a few challenges, but in 1983, construction began, and the following year, the doors opened for Erna's Elderberry House. Now, on October 19, 2014, she is celebrating the restaurant's 30th anniversary.

Erna takes pride not only in the food she prepares, but also in the annual events that she holds, such as "A Night in Vienna" and Erna's signature "Elderberry Harvest Dinner." These events, along with the delicious meals she prepares daily, are the reason why so many tourists from Yosemite National Park and the surrounding areas make sure to visit the notable restaurant.

Guests continue to return to the restaurant to experience the quality of food and service. Only the freshest and most pristine ingredients from local Central Valley farms are purchased for the unique cuisine that is on the menu. They also work with the Maitre'd Hotel to ensure flawless service and hospitality and with the Cellar Master to create an extraordinary wine list, which complements the menu each evening.

For more than fifteen years, the restaurant has maintained the Elderberry House Cooking School. It provides knowledge of the culinary arts to its patrons and transforms the restaurant into a creative arena where inspired cooks can develop their skills under the guidance of the executive chef.

Continuing upon her culinary dreams, Erna opened the enchanting Chateau du Sureau in 1991, the elegant Villa Sureau in 1999, and the magical Spa du Sureau in October 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 30 years of outstanding culinary experience created by Ms. Erna Kubin-Clanin. She has undoubtedly made lasting contributions to the San Joaquin Valley and the entire state of California.

COMMEMORATING 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope, the leading international women's organization dedicated to promoting the ideals of ancient Greece. Founded, November 16th, 1929, in San Francisco, California the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the wellbeing of women through community service and volunteerism. Especially, I would like to honor the Daughters of Penelope District 5 who represent chapters in New Jersey for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of women across our great state.

Nationally, one example of the great work done by the Daughters of Penelope can be found in the Penelope House, a shelter for battered women in Mobile, Alabama. The Penelope House focuses on the prevention of domestic violence through education and public awareness. The Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social and economic independence through shelter, counseling, and advocacy.

Clearly, the Daughters of Penelope deserves our recognition and support as they continue to expand the opportunities, status and well-being of women and their families around the globe. Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope on reaching such a milestone and I look forward to continuing to see the charitable efforts of such a dedicated group of people.

RECOGNIZING THE FRESNO AREA HISPANIC FOUNDATION FOR BEING NAMED 2014 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation for being selected as the 2014 Chamber of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation (FAHF), a member of the national Hispanic Chamber, was selected from more than 200 chambers for their exceptional service and

commitment to promoting and supporting Hispanic businesses in the region. The award was announced at the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's national convention in Salt Lake City.

The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, led by President/CEO Dora Westerlund, was founded in 2001 by a group of business owners determined to find effective and engaging ways to address the needs of a dynamic and emerging population. The FAHF, which is the only Hispanic Foundation west of the Mississippi to own its facility—The Downtown Business Hub, has evolved into a one-stop shop that offers an array of resources ranging from networking opportunities to micro-loan programs. In addition, the FAHF offers bilingual workshops on small business lending and courses on business licenses, market research, operations management, and financial statements, to name a few.

The FAHF also has a very strong philanthropic presence in the San Joaquin Valley. Since its inception, the FAHF has focused on assisting underserved families in the region by providing academic scholarships and personal enrichment activities. Through their scholarship program, the FAHF has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships, and their Lend-A-Hand program provides over 600 parents and 350 children with free food and toys during the holidays. Additionally, the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, in conjunction with the Mexican Consulate in Fresno, established the Plaza Comunitaria in 2003, which touches the lives of local children and families through the center's annual events and fundraisers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation for being selected as the 2014 Chamber of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Their unwavering dedication to the success and growth of Hispanic businesses in the San Joaquin Valley and their work to enrich the lives of local families is truly commendable. The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation has served as a catalyst for economic growth and sets the standard for Chambers of Commerce throughout the nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Com-

mittee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture.

SD-538

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, Elissa Slotkin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, David J. Berteau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH-216

SENATE—Thursday, November 20, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal God, thank You for not keeping a record of our wrongdoings. As we lift our hearts in prayer, open Your ears to our supplications. Keep our feet on a smooth, straight road so that we will experience Your best for our lives. Lord, walk with our Senators throughout this day. Remind them that they are Your servants, as You keep them alert to Your commands.

Forgive us when we forget to express our gratitude, for without Your help, challenges will overwhelm us. In this season of Thanksgiving we are grateful that You have not left us defenseless but that Your grace and Your mercy continue to prevail in our lives. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. today, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be five rollcall votes at 2 p.m. on confirmation of the Pepper, Sannes, Arleo, Beetlestone, and Bolden nominations, all to be district court judges, followed by 11 voice votes on executive nominations.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the famous poet Oliver Wendell Holmes said: "Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust." That is what he said. Since 2005 the Senate has put its money—precious taxpayer dollars—into the trusted hands of a man by the name of Chris Doby. He is the financial clerk of the Senate. He has proven himself to be equal to the task. That is an understatement. Through budget cuts, sequestration, and even a government shutdown, Senators and staff knew that Chris Doby and his team would make it work, no matter what took place.

There is just one story I will share with the Senate. In the midst of the government shutdown, Senate employees had no assurance of when their next paycheck would come. Staffers with families, mortgages, and student loan payments all hoped the shutdown would not be their personal financial disaster. Missing a check or two can be very difficult for most everyone.

After 16 days, Congress passed legislation funding the government, and the shutdown came to an end. That was October 16, 2013, just 2 days before payday for Senate staffers. It is important to understand that processing payroll for almost 7,000 employees normally takes about a week. But anticipating what a missed paycheck would mean for his fellow Senate employees, Chris Doby calmly pushed them to make it work.

So in less than 48 hours, with a very depleted staff, Chris and the Senate Disbursing Office ensured that every Senate staffer received their paycheck on time. Because of their efforts, mortgage payments were made, groceries were purchased, and working families breathed a sigh of relief.

I was trying to think what I could say today to indicate to this good man and his family and his friends and Senate staffers what a good person he is and what a good professional he is. The comparison I thought I would make is this. When I was a boy, I used to love

to listen to the game of the day on radio, Mutual Radio Network in the town I lived in, a little town in Nevada. We, of course, had no TV. But radio reception came in pretty good during the day. I do not remember the station, but we could listen to the radio.

On the game of the day, I focused on some people who were so good and who later became even better than I had imagined. One of those people who is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame was a man by the name of Larry Doby. He was a center fielder for the Cleveland Indians. He was good. He could run fast, jump high. He hit with power. He stole bases. He was very good.

This Doby we have in the Senate, in my opinion, is somebody who, just like Larry Doby, would make the All-Star team and should be in the Senate Hall of Fame for the good work he has done over these many years.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ACTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words this morning about President Obama's proposed Executive action on immigration. I will begin with a quote from the President himself. "Democracy is hard," he said during a commencement speech in Miami 3 years ago. "But it's right. [And] changing our laws means doing the hard work of changing minds and changing votes, one by one."

As somebody who well understands just how difficult the work of changing minds and votes can be, I could not agree more with the President's statement. Americans accept that democracy's blessings are only made possible

by the constraints it imposes—both its legal contours and those imposed by popular elections.

We accept democracy's messiness. We accept that we may not always get all of what we want exactly when we want it. Based on more of what the President said in Miami, this is something he seemed to understand as well. He was talking about immigration that day.

Here is something else he said on that topic. "I know [that] some . . . wish that I could just bypass Congress and change the law myself. But that's not how democracy works." Indeed, it is not—all of which makes the President's planned Executive action on immigration even more jarring.

If the President truly follows through on this attempt to impose his will unilaterally, he will have issued a rebuke to his own stated view of democracy. He will have contradicted his past statements on this very issue. The instances of President Obama saying that he does not have the power to do the kinds of things he now plans to do are almost too numerous to list.

He tried to suggest otherwise last weekend. But a prominent fact checker panned the spin as "Pinocchio-laden" and clarified that the President has been asked specifically about the source of actions that he is contemplating now. The President's previous answers seemed to be unequivocal: He lacked the legal authority to act, according to the President himself.

As one example, President Obama said last year that Executive action was "not an option," because "[he] would be ignoring the law. 'There is a path to get this done,' he said, 'and that is through Congress.' He is right. The action he has proposed would ignore the law, would reject the voice of the voters, and would impose new unfairness on law-abiding immigrants, all without solving the problem.

In fact, his action is more likely to make it even worse. We have already seen the consequences of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, his most recent action in this area. It was a factor in encouraging young people to risk their lives on a perilous journey some would never have even contemplated and some would never complete.

The effect of this action could be just as tragic. Just as the Affordable Care Act had little to do with making health care more affordable, slapping the term "immigration reform" on something does not make it actually immigration reform. Just as with ObamaCare, the action the President is proposing is not about solutions, it is not about compassion, it seems to be about what a political party thinks would make for good politics.

It seems to be about what the President thinks would be good for his legacy. Those are not the motivations

that should be driving such sweeping action, and I think the President will come to regret the chapter history writes if he does move forward because the plan he is presenting is more than just—as the President himself has acknowledged—an overreach, it is also unfair. What does the President have to say to the countless aspiring immigrants who spent literally years waiting patiently in line, to the people who played by all the rules? Where is his compassion for them? What does the President have to say to the millions of Americans who still can't find work in this economy? The President can't reach across the aisle to secure a serious jobs plan for them, but he is willing to put everything he has into one Executive action? Where is the justice?

There is a larger point too. Some people seem to have forgotten this already, but we just had an election. Before that election the President told us about his plan to act unilaterally on immigration. He reminded us that his policies were on the ballot. And then the people spoke. The President doesn't have to like the result, but he has a duty to respect it. The American people clearly sent a message. Nobody missed it. They said they want to see us working together. They said they want to see more serious ideas pass through Congress. What they didn't say they wanted to see was the President sidestepping the very representatives they just elected. That is why so many Kentuckians have been calling my office in opposition to this plan. I know phones have continued to ring off the hook all week in our offices across Capitol Hill. Our constituents want to be heard. President Obama needs to listen to their voices.

If nothing else, perhaps the President will at least consider the views of Democratic Senators and Members of Congress who have urged him not to do this. These Democrats understand the consequences of a President from a different political party citing this precedent in the future.

Either way, he needs to understand something: If President Obama acts in defiance of the people and imposes his will on the country, Congress will act. We are considering a variety of options, but make no mistake—when the newly elected representatives of the people take their seats, they will act.

Look, as the President has said, democracy is hard. Imposing his will unilaterally may seem tempting. It may serve him politically in the short term. But he knows it will make an already broken system even more broken, and he knows this is not how democracy is supposed to work because he told us so himself.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Maryland.

TRAGIC SYNAGOGUE SLAYINGS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know I express the sentiments and outrage of every Member of this body about the tragic events in Israel this past Tuesday where those in a synagogue were brutally slain. It was a shock to all of us—in a synagogue, in a place of worship, people there praying and studying, and their lives were brutally ended.

Let me just mention the victims. Rabbi Moshe Twersky, Rabbi Aryeh Kupinsky, Rabbi Kalman Levine, Avraham Goldberg, and Zidan Saif, a police officer.

I particularly want to mention Rabbi Kupinsky because there is a connection here to Maryland. Three of the victims had U.S. citizenship. Rabbi Kupinsky is a cousin of a distinguished constituent, Judge Karen Friedman of Baltimore. So this affects all of us.

I know first and foremost our prayers are with the families and we express our deepest sympathy. I also express our resolve to eliminate such extremists and to work with the international community so there is no refuge anywhere in the world—anywhere in the civilized world—for such extremists. Then I would hope we would all recognize and speak out for Israel's right, indeed its obligation, to defend its people from such brutal attacks.

The Baltimore Sun said this morning in its editorial there could be no excuse, no explanation, no reason or even plausible justification for the horrific attack on a Jerusalem synagogue Tuesday that left four Rabbis and an Israeli police officer dead.

I know we all believe in that statement. There is no justification for such actions. Yet Hamas—and again I would quote from the Sun paper—"Hamas, the militant [extremist] group that controls Gaza, hailed the attack in the synagogue as a blow against Israel's occupation. . . ."

This just points out the difference between Hamas and Israel. I have been on the floor many times talking about Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and Hamas's desire to put innocent people in harm's way. It is our responsibility to speak out. If this event

would have happened in the United States, I think we all know what the reaction would have been. So our resolve goes out to the people of Israel that we will stand by them and that we stand by their right to defend themselves.

This is in the backdrop of a rise of anti-Semitism. We have seen these violent attacks in Brussels and Toulouse earlier this year, a brutal slaying in Antwerp, Jewish schools and community centers and synagogues being targets of attacks, extremist parties gaining political support espousing anti-Semitism. We saw that in Hungary and other countries.

I want to mention once again the role this Congress plays in the Helsinki Commission. I have the honor of being the Chair of the Helsinki Commission during this Congress, and the Helsinki Commission implements the commitments we made almost 40 years ago—the Helsinki Final Act; the core principles of human rights and tolerance. Our bedrock principle is that in order to have a stable country you have to have a commitment to basic human rights, and it is not just your obligation but every country that is part of Helsinki, including the United States, that has the right to challenge any other country in its compliance with those basic human rights. We have made progress.

Ten years ago I was privileged to be part of the U.S. delegation in the Berlin conference. The Berlin conference was established to deal with the rise of anti-Semitism, and an action agenda came out of that conference 10 years ago. It put responsibility on us—political leaders—to speak out against anti-Semitic activities in our own country or anywhere in the world. It set up an action plan to deal with educating, and particularly dealing with Holocaust deniers. It dealt with police training because we understand a lot of criminal activities are hate crimes and the police need to be able to identify when hate crimes are taking place in their own community.

We decided to share best practices by providing technical help to countries to do better, and we established a special representative to deal with anti-Semitism. Rabbi Baker is currently that special representative. But we went further than that, we expanded it to all forms of intolerance—not just anti-Semitism but xenophobia, anti-Muslim activities—because we recognized that the same people who are extremists and who deny individuals because of their anti-Semitic acts would do the same against Muslims, would do the same against any people because of their race or ethnic background.

I was very pleased to see commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Berlin conference. There was a reconvening in Berlin—Berlin plus 10. Am-

bassador Powers, our Ambassador to the United Nations, led the U.S. delegation. She did a great job. I want to acknowledge that Wade Henderson, representing the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, also participated because there is unity here. It is not just the anti-Semitic activities, it is the intolerance we have seen grow too much in our world community today.

The concluding document said we need to increase our political and financial support for civil societies, and I agree with that. Transparency and supporting the NGOs, supporting civil societies, is critically important.

The bottom line is we must work together to root out all forms of anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance. Let us work together to make all our communities safer by embracing diversity and recognizing basic human rights.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RUSSIAN ENCROACHMENT INTO UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call this body's attention to a crisis that grows more alarming every day, and that is the continued Russian encroachment into Ukraine. It has been over 2 months since the Ukrainian Government entered into a ceasefire agreement with Russian-backed separatists in southeastern Ukraine. It is an agreement that the separatists have repeatedly violated, and since it came into effect hundreds—hundreds—of Ukrainian soldiers have died in battle against these same separatist forces.

The Ukrainian people want peace, but these insurgents and their patrons in Moscow are not interested. Every day they grow more aggressive and bolder in their violations of the Ukrainian territory and their willingness to subvert the international order.

I know there are some in this body who would say this is not our problem, it is thousands of miles away, and not our concern. Some people may think it doesn't matter which flag flies over the territory. I have a different view. To me, what happens in Ukraine is very much in our interests. It is in the interests of all who value liberty and the right to choose one's own future. The stakes are very high, and the consequences of inaction are devastating.

To those who ask why is this important, let me bring up several points.

First, it is in America's interest to uphold our traditional commitment to supporting democracy around the world and the right of a people to choose their own destiny. When the Soviet Union fell and the people of Eastern Europe took back the liberty that had been stolen from them decades before, the United States made a solemn promise: Embrace democracy, freedom, transparency, and the rule of law, and we will embrace you.

The Ukrainian people made their choice. They did so on the 24th of August, 1991, when an independent Ukraine ceased to be a dream and became a reality. They reaffirmed that commitment over a decade later when the Orange Revolution swept a corrupt government from office. And earlier this year in the face of Russian threats, intimidation, and aggression, they did so again. I saw that commitment firsthand earlier this year when I had the honor of leading a Congressional delegation with my colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN, to monitor the Ukrainian Presidential election. Senator CARDIN and I saw the spirit of the Ukrainian people and their determination to honor the memory of brave men and women who had given their lives in the fight for a free and independent Ukraine. That fight continues today.

But this fight is about more than just Ukraine. Failing to honor our commitment to the Ukrainians will have real consequences that extend to other national security priorities for the United States of America. When Ukraine emerged as an independent nation after the Cold War, it inherited the world's third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. As a newly independent State looking to ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Ukraine could have relied on its nuclear arsenal to ward off would-be aggressors. They made a different decision. Instead of pursuing this dangerous path, they sought and received assurances from the international community that its borders would be respected if it gave up its nuclear weapons.

In 1994, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum in which all sides pledged to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, refrain from using military force or economic pressure to limit Ukrainian sovereignty, and provide assistance to the Ukraine if it became the victim of aggression from another nation.

Clearly Russia has broken its part of that agreement. Now the question is whether we are breaking ours. If we do break our word, what will the impact be on American counter-proliferation efforts around the world? How can any nation we seek to prevent from developing nuclear weapons ever trust U.S.

security assurances if they see the carnage and destruction in Ukraine, if they see this as being the result of trading nuclear weapons for American guarantees?

More than just the credibility of U.S. counter-proliferation efforts is at stake here. Events in the Ukraine are a direct challenge to the entire U.S.-led international order. U.S. economic and military power was the glue that kept the Western alliance together through the challenges of the Cold War and formed the foundation of an international order based on universal values and standards of conduct that has led to unprecedented global prosperity and stability. This in turn has produced a period of U.S. economic growth and security unrivaled in our Nation's history. Confidence in America's willingness to use our unmatched capabilities to uphold this system deters potential challengers and incentivizes other countries to play by the rules, which prevents us from actually having to use them.

America's commitment to uphold this system is incredibly important. If the credibility of this commitment is in doubt, then the stability and openness upon which U.S. economic prosperity and national security depend is jeopardized and the chance for violence, instability, and economic collapse increases.

By the way, the Russian Government knows all this. President Putin, who famously declared the collapse of the Soviet Union to be "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century," knows that his dream of building a new Russian empire out of the ashes of the Soviet Union requires establishing Russian dominance over its newly independent neighbors, many of whom—like Ukraine—want closer integration with the West, not Russia. To accomplish this goal, Moscow must shatter this political, economic, military, and ideological credibility of the Western system. Russian aggression against Ukraine today or Georgia back in 2008 is as much about demonstrating the emptiness of U.S. and Western guarantees as it is about control of these individual countries, in my view. The conflict in Ukraine is the latest escalation of this trend, one that will continue until the United States and its allies say firmly, "This shall not continue."

The President keeps saying that "there is no military solution to this conflict." The President may think so, but Moscow certainly does not. The direct Russian military involvement in Ukraine has been on full display for the world to see for months. In previous times it may have been easier to keep these movements out of sight, even as President Putin does his best to suppress a free press. But we are fortunate to have reporters willing to document what they see for all the world to witness.

Here are a few examples in the media from recent days. This is a picture of a Russian-made T-90 main battle tank in the Luhansk Oblast of Ukraine recently. This T-90 tank, by the way, is a very sophisticated Russian tank.

Do you know who owns these T-90 tanks? Here are the countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, India, Turkmenistan, and Russia. I think it is safe to say that these tanks didn't drive from South Asia or from North Africa. They came from Russia, and they are in Ukraine.

Here is a picture of a Sukhoi-24 attack fighter reportedly taken in Russia. You will see painted on the tail the flag of the pro-Russian separatists. Not many people are aware of reports that Russia is helping to create a separatist air force, but we must wake up and realize the extent to which Russia is determined to trample on Ukraine and the global order to achieve its ends. In the last couple of days there have also been reports of significant movement of Russian aircraft to the Ukrainian border.

These are just a few examples of the Russian armored personnel carriers, artillery, tanks, air defense systems, electronic warfare units, and thousands of Russian troops that NATO reports say have moved into Ukraine over the last several weeks. According to the Ukrainian analysts, Russian and separatist forces have been organized into mobile strike groups and have completed reconnaissance of Ukrainian positions in preparation for an all-out assault. Barely a day has gone by since the signing of the so-called ceasefire in September where Ukrainian troops haven't come under attack, as separatists probe Ukrainian defenses looking for an opening. Since the beginning of the conflict, conservative estimates have put the number of Ukrainian soldiers killed or wounded at roughly 4,000.

By the way, at least another approximately 5,000 civilians have been killed or wounded in the fighting.

We shouldn't be afraid to call this exactly what it is. This is part of a Russian invasion. We saw it in Crimea; we are now seeing it in other parts of Ukraine.

Two months ago the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, spoke here before a joint session of Congress. We were all there. It was a poignant speech, a powerful speech, and one from the heart. There is a line in that speech that I think stood out. In speaking about the aid we have sent to Ukraine and thanking us for that aid, President Poroshenko said, "One cannot win the war with blankets. Even more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket."

And he was right. Blankets won't stop this tank we saw earlier. Blankets won't stop bullets. Blankets won't protect Ukrainian children from Russian artillery shells.

We don't know a whole lot about what the United States has provided to the Ukrainians, but I will get to that in a moment. We are having trouble getting that information from the administration. But we know a few things. We know we have given them blankets, sleeping mats, military rations, medical kits, and body armor. This is the majority of what we have been providing, as far as we know, to the Ukrainian military. I know the Ukrainians are grateful for these items. But when you compare this to the Russian involvement, the differences are startling. Here is what we provided to the Ukrainians. Here is the Russian support being provided to the separatists. I am proud of the hard-working Ohioans—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. PORTMAN. While I am proud of the hard-working Ohioans in Cincinnati and elsewhere who are making these rations, and the folks in Heath who produce these helmets, they know as well as I do that this equipment doesn't constitute deterrence, especially not when Ukrainians are facing advanced Russian equipment and troops.

May I ask unanimous consent for an additional 3 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Thank you.

I don't mean to downplay the importance of the economic, political, and humanitarian aid we have provided. Indeed, there are many economic and political reforms the Ukrainians will need to make in order to secure long-term peace and prosperity. But how can Ukrainians be expected to make these difficult but necessary reforms if it cannot control its own borders or maintain law and order? There is a military dimension to this crisis we simply cannot ignore any longer.

Moscow continues to believe that military force is a viable option to achieve its goals. Unless the United States and its allies help the Ukrainians prove otherwise, we shouldn't expect any change in its behavior. Ukraine needs anti-tank weapons to defend against armored assaults; it needs modern air defense systems to defend against Russian air superiority; it needs unmanned aircraft to monitor its borders and to detect violations of its sovereignty and the ceasefire. It needs secure communications gear to prevent Russia from accessing Ukrainian plans and troop locations. It needs advanced counter-battery radar to target the artillery batteries responsible for so many of the casualties in the conflict. It needs elite rapid reaction forces capable of responding to Russian border provocations and the fast-moving asymmetric "hybrid war" tactics the Russians use to destabilize the

country. Therefore, they also need training. The Ukrainians have asked for this support, and we should provide it.

Most importantly, Ukraine needs a sustained commitment from the United States and our NATO allies to provide both the quality and the quantity of equipment necessary to preserve its independence. This is not a partisan issue. Leading Democrats in the Senate, such as the Chairmen of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, Senators LEVIN and MENENDEZ, as well as Senator CARDIN and others, have joined in calling for increased assistance, including defensive weapons. Yet the President and some of his top advisers continue to stand in the way of meaningful action for fear of provoking Russia, as if the tanks streaming into Ukraine or the daily clashes aren't evidence enough that American restraint has not had the desired effect on Russian activity and policy.

It is well known by now that the President has refused to adopt policies that actually provide Ukraine with the capabilities needed to change the situation on the ground. What is less well known is whether the administration is even fully committed to fulfilling the objectives of its own already limited policies.

For all the talk we have heard about the President and his steadfast support for Ukraine and the \$116 million in security assistance the United States has promised to deliver, we know almost nothing about how these policies are actually being implemented. This administration has been a black box when it comes to getting even the most basic information on our efforts to aid Ukraine. Despite multiple requests, including a letter to the President from Senator CARDIN and me, we still can't seem to get answers on fundamental questions: What equipment has been delivered to Ukraine? How long will it take to deliver the equipment we have promised but not delivered? What is the process for determining what capabilities to provide? How does the equipment we have agreed to provide support the capabilities they have requested? How do our assistance efforts fit into a comprehensive strategy?

This complete lack of transparency on the day-to-day implementation of U.S. assistance raises questions about the underlying policy guidance driving it and whether the administration actually has far more modest goals than the President's public rhetoric would suggest. For example, a bipartisan assessment, conducted by GEN Wesley Clark, Retired, and former top Pentagon official Dr. Phillip Karber, and featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other major newspapers, revealed that the Obama administration has issued extremely restrictive instructions on the type of

nonlethal aid the United States could provide. The lack of this aid has created real problems for the Ukrainians.

The fact is that no one in Congress knows how these regulations will be applied. This is a huge problem and stands in the way of a coherent and effective policy.

Yesterday the President's Deputy National Security Adviser testified that strengthening the Ukrainian forces is "something we should be looking at." While this is a welcome change of tone, we should be well beyond the point of just looking at it, in my view, because every day we delay, every day we dither, every day we match Russian action with half-measures and self-imposed limitations, Moscow is emboldened and the danger grows.

I am convinced that a piecemeal, reactionary response to intimidation from Moscow is a recipe for failure. Instead, we must have a comprehensive, proactive strategy that strengthens NATO, deters Russian aggression, and gives Ukraine the political, economic, and military support it needs to maintain its independence. We need a strategy that seeks to shape outcomes, not be shaped by them.

Much of that leadership must come from the White House, but this body also has a role to play. We should include funding for Ukrainian military assistance in upcoming spending bills. We should pass the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, which would authorize the assistance Ukraine needs today. We should pass legislation that will reduce Ukraine's—and all of Europe's—reliance on Russia for its energy resources. And we should pass legislation to ensure that the United States never recognizes Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

The need for action could not be more clear. Through his aggression in Ukraine, President Putin and Moscow are sending a message to Ukraine and to the world that America and the West are indecisive and weak and that their guarantees of support are meaningless. The Ukrainian people have rejected that message, choosing instead the path of democracy and openness—a path the United States has urged the Ukrainians and also the world to follow. We and our NATO allies must now stand with them.

When America is strong, when we stand unequivocally for freedom and justice, when we don't back down in the face of threats and intimidation, that is when we see a world that is more stable, less dangerous, and more free. That is because we stand with our allies.

More wars, more conflicts, more threats to our security—these do not arise from American strength; these arise from American weakness. Let's be strong again. Let's lead again. Let's help Ukraine. The world is watching.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized.

REMEMBERING HERMAN J. RUSSELL

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on Saturday night of last week, Georgia, Atlanta, and America lost a great citizen.

Herman J. Russell was one of the greatest African-American business leaders and civil rights leaders the world has ever known. He passed peacefully in his home after a short illness, but his legacy and his life will last forever—not just in the history books but indelibly on the skyline of our city.

In 1952 Herman J. Russell started a small plastering company called H.J. Russell & Company. He had just graduated from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and he came to Georgia to make his fortune and his fame. He started out plastering walls and ceilings, and he finished his career building the Georgia Dome and the Georgia Pacific Building, the 1996 Olympic Stadium, and buildings throughout the Atlanta skyline. While doing so he made a lot of money which he reinvested back not into his investments but into his community.

In 1999 Herman Russell by himself gave \$4 million to Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia State University, and last December gave \$1 million to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to rebuild and help renovate the facility in downtown Atlanta for a hospital for children.

He was always giving back more than he asked, but his greatest gift may have been the fact that he enabled Martin Luther King in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. It is well known that Dr. King would go to Herman's house to take refuge, take a swim and relax between the arduous times of the civil rights movement. Herman Russell would finance the movement and finance the movement's efforts so they could continue to move forward to bring about equality in the South. That is an indelible mark he left in history, not just for our State but for our country.

Herman and his wife had three wonderful children. They are involved in the business today. Today the business is still flourishing, as it always has. In fact, the new Atlanta Dome Stadium, which will house the Falcons, is a \$1.3 billion stadium in which the company was integrally involved.

Our city has lost a great friend, a great African American, and a great entrepreneur—so great, he was recognized by the Atlanta Chamber as its first African-American member and its second African-American president. He

has been recognized by the Butler Street YMCA, the Atlanta and Georgia Business Council, and almost every entrepreneur group there is for his contributions to business and his contributions to investments in the State of Georgia.

It is with great sadness tomorrow night that I will go to Ebenezer Baptist Church and be a part of the wake ceremony for Mr. Russell. But it is with great pride that I rise today on the Senate floor to make sure the RECORD indelibly recognizes the life, the times, and the contributions of Herman J. Russell.

REMEMBERING CARL SANDERS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on Sunday night a great Georgian and a personal friend of mine passed away from this life. At the age of 89, former Governor Carl Sanders died in Atlanta, GA, at Piedmont Hospital.

Governor Sanders was Governor of Georgia from 1963 to 1967. I was at the University of Georgia as a student from 1962 to 1966, so my college years paralleled his gubernatorial years, where he made a remarkable change in the politics and lives of the people of Georgia.

Everyone remembers what the 1960s were like in the South in terms of segregation. Most of the Governors in the South—like Governor Wallace from Alabama—were segregationists. But Carl Sanders came forward as a Governor who wanted to help bring people together, who wanted to help bring Georgia and the South through a turbulent time, to see to it that African Americans rose to equality not just in the way they were recognized but in the ways the laws were created. In fact, it was Carl Sanders who came to Washington in 1964 to meet with Lyndon Johnson and help form the foundation for the civil rights laws that passed later in the 1960s.

Carl Sanders was born in Augusta, GA. He went to the University of Georgia on a scholarship and played football, and he left the university to go fight in World War II and was a fighter pilot. He came back from World War II, graduated from the University of Georgia, and then graduated from Georgia Law School. He practiced law and was elected to the State legislature and then to the State senate and then Governor of the State of Georgia. He was Governor from 1963 to 1967.

Back then, Georgia Governors could not succeed one another, so he had to wait 4 years to run for a second term. He did wait 4 years and he ran for a second term, and he lost ultimately to the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. But he was never a loser; he was a winner. And in everything he did, whether it was government or business or family life, whatever it might be, Carl Sanders excelled.

He was such a wonderful man to share his wisdom and knowledge. About once every 6 or 8 months he would have three or four of us over to his office, at the age of 89, treating us to lunch and talking about the good old days but also talking about the future. Carl Sanders was not about the past, except for memories; he was about the future for its hope and its prosperity for people.

Carl Sanders will be remembered for a lot of things, but in Georgia, most importantly, he will be remembered for what became at first a junior college system but is now a 4-year college system which has every Georgia citizen within a 45-minute drive of a State university system facility. His passion as Governor was education. His legacy in Georgia will be education. He contributed greatly to our State and greatly to the future and the prosperity of the people of the State of Georgia.

It is with a great sense of sadness but a great sense of pride that I pay tribute today on the floor of the Senate to a great Governor of Georgia, a great citizen of our country, and a great American—the Honorable Carl Sanders, former Governor of the State of Georgia.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in morning business.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 511 days since the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to reform our broken immigration system. Fourteen Republicans joined the Democrats in supporting a measure which covered what I believe are the major challenges facing America when it comes to immigration in the 21st century.

There was an amendment adopted by Senator CORKER, and I believe Senator HOEVEN cosponsored it. Their amendment would have strengthened our border security to unprecedented levels.

At this moment in time, we have more Federal law enforcement officials on the border between the United States and Mexico than the combined population of all other Federal law enforcement agencies. It is a massive commitment which would have been enhanced even more by the comprehensive immigration reform bill.

For those border State Senators, we would have reached the point where—from Galveston to San Diego—we would have literally had available a law enforcement agent every half mile 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a massive investment, and it passed the Senate 511 days ago.

That same bill addressed some serious issues about agriculture workers in

Illinois, California, Texas, and all across the Nation. Growers are telling us they are having a difficult time bringing in the workers who will do the backbreaking, hard, physical labor necessary for agriculture. This bill addressed it. In fact, the bill was endorsed by both growers as well as those who do the work. It was an amazing political achievement.

It also addressed the issue of H-1Bs. Why in the world do we bring the best and brightest from around the world to the United States for advanced degrees, advanced education and then welcome them to leave? If they stayed and worked to create jobs and new businesses and new innovations in America, we could build our economy. The bill addressed it.

As important as all of those issues are, the bill addressed 11 million undocumented people in America—11 million, and that is just an estimate. The bill said those who were here undocumented—who had been here for several years—could step up, register with the government, pay their filing fee, submit themselves to a background check, pay their taxes, and then be reviewed annually for years to make sure they were still complying with the laws of the United States.

They would not qualify for government benefits or programs during this period of time, but they could work their way to legal status. That bill passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis with 68 votes. The bill then went over to the House of Representatives where, sadly, it languished. Nothing happened.

The Speaker of the House refused to call the bill up for a vote. In fact, he refused to call any aspect of the bill up for a vote. He refused to call it in committee for any consideration or debate, and then he let it languish. There were times when the House Republican leadership tempted the White House and others by saying: Well, maybe now we can call it up for a vote. They never, ever did. We have waited 511 days, and here we are today.

This evening, President Obama is going to announce an Executive order to address immigration. He has waited patiently, and America has waited patiently for the Republicans in the House of Representatives to step forward and accept this responsibility, but they have refused. They have refused to fix this broken immigration system, and you can bet as soon as the President issues his Executive order, there will be a chorus of complaints that this President has gone too far by using his Executive authority to address this issue.

You won't hear the facts from the critics. You won't hear from the critics that every President since Dwight David Eisenhower—I believe 11 different Democrats and Republicans—have issued Executive orders relating to immigration. President George Herbert Walker Bush basically said—by

Executive order—that we are not going to prosecute 1.5 million undocumented immigrants in America. He used his prosecutorial discretion. That is the kind of thing which we have come to expect from Presidents, and we expect Congress to complain about it. That has continued.

Here is what we believe President Obama will announce today. The details are just starting to emerge in press reports. He is going to announce that we are going to push for accountability in immigration. Senator MARCO RUBIO was on the bipartisan panel that put together the comprehensive immigration reform bill. He said something that was very pressing, and I wish to refer to it at this moment. He said for those who criticize amnesty, doing nothing is amnesty for those who are here in the United States and undocumented. Doing nothing is amnesty.

What President Obama is going to suggest—instead of amnesty—is accountability. Here is what he will say. Those who have children who are American citizens and have been here at least 5 years will have a chance to step forward and register with the government, pay the filing fee for processing, submit themselves to a criminal background check, and pay their taxes.

The President says, if you will do that—under his order—it is my understanding it will say you can legally work in America. They will not become a citizen nor will they have legal status beyond the work permit, but they don't have to fear deportation. They are down the list and are not considered a dangerous person who should be deported.

The highest priority for those who will be deported are those with criminal records, and they should be deported. There is no room in the United States for anyone—let alone undocumented—who come here and commit a crime.

Secondly, if you have repeat offenders and those who violated the legal system, they will be in the second category.

The third category of those who meet the criteria I mentioned will be given their chance.

This is about accountability. This really says to those who wish to say: If you will play by these rules, we will give you a chance to stay and work.

What is the reason? We want to deport felons; we don't want to deport families. We want to deport criminals; we don't want to deport children. We will focus our efforts on the borders on those who are trying to come across and those who are here and should leave. That means more resources would be put into enforcement, and it also means that those who are here will be registered. We will know who they are, where they are, where they are working, and we will know that

they are paying their taxes to stay in this country.

The alternative from the Republican point of view—for 511 days—is to do nothing. That is an unacceptable alternative.

There is a better alternative to an Executive order, and the President will be the first to say it, and that is that this Congress—on a bipartisan basis—rolls up its sleeves and tackles this issue. We should. That is why we were elected. To do nothing, as the House has done for 511 days, is unacceptable. To stand by the sidelines and criticize this President for using his Executive authority—the same Executive authority used over and over again by Presidents of both political parties in the field of immigration—is not constructive.

There is one other thing that is even worse. Some Members of the other party are suggesting they are prepared to shut down the Government of the United States over this issue. If the President uses his legal authority, they have threatened to shut down the Government of the United States.

We saw that last year when the junior Senator from Texas took the floor and said he was going to close down the government over the issue of the Affordable Care Act. It was a terrible strategy. A lot of innocent people were hurt. It cost our government and our economy dearly. It was a politically desperate act which I hope will not be repeated ever again—certainly not when it comes to the issue of immigration.

If there was ever a time for us to stand together—both political parties—and solve a problem, this is it. Standing on the sidelines and complaining—which is what we have heard over and over again from the House Republican leadership and continue to hear when it comes to the President's Executive order—is not the kind of constructive policy the American people need.

I applaud the President. He is going to take a lot of grief for this—for using his Executive power—but thank goodness he is stepping up and addressing the problem. Where others have walked away from it, ignored it, and come up with every excuse on Earth, he is directly addressing the problem. And now it is time for us in the Congress to do the same thing.

We are going to come back after Thanksgiving and will be here for at least 10 days. Speaker BOEHNER, leader of the Republican House, has the authority to instantly call to the floor of the House this bipartisan immigration bill which passed the Senate. There is no excuse. If he is going to criticize the President for using his power to solve a problem, then the Speaker should use his power to address that same problem. Call the comprehensive immigration reform bill before we leave at the end of this year. Bring it up for a vote in the House. I think it will pass.

If it passes, and we do—by legislation—a much broader review and change in the immigration reform bill, we will have done what we were elected to do. We will have served this Nation, and we will have set out to repair this broken immigration system.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am glad I came to the floor and heard my friend and colleague, the majority whip, from Illinois, and his explanation for how it is clearly within the President's authority to issue this Executive order he plans on announcing tonight. The basic problem is the President himself has said repeatedly he doesn't have that authority. He said it repeatedly. We have all seen the clips on TV and online. He said he doesn't have the power to do it. He was right then, and he is wrong now.

There is a right way and a wrong way to solve problems. The right way would have been during the first 2 years, after President Obama won the election in 2008 and his party commanded 60 votes in the Senate and a majority in the House of Representatives. If this had been a priority for him, he could have done it then.

Instead, on a party-line vote, he chose to jam through the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—and we see what a disaster that has been. It was not just me. I was a skeptic. I didn't think it would work. While the goals were laudable and worthy, I just didn't think the Federal Government had the competence or certainly the ability to reconfigure one-sixth of our economy. But the President did it, his party passed it, and it enjoyed no bipartisan support.

That is one of the basic problems with what the President is doing today. The reason why it is so important to follow the Constitution—which requires passing legislation affecting 5 million people through both Houses of Congress and forces us to negotiate and build consensus—is because those are sustainable policies.

If you try to do things on a “my way or the highway” basis or on a purely partisan basis, those are not sustainable because we know that as time goes by, today's majority will be tomorrow's minority. Now a Democrat occupies the White House. Perhaps next time a Republican will occupy the White House. Who knows. The point is that only objectives we pursue through the legislative process according to the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America that are done on a bipartisan basis through that natural census-building that is required in order to reach our goals—those are truly sustainable policies. And when the President decides to do it through an Executive order, exercising powers that he himself said he does not have, what are people supposed to think?

I heard my friend from Illinois say, Well, it has been 511 days and Republicans haven't swallowed the comprehensive immigration reform bill that has come from the Senate. They are not required to swallow it. They can pass legislation or not on their own timetable. The old joke is that the opposing party is our adversary, but the Senate is the enemy. That is the joke in House circles. So there is a natural rivalry between the House and the Senate. They are not expected nor required to accept what we pass, nor are they required to do it on our timetable. I believe Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader MCCARTHY are committed, as am I and the incoming majority leader come January, Senator MCCONNELL, to making progress on an incremental basis in this important area. It has to be thoughtful, and we have to have full-some debate with everybody participating in the process.

There are important questions. What impact is the President's Executive order going to have when the unemployment rate is still at 5.8 percent nationally and when the percentage of people actually looking for work is at a 30-year low because many people have given up because of the slow-growing economy? What is the impact of these 5 million—or however many additional work permits the President presumes to have the power to issue—what is the impact going to be on competition for jobs with the economy growing slowly and jobs in short supply? What is the impact of the President's Executive order going to be on household median income? We know wages have been stagnant for the middle class because of this slow-growing economy. What is the impact of millions of additional people competing for jobs in the economy going to be on wages?

I would like to have the answers to those questions.

I would also like to know if the President has the power—which he said he doesn't have but now apparently he has changed his mind—to issue this kind of Executive order affecting 5 million people? What about the other 6 million people who are in the country who did not come in in compliance with our immigration laws, who either overstayed their visas or came across the border illegally?

I come from a border State. We have 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico. We encountered what was described as a humanitarian crisis because we had this magnet known as the impression that we would not enforce our laws that encouraged people to make that treacherous journey from Central America across Mexico. Many of these immigrants lost their lives, were sexually assaulted or kidnapped and held for ransom—very dangerous circumstances in the hands of the criminal organizations that basically control this business. This is a business

for them. But if the President has the authority to do this for 5 million, why not the 11 million? How does he explain his action to the 6 million people who will now see these 5 million getting preferential treatment? And how in the world does he explain it to the people who have waited patiently year after year trying to do it the right way? The President has effectively bumped them out of the line and bumped 5 million people ahead of them.

I have every confidence that if we were able to do this in a thoughtful, deliberative sort of way, we could find a compassionate and satisfactory outcome for the people who made the mistake of entering the country illegally or who have overstayed. I believe in proportionality. We don't give the death penalty for speeding tickets. So I think there is an appropriate way to address this, but it is not by an amnesty. I call it an amnesty because, basically, there is no reconciliation process. In other words, when a person makes a mistake—and we all make mistakes and we all understand the aspirations and hopes immigrants bring to the United States because they come here for the same reason people have historically come here, and that is for the American dream. We understand that. But we also understand that when somebody has made a mistake, they need to own up to it and they need to reconcile themselves to lawful authority because, otherwise, the attitude is the law doesn't matter, and it is the law that protects all of us no matter who we are, where we come from, or how we pronounce our last name. And when we have a lawless process, as we do now and which this Executive order does nothing to fix, what that does is perpetuate lawlessness and chaos, and it also continues to enrich these criminal organizations that are more than happy to charge people \$5,000, \$6,000 a head to make that treacherous journey.

Beyond all of the issues I just addressed, this is a terrible precedent. Again, I understand now the President has decided—and some of our Democratic colleagues say, Well, this is the same thing George Bush did and this is the same thing Dwight Eisenhower did. Well, it is not, and the President knew that when he said he didn't have the authority to do this previously. Now he has changed his mind. Now the argument is they issued Executive orders essentially implementing bipartisan legislation such as the 1986 amnesty that Ronald Reagan signed. There were Executive orders taken in furtherance of that consensus position based on the legislation. However, never has any President purported to have the authority to, out of whole cloth, do what this President says he is going to do.

Where does he get the authority to issue work permits? I understand he can prioritize prosecution and deporta-

tion, and he has, but where does the President get the authority to issue work permits for millions of people?

This is rocking people's fundamental confidence in their government. We elect Presidents to faithfully enforce the laws, including the Constitution of the United States. That is the oath the President takes when he is sworn in: "I do solemnly swear." These laws, of course, are beyond the Constitution drafted by Congress. It is "Schoolhouse Rock." Bills start in the House, and in the Senate they have to be reconciled and then sent to the President. That is civics 101. Maybe we need a new course called remedial civics 101 for those who have somehow forgotten how the Constitution is written and how it actually is implemented in the form of the legislative process.

Of course, if the President objects to what Congress sends him, that is when the negotiations start. He can veto it. We can vote to override it if we have the votes. If we don't, we are back to square one and we have to start that negotiation again.

I have never seen or even read of a President who seems so detached, so disinterested in actually engaging in this process set out by the Constitution. This President says if he doesn't get his way, I have a pen. I have a phone. I am going to go it alone. Well, that is a disaster waiting to occur, because it is a provocation to the other branches of government which say, Well, we are not irrelevant in this process and we may have something to say about it. I think we will see some of that in the very near future with regard to the way appropriations are made and what functions of government fund it.

I heard my friend from Illinois say, People are even threatening a government shutdown. That is not true.

I take that back. The Democrats are saying that. No Republican has said that. It is just not going to happen. It shouldn't happen and it won't happen.

I love it when our friends in the other party like to tell us about our own internal politics. I was at the White House with the President and bicameral, bipartisan leadership and our Democratic friends said that the House of Representatives can't pass any immigration reform bill. Well, I don't know how they know that, unless they have some insider wisdom that is not obvious to the people who actually work there and have the responsibility to make it work.

What I know and what I believe is that there is a good-faith desire to try to solve this problem, but not by what I call the "pig in the python" approach. In other words, we tried that with the Affordable Care Act, a 2,700-page bill involving trillions of dollars of expenditure done purely on a partisan basis and it didn't work. I think there is an understandable aversion to

trying to do things in a comprehensive sort of way. So why not break it down into pieces and do what we can, because there are a lot of different pieces that enjoy bipartisan support.

I think the precedent the President is setting is very dangerous, because if he purports now to have this power which he previously said on numerous occasions he didn't have, what about future Presidents? What about policies others may not like? Even if a person believes this is a pretty good idea—a person might say, The President is trying to act because obviously this is a controversial issue and things aren't moving fast enough, so I like what the President is doing. Suppose a person says that. Well, just think about the possibility that a few years from now when we have an election, we have a new President, and what if that President says, Well, President Obama purported to exercise this massive Executive authority in defiance of the Constitution and the laws, so I guess I can do it, too.

This is not the kind of political system we want. This is not good for the American people. We do not want a system in which each party, when they happen to be in power, takes their turn abusing Executive authority. We do not want that. I would have thought there are enough people who love this institution known as the U.S. Senate and believe it has an indispensable role in our government who would say, Wait, Mr. President, don't do it, because we may like the policy, but this really is an end run around the Constitution and the role that is appropriately played by both Houses of Congress and the Executive.

But, apparently, there are few, if any, folks on the other side of the aisle who believe that our tradition and our constitutional system of legislating is worth preserving—at least in this instance.

I have spoken at some length about the practical consequences of the President's amnesty, but those consequences also bear repeating since the eyes of the country are now focused on what the President is going to announce tonight. We know from recent experience that the President's unilateral amnesty will be communicated to people in other countries as a signal that they can all come in. That is what happened with the unaccompanied children; 62,000 of them I think the number is, roughly, from Central America since last October. The reason there was a flood and a humanitarian crisis, as described by the President and the administration themselves, is because the signal was the green light is on and people can come to the United States.

People need to come legally. As long as they get here, they can stay. This is because it undermines one of the basic premises of effective law enforcement, and that is deterrence. In other words,

we don't want to just try to stop people after they break the law. Actually, it is too late to stop them. What we like to do is deter people from even thinking about breaking the law and, in this instance, even making that perilous journey.

There is going to be a surge, an uptick, of some type of an illegal immigration. People are going to see this as a further signal it is OK to come, and they don't need to comply with the law, they don't need to wait. They can just come. If they are one of the lucky ones, they get to stay because this President or somebody will issue a further pardon.

As I said earlier, this is also a major boom to the cartels and other gangs who control Mexico's smuggling networks. It will almost certainly lead to thousands of people who committed crimes in this country gaining legal status. It will also, as I said earlier, punish people who played by the rules and waited patiently in line trying to immigrate to the country legally. It will punish them by putting them in the back of the line.

Let me just repeat this because it is important to me. America is the most generous country in the world when it comes to legal immigration. We are the beneficiary of the brains, the ambition, the hard work of people who come here from all over the globe. All of us weren't—or almost all of us, our ancestors were not born in the United States. We came from somewhere else. Mine came through Ellis Island from Ireland after one of the potato crop famines in the 19th century. So we understand both the desire to pursue the American dream in this country and the benefits that accrue to our country as a result of legal immigration. That is why we are such a generous country when it comes to legal immigration, but the current chaos associated with illegal immigration has a number of very negative consequences.

I mentioned a moment ago my State has 1,200 miles of common border. It gets attention every once in a while as it did when this humanitarian crisis involving these unaccompanied minors occurred, but it happens day after day that people are detained coming across the southwestern border from all over the world.

I met a young man about 6 months ago when I was down on the border who had emigrated from Bangladesh. I wondered how in the world did he get here from there. There were a number of other Senators and Congressmen with me. We asked the Border Patrol: Can we ask him? They said: Sure.

It turned out he spoke enough English. I asked: Well, how much did it cost you to get here?

He said: Six thousand dollars.

I said: How did you get here?

He said: I had to transit eight countries to get here.

That is a pretty complicated itinerary for anybody even under normal circumstances, but what it demonstrates is there are networks not just in Central America and Mexico but around the world that feed people into this network in order to immigrate to the United States illegally. What we are doing is nothing about that. Last year people were detained at the southwestern border from 140 different countries. If someone goes down to the outside of Falfurrias, TX, down in South Texas, they have rescue beacons the Border Patrol has put out. If someone made this long trip from Central America through Mexico in the hot weather, let's say, and they are dehydrated, they are worried about their life and their health, they can actually go hit this rescue beacon and the Border Patrol will come pick them up which is maybe not their first choice, but it is better than dying from exposure.

The languages of those rescue beacons, the ones I saw outside the checkpoint at Falfurrias, TX—they are in English, Spanish—that doesn't surprise anybody. The third language is Chinese. Chinese is not a native language for most—for anybody, I bet, in Brooks County, TX. What it demonstrates is that there is a pipeline coming across the southwestern border from all over the world. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see what a potential threat that is from a public safety standpoint.

I know there are people who scoff at the idea of enhanced border security. The Senator from Illinois said we have enough Border Patrol to have one every half mile, 24 hours a day. This would be a way to try to secure the border. It has to be a combination of technology. It has to involve boots on the ground, and in some places—this is controversial along the border—we need to have what they call tactical infrastructure, fencing in some places, particularly in urban areas where it is easy to sprint across and be lost in a crowd before anybody discovers them.

Last year there were roughly 414,000 people detained coming across the southwestern border—414,000 from more than 144 countries. Does that sound as though we solved the problem of border security? No.

We are also sending mixed messages, as I said earlier, in terms of deterrence because people keep coming because they think they have a pretty good shot of making it in, and then the President issues an Executive order.

I wish to mention one other issue that has a particular impact on communities in my State of Texas, because we are on the frontlines of this issue, which is cost to the local taxpayer. I know the distinguished Presiding Officer is a former mayor. The cost of health care, law enforcement, and education fall not primarily on Federal taxpayers, they end up falling on local

taxpayers, including the taxes they pay for their school district or their city or their county, the emergency health care provided to the local emergency room and of course law enforcement costs.

Believe me, people who come across the border are not all coming for the right reason. There are people who exploit our porous border with criminal intent on their mind. They are dangerous, and so law enforcement has to take special precautions. That costs money. It costs the local taxpayers.

The Federal Government has been abdicating its responsibility along the border for a long time. I, for one, have to chuckle when my friends from non-border States want to tell me and tell my constituents about our backyard because frankly, to put it in a nice way, they need more information because they don't know what they are talking about.

Most of my friends in the—this is understandable. We all understand our States and our regions. We know them better than other parts of the country that perhaps we haven't been to, but most of my colleagues—I get the impression that their knowledge of the border is from movies they have seen or novels they have read, not from the facts on the ground or studying statistics issued by the Border Patrol or the Department of Homeland Security.

There is a right way and a wrong way to do what the President is purporting to do. The right way to do it is in accordance with the Constitution which requires both Houses to pass legislation and try to reconcile those in a conference committee and then send them to the President.

There are regular negotiations taking place all along the way, but there are enough areas of consensus that I believe we can make true progress. We have not been able to do it through a comprehensive bill because I think there is enormous skepticism, not just about Washington but about Congress as well as about comprehensive bills having unintended consequences.

Take the Affordable Care Act. The President said: If you like what you have, you can keep it. Your prices will go down, not up. That ended up not being true. When that happens people are skeptical. What are they trying to sell us next? The best way to deal with that, it seems to me, is to break it down into smaller, transparent pieces, and then move the pieces across the floor in the House and the Senate, and let's get them to the President.

After we have done that one, two, three, four times, I think people will then say: Well, you know what we have just done is immigration reform in an incremental sort of way. It is not going to satisfy everybody. Again, if your demand is I want everything I want or I am not going to take anything, we know what happens when people lay

down those sort of ultimatums. You get nothing.

While there are areas on the immigration topic, which admittedly is controversial, it is challenging, but it is our responsibility to address these challenges and these difficulties and do the very best job we can. The answer is not—and it can't be—a Presidential abuse of power.

As I pointed out earlier, when we try to do things on that basis, just like if we try to pass legislation on a purely partisan basis, it doesn't work. It is not sustainable. It is a provocation to the people who have been carved out of the process to try to do what they can to defend their role in the process, and that is what I worry about.

I remember being at a conference not that long ago when James Baker III and Joseph Calafato spoke. They talked about the importance of bipartisanship. Not that I am ever going to get the Presiding Officer to agree with me on everything I believe and he is not going to agree with me on everything I believe, but they made the point when it comes to some of the most challenging topics, bipartisanship solutions are the only ones that are actually sustainable.

What happens is after the next election, the party that was pushed out of the process and run over then says, OK, we are going to try to repeal everything they did because we didn't vote for it and we don't support it. That commends itself to my way of thinking to a recommitment of bipartisan accomplishment. I am committed to that.

I know from talking to colleagues across the aisle that after 4 years of being shut out of the process themselves in the Senate, they are going to enjoy the new Congress come January because they will be able to participate in the process. If people have a good idea, they can come to the floor and talk about it. They can offer their idea and get a vote.

Nobody is guaranteed to win every time, but people should have a right to get a vote and to raise the profile of the issues they care most about and the people they work for care most about.

I wish the President wouldn't do this. It will not work. It is unconstitutional. It purports to exercise a power he himself said he does not have, but he seems determined to do it nonetheless.

I believe the American people will react negatively to this President's claim of authority to issue this amnesty, and I believe then the next step is for Congress to do everything we can to stop it and then to do it the right way, not the wrong way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the words of Cicero are powerfully relevant 2,077

years later: When, President Obama, do you mean to cease abusing our patience? How long is that madness of yours still to mock us? When is there to be an end to that unbridled audacity of yours, swaggering about as it does now? Do not the nightly guards placed on the border, do not the watches posted throughout the city, does not the alarm of the people and the union of all good men and women—does not the precaution taken of assembling the Senate in this most defensible place—do not the looks and countenances of this venerable body here present, have any effect upon you? Do you not feel that your plans are detected? Do you not see that your conspiracy is already arrested and rendered powerless by the knowledge that everyone here possesses of it? What is there that you did last night, what the night before—where is it that you were—who was there that you summoned to meet you—what design was there which was adopted by you, with which you think that any one of us is unacquainted?

Shame on the age and on its lost principles. The Senate is aware of these things; the Senate sees them; and yet this man dictates by his pen and his phone. Dictates. Aye, he will not even come into the Senate. He will not take part in the public deliberations; he ignores every individual among us. We gallant men and women think that we are doing our duty to the Republic if we keep out of the way of his frenzied attacks.

You ought, President Obama, long ago to have been led to defeat by your own disdain for the people. That destruction which you have been long plotting ought to have already fallen. What shall we, who are the Senate, tolerate President Obama, openly desirous to destroy the Constitution and this Republic? For I passed over old instances, such as how the IRS plotted to silence American citizens.

There was once such virtue in this Republic that brave men and women would repress mischievous citizens with severe chastisement than the most bitter enemy. For we have a resolution of the Senate, a formidable and authoritative decree against you, Mr. President. The wisdom of the Republic is not at fault, nor the dignity of this Senatorial body. We, we alone—I say it openly—we, the Senate, are waiting in our duty to stop this lawless administration and its unconstitutional amnesty.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to recognize National Rural Health Day. I would like to take a moment to recognize our rural health care providers and all they do for this country.

Approximately 62 million Americans live in rural areas and they depend on an ever-shrinking number of health care providers. Rural providers play a very important role in improving the health of their communities and supporting local economies.

I thank our rural providers—individuals, hospitals, and clinics—for all they do. Rural providers support a population that makes invaluable contributions to this country through food production, manufacturing, and other vital industries.

Yet more people in rural areas are living below the poverty line than their urban counterparts. Rural hospitals are struggling to continue providing care due to declining payments, many exacerbated by the Affordable Care Act. The past few years have been marked by increasing rural hospital closures, with 27 hospitals shutting their doors in the past 2 years.

The trend is concerning and deserves attention as many more facilities and communities are at risk. Once a hospital is gone, the devastating impact on the community cannot be undone. The economic impact is unmistakable.

The typical, critical access hospital creates over 140 jobs in primary employment and \$6.8 million in local wages while serving a population of over 14,000. When facilities close, the consequences of traveling great distances for medical care are much more than just mere inconvenience. The delays in obtaining care can mean the difference between life and death. According to the U.S. News & World Report, that was the case for an infant in Texas who choked on a grape and died after the only hospital in the county had closed just a few months before.

There are a number of similarly tragic stories, and they will continue to mount if we fail to take action.

In 1946, Congress recognized the importance of rural health care providers and worked to build the rural health care infrastructure that exists today. It is called the Hill-Burton Act. The country has changed dramatically since 1946 and thoughtful action to improve the distribution and capabilities of our rural health care system is overdue. We need to act now to support our rural providers and facilitate a responsible transition to a modernized health care system.

Rural America is facing what I would call an arbitrary attrition of providers. The hospital closures are a function of no specific design. It is all about balance sheets strained to the breaking point of continual payment cuts. It is not about where providers need to be to serve populations. We need to take a

thoughtful look then at what the future of rural health care needs to be.

We need to be willing to consider bold steps to ensure that rural America has access to high-quality health care. Health care coverage, whether through private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, without access to providers of that care is meaningless.

We need to put a stop to the arbitrary process now and work forward in designing a better, sustainable future for rural health care.

I close, once again, by thanking all of America's rural providers. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to transition to a better future and protect access to health care in America.

TAX EXTENDERS

I would like to speak about the tax extenders bill that is being worked on between the House and the Senate in an informal conference and to explain why I am concerned about the direction it might be taking, particularly as it relates to alternative energy and as it relates to wind energy tax production credit.

Here we are in another lameduck session of Congress, working to finish the business we failed to complete the previous year or two.

One of those critical pieces of legislation that must be enacted is a tax extender bill. It seems as though nearly every year in recent memory we have put off the extension of expired tax provisions until the very last minute.

In 2012 revision provisions remained expired for an entire year before we finally extended them in January of 2013. Similarly, the previous extension of prior provisions did not occur until the middle of December.

Now, once again, we find ourselves heading into the month of December with tax extenders having been expired for nearly 11 months, and there is a lot of uncertainty that causes a slowdown to the economy when people don't know what the tax provisions are.

This is no way to do business. Such late action by Congress results in complications during filing season for taxpayers. That is a big problem for the IRS. We need to do something right now. It is almost too late to get tax preparers to know what to do for the next tax season. Obviously, tax season is unpleasant enough without our adding to it by failing to do our job in a timely fashion.

Once again, we have created a lot of headaches and uncertainty for individuals and businesses. This uncertainty harms investment and business growth; in other words, slowing the economy, as I previously said. This is bad for economic growth and does nothing to create the jobs that can come when we have more certainty for people who invest in capital and want to provide jobs.

The lapse of renewable energy incentives has also created a lot of uncer-

tainty and slowed growth in the renewable energy. This only serves to hamper the strides made toward a viable, self-sustainable renewable energy sector.

It didn't have to be this way. The Senate Finance Committee, under the leadership of Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH, did its job. We marked up an extenders package in early April. The Senate never took up that package because the majority leader refused to allow Republicans to offer amendments. And it happens that even a couple of amendments that were going to be adopted had wide bipartisan support. Rather than consider and advance the Finance Committee bill, the majority leader shelved the extenders bill because of fear that Members of his party might have to take tough votes.

With the election behind us, it is now time to get to work and get the extenders bill done. I understand that negotiations are ongoing between the House and Senate on this issue. I am encouraged by reports of progress being made. However, I am concerned about rumors that some are working to leave out or shorten the extension of the wind energy tax credit.

I fought this issue in the Finance Committee when one of the Members on my side of the aisle tried to strike that provision. But we had a bipartisan vote of 18 to 5 to defeat that amendment that would have struck the wind production tax credit from the bill that is now before the Senate.

It seems as though opponents of wind energy have tried at every turn to undermine this industry, and so I am not surprised that we are at it again, even considering the 18-to-5 vote in the Finance Committee.

I agree the Tax Code has gotten too cluttered with too many special interest provisions. That is the reason many of us have been clamoring for tax reform for years now. But just because we haven't cleaned up the Tax Code in a very comprehensive way doesn't mean we should pull the rug out from under domestic renewable energy producers. Doing so would cost jobs, harm our economy, the environment, and our national security.

I am glad to defend the wind energy production tax credit and continue to defend it. In fact, I can tell you that 22 years ago, when I first got this passed through the Congress to become law, I didn't think it would become the big thing it is. But there is a tremendous amount of energy being generated today by wind energy. Wind energy supports tens of thousands of American jobs. It has spurred billions in private investment in the United States, and it displaces more expensive and more polluting sources of energy.

More than 70 percent of U.S. wind turbines value is now produced in the United States, compared to just 25 percent prior to 2005.

Once again, opponents of the renewable energy provisions want to have this debate in a vacuum. They disregard the many incentives and subsidies that exist for other sources of energy and are permanent law. For example, the 100-year-old oil and gas industry continues to benefit from tax preferences that aren't generally throughout the economy for all businesses but only benefit their industry.

These are not general business tax provisions—I want to say that again—they are specific to oil and gas business. A few examples: Expensing for intangible drilling costs, deductions for tertiary injectants, percentage depletion for oilwells, special amortization for geological costs.

I am not going to find fault with that, but I will find fault with people who justify that, yet take on wind energy. These are four tax preferences for a single energy resulting in the loss of more than \$4 billion annually in tax revenue.

Nuclear energy is another great example. The first nuclear powerplant came online in the United States in 1958. That is 56 years ago. Nuclear receives special tax treatment for interest from decommissioning trust funds.

Congress created a production tax credit for this mature industry in 2005, which is going to be available until 2020. Nuclear also benefits from Price-Anderson Federal liability insurance that Congress provided. That was supposed to be a temporary measure in 1958, but this temporary measure has been renewed through 2025. Nuclear energy has also received \$74 billion of Federal research and development dollars since 1950.

Are those crony capitalist handouts? Well, nobody seems to be attacking them. Is it time to end the market distortions for nuclear power? Well, nobody is talking about that. But they are talking about wind energy.

We had a Cato study about nuclear energy that said:

In truth, nuclear power has never made economic sense and exists purely as a creature of government.

People are saying that about wind energy, but I don't hear the same people saying it about nuclear power.

I don't understand the argument that repealing a subsidy for oil and gas or nuclear energy production is a tax increase like the accusation against wind, while repealing an incentive on alternative or renewable energy is not a tax increase. So it is not intellectually honest.

As I said before, we have had wind incentives since 1992, and I am the father of that. I suppose now, after 22 years, you might say I am the grandfather of it. I know it won't go on forever. In fact, it was never meant to go on forever. And people in the wind energy even admit that today and talk about phaseouts.

I am happy to discuss a responsible multiyear phaseout of that wind tax credit. In 2012, the wind energy was the only industry to put forward such a phaseout plan. But any phaseout must be done in the context of comprehensive tax reform where all energy tax provisions are on the table, not just wind solely. And it should be done responsibly, over a few years, to provide certainty and ensure a viable industry.

It is time to put an end to the annual kabuki dance that is tax extenders. Good tax policy requires certainty that can only come from long-term predictable tax law. Businesses need the certainty in the Tax Code so they can plan and invest accordingly.

Moreover, taxpayers deserve to know that the Tax Code is not just being used as another way to dole out funds to politically favored groups. However, the only sound way to reach this goal is through comprehensive tax reform.

I agree there are provisions in extenders that ultimately should be left on the cutting room floor. But it is in tax reform—comprehensive tax reform—where we should consider the relative merits of individual provisions. Targeting certain provisions for elimination now makes little sense for those of us who want to reduce tax rates as much as possible.

Tax reform provides an opportunity to use realistic baselines that will allow the revenue generated from cutting back provisions to be used to pay for reductions in individual and corporate tax rates.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the future to enact tax reform and put an end to the headaches and uncertainty created by the regular expiration of tax provisions. Right now our focus must be on extending current expired or expiring provisions to give us room to work towards that goal.

It is my hope that we can move quickly to reach a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that can quickly be enacted and that includes the wind energy tax provisions. Taxpayers have already waited too long.

What really gripes me about this whole argument is that people say they are for all of the above. I am for all of the above, I can say. You know, that means fossil fuels, that means all sorts of alternative energy, it probably includes conservation, and it includes nuclear. But when I see the people fighting the wind energy tax credit coming from petroleum and natural gas and from coal, I think of these people who say they are for all of the above, they are really for all of the below but for none of the above. And that is wrong and inconsistent.

I want a consistent, uniform tax policy for all forms of energy being extended right now.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order be modified so that the following nomination be added following Executive Calendar No. 962: Calendar No. 1008, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WALSH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PEPPER NOMINATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, it is my privilege to recommend to the Senate the Honorable Pamela Pepper to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Patty served with distinction and is the current chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Although not native to our State, she has set down deep roots in Wisconsin, first serving in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, followed by private practice in Milwaukee and finally serving 9 years as a bankruptcy court judge.

Pam was born in the delta of Mississippi in a town called Leland. Her parents were both teachers and instilled in her an intellectual curiosity which has been apparent throughout her career. She migrated north for college and attended Northwestern University in Chicago, where she received a degree in theater.

After helping a friend get through the LSAT review course, she realized she might want to explore other careers and ended up taking the LSAT herself. She obviously had prepared herself well because she performed well on the LSAT and was accepted into the Cornell University School of Law.

After graduation, she clerked with distinction for Judge Frank Johnson on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and then moved on to become a

prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago.

She is widely respected within her profession, evidenced by having held offices as the president of the Milwaukee Bar Association and the chairperson of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin. She is an instructor of national stature and speaks frequently on trial practice and evidence. She is currently an instructor at the Federal Judicial Center.

I have had the opportunity to speak to practitioners who have appeared before her bankruptcy court. They have told me of her patience with attorneys, which is a virtue of hers they all value.

Pam possesses a great sense of humor, which she often uses to put litigants at ease. She displays compassion in making tough decisions by explaining the rationale for those decisions clearly so her reasoning is understood by all. She has shown great dexterity in reacting to difficult situations in court with calm reasoning.

Finally, Pam has been described as a practical judge who promptly resolves disputes while faithfully adhering to the rule of law.

Pam's intellectual curiosity, her demonstrated ability to learn new areas of the law and efficiently administer her office, has convinced me she will continue to excel in her new role as a Federal district court judge. Judge Pepper has my full support, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes on her confirmation.

I conclude my remarks by thanking the hard-working members of our bipartisan nomination commission for their dedication and efforts.

I also thank Senator BALDWIN for her continued support of this successful nominating process that has once again resulted in the selection of a well-qualified jurist, Judge Pamela Pepper, who will serve the N and the Wisconsin Eastern District well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. I rise this afternoon to urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Pamela Pepper for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. I am delighted to once again join my colleague Senator JOHNSON on the floor to discuss this nomination.

The people of Wisconsin deserve to have experienced and highly qualified judges working for them, and I am proud to have worked with my colleague Senator JOHNSON and our judicial nominating commission to put in place this process for filling the critical Federal judicial vacancies in our State. I was pleased to join Senator JOHNSON in May of this year to support the confirmation of Jim Peterson, whom the Senate confirmed to a seat for a Federal judgeship in the Western District of Wisconsin. I am pleased to stand on the floor with my colleague today to speak in support of another

terrific judicial nominee who will serve the people of Wisconsin well.

Judge Pepper is an outstanding bankruptcy judge, and she will be an outstanding U.S. Federal district judge.

As President Obama noted in making the nomination, "Judge Pepper has a long and distinguished record of service, and . . . will serve on the federal court with distinction."

Pam Pepper has indeed dedicated her professional career to public service. She has a distinguished career as a judge, Federal prosecutor, public defender, and attorney in private practice. She has spent that career dedicated to serving her clients and the people of the United States. I am confident she will continue her outstanding service on the bench, and the people of Wisconsin will benefit from having this experienced and dedicated public servant as a U.S. district judge.

As we have heard, she has served as the chief bankruptcy judge in the Eastern District of Wisconsin since 2010, having served as a bankruptcy judge in that district since 2005. She simultaneously served the people of the Southern District of Illinois as a bankruptcy judge during that same period. Judge Pepper has contributed significantly to the field of bankruptcy law and the continuing education of bankruptcy judges and practitioners.

Prior to her time on the bench, Pamela Pepper worked both as a solo practitioner engaged in criminal defense work and as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Chicago and then Milwaukee.

Before becoming a bankruptcy judge, Pam Pepper also held numerous leadership positions within the legal community, including on the boards of the Federal Defenders Service of Wisconsin, the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, and the Milwaukee Bar Association, just to name a few.

Senator JOHNSON and I strongly support Judge Pepper's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Our joint support of a judicial nominee should once again send a strong message to the entire Senate that she is the right choice for this judgeship.

I urge my colleagues to confirm judge Pamela Pepper so that she can continue her distinguished service to the people of Wisconsin and the people of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 2 p.m.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as we know, tonight President Obama is

going to speak to the American people about reforming our broken immigration system. I had dinner with him last night, and we talked about this. I think it is generally expected that he will announce what he can do to address some of the problems that are tearing families apart, dragging the U.S. economy down and risking our national security. For 2 years the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives refused to even allow a vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill. Because of that, I understand and appreciate why the President is going to act.

There are currently 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, but everybody knows we are not going to round up and deport 11 million people. It just can't be done. Even if it could be done, it would be totally un-American and against everything that we stand for. These are, after all, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. They are not a number. They are real people. And the President's action will acknowledge that. It is a necessary step in an effort to bring people out of the shadows, focus scarce enforcement resources on those who actually pose a threat, and bring some stability to those who are hardworking, law-abiding members of our community. I would much rather have people who are taxpayers and know they are here legally, so we can concentrate on those who aren't. That is what the President wants to do.

President Obama knows there is no substitute for legislation. President Reagan and President Bush used a similar type of Executive order. It is a temporary and incomplete solution because legislation has to be passed. We have to step up and fix the broken immigration system once and for all, as we did in the Senate when Republicans and Democrats came together last year. But to those who say we should wait for Congress to act, I think we have waited long enough.

We have been waiting now for 511 days since the Senate passed immigration reform. That is 511 days, during which time the Republican-controlled House of Representatives could have taken up our bill—either voted for it or voted against it. The least they could do is vote. Vote "yes" or vote "no." I think about what my friend and the former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Edward Kennedy, said in the summer of 2007. We had comprehensive immigration reform before the Senate. It was being blocked by the Republicans. He said:

A minority in the Senate rejected a stronger economy that is fairer to our taxpayers and our workers. A minority in the Senate rejected America's own extraordinary immigrant history and ignored our nation's most urgent needs. But we're in this struggle for the long haul.

Senator Kennedy was right. That is why Democrats and Republicans came

together to pass an immigration bill out of the Senate. I just ask why, 511 days later, has the Republican-controlled House refused to either vote for it or vote against it? We held days of hearings and lengthy, extensive markup sessions. We worked late into the evenings debating the bill. Many of us worked weekends. I remember, because I was there. We considered hundreds of amendments. More than 300 amendments were filed. We adopted 136 of them. All but three were adopted with both Republican and Democratic votes. What was initially a proposal from the so-called Gang of 8 became, through the committee process, the product of 18 Members from both sides of the aisle. The Senate Judiciary Committee recommended this improved bipartisan bill to the full Senate. It wasn't exactly the bill that I would have written, but it was a fair and reasonable compromise. It reflected the deliberative process at its best, and I felt honored to bring the bill to the floor.

But look what happened. Sixty eight of us voted to pass it, and the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives will not even bring it up for a vote. To this day, the Republican leadership in the House is batting zero when it comes to truly addressing the broken immigration system.

The President is not acting alone. The American people support immigration reform. Remember that. The American people support immigration reform. A bipartisan majority of the Senate has endorsed action. It is the House of Representatives that is out of step. Our system is not going to fix itself. We know this. It should be no surprise that the President has decided to use his authority to make our country safer, stronger, and more humane. If Republicans really, truly want congressional action on reform, they can take action today and allow a vote on the Senate-passed bill. I hope that every Member of the Republican Party who says that what the President is doing is terrible will also ask when House Republicans are going to vote one way or the other on the Senate's bill. Our bill would make everything the President is doing unnecessary. Remember that.

The President has the legal authority to take this action. Every President since Eisenhower has exercised this authority. Some, such as President George H.W. Bush, did so on a sweeping scale. We make laws in Congress. The President sets enforcement policies. He clearly has the power to take the scarce resources we have given him and identify and deport those people who pose a danger to our communities, and he can limit the deportation of those who are law-abiding, tax-paying members of the community.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Next week, millions of families in this country will gather around a table to give thanks for the many blessings they have received. I know my family and I and our children and our grandchildren will. The President's actions will be counted among those blessings for the millions of loved ones who worry that their mother, father or grandparents could be deported at any moment. The security the President's action will give these families on Thanksgiving is powerful and indispensable.

For some, it is about something even more urgent. It is about seeking safety. While I applaud the President's announcement today, I remain deeply disappointed by his decision to build a large new detention facility to hold vulnerable women and children fleeing violence in Central America. Many of these individuals are asylum seekers, not criminals, and their ongoing detention is unacceptable. I urge him to revisit this policy.

The action the President will announce today is going to draw criticism from those who sought to stop immigration reform at every turn. As a grandson of immigrants, I say that after years and years of obstruction, the President is right to take action. I am married to a woman who is the daughter of immigrants. At the heart of it all, this is about keeping America's communities strong and vibrant. We benefit from immigration. That has been our history. Let it be our future.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAMELA PEPPER
TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT
JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT
OF WISCONSIN

NOMINATION OF BRENDA K.
SANNES TO BE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW
YORK

NOMINATION OF MADELINE COX
ARLEO TO BE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT
OF NEW JERSEY

NOMINATION OF WENDY
BEETLESTONE TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

NOMINATION OF VICTOR ALLEN
BOLDEN TO BE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT
OF CONNECTICUT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York; Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey; Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on five outstanding judicial nominees to our Federal district courts. I thank the majority leader for filing for cloture on these nominees so we can clear the backlog that still remains on our executive calendar as we move toward the end of the 113th Congress. After we vote on these nominees today, however, we will still have 21 judicial nominees pending on the executive calendar to serve on district courts, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. Court of International Trade.

The five nominees the Senate will vote on today are all well-qualified lawyers and there should be no controversy about their confirmation. Four of these nominees: Pamela Pepper to the Eastern District of Wisconsin,

Brenda Sannes to the Northern District of New York, Madeline Arleo to the District of New Jersey, and Wendy Beetlestone to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania were reported by the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote and have the support of their home State senators.

The fifth nominee, Victor Bolden, who has been nominated to the District of Connecticut, also has the strong support of his home State Senators, Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Bolden's credentials are impeccable. Since 2009, he has served as corporation counsel for the city of New Haven, CT. Prior to joining city government, Mr. Bolden served as general counsel and assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund. He has also served in private practice as an associate and counsel at the law firm of Wiggin & Dana in New Haven, CT. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Mr. Bolden began his legal career at the American Civil Liberties Union as a staff attorney and as the Marvin Karparkin Fellow.

During the Judiciary Committee executive business meeting where Mr. Bolden's nomination was considered, the ranking member commented that he was troubled by the nominee's views on racial classifications and his advocacy on affirmative action. The ranking member also noted that he did not agree with the nominee's criticisms of the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Finally, the ranking member criticized Mr. Bolden because he argued the nominee "took a narrow and legally incorrect view of individual rights under the Second Amendment in an amicus brief in *Heller*." The committee voted to report Mr. Bolden's nomination favorably on a 10-to-8 party-line vote.

Let me address each of the issues raised by Ranking Member GRASSLEY. First, in cases where Mr. Bolden has advocated for a specific position in which a Senator may disagree, Mr. Bolden was representing a client and not expressing his own personal views. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I have stated repeatedly that attorneys should not be equated with the position of their clients. Our legal system is predicated upon zealous advocacy for both sides of an issue or matter. Without this, our justice system would not function. Victor Bolden understands the difference between the role of an advocate versus the role of a judge. In response to a question for the record from Senator GRASSLEY on applying Supreme Court and Circuit Court precedents, Mr. Bolden testified: "I am fully committed to following the precedents of higher courts faithfully and giving them full force and effect, regardless of any personal feelings I might have."

Second, not only has Mr. Bolden testified under oath about this distinc-

tion, but he has shown that he would apply and implement orders from a higher court. In *Ricci v. DeStefano*, Mr. Bolden represented the city of New Haven as corporation counsel. In that case, several White firefighters and one Hispanic firefighter sued the city of New Haven in 2003, alleging racial discrimination after the city threw out the results of an exam used for promotion of the city's firefighters. The test results had shown that White firefighters had outperformed minority applicants. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled against New Haven and held that the city's abandonment of the test results constituted intentional discrimination against the White firefighters. Mr. Bolden subsequently helped ensure that the city complied with the Court's order and defended the decision against collateral attacks.

To his credit, Mr. Bolden did such an outstanding job of ensuring compliance with the Supreme Court's decision that the named plaintiff—firefighter Frank Ricci—wrote a letter strongly supporting Mr. Bolden's nomination. Let me quote some of this letter:

It was apparent to me from our initial dealings whether as a plaintiff or union representative that the Mayor had made a great choice in the selection of the new Corporation Counsel. Although Victor represented the City and therefore would be naturally presumed an adversary it never felt that way. Through the remainder of the litigation from the U.S. Supreme Court decision to the final judgments Victor displayed and has always displayed the attributes one could hope for in a jurist. He's always conscious that there are real people affected by decisions that are made but he is also very deliberate in those decisions with an unwavering commitment to the law. Victor is a consummate professional with unquestionable integrity. These observations are not limited to me but have been the topic of many discussions between me and others, including those inside and outside the fire service. I cannot think of anyone who would make a finer addition to our federal judiciary than him. And I could not have a greater honor than to write this correspondence supporting that.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full letter of support.

Third, Mr. Bolden's criticisms of the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* in a 2013 editorial were shared by a substantial number of legal scholars and Senators, including me. As I have said, the *Shelby County* decision was a dreadful decision and wrongly decided. A narrow majority of the Court decided to substitute its own judgment over the exhaustive legislative findings of Congress showing that racial discrimination in voting still occurs. Instead, the Court chose to effectively strike down the heart of the Voting Rights Act by holding that the coverage formula for preclearance was outdated. I authored a bipartisan bill along with Congressmen SENSENBRENNER and JOHN LEWIS on this, but to this date, not a single Senate Repub-

lican has signed on. In short, I believe that Victor Bolden's views on voting rights are well within the mainstream. Nevertheless, Mr. Bolden has stated for the RECORD that he "would faithfully apply Supreme Court and Second Circuit precedent" on the issue.

Lastly, Mr. Bolden has been criticized for authoring an amicus brief on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. At the time Mr. Bolden authored the amicus brief, the controlling precedent in the Supreme Court's jurisprudence was *United States v. Miller*, which did not hold that there was an individual right to bear arms outside of the context of a "well regulated Militia." Accordingly, the brief that Mr. Bolden filed actually cited to Supreme Court precedent that was controlling on the issue at the time. Now that the Supreme Court has decided *Heller*, Mr. Bolden has testified under oath that he "would faithfully apply the Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and other Second Amendment jurisprudence" and all other areas of the law.

Senators should not vote against Mr. Bolden for advocating on behalf of a client using the applicable Supreme Court precedent at the time. I have heard that some Senators have been continuing to distort Mr. Bolden's record on the Senate floor during his cloture vote. I can only hope that these distortions and fabrications are dismissed as they rightly should be.

Mr. Bolden is an outstanding nominee and a substantial majority of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has also rated him "well qualified." I wholeheartedly support this nominee and would strongly urge my fellow Senators to do the same.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 25, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: I write this correspondence with great excitement and enthusiasm to support the nomination and appointment of Attorney Victor Bolden to the U.S. District Court of Connecticut.

I have known and worked with Attorney Bolden for more than 5 years. I first met him around the time that he was appointed Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven. Our first interactions surrounded an ongoing legal matter that I was the lead plaintiff, *Ricci et al. v. DeStefano et al.*

As a member, representative and current Secretary-Treasurer of New Haven Fire Fighters IAFF Local 825, positions I've held for over 16, these were challenging times. Emotions and frustrations surrounding this issue were somewhat raw to say the least. The relationship between the plaintiffs, union and the City, especially the Corporation Counsel was completely broken and seemed irreparable.

Luckily that was about to change. It was apparent to me from our initial dealings whether as a plaintiff or union representative that the Mayor had made a great choice

in the selection of the new Corporation Counsel. Although Victor represented the City and therefore would be naturally presumed an adversary it never felt that way. Through the remainder of the litigation from the U.S. Supreme Court decision to the final judgments Victor displayed and has always displayed the attributes one could hope for in a jurist. He's always conscious that there are real people affected by decisions that are made but he is also very deliberate in those decisions with an unwavering commitment to the law. Victor is a consummate professional with unquestionable integrity. These observations are not limited to me but have been the topic of many discussions between me and others, including those inside and outside the fire service. I cannot think of anyone who would make a finer addition to our federal judiciary than him. And I could not have a greater honor than to write this correspondence supporting that.

If you have any questions or there is something more that you feel I could be helpful with please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

LT. FRANK RICCI.

VOTE ON PEPPER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Prior to the vote, there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Pepper nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Cardin	Enzi
Ayotte	Carper	Feinstein
Baldwin	Casey	Fischer
Barrasso	Coats	Flake
Begich	Coburn	Franken
Bennet	Cochran	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Collins	Graham
Blunt	Coons	Grassley
Booker	Corker	Harkin
Boozman	Cornyn	Hatch
Boxer	Crapo	Heinrich
Brown	Cruz	Heitkamp
Burr	Donnelly	Heller
Cantwell	Durbin	Hirono

Hoeven	Merkley
Inhofe	Mikulski
Isakson	Moran
Johanns	Murkowski
Johnson (SD)	Murphy
Johnson (WI)	Murray
Kaine	Nelson
King	Paul
Kirk	Portman
Klobuchar	Pryor
Leahy	Reed
Lee	Reid
Manchin	Risch
Markey	Roberts
McCain	Rockefeller
McCaskill	Rubio
McConnell	Sanders
Menendez	Schatz

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Landrieu	Vitter
Hagan	Levin	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SANNES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Sannes nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Cochran	Heinrich
Ayotte	Collins	Heitkamp
Baldwin	Coons	Heller
Barrasso	Corker	Hirono
Begich	Cornyn	Hoeven
Bennet	Crapo	Inhofe
Blumenthal	Cruz	Isakson
Blunt	Donnelly	Johanns
Booker	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Boozman	Enzi	Johnson (WI)
Boxer	Feinstein	Kaine
Brown	Fischer	King
Burr	Flake	Kirk
Cantwell	Franken	Klobuchar
Cardin	Gillibrand	Leahy
Carper	Graham	Lee
Casey	Grassley	Levin
Coats	Harkin	Manchin
Coburn	Hatch	Markey

McCain	Pryor	Shelby
McCaskill	Reed	Stabenow
McConnell	Reid	Tester
Menendez	Risch	Thune
Merkley	Roberts	Toomey
Mikulski	Rockefeller	Udall (CO)
Moran	Rubio	Udall (NM)
Murkowski	Sanders	Walsh
Murphy	Schatz	Warner
Murray	Schumer	Warren
Nelson	Scott	Whitehouse
Paul	Sessions	Wicker
Portman	Shaheen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Chambliss	Landrieu
Hagan	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ARLEO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Arleo nomination.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BEETLESTONE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Beetlestone nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BOLDEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Bolden nomination.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut?

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Harkin	Reed
Begich	Hirono	Reid
Bennet	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Levin	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Udall (CO)
Carper	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Casey	Menendez	Walsh
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Franken	Nelson	
Gillibrand	Pryor	

NAYS—46

Alexander	Graham	Moran
Ayotte	Grassley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Blunt	Heinrich	Portman
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Tester
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Fischer	McCain	
Flake	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—5

Chambliss	Hagan	Vitter
Cruz	Landrieu	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. PETTIT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NOMINATION OF PAMELA LEORA SPRATLEN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

NOMINATION OF TAMARA WENDA ASHFORD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF L. PAIGE MARVEL TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF CARY DOUGLAS PUGH TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS

NOMINATION OF RAMIN TOLOUI TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF LISA AFUA SERWAH MENSAH TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NOMINATION OF GEORGE ALBERT KROL, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

NOMINATION OF LUIS G. MORENO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA

NOMINATION OF DONALD LU, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

NOMINATION OF BRENT ROBERT HARTLEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

NOMINATION OF ROBERT M. SPEER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, the

Senate will consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of James D. Pettit, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova; Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan; Tamara Wenda Ashford, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; L. Paige Marvel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development; George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan; Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica; Donald Lu, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania; Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia; and Robert M. Speer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

VOTE ON PETTIT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Pettit nomination.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield back all time on the nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James D. Pettit, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SPRATLEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ASHFORD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tamara Wenda Ashford, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MARVEL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of L. Paige Marvel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON PUGH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON TOLOUI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MENSAH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON KROL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MORENO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Donald Lu, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HARTLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SPEER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert M. Speer, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

MARVEL NOMINATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to say a few words of congratulations to these nominees and particularly to Judge Paige Marvel, a great Marylander, on her reappointment to the Tax Court.

As we know, the Tax Court serves a crucial role in this country's tax system. It is a highly specialized court that provides an important forum in which taxpayers can dispute determinations by the IRS. Tax Court judges have the difficult task of ably and fairly analyzing the highly technical legal issues that arise under our complex tax code.

At the close of Judge Marvel's first term on the U.S. Tax Court, I was a strong supporter of her reappointment, and I am an equally strong supporter of her confirmation. Judge Marvel has served on the court with distinction, and it is in the best interests of this country to keep someone with her integrity and expertise on the Tax Court bench. This integrity and expertise was also apparent prior to Judge Marvel's assumption of her current office. I worked extensively with her on a variety of issues when I served in the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

My colleagues on the Finance Committee, including Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH, have worked hard and in a bipartisan manner to bring these nominations forward, for which I am grateful. And, I am extremely proud that a fellow Marylander has been nominated to continue the important work of fairly inter-

preting and applying our tax laws, which affect the lives of every American citizen and resident.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from New Jersey.

REPRESENTING OUR COUNTRY ABROAD

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, very briefly, I appreciate working on both sides to be able to have what is a distinguished set of career ambassadors go to their posts and represent our country abroad, and I hope we can continue on this march as we move toward the end of the session.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING GOVERNOR DAVE HEINEMAN

Mr. JOHANNIS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated leader in my home State of Nebraska.

Governor Dave Heineman has guided our State during the past 10 years with vision and with laser-like focus on efficient government, economic vibrancy, education, and protecting our families.

Under his leadership and careful management, our State held strong through the economic downturn. During that time, the national spotlight shown very brightly on Nebraska as one of the healthiest States, guided by Dave Heineman's very steady hand, to ensure we remain debt-free and fiscally sound. But the Governor did far more than hold the line on spending and balancing the books of our great State. He provided historic tax relief, bolstered education in our State, and he sent a signal worldwide that Nebraska welcomes new business through enhanced economic development incentives. It is not surprising that Nebraskans' enthusiastically elected and then reelected Dave Heineman to the post, giving him the proud distinction of being our longest serving Governor in the history of our State.

I had the privilege of working side by side with Dave Heineman back in my days as Governor of Nebraska. I was so proud to have him as my Lieutenant Governor in my second term, and I was always grateful for the job he did directing the State's homeland security efforts.

We would have to flip the history books back to 1990, nearly 25 years ago, to see when he was first elected to public office as a member of the Fremont, NE, city council. Four years later, he was elected to his first statewide office to serve as our State treasurer. I was

mayor of the city of Lincoln at the time, and I enjoyed watching Dave step onto the statewide stage with enthusiasm and determination. He wanted to get things done.

Nebraskans would nod their head in agreement with the assertion that he remains as determined today, in the last days of his time in office, as the very first day he walked in.

I should note he first served the public as a member of our Armed Forces, having spent 5 years in the U.S. Army after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As anyone can tell you, it is easy to spot those West Point influences even today. All of those experiences prepared him so well to serve as our Governor. I had absolutely no doubt about his ability to step into the role when I was confirmed as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. I passed the baton to Dave with immense confidence, and indeed he took the helm and never missed a beat. It is difficult to believe that was 10 years ago. I think both of us have a lot more gray hair to show for it, but we also have something more valuable than gold: the honor of having been entrusted to lead and to serve the best State of the United States. I know Governor Heineman has worked each day to prove worthy of that trust, as I have also. His nearly 25 years of distinguished service required strength of character and fortitude.

Throughout that service and long before it began, Dave has had a wonderful partner in his life, Sally Ganem. Our First Lady is impressive and accomplished. She is a woman in her own right, having served as principal of an elementary school and now leading numerous volunteer and literacy efforts. She has supported Dave every step of the way on a public service journey that offers a shining example for others to follow. Thus, it is fitting that we have never before had a Governor whose service spans 10 years, and we may never have that again.

On behalf of a grateful State and a grateful nation, I offer my sincerest gratitude for the dedicated leadership Governor Heineman has provided to our great State of Nebraska.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. INHOFE. Tonight there will be a speech. I think everyone is aware of that. I think we all know pretty much what the President of the United States is going to say.

I would like to read the oath of office that any President of the United States has to take, and this President has taken this oath in an affirmative way for—I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Tonight we have the President's speech, and I would like to recite one more time what every President has to say and has to affirm before he becomes President.

I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully execute the Office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I think people are overlooking this because they know what to expect tonight. They know what is going to happen. They know the President is going to do something that in the eyes of most people—and I have to say that most of the people I talk to are from my State of Oklahoma. They have a lot of common sense and ask the question: Is this illegal, what we are about to witness?

The President is bound by the Constitution to ensure the laws on the books are being carried out in a manner that is true to the law that is written and passed by Congress. It is his duty, his obligation. That was envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

As any school-aged kid or any of my grandchildren would say, laws are made in Congress and signed into law by the President. Once bills become law, the President's constitutional duty is triggered at that point, no matter who holds the office or how that person feels about the particular law. If a President finds a law problematic, then this is how he has to address that problem: He has to work with Congress to change the law. He does not have the authority to unilaterally declare that law not to apply to millions of Americans, which is what I think we are going to witness tonight. That is exactly what the President is doing.

He issued ultimatums to Congress: Pass what I want or else. We heard that. We heard those words. When Congress and the American people push back against him, he charges forward with Executive orders that are written and executed behind closed doors. Let's remember that at the time this President first took office, his big thing was transparency. He wants people to know what is going on and not have any surprises. Yet this is what is happening: These Executive orders are taking the place of those laws that are passed by Members who are elected to the House and to the Senate.

He says the reason for this is he is tired of waiting on an immigration system that is broken. Those are his words. He has taken action because Congress won't. That is not the way it works. A Congress that has had—by the

way, he had a Democratic majority the first 2 years in the House and Senate and the White House. He can't say we are not doing it. He is certainly not referring to Republicans. These are the excuses for doing what he is doing.

Some claim he is not doing anything different from what President Ronald Reagan or President George H.W. Bush did. I think it is very important, very briefly, to show you that is not true at all.

In 1986 Congress passed and President Reagan signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which gave amnesty to close to 3 million illegal immigrants. Amnesty was granted by statute, not by Executive order. That was a law which was passed and which the President signed and agreed to.

Soon after, the people realized the children of these immigrants—who were still eligible for deportation—were simply overlooked. The fact is, if there is a husband and a wife and they are able to go ahead and become naturalized citizens, their underaged children would have to be as well. Everyone agreed, no one disagreed, and so they went ahead and did it. That was working with Congress. Congress made that decision with the President of the United States.

In 1990 President Bush expanded President Reagan's grant of deferred deportation to all minor children and to the spouses of those who were granted amnesty in the 1986 law, and Congress codified the policy later that year in the Immigration Act of 1990. So it wasn't George H.W. Bush who did this; it was the Congress of 1990 that did this. We are not talking about the same thing at all.

In the case of both Reagan and Bush, they worked with Congress and interpreted a statute. That is not what is happening now. President Obama is creating a law on his own as to how he wishes the law would be. He has no authority to do it. We are going to see this tonight, and I think we need to have this in our background in what we are looking for.

As we saw with his previous amnesty—that was 2012; we remember that, about 2½ years ago—this new Executive amnesty will encourage more people to come here and break the laws.

This year, thanks to President Obama's Executive order—called the deferred action for childhood arrivals, DACA—Americans watched as unaccompanied alien children—that is, the UAC—poured over our southern border seeking the same amnesty others had been given. Who is to say the President won't give them that? It is reported that tonight he will be changing the qualifications of the DACA to include even more.

What happened then is really worse than what is happening now and going

to be announced tonight because at least tonight they are talking about 5 to 6 million people who are going to be granted amnesty, and what he did before in encouraging the young people to get here to the United States—we don't know where they are today or how many there are.

In my State of Oklahoma—Fort Sill in Lawton, OK—we have a base that was given several hundred of these young children. They are under 18 years of age. They were told they were to house these children until January. It worked out pretty well because we were in the middle of building some buildings down there, and so we had a place for them for a temporary period of time. They were supposed to be released in January. I went down there in October, and they were already gone. They didn't really know where they were, but they were gone. Even to this day, if you call up and talk to the commander down there, they will tell you they don't know for sure where they are.

To go even further into this, I went to the Texas border, where I went to a center called Los Fresnos. There are 18 IES facilities on the southern border. It is not just in Texas but all—I think 13 of those are in Texas. I went down there to see the process they used. I talked to the Border Patrol. The Border Patrol told me they are instructed to—and they did—send the kids as they came to the various facilities, these 18 facilities. So I went to the one that I believe is the largest. It is called Los Fresnos. It is on the southern border on the eastern side of Texas. They weren't very happy about this. I went in and took a bunch of pictures to see what was going on there. I found out that they had a facility that had 200 beds. They had 200 beds. That is a very small number of people.

I asked the question: How many kids are coming through here?

They said: Thousands.

I said: How many in the last 6 months?

They said: Well, several thousand.

Let's keep in mind they can only bed down 200 people. Thousands have come through.

We came back to trace where these thousands actually ended up. We were not able to find out. You can find that they have a Web site saying how many States received how many kids. We have no way of verifying if that is true. For all we know, there are hundreds of thousands of kids out there, and we don't know where they are.

Those people who are concerned about 5 to 6 million people tonight, keep in mind that it is really much more than that. On that number, the issue we have is we don't know where the children eventually end up, and the administration does not have to notify the local governments of their presence. There are counties that are pub-

lished as to how many are in a county. We don't know their names.

Interestingly, when I was at Los Fresnos on the border, I talked to a lot of the kids who were being brought into this country. Those kids—each one had a story, and you could tell it was a rehearsed story: I have parents who live in California. I have a dad who lives in New York. They all had a story down as if they are coming back.

Keep in mind—these are kids who came not from Mexico but through Mexico. We heard only yesterday some of the atrocities, the things that had happened to some of these kids—the raping, the killing, all of that—as they were making the transition through Mexico.

They publish online what States they end up in, but we don't know the numbers, whether these are verified numbers or if we are taking their word for it.

Something is going on, and even I, as a Member of the Senate, have gone down there two separate times to Los Fresnos and still don't know the answer to the questions that I get from people in Oklahoma who are very much concerned about this. Who monitors to ensure that they remain and show up for court? If they evade the law long enough,—and they know now they can evade the law; if the President can do it, they can do it—then amnesty will eventually be received by them.

We have immigration laws that are going to be ignored. What does this say to the immigrants who are coming into America and applying for citizenship in accordance with the law?

I have been honored several times to go and be the speaker at naturalization ceremonies in my State of Oklahoma. I will tell you, you cry when you look out there. You see a couple hundred people who have come to this country, gone through the system, studied the history—and I would suggest those people up for naturalization probably know the history much better than people who are born here in this country. They learn the language. They go through all these things, and finally they become citizens of the United States. That is the legal way to do it. What are their thoughts right now after all they have gone through and the doors are open for anyone to come through? Is that compassion for those people? I don't think so. Compassion is acknowledging and respecting the millions who adhere to our laws and achieve citizenship.

But here is the thing. When you stop being a nation based on the rule of law, you are at the mercy of one man and his whims. It sounds exactly like something our Founding Fathers were looking to avoid and escape. I think that is the problem we have. I have people asking me: Why is the President breaking the law with regularity? Does he not have to obey the law the same as we do?

Well, as you know, there is a lawsuit that is being processed over on the House side. But we also know this: Anyone who comes who has 2 years left in his term knows if something is starting the process to determine whether action is legal, it would be probably 5 or 6 years before that case would be decided. By that time he is long gone.

I want to mention one thing that is specific. People say: Well, how can you say the President is breaking the law? He does break the law. He breaks it all the time. One of the things I have been concerned about for a long period of time is keeping the installation named Guantanamo Bay—called Gitmo—keeping it open. It is the only place that we can keep the type of terrorists we have down there. It is one, I think, that has worked out well. But somehow there is the obsession that this President has—he wants to close Gitmo, Guantanamo Bay.

Knowing that, I put an amendment on the Defense authorization bill in 2014. If anyone wants to look it up, it is section 1035(d) of the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA. It specifically states—anticipating that the President would start releasing these people from Guantanamo Bay without authority, we put into law that the President shall notify Congress not later than 30 days before the transfer or release of any Guantanamo Bay detainee.

What did we find out? The President, without notifying anyone, released probably the five—in fact, not probably, certainly the five very worst of the terrorists who were being kept down there. In fact, one of their names was Mohammad Fazl. One of the Taliban commanders, whose name is Mullah Salem Khan, made this statement—this is right after the President released the five terrorists. We do not know where they are, whether they are killing Americans, where they are right now.

He said, “Mohammad Fazl, his returning is like pouring 10,000 Taliban fighters into the battle on the side of Jihad. Now the Taliban has the right lion to lead them in the final moment before victory in Afghanistan.”

So that is another issue altogether. These people are released to come back and kill Americans. But the point is, that law was aimed specifically at the President that he cannot do that. He did it. So when I see these things happen, I think I have never seen this before.

I am not a real student of history, but certainly I have read an abundant amount of the history of this institution as well as the President and what is going and what should go on in Washington and what our Founding Fathers envisioned. Our Founding Fathers never envisioned they would have a President who would blatantly break the law, specifically break the law.

That is what is happening now. That example is just one of many I could give. So enjoy the speech tonight. I think you are going to see that another one of our laws looks as though it is going to be broken. That would be our immigration laws that are on the books now.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DENZEL MCGUIRE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about a staffer I will be very sad to lose tomorrow. Denzel McGuire is one of the most genuine people you will ever meet. She always has a smile on her face and a ready joke, and she is the only Senate staffer I know of who can plan on—listen to this—a personal birthday song from Speaker BOEHNER every year. She also has a determination that is as strong as steel. She is a master at negotiating. And all Members—even the Speaker—have learned it is wise to stay in her good graces.

Denzel has worked for some of the most respected Members of this body, including Jon Kyl and Judd Gregg. She has taken on some of the thorniest issues over her more than 20 years here in Congress.

In this job you get accustomed to hearing bad news, but what I tell people is that if I have to hear bad news from someone, I would rather have it come from Denzel. She always has a plan moving forward, and there is usually a joke slipped in there as well.

Denzel is too modest to say so herself, but she has been in the middle of a lot of big legislative battles around here. She has been in the mix on pretty much everything you could imagine that has to do with budgets and government funding issues—in other words, pretty much everything. She has also worked a lot of late nights. She has plenty of war stories, but she has never lost her optimism or her good humor. Now, that is no mean feat.

I am really going to miss Denzel, but she has more than earned a break, and I wish her nothing but the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her life. I am sure she will be a great success.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would also like to say a quick word

about Chris Doby, the Senate financial clerk, who will be leaving us soon after more than three decades of service.

Chris came to the Senate in 1983 after graduating from Radford University. He was a junior auditor back in those days. Today he has a broad range of duties. He has weathered a lot of storms. He is also one of the most popular guys in the Senate because he is responsible for making sure everybody gets paid. But Senators' staffs are not the only ones who have nice things to say about Chris. His colleagues praise his sincerity, his steady hand, his confidence, and his friendliness.

Chris is the consummate family man. He has three daughters: Colleen, Caroline, and Courtney; a grandson he adores; and a wife of 31 years, Cathy. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with all of them. He is probably looking forward to the end of his daily commute too. It is a 2-hour trek from the District to his home in Virginia. That is 2 hours each way, every day. I understand that Cathy has a to-do list for Chris that is a mile long, so we know he will have a lot on his plate when he leaves here. But we thank him for his long and dedicated service in the Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KENNEDY

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to my former chief of staff, Michael Kennedy. In my 38 years as a Senator, I have seen many talented staffers come and go, but few have left such a lasting impression as Michael. He is someone for whom I have a deep appreciation and much respect. That is why it was so difficult for me when I learned Michael would be leaving my office to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. I had come to rely so much on his counsel, his leadership, and his savvy. It was very difficult and hard to let him go. I know I speak for everyone on my staff when I say Michael will be sorely missed.

Before Michael came to my office, he was living in Salt Lake City and working at Utah State University as the vice president for Federal and State relations. Under his leadership, that university developed its first professional program, secured critical line-item funding, enhanced its footprint and resource portfolio, and became a key player in facilitating the merger of two Utah schools.

Michael was also the point man for all matters related to Capitol Hill and the Utah State legislature. His reputation for hard work and integrity helped him craft strong relationships throughout the State. He knew the landscape, customs, and culture of Utah better than almost anyone. His experience and his reputation proved invaluable to me.

I know these tributes sound like eulogies with the way we talk about people as if they had already passed on. Considering how hard Michael worked, I am surprised this isn't his eulogy. His energy and work ethic always amazed me, as did his sense of style. Perhaps the only thing sharper than Michael's mind was his wardrobe. Few people can pull off a navy suit with pink lining and silver cufflinks, but Michael did so with ease. Of course, you might not know Michael was such a sharply dressed staffer because his boss usually stole the fashion spotlight, and after Washingtonian magazine named me the best-dressed man in Congress, I can only hope that some of my style rubbed off on him. However, if people knew how little I paid for my clothing, I think they might want to take back that honor.

Michael took a pay cut when he joined my staff nearly 4 years ago, and he always joked that his next job would be as an unpaid summer intern. I like to think Michael's financial sacrifice was emblematic of his desire to serve the State of Utah and improve this great country through the Senate. His willingness to serve was most evident in the way he always put the needs of constituents and staff above his own.

Michael's dedication to my staff was only surpassed by his dedication to his family, and I truly believe he owes his success to the constant support of his wife Natalie—an absolutely beautiful woman whom I have been blessed to know. Natalie and her family have been friends of mine since she was young. Natalie grew up as a friend of my children, so naturally I felt protective and wanted the best for her.

When she announced her engagement to Michael, Elaine and I were delighted. Still, I was surprised that someone as impressive as Natalie would agree to Michael's engagement proposal. I guess to his long list of talents and accomplishments, we could add marrying out of his league.

I was very grateful that Natalie knew very well the rigors and intensity of serving on a Senate staff, having worked previously with Senator Bob Bennett. Not only was she an invaluable support to Michael, she was also there to help me in any way she could. She was wonderful.

While Michael was serving as my chief of staff, Natalie gave birth to their daughter Emily—or as I like to call her "Sweet Pea." Shortly after her

birth, Michael's family gathered in my Capitol office and gave Sweet Pea a father's blessing, as is the tradition in our faith. It was a sacred experience for Elaine and me to join Michael and Natalie and both their families for that special occasion.

Michael's family wasn't the only one to grow in the time he was with me. During those few years, we had 12 new babies and 4 spouses added to the families of our staff. Whenever there was a birth or marriage, Michael went out of his way to make sure they were taken care of. He fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie, friendship, and family friendliness that was critical for my office's ability to serve the people of Utah. People always knew he was genuinely concerned for them and their needs as they tried to adjust to the wonderful changes of a growing family.

Nevertheless, I know there were plenty of times when Michael would rather have been with Natalie than with me. One particular instance comes to mind. During the end of the 112th Congress, Michael and I rang in the new year together during an extended voting session. Michael bought a bottle of blue Powerade from the downstairs vending machine here at the Capitol, and we counted down the seconds on my Senate clock. I knew he wanted to be with his family, but I was grateful for his sacrifice in staying with me.

This intense dedication was the norm for Michael Kennedy. Every night that I left the Senate, Michael would be there to wish me a safe drive home and continue his work for me late into the night. Whenever I traveled, he was always by my side and ready to help. Together we spent a lot of time on the road, visiting each of Utah's 29 counties. We drove from meeting to meeting across beautiful western landscapes and had many memorable conversations. Though road trips can often be long and tedious, Michael's sharp intellect and good humor made him one of the greatest traveling companions I have ever had.

I have been extremely fortunate when it comes to my staff. I have had the privilege of serving with some of the most gifted and devoted people our Nation has to offer. Each of them has brought something unique and important to their service, but I have to say that even among the select fraternity of talented Senate staffers, Michael Kennedy belongs in an elite class.

I have no doubt Michael will enjoy enormous success in his new position. Success has been the defining characteristic of every endeavor he has undertaken. I have had many chiefs of staff over my 38 years in the Senate, but none has ever been better than Michael.

While the selfish part of me wishes he could have stayed in the Senate just a bit longer, I have to say that I wish Michael, Natalie, and darling Sweet Pea the very best going forward.

I don't say these things haphazardly. This young man is truly one of the finest people I have known in all of my experience in the Senate of the United States. He was dedicated, he was consecrated to his work, and he did everything he possibly could to help my staff and me do a better job in the Senate.

Michael is a true friend, and he will always be somebody whose friendship I revere. As I said, his wife is a wonderful friend as well, and Sweet Pea—I call her "Pea" now—is one of the cutest, most darling young girls that I have ever seen.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this past Saturday, open enrollment began for the second round of State-based and Federal exchanges all across the country.

We can think about where we were a year ago today: The government was in shutdown. The Federal Web page where people went to enroll was a blank screen for many. There was frustration all across the country, and a lot of our friends on the other side of the aisle were claiming that this was proof the health care reform law could not work. They claimed it was a failure from the beginning.

Well, a year makes a big difference. It is a year later, and we have 7 million, 8 million people who have insurance on these exchanges across the country. We have lowered the number of people without insurance by 25 percent in a year's period of time. That is remarkable. In my State of Connecticut, where we run the best exchange in the entire country, we have cut the number of uninsured in half in just a year's period of time. That is an even more stunning number. Health care rates of inflation are as low as they have been in most of our lifetimes. The State of Connecticut is actually spending less on Medicaid than it was a year or two ago, and quality is getting better. By most all of the indices that we follow, the number of people who are readmitted to a hospital after a surgery or the number of infections people get while they are in the hospital are all lower than they were when the bill first went into effect.

While a lot of my Republican friends come to the floor with stories about people who have had insurance with

the health care bill, the data clearly is on our side. The data tells only one story that the Affordable Care Act is working. But we have a lot of stories, too—millions of them, as it turns out. I have never denied that there will be people who have bad experiences with the health care system, with the Affordable Care Act, and with the exchanges. But they are in the vast minority. The majority are people such as Christina who is a small business owner from Stratford, CT. Several years ago, she left a job that provided employer-based coverage to start her own business in Bridgeport. It was her dream to start her own business. But as with a lot of Americans who have a dream to start their own business, she was reticent about doing it because she was worried about losing her health care insurance. She stayed insured on COBRA until it expired, and then she went on the individual market. She recalls having to fill out a 15-page questionnaire asking, as she says, "anything that I had ever remotely discussed with my doctor." Unfortunately for her, she got a rejection notice from a carrier that basically just copied and pasted what she wrote in the application and said: Here is your preexisting condition, and that is why you are uninsurable. Her only remaining option was to go into Connecticut's high-risk pool.

While she was shopping around for insurance, she decided to get her annual mammogram at age 40, and the hospital told her they found something suspicious on that mammogram.

Facing a potential cancer diagnosis without health care coverage created an enormous amount of anxiety for her. It was at that moment that it struck her how important it was for people to have coverage. So she went to Access Health, which is our State-based exchange, to look at plans, and she realized she had another option. She found a gold exchange plan. It asked her to pay \$430 a month, which was a big difference from the \$1,200 per month that she was paying under the high-risk pool. By the way, a lot of the repeal-and-replace crowd say we should replace the exchanges with high-risk pools. Well, for Christina, that was a big financial risk to her. She went from \$2,500 a month down to \$430. She says: I am thankful that there was a solution for me to be able to keep my business and to have affordable health insurance that can't be taken away.

Now, Christina hopefully is going to be what a lot of people call job creators. She is hopefully going to hire a lot of people for her new business. She is going to do it because she was able to start that new business because of the Affordable Care Act.

On Saturday, the first day of enrollment, HHS said that 100,000 people submitted applications for coverage, and more than 500,000 people were able to

log on to healthcare.gov. And more than a million, just since open enrollment has begun, have been window shopping for insurance options. By and large, Web sites across the country are working, and they are allowing people to come back and shop for plans. It is really important that people do come back and shop for plans, because what we know is that the insurance industry likes this bill as well. Now, a lot of people on our side of the aisle don't like the fact that the insurance industry likes this bill so much, but they like it so much that there are about 25 percent more insurers that are offering plans on these exchanges. So if a person is on a plan for a year, they should know there are likely more options out there for them. They should go on the State exchange or Federal exchange and check it out. There are going to be more options with potentially better fits for people.

That is not to say that people haven't been really happy with the insurance coverage they have. Here is some other news we have gotten in since the last time I was on the floor. The Gallup poll surveyed Americans who had bought insurance in the first year on these plans, and what they found is pretty remarkable. Seventy percent of the people who bought insurance in the new marketplace last year rated it as good or excellent. Would that we had the same ratings for the Senate. Seventy percent of the people say the coverage they got was good or excellent. Three in four of the newly insured say they are satisfied with this aspect of their health care insurance. That is compared to 61 percent among the general population with insurance.

So people are actually more satisfied on the exchange-based plans than they are on nonexchange-based plans. If people are satisfied now, they may be able to get an even better deal because more insurers are now signing up.

The other good news is that premiums are going to be, on average, lower. Now, that is an impossible thing to say in the current health care environment. People are just not used to hearing that premiums from year to year are going to be lower, but that is the truth. A study from Kaiser and a study from the Wakely Consulting Group—Kaiser looked at the second lowest-cost silver plan in 49 cities around the country and found the premiums are going to be decreasing slightly from last year. Wakely looked at the largest county in each of the 34 States with marketplaces run by the Federal Government and found on average that the rate decrease was going to be 1 percent. We, frankly, would be happy if rate of increase was only 2 or 3 percent, because on average in 2008, the premium increase was 10 percent. In 2009 it was 10.8 percent, and in 2010 it was 11.7 percent. We are having an average premium decrease in the ex-

changes this year. That is more proof that as folks get more coverage, as people get access to preventive care, they are driving down overall health care costs because less people get into crisis, less people have to run to the emergency room, and they get cheaper cost care earlier on. That is better for them, better for the taxpayers, and better for their bottom line.

Kara from Granby, CT, has this story. When Kara was born, the doctors immediately told her parents that she was going to face a lifetime of obstacles because she was diagnosed with only one ailing kidney and a slight hearing impairment. Lucky for her, her parents found a great doctor at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

About the time she was 1 year old, her kidney had started to fail, and a kidney transplant was recommended. Her father gave her one of his, and she was able to graduate from high school and college without having any major health problems. But she remembers always being warned by her parents about how difficult her life was going to be because of her health ailment but also because of the fact that her life decisions were going to be dictated by whether she could get health care. So she was so relieved when she found out she could stay on her parents' plan until she was 26, under the new health care law. That was critical to her because her health, after she graduated college, took a sudden downward turn. She began having frequent headaches, and her voice became really hoarse. What she thought was a virus ended up to be diagnosed as a brain tumor.

Because of the ACA and her parents' insurance, she was able to get great coverage. She went out to go look for a job but wasn't able to find one that offered health care insurance, and she went on Medicaid before she could sign up for health care insurance herself. Her tumor reappeared, but even despite this latest setback, her doctors still believe they can extract the tumor, and her prognosis is good. But she has health care, and she has had continuous health care because of the Affordable Care Act, because of Medicaid's being expanded throughout the States.

Kara says that I know for sure that I wouldn't have made it this far in life without health care. It is incredibly essential to have it. You never know what is going to happen to you. Don't take your health for granted. Kara, from Granby, has health insurance continuously because of the Affordable Care Act. Differences are being made all over the country.

I will tell just one more story. That is one from the middle section of the State from Ohio. Jim worked for 37 years for the same company. He was typically putting in 50-hour workweeks that included travel and working weekends. It started to take a toll on his health, and he knew he had to retire. If

he wanted to live longer, if he wanted to enjoy his years in his sixties and seventies, he had to retire, but he couldn't do it because he needed health care for him and his family. His wife is a cancer survivor. She had been diagnosed with leukemia 15 years ago. The only way she was going to be able to get insurance was through his employer. He had to keep working even though it was the wrong thing for his health because of his job lock caused by his necessity to get health insurance from this job he was connected to.

The Affordable Care Act changed all of that. He retired in March of this year. He went and did his home homework on healthcare.gov. The plan he chose would have cost him \$1,200 per month to cover him and his wife, but with the subsidy he received, with the tax credit he received, their premium costs were \$127 a month. Jim is shopping as we speak for plans in 2015, but he knows he is going to live a longer life, and he will be able to be there for his wife and for his family because of the Affordable Care Act.

Jim has a pretty interesting take on all of this. He says he got to leave his job and spend more time with his family and spend more time concentrating on his health. He says: "I am much healthier and happier than I was before. Plus," he adds, "I am helping the economy. When I left my job, they had to hire someone else, so I am a job creator too."

This is one of the great benefits of the Affordable Care Act. It reduces job lock. People who have to stay in jobs, people such as Jim but also people such as the first woman we talked about, Christina, who was able to start her own business because of the Affordable Care Act.

Open enrollment is upon us. People have 25 percent more options. On average, people have premiums that are lower than they were last year. People can sign up for something better than they had or they can join the 8 million people who have signed up on the exchanges and participated in Medicare expansion all across the country. People can be part of this pretty amazing story that is being told all across the country.

An Affordable Care Act that is insuring more people than ever before in this country, contributing to a stabilization of health care costs across this country, that still leaves us with a lot of room to go. There are still way too many people paying way too much for health care, but it at least charts us in the right direction and is making people healthier all at the same time, which is what this is all about. It is not just about saving money. It is about allowing people a better quality of life, and it is doing that as well.

As we mark the coming second week of open enrollment, it is important again to point out a very simple fact,

which is the Affordable Care Act works.

I yield back and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, with regard to the health care law, the proof has come out today. The administration has been cooking the books. That is not just me saying it. It has come out all across the press. USA Today, just out: "Obama administration gave bad health exchange numbers." Associated Press: "Oops, administration erred on health law signups."

Let's take a look at this. The Department of Health and Human Services said Thursday—this is reading from USA Today—it made a mistake in how it calculated enrollments under the Affordable Care Act, including 400,000 dental plans in its figures for medical plans. Those dental plans allow the Obama administration to claim more than 7 million enrollments and 7 million was long considered the magic number, the magic number that would allow the new health insurance exchanges to be sustainable. What does the Secretary of Health and Human Services say? Today she said this mistake is unacceptable. I agree with the Secretary.

This mistake is unacceptable, but it is not a surprise to the American people. We have questioned a long time what numbers the administration was putting out. I think it is fascinating that the administration has continued to lower and lower the numbers as more and more information and research has been done, and they can hide it no longer that they were cooking the books. Earlier today Bloomberg went up to the—with the story based on analysis from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee found the Obama administration has included people who purchased this stand-alone dental coverage and now HHS has admitted the duplicity. Let's take a look at this. On May 1 Health and Human Services released exchange enrollment information for a period from October 1, 2013, through April 19, 2014. At the time Health and Human Services said over 8 million people had selected a plan through an exchange, either the State or Federal exchange.

In the report, HHS also disclosed 1.1 million selected to stand-alone dental plans through the Federal exchanges. A footnote in that report said totals for stand-alone dental plans do not include individuals who are enrolled in the marketplace plans that provide inte-

grated medical and dental coverage. So then on May 21, and after previously touting the 8.1 million exchange enrollees, Health and Human Services decided they would stop issuing additional reports. No more monthly ObamaCare exchange enrollment information. September 18, in testimony before the House Oversight Committee, the CMS Administrator, Marilyn Tavenner, testified that there were 7.3 million people enrolled in the health insurance marketplace coverage as of August 15. Remember the magic number for saying this was a sustainable program was still 7 million.

When we take a look at the oversight committee's analysis it shows nearly 400,000 of these enrollees didn't purchase insurance through the exchange for health care, rather stand-alone dental coverage. That takes the total number to under 7 million.

On November 10, earlier this month, Secretary Burwell said there were 7.1 million exchange enrollees as of the end of October. However, she also failed to break out the coverage of those stand-alone dental insurance policies, indicating the true number as of last month, likely closer to 6.7 million or 6.8 million individuals.

The nearly 20 percent drop in the exchange enrollees suggests that once many people learn about the ObamaCare problems, extremely high deductibles, narrow networks, they stop paying. They stop paying their premium in spite of the fact that there continues to be large government subsidies they are receiving. This drop is likely the central reason HHS dramatically lowered its exchange estimates earlier this month saying that by the end of the next year, instead of the 13 million people predicted by the Congressional Budget Office that there would be about only 9.1 million people enrolled.

I have heard from my colleague from Connecticut who came and told an individual story, but the health care law overall remains very unpopular. It is so unpopular that as of earlier this week and all of the polling ever done about the health care law, it is more unpopular now than ever before. Popularity is at an alltime low and unpopularity, disapproval is at an alltime high. Why would that be? There are a number of reasons. One is the front page of the New York Times the other day. November 15, cost of coverage under the care act set to increase. President Obama stood before the American people and said under his plan the cost of insurance policies would go down \$2,500 per family. They have not gone down. They headed in the other direction, and again this year the cost of coverage under the health care act is set to increase. It is no surprise people are concerned when the President tells them one thing and something else happens, they question the President.

There are a number of reasons it is not popular. That is just one. The President's solutions of putting many more people on Medicaid under the health care law, a program that has already failed and is failing and continues to be a problem—the front page of the Wall Street Journal, Friday, 14 of November, "As More Join Medicaid, Health Systems Feel Strain"—stories about people who can't get care, people who are providers who can't afford to provide the care for Medicaid patients because the reimbursement is so low. That is the President's solution—force more people on to Medicaid because the President's focus during all of these discussions has been on coverage. As a doctor I will tell you the focus should be on the word "care." People want care, and they know what they want. They know what they need in health care reform.

They want affordable care, quality care, and choice. That is what a Republican plan will look like to replace and strip out the terrible parts of this health care law. Then for people living all across the country in rural communities—I know in the Presiding Officer's State and in mine, we know what impact the loss of a rural hospital has on that community.

But yet, front page, USA Today, last weekend, November 14 to 16, "Rural Hospitals in Critical Condition." ObamaCare critics say the law is speeding up the demise of the facilities. There is a map of the United States, a list of 43 hospitals that have closed since January of 2010 as a result of the health care law.

You say: Is it as a result of the health care law? I believe it is, because it was Ezekiel Emanuel, one of the architects of the health care law, who said and recently wrote that between now and the year 2020, up to 1,000 hospitals in the United States were likely to close. We know what the impact of the cuts that happen to our seniors on Medicare as a result of the health care law will have to rural hospitals, where a disproportionate number of the patients are seniors on Medicare. The hospitals cannot sustain themselves.

That was part of the original budget numbers as they looked at the health care law, as we debated it on this Senate floor and said: Please do not pass this, Democrats—who one by one by one voted for the health care law—because it is going to impact our rural hospitals.

Now we see 43 hospitals in rural communities all around the country and tell stories of people who could not get care, had to travel such a long distance in that critical hour after a heart attack, were unable to survive. So the health care law continues to be very unpopular across the country. Yes, it is possible for colleagues to come to the floor and tell a story about one individual whose life may have been improved as a result of the health care

law. But across the country, there are many people who are finding they cannot keep their doctor, they cannot keep their child's pediatrician, they cannot go to the hospital in their local community because of the specific components of the health care law which have caused so much damage and wreaked havoc in communities all around America.

I continue to hear from people in Wyoming who have lost the insurance that worked for them and they liked. They had to buy other insurance, much more expensive, that covered things they did not need, did not want, and cannot afford. Many now find themselves for the first time without insurance when they had it before. It worked for them and their families.

So that is why all across the country, people are saying: This health care law is not working for me. That is why the signups are down and the belief is that fewer people are going to sign up because for them they do not feel they are getting good value. They see what they are going to have to pay out of pocket for deductibles, what they have to pay out of pocket for copays, what their premiums are. As a result, they are saying: No, thank you.

Even with the subsidies, Health and Human Services has significantly lowered their predictions of how many people will sign up for the health care law this year. That is in spite of the fact that the fines are going up.

Then, on top of all of this, there is a health care MIT economist, Professor Jonathan Gruber, who has made comments that are disparaging of American citizens. He has said not just once but time and time again, as the videos continue to come out of this Gruber miniseries of TV videos, that this health care law was sold to the American people by trying to confuse them. He has questioned their intelligence. It was NANCY PELOSI who said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

American people are furious about the way this administration has treated them, has behaved toward them, and has acted upon their willingness to believe an administration and believe a Speaker of the House at a time people wanted health care reform in America. People did not get what they wanted. They did not get what they were promised.

So, today, I come to the floor to say to my colleague who just spoke about the health care law, that perhaps for the folks he mentioned it has worked. We want health care to work for people all across the country so they can get the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lower cost. That is what they want. So today, the proof comes out, the administration has been cooking the books. As USA Today says, the Obama administration gave bad health exchange numbers and the Associated

Press starts its story on this very same topic with one word, "Oops!"

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NOAH BRYSON MAMET TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 892.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF COLLEEN BRADLEY BELL TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 631.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to have reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Bill Nelson, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara Boxer, Tom Udall, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Carl Levin, Joe Manchin III, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANI A. COLORETTI TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 772.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT S. ADLER TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 918.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Harry Reid, John D. Rockefeller IV, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1069.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin

Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF P. DAVID LOPEZ TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1067.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't know if you are getting the drift, but each one of these is the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is still on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 892 and 631; further, that if cloture is invoked on either one of these nominations, that on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of all of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 663, 671, 672, and 923, as well as the nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brigadier General Jon K. Kelk

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Nathaniel S. Reddicks

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. James C. Witham

COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C., section 211(A)(2):

To be lieutenant commander

Angela R. Holbrook

Martha A. Rodriguez

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1381—3 Foreign Service nominations (2) beginning Leslie Meredith Tsou, and ending Lon C. Fairchild, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (KCEOC) COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council, KCEOC, Community Action Partnership—an organization that for the past 50 years has been dedicated to the cause of destroying the roots of poverty in Southeastern Kentucky.

KCEOC was one of the first community action agency organizations in the country to be established to target the causes of poverty on the State and local level. Founded in 1964, it can now celebrate five decades serving its community.

Based out of Knox County, KY, KCEOC helps over 7,000 Kentuckians achieve financial stability every year through a number of antipoverty programs. This includes Head Start and Early Head Start, programs that aim to build children's educational founda-

tion from an early age. KCEOC is also involved in job training and career planning, providing affordable housing, and food and clothing drives.

The KCEOC Community Action Partnership recognizes that a "hand up" is more effective than a "hand out." They are dedicated to providing Kentuckians mired in poverty with the means and assistance necessary to break the chain of poverty that has afflicted too many Southeastern Kentuckians for generations.

Although there are many more programs instituted by KCEOC that cover a diverse range of problems—including an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, a Summer Food Service Program, and a KCEOC Aquatic Club—at their core they are all designed to impact the people of the community in a positive way. This is an objective that the organization continues to achieve, year after year.

When one Kentuckian who benefitted from KCEOC's services was asked what mattered to him the most, he replied:

Getting my education. I had never planned on getting my GED or going to college. [The staff at KCEOC] really pushed me and encouraged me.

I especially want to thank the leadership of KCEOC, including its president/CEO, Mr. Paul D. Dole, who was honored in 2013 as one of the region's top entrepreneurs in Southern and Eastern Kentucky at the 2013 Excellence in Entrepreneurship event, hosted by the Center for Rural Development in Somerset.

For their 50 years of serving the community of Southeastern Kentucky, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring KCEOC. May their next 50 years be as beneficial to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as their first.

CONGO CONFLICT MINERALS LAW UPDATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is not very often that Congress can make a policy change that has life-or-death consequences for millions of people, but in 2010 a law was enacted that is changing the money supply for warlords in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Many may not realize that almost 5.5 million people have been killed during the long-running conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been the most deadly since World War II. Tragically, women and children have suffered the most, as we too often see in conflicts. Millions have been displaced from their homes, and the prevalence of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war is almost beyond belief. The U.N. reports that about 1,000 women are assaulted every day in Congo, which is roughly equivalent to 12 percent of all Congolese women.

One of the drivers and funders of this conflict is paradoxically that which

fills the DRC with such potential—its natural resources. Instead of paying for the nation's peace, education, roads and public health programs, the DRC's mineral wealth has been siphoned off to fund the armed groups that vie for local and regional control of vast areas far from Congo's capital, Kinshasa.

Tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold are found in everyday electronics, jewelry, airplanes, and manufacturing equipment. But these minerals also have provided weapons and salaries to fighters, including conscripted child soldiers, who then visit unspeakable horrors on innocent civilians in return.

Over 4 years ago, I joined former Senators Brownback and Feingold and Congressman JIM McDERMOTT in drafting a simple transparency reporting requirement for U.S.-registered corporations that source these four minerals from the DRC or its neighbors. And in early June, after protracted legal challenges, the first of those annual reports was filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The electronics industry, in general, has been out front on this push for great transparency, but sadly, the jewelry industry has lagged far behind on its due diligence and reporting. Some companies have made more than a good-faith effort to determine the origins of the minerals they and their suppliers use, and a few of those companies, I am proud to say, call Illinois home.

One of the leaders, across all industries, on this is Motorola Solutions, headquartered in Schaumburg, IL. Motorola Solutions emerged early as a company dedicated to cleaning up its supply chain, and to do so, it helped establish Solutions for Hope, dedicated to developing a closed-pipe supply chain. Kester, a subsidiary of Illinois Tool Works, makes electronic and automobile components and has been a leader in transparency of the smelters it uses. John Deere, headquartered in Moline, IL, painstakingly described its due diligence processes and even detailed the sources of minerals that its suppliers used. Others, like AAR Corporation, based out of Wood Dale, and Dover Corporation, headquartered in Downers Grove, developed conflict-mineral specific compliance programs and provided detailed information on steps to identify risks in their supply chains. Lake Forest's IDEX Corporation underwent efforts to create a sourcing policy that in its first year of filing covered 90 percent of suppliers.

I am sorry to say not all companies took this reporting requirement seriously, hiding behind the 2-year grace period that allows them to avoid questions. My hope is that these Illinois companies serve as an example for next year's filings nationwide. And here is why—this rule is yielding real, tangible, positive results already.

The Government Accountability Office issued a report in late June that

confirmed the opposite of claims made by those seeking to dismantle this reporting requirement. This rule has expanded the options for clean minerals sourcing in Central Africa. In fact, the number of certified conflict-free smelters has more than tripled in the past year alone. Intel has created its first conflict-free computer chip, while using responsibly sourced minerals from Congo and took its reporting a step further by voluntarily submitting it to third-party audits. Under the Conflict-Free Smelter Program, the number of international smelters operating free from conflict minerals continues to grow. Almost 90 smelters (40 percent of the world's total smelters) are certified as conflict-free and more than 150 companies and industry associations participate in the program.

After being refined the origins of the material become difficult to track. Smelters purchase materials from a variety of sources, so the smelter or refiner is a critical point in the supply chain, where we can look for assurances about whether the material has been purchased from conflict-free sources. Apple has confirmed that its entire tantalum supply chain is conflict free. Dutch smart phone manufacturer Fairphone is making its products with conflict-free raw materials. Fairphone has already sold 35,000 units and is hoping to expand production as more consumers embrace conflict-free electronics. Fairphone and others are leading by example and proving that conflict-free is not only possible but that it can be profitable too.

The Enough Project recently reported on the effect of this legislation, and it is good news. Armed groups and the Congolese army are no longer present at 2/3 of tin, tantalum, and tungsten mines surveyed in eastern Congo. It also appears that responsible sourcing initiatives might be contagious—Congo-Brazzaville, the DRC's neighbor to the west, has begun its own program to determine clean sources of minerals as well. I am also happy to say that our counterparts in the European Union are reviewing a bill based on our law to require European companies to provide similar transparency in their own supply chains. China has instituted similar rules, and other nations are following close behind.

The Congress has emerged as a world leader on conflict-minerals reporting, and the early results suggest that the people of the DRC should not have to suffer unspeakable violence that can be traced back to our cell phones, wedding rings, and cars. The filings are far from perfect, but we have begun the process. I appreciate those industry players that are leading the way. I can only hope that by cutting off this rich source of funding for the fighting in the Congo, we can help spare its citizens from the senseless violence that is tearing the country apart.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON, IL TORNADOES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, people throughout Illinois have been reflecting this week on the 1-year anniversary of the day that rare November tornadoes tore through Illinois, causing widespread devastation and eight deaths in our State. The outbreak, which happened on November 17, 2013, destroyed hundreds of homes and rendered thousands uninhabitable.

This tornado event was the deadliest and costliest in the State of Illinois for the month of November—and it was the fourth largest outbreak for the State overall. Two of the tornadoes that day rated EF4. That means the winds were more than 166 miles per hour. In fact, the National Weather Service clocked a peak wind of 190 miles per hour on that day. Washington, Gifford, Brookport, East Peoria, Pekin, the list of cities touched by the tornadoes in the State goes on and on.

I visited Washington, IL, near Peoria, 5 days after the tornado—and Gifford, IL, just a few days after that. What I saw was heartbreaking. In the city of Washington, alone, 1,108 homes were damaged—most were damaged very badly. Five hundred ninety-five of those homes were destroyed. I saw bare foundations where families had lived just days before. Trees had been reduced to splinters. Street signs had been torn out of the ground making it nearly impossible to see where one block ended and another began.

The loss of homes and property was really difficult to bear, but the real tragedy lies in the lives that were claimed. Three people died in Washington, two people died in Washington County near St. Louis, and three were killed in downstate Massac County, which is located along the Ohio River.

It is a miracle more lives were not lost, particularly in the path of the EF4 tornado that touched down in East Peoria, traveled through the city of Washington and continued up to Long Point, IL. In Washington, many lives may have been saved by the fact that so many members of the community were in church when the tornado came through. When the sirens went off, 500 people inside Crossroads United Methodist Church huddled in a storm shelter in the building. Half a mile away, at the Apostolic Christian Church, many of the 450 or so people who were there took refuge in Sunday school rooms. The tornado, spinning at nearly 200 miles per hour changed course by several degrees just seconds before impact and went right between those two churches. Neither church was damaged.

I can't say enough about the tireless efforts the emergency personnel who were there from the minute the sirens went off. They were there to help under the most extraordinary circumstances. I supported Governor Quinn's request for a Federal disaster declaration for 15

counties in the State. The President granted "individual assistance" to people in Champaign, Douglas, Fayette, Grundy, Jasper, LaSalle, Massac, Pope, Tazewell, Vermilion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, Will, and Woodford Counties. This declaration allowed people in those communities whose homes and businesses were damaged to start repairs and to find temporary housing if they needed it. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided more than \$28 million in loans to the tornado victims. The Small Business Administration also made loans available to businesses in the affected counties. To date, it has provided 305 loans for a total of \$25.8 million.

The people who live and work in the damaged communities have made incredible progress rebuilding. Washington Mayor Gary Manier predicted last year that the city would rebuild within a year. The task proved far greater than anyone would have thought but the city has made great strides. Building permits have been issued for more than 70 percent of the damaged properties. More than 25 percent of the destroyed homes have been replaced and reoccupied. Work remains to be done but the city has seen enormous progress.

Thousands of volunteers have helped with the cleanup. Ben Davidson, executive pastor at Bethany Community Church, has coordinated volunteer efforts since the early stages. He says volunteers have accounted for 13,000 workdays and 70,000 hours. Although most volunteers have been from central Illinois, people from all over the State continue to show up on weekends to help plant trees and cut weeds on neglected properties. Hearing the stories of Illinoisans working together to help neighbors and even strangers get back on their feet makes me proud to be from Illinois. Thank you to everyone engaged in the rescue and cleanup at every level.

I also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of: Jonathon Monken, head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Gifford Mayor Derald Ackerman; Brookport Mayor John Klaffer; and Metropolis Mayor Billy McDaniel. They were there when their constituents and their communities needed them the most.

I am thinking of all those whose lives were affected by this tragic event. We are rebuilding—as Americans always do—and will be stronger for it.

NOMINATION OF LAUREN McFERRAN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this morning we convened a hearing to consider the President's nomination of Lauren McFerran to fill an impending vacancy on the National Labor Relations Board. Ms. McFerran is well known to most of us as a senior staffer

on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and I look forward to her speedy confirmation. She has been nominated to fill a vacancy that will result from the departure next month of a current Board member, Nancy Schiffer. I would like to thank Ms. Schiffer for her dedicated service. She has been a highly respected Board member, and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

The National Labor Relations Board is an agency that is absolutely critical to our country, to our economy, and to our middle class. Over 75 years ago, Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing American workers the right to form and join a union and bargain for a better life. The act sets forth a national policy to encourage collective bargaining. Specifically, the act states:

It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

For union and nonunion workers alike, the act provides essential protections. It gives workers a voice in the workplace, allowing them to join together and speak up for fair wages and benefits, and for safe working conditions. These rights ensure that the people who do the real work in this country have a shot at receiving a fair share of the benefits when our economy grows—and with rising income inequality in our country, these rights are more important than ever.

The NLRB is the guardian of these fundamental rights. Workers themselves cannot enforce the NLRA, but they can turn to the Board if they have been denied the basic protections provided under the law. In short, the Board plays a vital role in vindicating workers' rights. In the past 10 years, the NLRB has secured opportunities for reinstatement for 22,544 employees who were unjustly fired. It has recovered more than \$1 billion on behalf of workers whose rights were violated.

The Board also provides relief and remedies to our Nation's employers. For example, employers can turn to the Board for relief if a union commences a wildcat strike or refuses to bargain in good faith during negotiations. The NLRB has a long history of helping businesses resolve disputes efficiently. By preventing or resolving labor disputes that could disrupt our economy, the work that the Board does is vital to every worker and every business across the Nation.

That is why it is so important that we maintain a fully functional, five-

member NLRB. I am proud of the fact that, just a little over a year ago, we were able to confirm members to completely fill the board for the first time in over a decade. Now, we need to fill a soon-to-be open seat so that the Board can continue to function effectively.

Ms. McFerran is not the first nominee for this seat. In September, the HELP Committee approved the nomination of a dedicated public servant, Sharon Block. Republicans and Democrats agreed on Ms. Block's reputation and qualifications, but her nomination was withdrawn in the face of circumstance beyond her control. As a result, Ms. Block will not have the opportunity to serve on the Board. Ms. Block is a tremendous public servant whose qualifications are unaffected and undiminished by the present circumstances and I look forward to Ms. Block's future service to our country.

I am heartened, however, by the President's decision to nominate Lauren McFerran. Ms. McFerran currently serves as Chief Labor Counsel and Deputy Staff Director on my HELP committee. I am proud to have her as a member of my staff; she has served the committee with excellence and great professionalism; and I know firsthand that the President could not have found a more able successor to Ms. Schiffer. Ms. McFerran is an incredibly talented lawyer with deep knowledge of labor law. She is a person of sterling integrity and strong character. She will be a great asset to the Board.

It is my hope that by promptly confirming Ms. McFerran's nomination to fill the looming vacancy we can continue the progress that has been made recently, and begin a new era where orderly transitions on the NLRB are the norm. We should set a new precedent of confirming nominees—Democratic and Republican alike—in a timely manner.

I have no doubt that Ms. McFerran will do an excellent job in this important position. I look forward to moving her nomination expeditiously.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. BURNS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a truly remarkable diplomat and legendary statesman. After 33 years of service to our Nation, Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns is retiring from the U.S. Department of State. Having served under 10 Secretaries and twice postponing his retirement, Ambassador Burns has had an enormous impact on the trajectory of U.S. foreign policy and I would like to recognize his many years of distinguished service and thank him for his tireless efforts.

Ambassador Burns joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and, within a year of joining, he had already made a name for himself as someone willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Over

the course of his 33 years in the Foreign Service, he has served in countless posts, including as Ambassador to Jordan, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Ambassador to Russia, and Under Secretary for Political Affairs. Since 2011, he has served as Deputy Secretary of State, holding the rare distinction of being only the second career diplomat to rise to the position.

It is a testament to both his character and unique skills that nearly every person who has had the pleasure of meeting Ambassador Burns has a story to tell about it. He has deftly steered our foreign policy through countless challenges over the past three decades and handled with skill sensitive diplomatic missions that few were willing and capable of taking on. That he has one of the most distinguished tenures as a career Foreign Service officer in memory is made all the more remarkable by his modesty and humility.

Ambassador Burns embodies the mission of the Department of State at its finest. He has been a mentor for generations of Department of State personnel and is an inspiration to all public servants, myself included. America is stronger and the world a better place thanks to his service. And while the Department of State will feel his absence, I am relieved to know that he will continue to play an important and constructive role in global affairs through his new position as president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. I thank him for his willingness to serve our country and I wish him and his family the best as they embark on a new journey.

TRIBUTE TO JENELLE KRISHNAMOORTHY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute and to extend my thanks to an extraordinary individual, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy, who has served on my staff, with one small interruption of service, for a decade.

Jenelle came to my staff in the summer of 2003 as a fellow, later becoming a permanent staff member and eventually rising to lead my health policy team on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. From the time she arrived, it was clear that Jenelle was an exceptional talent—one possessing not just deep knowledge of health care and public health, but also with uncommon instincts about this institution and about how to accomplish great things in an increasingly divided Congress.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a conviction that our country does not have a health care system, but rather a sick care system. If you get sick, you get care. We spend far too much time and riches treating disease once it has occurred, and far too little

preventing it in the first place. Among my first charges to Jenelle when she arrived on staff was to think about how we make America a wellness society, one in which we make the healthy choice the easy choice. How do we, I asked her, change our workplaces, our schools, our communities, our child care settings, and our health care system so that we prevent the onset of chronic disease, rather than patch and fix and treat once a person gets sick?

Jenelle responded with a broad vision of a wellness society—a vision that has guided her work, and my own, for the past 10 years. Looking back over those 10 years, the breadth of what she has accomplished is truly remarkable.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the great health laws of the last 75 years. As my designee on that bill, Jenelle secured passage of a number of groundbreaking policy changes that have changed the landscape of our health care system. In particular, Jenelle was the primary drafter of the prevention title of that bill. As a result of that, every single American can now receive recommended preventive health care services absolutely free of charge. Routine services such as mammograms, vaccinations, diabetes and cancer screenings, among other things, are now cost free, forever, because of Jenelle's work.

As part of that bill, Jenelle was also the intellectual force behind the Prevention Fund, which creates a public health partnership between the Federal Government and communities across the country by providing billions of dollars for communities to invest in proven preventive efforts such as tobacco cessation, childhood obesity prevention, HIV prevention, and public health workforce development. As a result, across the country, communities, from small towns in Iowa to our largest urban centers, are working together to weave health promotion into the very fabric of our communities and the lives of our citizens.

Through her work on the Affordable Care Act, Jenelle also played a key role in expanding nutrition labeling to chain restaurants around the country, giving hundreds of millions of consumers access to critical nutrition information that they need to take control of their own health, and also successfully fought for new policies to promote breastfeeding.

Jenelle's contributions to the health of our country go far beyond the Affordable Care Act. As the health policy director for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Jenelle shepherded passage of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the most significant reform of our food safety system in the country in decades. This law strengthened the Food and Drug Administration with critical new authorities to protect Americans by establishing a better and more mod-

ern system for keeping our food safe from farm to fork.

And just as she did with the food safety system, Jenelle also spearheaded efforts to improve the safety and quality of drugs and medical devices. In successfully leading committee passage of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, Jenelle helped ensure the safety of our drugs and medical devices, alleviate the effects of drug shortages and manufacturing problems, and implemented long sought reform to help bring critical drugs and medical devices to patients faster.

Remarkably, these are just the highlights of Jenelle's accomplishments in the area of health policy and health promotion. Just in this Congress, Jenelle has led 16 bills into law, including bills to respond more quickly and effectively to public health disasters, to facilitate organ donation, to provide equitable funding to children's hospitals and ensure a steady supply of pediatric doctors, and to speed the approval of new sunscreens to protect Americans from skin cancer. Her efforts in the health arena in this Congress have made the HELP Committee one of the most productive in this Congress. For making me look good as the Chairman of the HELP Committee, I owe Jenelle a special debt of gratitude.

Americans take for granted the safety of our food supply and our drugs and medical equipment. When people go to their doctors and receive a free, often lifesaving mammogram, they do not think of the reasons for it. When a smoker of several decades finally receives the help that he needs to quit so that he can watch his grandchildren grow up, he most likely does not pause to reflect on why he received free cessation services. But none of these things happened accidentally. They came to pass because of the heroic and humble efforts of a dedicated public servant, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy. For 10 years now, Jenelle has shown up for work in my office with the singular goal of improving the health of Americans. She has succeeded beyond measure. For that, I owe her my thanks, and so too do tens of millions of Americans.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I express my opposition to the President's plan to grant executive amnesty to 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants residing in the United States.

By circumventing Congress on immigration and instituting his will through executive actions, President Obama is eroding the very foundation of our country and form of government. This sets a dangerous precedent where future Presidents can flout any law they happen to disagree with and alter the law without going through Congress. Each branch of government

is to act as a check against the others and not sit idly by as one exercises authority it does not have. A constitutional law professor should know that.

I believe we all agree that our immigration system is broken—both the legal system which allows individuals to visit and work in our country and the failures which continue to allow others to reside illegally within our borders. The first step we need to take to fix our system is to secure our borders and bolster interior enforcement. We cannot reduce illegal immigration without better border security and entry/exit enforcement measures. We also need to ensure that we have a strong, workable employment verification system in place, because if Congress can ensure that only authorized job seekers gain employment in this country, then we remove the incentive for illegal immigration—and we cannot grant those who are here illegally amnesty.

Yet this week the President intends to circumvent the will of Congress by illegally granting amnesty to 4 millions to 5 million illegal immigrants. This cannot stand. The American people do not want it, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have advocated against it, and the President himself has said more than 20 times that he does not have the authority to take this action. I am certain that the Republicans in the Senate will take action next year when we become the majority, and I look forward to being a part of that cause.

But I must be clear: this is part of a much larger fight. I know all of my colleagues remember the unconstitutional NLRB recess appointments the President made in 2012. In that case, the Supreme Court rejected his move, but it hasn't stopped the President from pushing forward. He has proposed a cap and tax proposal through regulation that Congress has already rejected, and I know my colleagues from coal-producing States intend to fight that EPA rule with me. I know my colleagues from Western States also intend to join me in fighting the EPA's proposed rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property.

This week's action is the latest step too far by the President, and I will continue to fight executive overreach—including amnesty by executive order—whether by targeting rampant, unaccountable Federal spending, working to reverse illegal executive orders with legitimate Federal laws or using the Congressional Review Act to reject the President's actions. I will be looking closely at every option.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2013

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Chairman HARKIN, Rank-

ing Member ALEXANDER, and sponsors Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR for their tremendous work to bring the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 to passage. I thank all of my colleagues in the House and Senate who helped get us to this point.

As many of my colleagues have commented, it is well past time that we take up a reauthorization of this important legislation. The Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, has not been reauthorized since 1996. In the nearly two decades since, our understanding of early childhood development, and the importance of high-quality child care and early learning, has expanded dramatically.

Investing in high-quality early learning opportunities such as child care and pre-K sets children on the path to success. This bill updates Federal standards to ensure that the Federal Government is supporting high-quality child care for low-income children. The legislation we have passed sets a new standard for child care in America, making sure that Federal dollars are going to providers who are committed to providing child care that meets certain criteria, such as health and safety standards.

Many of these changes reflect proposals I have put forth in previous Congresses to improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant, such as the Starting Early, Starting Right Act. I am encouraged that we were able to reach consensus on many of the provisions I have supported in the past, and that they are represented in this bill.

I would have liked to go further. I believe we need to increase our investment in high-quality child care, and make it easier for child care providers to access training and education opportunities that will help them become better at caring for children and helping them learn. I would like to increase the incentives for States to invest in quality ratings and improvement systems, QRIS, which encourage child care providers to make continuous improvements in the quality of the care they provide and the facilities they use, often through financial incentives such as higher reimbursement rates when a certain quality level is reached.

While the authorized appropriations levels in this bill represent a 16% increase over the next 6 years—we still have a long way to go. Nationwide, the number of children served with CCDBG funding from 2012 to 2013 fell by 47,500 children. In Pennsylvania, nearly 2,800 fewer children were served. The important provisions for health, safety, and quality in this bill are not without their cost, and Congress must fully fund them. No family, child care provider, or State should have to make a choice between serving more children or providing quality care. We owe our most vulnerable children no less.

Even with the continued need for more funding, I still believe this legis-

lation represents a significant improvement over current law and major progress for families. For the first time, we are requiring all States to develop robust health and safety standards, and to institute a consistent background check system for child care providers.

We are requiring States to formally coordinate their early learning programs, to improve service coordination and delivery. We are allowing children who qualify for a subsidy to receive a year of care before their eligibility is re-determined, promoting stability and continuity for the entire family and encouraging the child to develop strong relationships with his or her teachers and peers in child care.

We are increasing the investment in quality, from the 4 percent per year currently required in law to 9 percent within 5 years, and including a separate set-aside for infants and toddlers. Quality is a continuum, and a continual investment; it is not a one-time purchase, it is something we need to support and sustain.

I thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR again for all of the work that they and their staff have done to get us to this point. When Congress works together children and family in this Nation all benefit. With the President's signature, parents can rest a little easier knowing that when they leave their child at child care, they will receive great care.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VIRGINIA'S COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH EDUCATION INNOVATION

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the key to America's continued success lies in improving our Nation's educational system. With the changing needs of our workforce, it is imperative that we utilize research in STEM fields and the humanities to improve our country's economic prosperity. Even in lean times, Virginia focused on the link between research and the creative new innovations that are leading this Nation's economic recovery; the Commonwealth's continued commitment to bridging these undertakings is commendable.

The Virginia Longitudinal System was created by a partnership between the Virginia Department of Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Employment Commission. This vital research tool, the first of its kind in the Nation, provides policymakers, researchers, and citizens with information that will prepare and connect Virginians with employment opportunities. Funded with a grant awarded

under the stimulus bill—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—the data system allows State agencies and researchers to study the behaviors and transitions of students through the public school systems, into college, and on to the workforce so Virginia leaders can make informed decisions and create education and workforce policy based on consistent and relevant data.

Earlier this year, several education organizations, including the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Center for Excellence in Education, Center for Innovative Technology, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Business Higher Education Council, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, held the Virginia Higher Education Research Summit. The summit focused on the importance of increasing funding for academic research at Virginia's colleges and universities, showcased the strengths of private/public partnerships between Virginia's universities and the private sector, provided a forum for discussing best practices related to intellectual property issues, and strengthened the public's understanding of where Virginia's research dollars come from, including from Federal, State, and private sources.

If we are to win the race for talent, we need a long-term plan that produces the best workforce in the world. I am encouraged by these institutions' open discussion of one of our Nation's most pressing problems—investing in innovative research ideas that will drive our economy and the middle class into the future. I recognize the efforts of these stakeholders and the Commonwealth as they build on the substantial successes already achieved by Virginia's colleges and universities.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK A. SCHRAHEK

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate Lt. Col. Mark A. Schramek on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after more than 20 years of service. A native of Duluth, MN, he has served our country with distinction both at home and abroad.

An intelligence officer by training, Lieutenant Colonel Schramek has held a number of important operational and headquarters assignments. In 2009, he became a Congressional liaison officer for the U.S. Air Force, a demanding and important position within the Department of Defense. As a Congressional liaison officer, he developed and implemented effective legislative strategies and supported some of the most important programs to the Department of Defense.

Having worked with Lieutenant Colonel Schramek over the past few years, I am pleased to commend him for his

distinguished service to our country. I wish him and his family the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.●

CONGRATULATING BILL DEIST

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish today to congratulate Bill Deist, of Winnemucca, NV, on his retirement. After serving the community of Humboldt County for over 15 years, Bill will be retiring in December 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after many years of hard work and dedication to Humboldt County and the Silver State.

Bill stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted their life to the betterment of their community. He started serving the Silver State in 1997 when he moved to Carlin, NV. His experience of over 19 years as the city manager in John Day, OR, made him an extremely qualified candidate to become the Carlin city manager—a position that he held for 2 years. After his years as the city manager, Bill became the Humboldt County administrator, a position that he has held with integrity for the past 15 years.

Upon becoming the Humboldt County administrator, Bill became a person known for getting things done. He always worked well with all city, county, and State governments throughout his career. His consistent priority was to create initiatives geared toward the betterment and improvement of the lives of the Humboldt County citizens. Among his many accomplishments, Bill has been credited with the creation of a strong county budget and upon his retirement, he will be leaving the county debt free and fiscally strong.

While representing Humboldt County for 4 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, and now as its U.S. Senator, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Bill on important Northern Nevada priorities. Bill was an integral part of the Pine Forest review and assessment working group that worked for years to develop recommendations that were ultimately included in the Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act, legislation I have fought to enact as a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This bill, which would greatly benefit Humboldt County once enacted, has near unanimous support among residents because of the in-depth work done prior to introduction. In fact, it is frequently looked to in Congress as a national model for how public lands bills should be developed at the grassroots level. Public input and local support is critical to all my public lands work in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on behalf of the State, and Bill's input has been vital in nearly every effort I have been involved in benefiting the county.

Bill exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community serv-

ice and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Humboldt County and to the State of Nevada. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Bill on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make the Silver State an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DR. NORMAN CHRISTOPHER FRANCIS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Dr. Norman Christopher Francis, who has devoted much of his life to increasing access to, quality of, and affordability of postsecondary education for students. Dr. Francis recently retired from his remarkable tenure as president of Xavier University, a renowned Historically Black University and one of Louisiana's most cherished institutions of higher education. He has left behind an indelible mark of impressive leadership and results. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of Louisiana, I applaud Dr. Francis for his devotion to Louisiana's higher education system and thank him for his many years of service.

Dr. Francis began his journey in the field of higher education country more than 60 years ago as a student at Xavier University and grew into a cherished leader who later served as the university's president for 46 years. This makes him the longest tenured leader of any university in America—quite a remarkable achievement. He is one of the most admired and respected leaders not only in New Orleans and Louisiana but in our Nation today. In an extraordinary career, he took an active and vital leadership role during the tumultuous decades of civil rights battles in Louisiana. Decades later, he helped Governor Kathleen Blanco guide our State out of one of its darkest periods following the devastating impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. His leadership and expertise played an important role in the rebuilding of a world-class quality, State public higher education system.

On a personal note, Dr. Francis is one of our family's closest and most cherished friends, and he has most certainly earned his retirement. And as a devoted family man, I know he is looking forward to more time with his dear wife Blanche, children and growing grandchildren.

I am proud that Louisiana's higher education system, especially our valued Historically Black Colleges and Universities, have had the strong leadership and guidance of Dr. Francis over the years and I am grateful for his service. Dr. Francis' leadership as the

president of Xavier University will be missed; however, I have full faith and trust that he will continue to lead in improving the educational prospects and outcomes for Louisiana's students in whatever role he pursues next. Once again, I am privileged and honored to formally recognize Dr. Norman Christopher Francis for his commitment and efforts to strengthen higher education in Louisiana and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO STUART CAMPBELL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Stuart Campbell, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Stuart is a graduate of Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, Stuart is attending Georgetown University, where he is majoring in Science and Technology in International Affairs. Stuart is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stuart Campbell for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSS DIETRICH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ross Dietrich, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Ross is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Ross is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is working toward an M.A. in addiction studies. Ross is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ross Dietrich for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIA ECKRICH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Maria Eckrich, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Maria is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Maria is attending American University's School of International Service, where she is studying global governance, politics, and security. Maria is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maria Eckrich for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANNE KEOUGH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Anne Keough, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Anne is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Anne is attending George Washington University, where she is majoring in international affairs/security policy and Arabic. Anne is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anne Keough for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN REIFFENBERGER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Megan Reiffenberger, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Megan is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently, Megan is attending George Mason University, where she is majoring in English. Megan is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Megan Reiffenberger for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELSEY SAKOS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kelsey Sakos, an intern in my Rapid City, SD office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kelsey is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, Kelsey is attending Black Hills State University, where she is majoring in political science/social science. Kelsey is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kelsey Sakos for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I congratulate the four national winners of the U.S. Professor of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has recognized outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country. A U.S. Professor of the Year was also recognized in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

This award is hailed as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. There is no doubt that professors who personally vest themselves in each student shape the leaders of tomorrow. These individuals should be proud of their accomplishments and contributions to a brighter future.

I am particularly proud of Dr. Branislav Notaros, the State winner from Colorado. As a professor of electrical and computer engineering and Director of the Electromagnetics Laboratory at Colorado State University, Dr. Notaros' research has been instrumental in advancing the field of electromagnetics. He has won numerous awards in recognition of his work, including the 2005 IEEE Microwave Prize and the 2009 CSU Excellence in Teaching Award.

I commend and thank Dr. Notaros and all the winners for their leadership and passion for educating our nation's young leaders. No doubt they have inspired an untold number of students. I wish all of the honorees the very best in all their endeavors. Congratulations and best regards.

The four national award winners are: Outstanding Baccalaureate Colleges Professor of the Year: Laurie Grobman, Professor of English and Women's Studies, Pennsylvania State University Berks; Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year: John Wadach, Professor of Engineering Science and Physics, Monroe Community College; Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities Professor of the Year: Sheri Sheppard, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University and Outstanding Master's Universities and Colleges Professor of the Year: Patricia H. Kelley, Professor of Geology, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

The 30 state and District of Columbia winners are:

Alabama—Eric J. Fournier, Professor of Geography, Samford University;

Arizona—James Sousa, Mathematics Instructor, Phoenix College;

California—Mitch Malachowski, Professor of Chemistry, University of San Diego;

Colorado—Branislav M. Notaros, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Colorado State University;

Connecticut—Hisae Kobayashi, Senior Lecturer in Japanese, Connecticut College;

District of Columbia—Heidi Elmendorf, Associate Professor of Biology, Georgetown University;

Delaware—Beth Morling, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Delaware;

Florida—Rosany H. Alvarez, Mathematics Professor, Miami Dade College;

Georgia—John A. Knox, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Geography, University of Georgia;

Idaho—Karen Launchbaugh, Professor of Rangeland Ecology, University of Idaho;

Illinois—Dan Gebo, Professor of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University;
 Indiana—Michelle A. Whaley, Teaching Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame;

Kentucky—Cindy S. Tucker, Associate Professor, Computer and Information Technologies, Bluegrass Community and Technical College;

Maryland—KenYatta Rogers, Professor of Theatre, Montgomery College Rockville Campus;

Massachusetts—Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, Professor of Physics and Civil Engineering Technology, Springfield Technical Community College;

Michigan—Cynthia Wade, Math Professor, St. Clair County Community College;

Minnesota—Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, Professor of Film, Minnesota State University Moorhead;

Mississippi—Kenneth Sufka, Professor of Psychology and Pharmacology, University of Mississippi;

Missouri—Andrea Nichols, Professor of Sociology, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park;

Nebraska—Greg W. Zacharias, Professor of English and Director, Center for Henry James Studies, Creighton University;

New Jersey—Darrin M. York, Professor of Chemistry, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;

New York—Cynthia Jones, Lecturer, English Department, Hostos Community College of The City University of New York;

North Carolina—Karen Hornsby, Associate Professor of Philosophy, North Carolina A&T State University;

Ohio—Elizabeth George, Professor of Physics, Wittenberg University;

Oregon—Jennifer Corpus, Professor of Psychology, Reed College;

Pennsylvania—Richard L. Wallace, Professor of Environmental Studies, Ursinus College;

South Carolina—Milind N. Kunchur, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina;

Texas—Collin Thomas, Professor of Biology, Collin College;

Virginia—Paul Hanstedt, Professor of English, Roanoke College;

West Virginia—Kateryna A.R. Schray, Professor, Department of English, Marshall University; and

Wisconsin, Scott Cooper, Professor of Biology and Director of Undergraduate Research and Creativity, University of Wisconsin—La Crosse.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3398. An act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3583. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

H.R. 4012. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible.

H.R. 5448. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

H.R. 5681. An act to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

H.R. 5728. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3398. An act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4012. An act to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3583. An act to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7899. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment for Commercial Space Adjudications; Second Amendment" ((RIN2120-AK55) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0822)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7900. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Alma, NE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0745)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7901. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cando, ND" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0746)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7902. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Encinal, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0741)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7903. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Thomas, OK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0263)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7904. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Restricted Areas R-4105A and R-4105B; No Man's Land Island, MA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0760)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7905. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas;

California" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0722)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7906. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airplane and Engine Certification Requirements in Supercooled Large Drop, Mixed Phase, and Ice Crystal Icing Conditions" ((RIN2120-AJ34) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0636; Amdt. Nos. 25-140 and 33-34)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7907. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Orders of Compliance, Cease and Desist Orders, Orders of Denial, and Other Orders" ((RIN2120-AK43) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0505; Amdt. No. 13-36A)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7908. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Departing IFR/VFR When Weather Reporting Is Not Available; Confirmation of Effective Date" ((RIN2120-AK49) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0502; Amdt. No. 135-131)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7909. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fiberglass-Technik Rudolf Lindner GmbH and Co. KG Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7910. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7911. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0581)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7912. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0140)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7913. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company; Beech Aircraft Corporation) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0345)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7914. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7915. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0532)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7916. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Air Data Pressure Transducers" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0285)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7917. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0832)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7918. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0451)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7919. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0438)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7920. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0548)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7921. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0431)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7922. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0290)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7923. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0283)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7924. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0757)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7925. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Alexandria Aircraft LLC Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0438)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7926. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Brantly International, Inc.

Helicopters'' ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1093)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7927. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0740)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7928. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0516)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7929. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0494)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7930. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0654)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7931. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0650)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7932. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7933. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Harmonization of Airworthiness Standards—Miscellaneous Structures Requirements" ((RIN2120-AK13) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0109)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-351. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in state infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and

mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over \$2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal government in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-352. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas, in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be-created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental nongovernmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the

use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-353. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to act on the request of the governor to acquire for the State additional land in the Tongass National Forest from the United States Government by purchase or negotiation or by seeking amendment to the Alaska Statehood Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas the Tongass National Forest was created in 1907 by a proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt; and

Whereas, under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339), the federal government provided Alaska with a 103,350,000-acre land entitlement, which was considered to be sufficient for the newly formed state to become economically self-supporting; and

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) gave the state 25 years to select land for entitlement; and

Whereas the 25-year period established in the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) as the period in which the state may select land for entitlement was later extended, in effect, by various legislation, with the result that approximately 5,500,000 acres of the land entitlement granted to the state by the Act have not yet been conveyed; and

Whereas, from the 1950s through the early 1990s, the commercial harvest of timber formed a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas the commercial harvest of timber no longer forms a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska because the timber industry does not have access to an adequate amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, in the past four years, several efforts to revitalize the timber industry in Southeast Alaska have failed because a timber industry cannot exist without an adequate timber supply; and

Whereas the United States Congress has placed 40 percent of the Tongass National Forest off limits for commercial use, and the United States Forest Service has administratively set aside an additional 58 percent of the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, at the present time, only two percent of the Tongass National Forest is managed for the purpose of providing local communities with the opportunity to harvest timber; and

Whereas 91 percent of the old growth timber standing in the Tongass National Forest in 1954 remains standing, and the remaining nine percent that has been harvested has now been replaced with young growth timber that will begin maturing in about 30 years; and

Whereas findings prepared by the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force in June 2012 reveal that the timber industry is vitally important to statewide and regional economies in the state; and

Whereas the principal barrier to job creation in the Southeast Alaska timber industry is the lack of a sufficient amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas an unrealistic Tongass Land Management Plan dictated by Washington, D.C., endless environmental legal appeals, and a lack of political will by public officials who are in a position to support meeting timber harvest targets have prevented the United States Forest Service from providing the timber industry access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to make the timber industry commercially viable in Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas because the United States Forest Service has not been able to provide the timber industry with access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to sustain the timber industry in Southeast Alaska, it is time for the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to acquire additional land in the Tongass National Forest that will provide enough economically harvestable timber to create a sustainable economic base for the communities of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) limited the state's selection of land from the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest to 400,000 acres with the intention of preserving timber for federal long-term sales; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) allowed the state to select land in other regions of the state without restricting the use of the land to recreation and community expansion, and, because the timber industry in Southeast Alaska has become unsustainable, the state should be entitled to acquire some of its remaining land entitlement under the Alaska Statehood Act from the Tongass National Forest; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to negotiate state land entitlements under sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) or work to amend the Alaska Statehood Act for the purpose of acquiring forested land in the Tongass National Forest; and be it further

Resolved, That, if the United States Congress fails to convey forested land in the

Tongass National Forest either by negotiating state land entitlements under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) or by amending the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor to negotiate the purchase of forested land in the Tongass National Forest from the federal government.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska.

POM-354. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program

and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental non-governmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements

relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of

the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-355. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in state infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over \$2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal government in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-356. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Whereas a new federal excise tax of 2.3 percent on the sale of taxable medical devices by manufacturers, producers, and importers of those devices took effect January 1, 2013; and

Whereas the medical device tax is imposed on United States sales, rather than profits, of medical device manufacturers, producers, and importers and will be particularly damaging to innovative start-up companies; and

Whereas the medical device tax was projected to raise \$20,000,000,000, but that estimate has risen to over \$30,000,000,000; and

Whereas the medical device tax will substantially increase the cost of health care

and takes direct aim at American innovation by punishing the researchers and manufacturers of devices such as heart stents, pacemakers, patient monitors, artificial hips, limbs, and hearts, and a multitude of other medical devices; and

Whereas thousands of layoffs in the United States have already occurred because of the medical device tax; and

Whereas the medical device tax threatens regional economic vitality, badly needed jobs, and patients' hopes for new, life-saving products and treatments; and

Whereas the repeal of the medical device tax has strong bipartisan support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-357. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska memorializing support for the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, by its very existence, the state enables the United States to be an Arctic nation; and

Whereas, in April 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy"; and

Whereas the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission has been working with the National Strategy for the Arctic Region Task Force on how to best craft an Arctic policy that benefits and creates opportunity for the state and the entire United States; and

Whereas the Arctic resources of the state are immense and, with responsible development, could contribute significantly to the economy of the United States and to the entire pan-Arctic region; and

Whereas the Bering Strait serves as the gateway to the Arctic for the marine traffic of the United States and other nations between the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic; and

Whereas the marine traffic through the Bering Strait choke point has been increasing; and

Whereas the Arctic Council is the intergovernmental forum in which all eight Arctic nations participate; and

Whereas the Arctic Council includes six Arctic indigenous communities, four of which are resident in the state, and six permanent working groups, each of which directly affects the state; and

Whereas Canada is the current chair of the Arctic Council, and the United States will be the chair from May 2015 until 2017; and

Whereas the United States should seek local and scientific expertise from the state to inform the nation's input at the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, in December 2012, the Governor proposed to the United States Department of State four priorities for consideration while the United States is chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas it is important for the priorities of the state and the United States to be in alignment while the United States holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, when the United States ascends to chair of the Arctic Council in 2015, the United States Department of State will appoint one individual as chair of the Arctic Council: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of State to consider the priorities of the state while it holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council, including the priorities of the Governor, creating jobs and economic opportunity for Arctic residents, preventing suicide, developing safe and sustainable sanitation facilities for small, isolated Arctic communities, and securing safe and reliable shipping; and be it further:

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State work in partnership with state officials to appoint a chair of the Arctic Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature supports the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants."

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Menendez, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Bob Corker, ranking member, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant of the United States Coast Guard; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission; the Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable John Paul Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; the Honorable Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-358. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the President and Congress of the United States to urge the Government of

Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 430

Whereas, Iraq is currently embroiled in a surge of violence arising from an Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) led offensive that began in the Anbar province, has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability; and

Whereas, on June 29, 2014, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi renamed the group the Islamic State and pronounced himself caliph of a new Islamic Caliphate encompassing the areas under his control; and

Whereas, Mr. al-Baghdadi has a stated mission of spreading the Islamic State and caliphate across the region through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims and unsupportive Sunnis; and

Whereas, upon taking control over northwestern Iraq and Syria, ISIL issued a warning to Christians living under its jurisdiction to convert to Islam, to pay a burdensome religious tax or to be executed; and

Whereas, over 1,000,000 people have been displaced by violence in Iraq and reports have surfaced of targeted harassment, persecution and killings of Iraqi religious minorities by the Islamic State with little to no protection from the Government of Iraq and other security forces; and

Whereas, reports indicate that Islamic State militants have been marking homes of Christians with the Arabic letter "N," for "Nazara" (Christian), beheading children and crucifying captives. ISIL's actions are a crime against humanity and nothing more than genocide or ethnic cleansing against religious minority groups; and

Whereas, the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating:

(1) "no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy";

(2) "no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedom stipulated in this Constitution"; and

(3) "[This Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean Sabians";

Whereas, President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, "Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . [W]e also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace"; and

Whereas, the atrocities being committed against Christians and other ethnic and religious minority communities in Iraq are unconscionable and represent a crime against humanity: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to publicly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Iraq and to take prudent action to protect Iraqi Christians and other religious minorities from persecution from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress urge the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress work with the Government of Iraq to bring

Islamic State militants to justice before an international forum for war crimes and crimes against humanity; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-359. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized"; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record in metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report titled "Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court," questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a Mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Over-

sight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as all unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to authorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-360. Urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by and in the airspace over the combat zone in Vietnam, and urging the United States Congress to pass the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013 and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed over

19,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; those herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with numerous serious and disabling diseases affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code presumptively to recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; that presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with illnesses such as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas, and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, under a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine, and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas the United States Navy has been excluded from coverage under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 although Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, to be a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy ships through the air and through waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas warships positioned off the Vietnamese coast routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs conducted that study after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from diseases associated with Agent Orange than did Vietnam veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found a higher risk of specific cancers among United States Navy veterans than among veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas herbicides containing dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas Representative Christopher Gibson and 168 cosponsors, including Representative Don Young, introduced the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas more than 30 veterans service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas, by not passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013, a precedent could be set selectively to provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying that care to other groups, without any financial, scientific, or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act of 1991 passed with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act of 1991 under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam included inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace, encompassing the entire combat zone; and

Whereas S. 1602 was introduced in the United States Senate on October 29, 2013, by Senator Richard Blumenthal; and

Whereas S. 1602 would establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States, provide services to those descendants, and establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by the combat zone and in the airspace over the combat zone; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to pass S. 1602, the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013, and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barak Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-361. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, in December 2013, federal Veterans Health Administration facilities in

Texas, Georgia, Iowa, and Alabama violated the religious freedom rights of convalescing veterans in their care; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Dallas, Texas, did not distribute to the veterans in its care holiday cards that used certain language, including "Merry Christmas" and "God bless you"; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdine Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-362. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, in December 2013, federal Veterans Health Administration facilities in Texas, Georgia, Iowa, and Alabama violated the religious freedom rights of convalescing veterans in their care; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Dallas, Texas, did not distribute to the veterans in its care holiday cards that used certain language, including "Merry Christmas" and "God bless you"; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans' religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy

services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minor-

ity Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdine Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1744. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2520. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jorge Luis Alonso, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Amit Priyavadan Mehta, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Allison Dale Burroughs, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

John Robert Blakey, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2947. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to clarify the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to prescribe just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential terms, conditions, and compensation applicable to wholesale demand response resource participation in organized wholesale energy, capacity, and ancillary service markets; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2948. A bill to extend the requirement that drug manufacturers that increase prices faster than inflation pay an additional rebate to State Medicaid programs to include manufacturers of generic drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2949. A bill to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2950. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans program to seek to employ physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs on a without compensation basis in practice areas and specialties with staffing shortages and long appointment waiting times; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2951. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is informed of the interment of deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2952. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2953. A bill to prohibit an alien who is a national of a country with a widespread Ebola virus outbreak from obtaining a visa and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2955. A bill to revise the Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2956. A bill to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2957. A bill to limit the disturbance to American families caused by electioneering phone calls by expanding the National Do Not Call Registry to include Super PACs and

other third-party political groups, to prohibit robo-calls to Americans who have listed their telephone numbers on the Registry, and to prohibit push-polling; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2958. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2959. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2960. A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2961. A bill to establish the Office of Planning for Future Intercity Transportation within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2962. A bill to repeal the tax increase imposed by Obamacare on taxpayers who incur catastrophic medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2963. A bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2964. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2965. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing hazardous humanitarian services in West Africa to combat the spread of the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2966. A bill to improve the understanding and coordination of critical care health services; to the Committee on Finance.

S. Res. 585. A resolution designating December 3, 2014, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 586. A resolution calling on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State's needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 587. A resolution encouraging reunions of Korean-Americans who were divided by the Korean War from their relatives in North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 588. A resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 589. A resolution honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 590. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN)):

S. Res. 591. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 526

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect employees in the building and construction industry who are participants in multiemployer plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1361, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to help establish, enhance, and increase access to early childhood parent education and family engagement programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1815

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1815, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include occupational therapists as behavioral and mental health professionals for purposes of the National Health Service Corps.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2288

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand existing tax credits to encourage the capture, utilization, and sequestration of carbon dioxide.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that working families have access to affordable health insurance coverage.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2732

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2732, a bill to increase from \$10,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are subject to direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, *supra*.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2828, *supra*.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2848, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Juvenile

Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to deny Social Security benefits and other benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend Public Law 110-299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, *supra*.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 2945

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to repeal section 910 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health

care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

S. RES. 565

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 565, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

S. RES. 583

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 583, a resolution designating November 30, 2014, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

AMENDMENT NO. 3749

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3749 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3870

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3870 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3947

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3947 intended to be proposed to S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and

criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce my comprehensive proposal to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, the main law governing institutions of higher education in this country. My bill, the Higher Education Affordability Act, is the product of extensive conversations between both parties in Congress and stakeholders across the higher education community. Over the past year, our Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has held 12 bipartisan hearings on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act on issues ranging from teacher preparation and accreditation to federal student loans and the States' role in higher education. These hearings were purposely designed to better inform members of Congress and the public on the most pressing issues in higher education and how best to address them at the federal level.

In June, I put forward a discussion draft that included many of the ideas and policies discussed in our hearings. I asked the entire higher education community—including institutions, accreditors, and student advocacy organizations—to weigh in and offer suggestions on how best to strengthen my initial proposal.

I am pleased to say they delivered abundantly on that request. We received comments from over 120 organizations from across the country. What I have put forward today is a direct result of our hearings and the feedback we received. This bill provides clear guidelines based on all the work we have done to date on how we should move forward with reauthorization in a way that puts students and families first. It takes a holistic approach in addressing the most urgent issues in higher education: increasing college affordability, helping struggling borrowers, strengthening accountability, and improving transparency throughout the higher education system.

On the matter of affordability, my bill includes a number of policies designed to reduce college costs for students on the front end. It proposes a new federal partnership with States to incentivize them to reinvest in their systems of higher education. For too long, States have been cutting funding for their institutions of higher education and passing those costs onto students and their families. This is a trend in cost-shifting that must stop. The bill also reinstates year-round Pell Grants to enable students to get their

degrees faster and establishes a pilot program to reward institutions that do a good job of graduating low-income students. My bill also creates two grant programs to promote statewide and institutional innovation in higher education. Making sure college is affordable requires an all-hands-on-deck approach: the Federal government, states, students and their families all need to do their part.

We also hope to empower students and families through greater transparency by giving students and families better information on college costs and outcomes from the beginning of the college selection process and all the way through graduation. The bill promotes a seamless process from high school to post-graduation to ensure that students know exactly what they are getting into with regard to college quality and costs before they get started.

On the matter of student debt, my bill takes a range of steps to help student borrowers better manage their loans. It provides for better up-front and exit counseling for students regarding their federally guaranteed loans. It eliminates fees on federal loans to save students money. My bill also strengthens consumer protections for student loans, and it creates a safety net for borrowers who are seriously delinquent on their loans by automatically enrolling them in an income-based repayment plan with affordable monthly payments. To ensure that private student debt is treated no differently than any other consumer debt, my bill would allow private student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy, as they were before the law was changed in 2005.

My bill would hold schools more accountable to both students and taxpayers by ensuring that no Federal money goes to marketing and advertising instead of education. I am also introducing new metrics, including a repayment rate, by which to better measure schools' performance. The bill also changes the current "90/10" rule to "85/15" to ensure that for-profit schools are not wholly subsidized by the Federal government. For those bad actors making record-breaking profits through fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, my bill includes a number of provisions designed to penalize this behavior and to stop it.

Our country has reached a critical point in higher education. Beyond disagreements on specific policy issues, we must come together to decide whether higher education should be preserved, first and foremost, as a public good. Over the past two decades, rising college costs have been shifted unfairly onto the backs of students and families. The central question we must ask is whether this accelerating trend is the right direction for this country—whether paying for college should be

the sole responsibility of students and families or our shared responsibility as a nation. My bill reflects the overall belief that all stakeholders—states, the Federal Government, students and families—should invest together in higher education to keep college affordable and accessible to all. Our country's economic future and the promise of equal opportunity depend upon this critical investment.

It is unacceptable to ask students and their families to shoulder the bulk of college costs. Historically, this has never been the case, and we should not allow this unfortunate trend to grow worse. My bill would get us back on the right track, ensuring that our higher education system is affordable, transparent, and ultimately accountable to our students and taxpayers. Higher education should serve as an equalizer of opportunity for all, and that is a promise that we must fulfill together.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2956. A bill to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in 2010 Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Truth in Caller ID Act, which prohibits caller ID spoofing when it is used to defraud or harm Americans.

What is caller ID spoofing? It is a technique that allows a telephone caller to alter the phone number that appears on the recipient's Caller ID screen. In other words, spoofing allows someone to hide behind a misleading telephone number to try to scam consumers or trick law enforcement officers.

The Truth in Caller ID Act put in place tough new sanctions to crack down on phone scams, empowering States to help the Federal Government track down and punish these fraudsters.

Since then spoofing technology has evolved to give fraudsters new tools to pull the wool over our eyes. They take advantage of innovative text messaging services to trick unsuspecting Americans into sending money or providing sensitive personal information.

I believe our laws must evolve and adapt to the new tactics and technologies used by these criminals. That is why I am introducing the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014, to update the protections we put in place in 2010 and give consumers the tools they need to help them protect themselves.

The bill does 3 simple things.

First, it extends the current prohibition on Caller ID spoofing to calls coming from outside the United States and stops crooks from using text messaging services to scam consumers.

Second, it ensures consumers have access to what are known as "whitelist

services," where the technology exists. Whitelist services allow consumers to pick a list of approved phone numbers to ring through to their phone. All other numbers are automatically forwarded to voicemail or rerouted to a different number.

Calls from first responders, government agencies, and other important entities would still ring through to the consumer's phone.

Several phone companies currently offer whitelist services to their customers. It only makes sense to allow more Americans to have access to these valuable services so that they can help protect themselves from abusive phone calls.

Third, the bill directs the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, to develop Caller ID authentication standards within 5 years from the date of enactment to ensure Caller ID information is accurate, or at the very least warn consumers when such information cannot be verified.

An international group of telecom engineers, including specialists at the FCC, are currently working to develop such standards. The bill would merely accelerate the timeline for the standards to be finalized and move us to a more secure telephone system sooner.

When in place, Caller ID authentication will give consumers the information they need to judge the legitimacy of the call. Scammers will no longer be able to use spoofing technology to claim to be from the IRS, your bank, your utility company, or law enforcement and bilk you out of all your savings.

I invite my colleagues to join Senators COLLINS, DONNELLY, BOOKER, and me in support of the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014. Working together, I am hopeful that we can finally stop many of the fraudsters behind these phone scams.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2956

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF WHITELIST SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 232. AVAILABILITY OF WHITELIST SERVICES.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'voice service' means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1);

“(2) the term ‘exempt entity’ means—

“(A) the Federal Government, a State, a political subdivision of a State, or an agency thereof; and

“(B) any entity with respect to which the Commission determines that allowing calls that originate from that entity to connect directly with the voice service customer premises equipment (commonly referred to as ‘CPE’) of a subscriber would serve the public interest; and

“(3) the term ‘whitelist’ means a list of telephone numbers, designated by a subscriber, for which calls originating from those numbers to the subscriber are permitted to connect directly with the voice service CPE of the subscriber.

“(b) REQUIREMENT TO OFFER WHITELIST SERVICE.—A provider of a voice service shall offer each subscriber the option to designate a whitelist, if technically feasible (as determined by the Commission on a periodic basis).

“(c) TREATMENT OF NONAPPROVED TELEPHONE NUMBERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a subscriber elects to designate a whitelist under subsection (b), the provider of the voice service of the subscriber shall ensure that any call the provider receives for termination that is not associated with a telephone number on the whitelist of the subscriber or the telephone number of an exempt entity is processed according to preferences set by the subscriber with respect to the whitelist, including by limiting or disabling the ability of an incoming call to connect with the CPE of the subscriber.

“(2) SAFE HARBOR.—Whitelist processing that, in accordance with the preferences of a subscriber, limits or disables connection with the CPE of a subscriber shall not be considered to be—

“(A) blocking traffic; or

“(B) an unjust or unreasonable practice under section 201 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201).

“(d) NUMBER OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON WHITELIST FREE OF CHARGE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A provider of a voice service shall allow a subscriber (or a designated representative thereof) to designate not less than 10 telephone numbers to be on the whitelist under subsection (b), free of charge.

“(2) TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF EXEMPT ENTITIES.—The telephone number of an exempt entity shall not be considered to be on the whitelist of a subscriber for purposes of calculating the 10 telephone numbers that may be designated under paragraph (1).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 232 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. AUTHENTICATION OF CALL ORIGINATION.

Part I of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended by section 2, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 233. AUTHENTICATION OF CALL ORIGINATION.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘voice service’ means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1).

“(b) DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHENTICATION STANDARDS BY COMMISSION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Phone Scam Prevention Act of 2014, the Commission shall develop authentication

standards for providers of a voice service to validate the calling party number and caller identification information of a call originated through a voice service so that the subscriber receiving the call may obtain—

“(1) a secure assurance of the origin of the call, including—

“(A) the calling party number; and

“(B) caller identification information for the call; or

“(2) notice that an assurance described in paragraph (1) is unavailable.

“(c) ADOPTION OF AUTHENTICATION STANDARDS BY ENTITIES.—Each provider of a voice service that is allocated telephone numbers from the portion of the North American Numbering Plan that pertains to the United States shall adopt the authentication standards developed under subsection (b).”.

SEC. 4. EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON INACCURATE CALLER ID INFORMATION.

(a) COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE UNITED STATES.—Section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1)) is amended by striking “in connection with any telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “or any person outside the United States if the recipient of the call is within the United States, in connection with any voice service”.

(b) COVERAGE OF TEXT MESSAGES AND OTHER VOICE SERVICES.—Section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “voice service (including a text message sent using a text messaging service)”;

(2) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking “telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “voice service (including a text message sent using a text messaging service)”;

(3) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—The term ‘text message’—

“(i) means a real-time or near real-time message consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information that is transmitted from or received by a device that is identified as the transmitting or receiving device by means of a telephone number;

“(ii) includes a short message service (commonly referred to as ‘SMS’) message, an enhanced message service (commonly referred to as ‘EMS’) message, and a multimedia message service (commonly referred to as ‘MMS’) message; and

“(iii) does not include a real-time, 2-way voice or video communication.

“(D) TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE.—The term ‘text messaging service’ means a service that permits the transmission or receipt of a text message, including a service provided as part of or in connection with a voice service.

“(E) VOICE SERVICE.—The term ‘voice service’ means any service that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1).”.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, limit, or otherwise affect—

(1) the authority, as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act, of the Federal Communications Commission to interpret the term “call” to include a text message (as defined under section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (b)); or

(2) any rule or order adopted by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with—

(A) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-243; 105 Stat. 2394) or the amendments made by that Act; or

(B) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Federal Communications Commission prescribes regulations under subsection (d).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2014, AS “NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 585

Whereas phenylketonuria is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes intellectual disability and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas phenylketonuria is also referred to as “PKU” or Phenylalanine Hydroxylase Deficiency;

Whereas newborn screening for PKU was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was recommended for inclusion in State newborn screening programs under the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-204);

Whereas approximately 1 out of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with PKU;

Whereas PKU is treated with medical food;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for PKU made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement 2000;

Whereas the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and Genetic Metabolic Dieticians International published medical and dietary guidelines on the optimal treatment of PKU in 2014;

Whereas medical foods are medically necessary for children and adults living with PKU;

Whereas adults with PKU who discontinue treatment are at risk for serious medical issues such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with PKU must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with PKU may have a condition known as “maternal phenylketonuria syndrome”, which can cause small brains, intellectual disabilities, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weights;

Whereas although there is no cure for PKU, treatment involving medical foods,

medications, and restriction of phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas access to health insurance coverage for medical food varies across the United States, and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults with PKU far exceed the cost of providing medical food treatment;

Whereas gaps in medical foods coverage have a detrimental impact on individuals with PKU, their families, and society;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in PKU research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving PKU; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of PKU among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2014, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA TO DEVELOP A NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION THAT ADDRESSES RAKHINE STATE’S NEEDS FOR PEACE, SECURITY, HARMONY, AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER EQUITABLE AND JUST APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 586

Whereas, of the 1,500,000 members of the Rohingya ethnic minority community worldwide, over 1,200,000 stateless Rohingya live in Burma, mostly in northern Rakhine State, including 140,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs);

Whereas the security, stability, and development of Rakhine State is dependent on the rule of law and non-discriminatory access to citizenship, livelihoods and services, and protection for all residents;

Whereas, on November 12, 2014, President Barack Obama traveled to Burma, where he “stressed the need to find durable and effective solutions for the terrible violence in Rakhine state, solutions that end discrimination, provide greater security and economic opportunities, protect all citizens, and promote greater tolerance and understanding,” while noting that legitimate government is a government based on “the recognition that all people are equal under the law”;

Whereas the Department of State has, since 1999, regularly expressed its particular

concern for severe legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma’s Rohingya population in its Country Report for Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma reported a “long history of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya Muslim community which could amount to crimes against humanity”;

Whereas the current Government of Burma, like its predecessors, continues to use the Burma Citizenship Law of 1982 to exclude Rohingya from a list of legally recognized ethnic groups, despite many having lived in Rakhine State for generations, thereby rendering Rohingya stateless and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas, in its March 2014 census, the first in over 30 years, the Government of Burma reneged on its commitment to allow all people in Burma to self-identify and ordered the Rohingya to ethnically identify as “Bengali”, resulting in their exclusion from census data and thereby severely undermining the validity of the data for Rakhine State and creating the potential for further discrimination and conflict;

Whereas local and national policies and practices discriminate against Rohingya by denying them freedom of movement outside their villages and camps, restricting access to livelihood, education, and health care;

Whereas authorities have required Rohingya to obtain official permission for marriages, with reportedly onerous, humiliating, and financially prohibitive requirements for approval;

Whereas a two-child policy sanctioned solely upon the Rohingya population in two townships in northern Rakhine State hinders the ability of additional children to access basic government services, marry, or acquire property and restricts the rights of women, sometimes resulting in serious health consequences due to illegal and unsafe abortions;

Whereas persecution, including arbitrary arrest, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities, continues to be widespread;

Whereas violence targeting Rohingya in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Sittwe in June and July 2012 resulted in the deaths of at least 57 Muslims and the destruction of 1,336 Rohingya homes and left thousands displaced;

Whereas, between October 21–30, 2012, numerous people were killed, and a village in Mrauk-U township was destroyed during deadly ethnic violence between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities;

Whereas the lack of a credible independent investigation has resulted in persistent questions about violence that may have resulted in the death of Rohingya in a village in Maungdaw township in January 2014, and human rights groups reported mass arrests and arbitrary detention of Rohingya in the aftermath of this violence;

Whereas local, state, and national security police and border officers have failed to protect those vulnerable to attack and, in some cases, participated in violence against Rohingya and other Muslims;

Whereas the Government of Burma has relocated displaced Rohingya into displacement camps where they have limited access to adequate shelter, clean water, food, sanitation, health care, livelihoods, or basic education for their children;

Whereas thousands of Rohingya are entirely reliant on international assistance for food, clean water, and health care because

they are not permitted to move for work and therefore cannot provide for their families;

Whereas, in February 2014, the Government of Burma suspended the activities of Nobel Laureate Médecins Sans Frontières, the primary provider of healthcare to hundreds of thousands in Rakhine State;

Whereas the Government of Burma entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Médecins Sans Frontières in September 2014 but all services have not resumed;

Whereas attacks on organizations and their property in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, in March 2014 caused over 300 international aid workers to evacuate the area, and while many of these aid workers have now returned, they have not yet been able to resume full operations, leaving many more people vulnerable, particularly in the area of health care;

Whereas the denial of unhindered humanitarian assistance when populations are in need of such services is a severe breach of a government’s responsibility to protect and support its residents and suggests disregard for individuals who suffer the effects of disease and malnourishment as a result of a lack of assistance;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled to neighboring countries, including 34,000 that have registered in official camps in Bangladesh, plus another 300,000 to 500,000 that are unregistered in Bangladesh, and at least 35,000 in Malaysia, plus many thousands more in Thailand and Indonesia;

Whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, approximately 100,000 Rohingya have fled from Rakhine State, and up to 2,000 Rohingya who fled Burma by boat are presumed dead or are missing at sea since 2012;

Whereas up to 200,000 Rohingya, who fled persecution from Burma up to 20 years ago and sought refugee protection in Bangladesh, continue to face discrimination, statelessness, and other hurdles to accessing necessary services in their country of refuge;

Whereas, according to the Department of State’s 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Rohingya community in Bangladesh is especially vulnerable to human trafficking, and unregistered Rohingya who were trafficking victims may have been detained indefinitely in Bangladesh due to lack of documentation;

Whereas the Government of Bangladesh has banned marriage registrars from officiating marriages involving Rohingyas attempting to wed one another and those seeking unions with Bangladeshi nationals; and

Whereas, in Thailand, according to the United States Department of State’s 2014 Trafficking in Persons Report, corrupt civilian and military officials are alleged to have profited from the smuggling of Rohingya asylum seekers from Burma and Bangladesh and allegedly have been complicit in their sale into forced labor on commercial fishing vessels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State’s needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law;

(2) welcomes the Government of Burma’s announcement that Médecins Sans Frontières has been invited back to work in Rakhine State and encourages the Government of Burma to ensure that the organization is able to resume operations alongside other humanitarian organizations without

undue restrictions on their humanitarian operations;

(3) calls on the Government of Burma to end all forms of persecution and discrimination, including freedom of movement restrictions, of the Rohingya people and ensure respect for internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma;

(4) calls on the Government of Burma to respect the Rohingya's right to self-identification, redraft the Citizenship Law of 1982 so that it conforms to internationally recognized legal standards, and include both Rakhine and Rohingya leaders and community members in the redrafting process;

(5) calls on the Government of Burma to support an international and independent investigation into the violence that has occurred in Rakhine State since June 2012, implement the recommendations put forth, and prosecute the perpetrators of violence consistent with due process;

(6) calls on the Government of Burma to conform to international norms on the provision of unrestricted humanitarian access by international organizations to all in need, without discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, religious belief, or political opinion;

(7) calls on the regional governments to protect the rights of Rohingya asylum seekers and refugees, as well as respect the international legal principle of non-refoulement; and

(8) calls on the United States Government and the international community to call on the Government of Burma to take all necessary measures to end the persecution and discrimination of the Rohingya population and to protect the fundamental rights of all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF KOREAN-AMERICANS WHO WERE DIVIDED BY THE KOREAN WAR FROM THEIR RELATIVES IN NORTH KOREA

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 587

Whereas the division of the Korean Peninsula into the Republic of Korea (referred to in this Resolution as "South Korea") and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (referred to in this Resolution as "North Korea") separated more than 10,000,000 Koreans from their family members;

Whereas since the signing of the Korean War armistice agreement on July 27, 1953, there has been little to no contact between Korean Americans and their family members who remain in North Korea;

Whereas North and South Korea first agreed to divided family reunions in 1985 and have since held 19 face-to-face reunions and 7 video-link reunions;

Whereas the aforementioned reunions have subsequently given approximately 22,000 Koreans the opportunity to briefly reunite with their loved ones;

Whereas the most recent family reunions between North Korea and South Korea took place in February 2014 after a suspension of more than 3 years;

Whereas the United States and North Korea do not maintain diplomatic relations,

and certain limitations exist for Korean Americans to participate in inter-Korean family reunions;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 Americans are of Korean descent;

Whereas the number of first generation Korean and Korean American divided family members is rapidly diminishing given their advanced age;

Whereas many Korean Americans with family members in North Korea have not seen or communicated with their relatives in more than 60 years;

Whereas Korean Americans and North Koreans both continue to suffer from the tragedy of being divided from their loved ones;

Whereas the inclusion of Korean American families in the reunion process would constitute a positive humanitarian gesture by North Korea and contribute to the long-term goal of peace on the Korean Peninsula shared by the Governments of North Korea, of South Korea, and of the United States;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) requires the President to submit a report to Congress every 180 days on "efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea";

Whereas in the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (Public Law 111-242), Congress urged "the Special Representative on North Korea Policy, as the senior official handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the issues involving Korean divided families and, if necessary, to appoint a coordinator for such families";

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate:

(1) recognizes the significance of North Korea's past willingness to resume reunions of divided family members between North Korea and South Korea;

(2) acknowledges North Korea's release in November 2014 of incarcerated American citizens Kenneth Bae and Matthew Miller;

(3) encourages North Korea to permit reunions between Korean Americans and their relatives still living in North Korea;

(4) calls on the Department of State to further prioritize efforts to reunite Korean Americans with their divided family members;

(5) acknowledges the efforts of the American Red Cross to open channels of communication between Korean Americans and their family members who remain in North Korea;

(6) encourages the Government of South Korea to include United States citizens in future family reunions planned with North Korea; and

(7) praises humanitarian efforts to reunite all individuals of Korean descent with their relatives and engender a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—RECOGNIZING THAT ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR PATIENTS IN RURAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr.

WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. TESTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 588

Whereas access to quality health care services determines whether individuals in the United States can remain in the communities they call home and whether their children will return to those communities to raise families of their own;

Whereas more than 60,000,000 individuals in rural areas of the United States rely on rural hospitals and other providers as critical access points to health care;

Whereas rural areas of the United States need quality health care services to attract and retain business and industry;

Whereas, to ensure that communities in the United States survive and flourish, Congress must address the unique health care needs of individuals in rural areas of the United States;

Whereas individuals in rural areas of the United States are, per capita, older, poorer, and sicker than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, "rural areas have higher rates of poverty, chronic disease, and uninsurance, and millions of rural Americans have limited access to a primary care provider";

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, individuals in rural areas of the United States have higher rates of age-adjusted mortality, disability, and chronic disease than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas the 20 percent of the population of the United States that lives in rural areas is scattered over 90 percent of the landmass of the United States;

Whereas the geography and weather of rural areas of the United States can make accessing health care difficult, and cultural, social, and language barriers compound rural health challenges;

Whereas individuals in rural areas of the United States are more likely to be uninsured and less likely to receive coverage through an employer than individuals in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas access to health care continues to be a major challenge in rural areas of the United States, as—

(1) 77 percent of the 2,050 rural counties in the United States are designated as primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (commonly referred to as "HPSAs");

(2) rural areas of the United States have fewer than half as many primary care physicians per 100,000 people as urban areas of the United States; and

(3) more than 50 percent of patients in rural areas of the United States travel at least 20 miles to receive specialty medical care, compared to only 6 percent of patients in urban areas of the United States;

Whereas, because rural hospitals and other providers face unique challenges in administering care to patients, Congress has traditionally supported those providers by implementing—

(1) specific programs to address rural hospital closures that occurred in the 1980s by providing financial support to hospitals that are geographically isolated and in which Medicare patients make up a significant percentage of hospital inpatient days or discharges; and

(2) a program established in 1997 to support limited-service hospitals that, being located in rural areas of the United States that cannot support a full-service hospital, are critical access points to health care for rural patients;

Whereas hospitals in rural areas of the United States achieve high levels of performance, according to standards for quality, patient satisfaction, and operational efficiency, for the types of care most relevant to rural communities;

Whereas, in addition to the vital care that rural health care providers provide to patients, rural health care providers are critical to the local economies of their communities and are one of the largest types of employers in rural areas of the United States where, on average, 14 percent of total employment is attributed to the health sector;

Whereas a hospital in a rural area of the United States is typically one of the top 2 largest employers in that area;

Whereas 1 primary care physician in a rural community annually generates approximately \$1,500,000 in total revenue, and 1 general surgeon in a rural community annually generates approximately \$2,700,000 in total revenue;

Whereas the average Critical Access Hospital, a limited-service rural health care facility, creates 107 jobs and generates \$4,800,000 in annual payroll, and the wages, salaries, and benefits provided by a Critical Access Hospital can amount to 20 percent of the output of a rural community's economy;

Whereas hospitals in rural communities play a vital role in caring for the residents of those communities and preserving the special way of life that communities in the United States foster; and

Whereas the closure of a hospital in a rural community often results in severe economic decline in the community and the departure of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other health providers from the community, and forces patients to travel long distances for care or to delay receiving care, leading to decreased health outcomes, higher costs, and added burden to patients: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States;

(2) recognizes that preserving and strengthening access to quality health care in rural areas of the United States is crucial to the success and prosperity of the United States;

(3) recognizes that strengthening access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States makes Medicare more cost-effective and improves health outcomes for patients;

(4) recognizes that, in addition to the vital care that rural health care providers provide to patients, rural health care providers are integral to the local economies and are one of the largest types of employers in rural areas of the United States; and

(5) celebrates the many dedicated medical professionals across the United States who work hard each day to deliver quality care to the nearly 1 in 5 people in the United States living in rural areas, because the dedication and professionalism of those medical professionals preserves the special way of life and sense of community enjoyed and cherished by individuals in rural areas of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, FROM 1993 TO 2014

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 589

Whereas Thomas Menino was born on December 27, 1942, in Readville, in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston where he lived his entire life;

Whereas Thomas Menino was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an adoring grandfather;

Whereas Thomas Menino was elected to the Boston City Council in 1983 to represent District 5, including the Hyde Park neighborhood where he lived;

Whereas Thomas Menino served as City Council president and became acting mayor of Boston in July 1993;

Whereas Thomas Menino was elected as the 53rd Mayor of Boston in November 1993, the first Italian-American mayor of the city of Boston;

Whereas Mayor Menino subsequently was elected to 4 additional terms, serving an unprecedented 20 years as Mayor of Boston;

Whereas Mayor Menino took pride in being known as the “Urban Mechanic”, focusing on the nuts and bolts issues that kept the city moving forward, from fixing potholes to cleaning up public parks;

Whereas Mayor Menino oversaw a period of growth and urban renewal in Boston, and worked to make Boston a city of safe, livable neighborhoods;

Whereas Mayor Menino led the resurgence of neighborhoods in Boston, from the waterfront and the innovation district of the waterfront to Dudley Square in Roxbury, creating a city with unbounded innovative potential;

Whereas Mayor Menino committed himself to being the “Education Mayor”, using his political will and courage to improve education for all the children in the city;

Whereas Mayor Menino was a powerful advocate for research institutions in Boston, including the world-class hospitals and universities in the city;

Whereas Mayor Menino stood firmly for full equality for every person in every community in Boston, and focused on building an open, accepting, and inclusive city;

Whereas Mayor Menino was a constant presence at public events throughout Boston, greeting residents at countless ribbon cuttings, potluck dinners, and school plays;

Whereas more than half of city residents said they had personally met the Mayor and thousands said the Mayor had personally touched their lives;

Whereas Mayor Menino led Boston with resolve during times of both triumph and crisis, guiding the city following the terrorist attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon and demonstrating what it means to be “Boston Strong”; and

Whereas Mayor Menino was one of the great leaders in the almost 400-year history of Boston, who transformed the city into a modern-day City on a Hill that is a model for the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the lifetime of service by Mayor Menino to the City of Boston and residents of the city;

(2) affirms the lasting contributions by Mayor Menino to the City of Boston and to the United States; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Mayor Thomas Menino.

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 590

Whereas from November 1, 2014, through November 30, 2014, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimated in 2010 that there were more than 5,000,000 individuals in the United States of Native American descent;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources;

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans; and

(3) approving settlements of litigation involving Indian tribes and the United States;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that it has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and the influence of the Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2014 as National Native American Heritage Month;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. REID (for Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 591

Whereas November 16 through November 22, 2014, marks the 93rd annual observance of “American Education Week”;

Whereas public schools are the backbone of democracy in the United States, providing young people with the tools necessary to maintain the values of freedom, civility, and equality that are precious to the United States;

Whereas by equipping young people in the United States with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future;

Whereas people working in the field of public education, whether teachers, higher education faculty and staff, paraeducators, custodians, substitute educators, bus drivers, clerical workers, food service professionals, workers in skilled trades, health and student service workers, security guards, technical

employees, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities throughout the United States with care and professionalism; and

Whereas public schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults, children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Education Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe American Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all individuals who work together to educate children.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3950. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3951. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3952. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3953. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3954. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3955. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3956. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3957. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

SA 3958. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3950. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY ON SPECIALIZED DEGREE-GRANTING GRADUATE PROGRAMS.

(a) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force shall each submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation by such Secretary of the recommendations in the report of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences entitled “Review of Specialized Degree-Granting Graduate Programs of the Department of Defense in STEM and Management”.

(b) **MATTERS RELATING TO AIR FORCE REPORT.**—

(1) **CONSULTATION.**—In preparing the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Air Force shall consult with the AFIT Foundation.

(2) **CERTAIN ELEMENTS.**—The report of the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (a) addressing recommendation 3-2 in the report of the National Research Council described in that subsection, regarding the chain of command of the Air Force Institute of Technology, shall include the following:

(A) Options for alternative chains of command for the Air Force Institute of Technology, and an identification of the preferred alternative among such options.

(B) An assessment of the effect of the chain of command, as recommended in such recommendation 3-2, on the ability of the Air Force Institute of Technology to support Air Force space, cyberspace, intelligence, and global strike missions, and the nuclear enterprise.

(C) A description of milestones and time-tables for implementation of such recommendation 3-2.

(D) An assessment of the effects of implementation of such recommendation 3-2 on the military and civilian workforces of the Air Force.

(E) Such recommendations for legislative action with respect to implementation of such recommendation 3-2 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SA 3951. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. TEMPORARY AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING FACILITIES.

Section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 887; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS.—The director of any STRL may appoint qualified candidates enrolled in a program of undergraduate or graduate instruction leading to a bachelor's or advanced degree in a scientific, technical, engineering, or mathematical course of study at an institution of higher education (as that term is defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) to positions described in paragraph (3) of subsection (b) as an employee in a laboratory described in that paragraph without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title).”;

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) CANDIDATES ENROLLED IN SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS.—The positions described in this paragraph are scientific and engineering positions that may be temporary or term in any laboratory designated by section 1105(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 as a Department of Defense science and technology reinvention laboratory.”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) In the case of a laboratory described in subsection (b)(3), with respect to appointment authority under subsection (a)(3), the number equal to 3 percent of the total number of scientific and engineering positions in such laboratory that are filled as of the close of the fiscal year last ending before the start of such calendar year.”.

SA 3952. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON REINVESTMENT OF OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the analysis, plans, and recommendations of the Army on means by which the operational costs associated with the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center could be equitably applied for long-term sustainability of that facility. The report may include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to implement any plans and recommendations set forth in the report.

SA 3953. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1047. LIMITATION ON DEACTIVATION OR RELOCATION OF MOBILIZATION-DEMobilIZATION MISSION AT JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY.

The Secretary of the Army may not deactivate the mobilization-demobilization mission at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, or relocate such mission to another installation, until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a justification for the deactivation or relocation of such mission, including an assessment of any costs to be incurred, and cost-savings to be achieved, as a result of the deactivation or relocation of such mission.

SA 3954. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. —. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a program (referred to in this section as the “Program”) for the purposes set forth in paragraph (2).

(2) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the Program are as follows:

(A) To improve measurably the ability of the United States manufacturing sector and to support military requirements and missions.

(B) To help the United States meet national security needs by minimizing the risk of dependence on foreign sources for critical components.

(C) To stimulate United States leadership in advanced manufacturing research, innovation, and technology that has a strong potential to generate substantial benefits to the United States.

(D) To facilitate the transition of innovative and transformative technologies into scalable, cost-effective, and high-performing manufacturing capabilities.

(E) To facilitate access by manufacturing enterprises to capital-intensive infrastructure, including high-performance computing, in order to improve the speed with which such enterprises commercialize new processes and technologies.

(F) To facilitate the execution of—

(i) joint research and development projects between industry partners; and

(ii) cost-shared research projects between the public and private sector.

(G) To accelerate measurably the development of a skilled defense advanced manufacturing workforce.

(H) To facilitate peer exchange of and the documentation of best practices in addressing advanced manufacturing challenges.

(I) To leverage non-Federal sources of support to promote a stable and sustainable business model without the need for long-term Federal funding.

(3) SUPPORT.—If the Secretary establishes the Program, the Secretary shall carry out the purposes set forth in paragraph (2) by supporting the establishment of one or more institutes for manufacturing innovation.

(4) METRICS.—If the Secretary establishes the Program, the Secretary shall—

(A) develop metrics for each institute for manufacturing innovation supported under the Program to measure achievement of the purposes of the Program; and

(B) implement procedures for evaluation of such institutes based on such metrics.

(b) INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, an “institute for manufacturing innovation” is an institute that—

(A) has been established by a person or group of persons to address defense challenges in advanced manufacturing and to assist manufacturers in retaining or expanding industrial production of defense systems in the United States;

(B) has a predominant focus on research and development of manufacturing processes, novel materials, enabling technologies, supply chain integration practices, or such other aspects of advanced manufacturing as the Secretary considers relevant, with the potential—

(i) to ensure domestic sources for critical defense materiel;

(ii) to create or maintain a technical military advantage;

(iii) to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing, in support of enhancing the affordability of defense systems;

(iv) to accelerate non-Federal investment in advanced defense manufacturing production capacity in the United States;

(v) to increase measurably the non-Federal investment in advanced manufacturing research; and

(vi) to enable the commercial application of new technologies or industry-wide manufacturing processes so as to improve the affordability of defense systems; and

(C) includes active participation among representatives from multiple industrial entities, research universities, community colleges, and such other entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, which may include industry-led consortia, career and technical education schools, Federal laboratories, State, local, and tribal governments, businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations.

(2) ACTIVITIES.—Activities of an institute for manufacturing innovation may include the following:

(A) Research, development, and demonstration projects, including proof-of-concept development and prototyping, to reduce the cost, time, and risk of commercializing new technologies and improvements in existing technologies, processes, products, and research and development of materials to solve pre-competitive industrial problems with economic or national security implications.

(B) Development and implementation of education and training courses, materials, and programs.

(C) Development of workforce recruitment, training, retention, and exchange programs and initiatives.

(D) Development of innovative methodologies and practices for supply chain integration and introduction of new technologies into supply chains.

(E) Development or updating of industry-led, shared-vision technology roadmaps for

the development of technologies underpinning next-generation or transformational innovations, developed in coordination with government organizations.

(F) Outreach and engagement with small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises, in addition to large manufacturing enterprises.

(G) Coordinate with the Defense Production Act Committee on defense industrial base matters.

(H) Such other activities as the Secretary, in consultation with Federal departments and agencies whose missions contribute to or are affected by advanced manufacturing, considers consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) FUNDING FOR INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary of Defense may provide funding for planning, establishing, or supporting an institute for manufacturing innovation.

(2) SELECTION.—

(A) COMPETITIVE, MERIT REVIEW.—In awarding funding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use appropriate, competitive, merit review.

(B) COLLABORATION.—In awarding funding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall collaborate with Federal departments and agencies whose missions contribute to or are affected by advanced manufacturing.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding funding to plan, establish, or support an institute for manufacturing innovation, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

(i) The potential of the institute for manufacturing innovation to advance domestic defense manufacturing and the likelihood of military impact in the predominant focus areas of the institute for manufacturing innovation.

(ii) The commitment of continued financial support, advice, participation, and other contributions from non-Federal sources, to provide leverage and resources to promote a stable and sustainable business model without the need for long-term Federal funding.

(iii) Whether the financial support provided to the institute from non-Federal sources significantly outweighs the requested Federal funding.

(iv) How the institute will support core Department of Defense missions and address key technology priorities.

(v) How the institute will increase the non-Federal investment in advanced defense manufacturing research in the United States.

(vi) How the institute will engage with small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises, to improve the capacity of such enterprises to commercialize new processes and technologies.

(vii) How the institute will carry out educational and workforce activities that meet industrial needs related to the predominant focus areas of the institute for manufacturing innovation, including activities focused on veterans and military dependents.

(viii) How the institute will advance economic competitiveness both globally and domestically and generate substantial benefits to the United States that extend beyond the direct return to participants in the Program.

(ix) Whether the predominant focus of the institute is a manufacturing process, novel material, enabling technology, supply chain integration methodology, or other relevant aspect of advanced manufacturing that has not already been commercialized, marketed, distributed, or sold by another entity.

(x) How the institute will strengthen and leverage the assets of a region to support military requirements and missions.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No funding may be provided under the Program to an institute for manufacturing innovation after the five-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary first awards funding to an institute under the Program.

(B) MATCHING FUNDS AND WEIGHTED PREFERENCES.—The total Federal funding awarded to an institute for manufacturing innovation, including funding awarded under the Program, during a five-year period shall not exceed 50 percent of the total funding of the institute during that period.

(d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may appoint such personnel and enter into such contracts, funding agreements, and other agreements as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the Program, including support for research and development activities involving an institute for manufacturing innovation.

(2) ACCEPTANCE OR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept from or transfer to other Federal agencies, or State or local governments, such sums as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate to carry out the Program.

(3) USE OF RESOURCES.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Program, the Secretary may use, with the consent of a covered entity and with or without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of such covered entity.

(4) ACCEPTANCE OF RESOURCES.—In addition to amounts appropriated to carry out the Program, the Secretary may accept funds, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities from any covered entity to carry out the Program pursuant to section 2601 of title 10, United States Code.

(5) COVERED ENTITY.—For purposes of this subsection, a covered entity is any Federal department, Federal agency, instrumentality of the United States, State, local government, tribal government, Territory or possession of the United States, or of any political subdivision thereof, or international organization, or any public or private entity or individual.

SA 3955. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1703(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(a)), any medical isotope production facility used to produce molybdenum-99 (including nuclear reactors that use either high or low enriched uranium, nonreactor, accelerator-driven irradiation facilities, and associated radioisotope processing, waste management, and support facilities) shall be considered to be an advanced nuclear energy facility that is eligible for a guarantee under section 1703 of that Act.

(b) FUNDING.—The matter under the heading “TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM” in title III of division C of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 619) is amended by inserting “or medical isotope production facilities used to produce molybdenum-99” after “nuclear power facilities”.

SA 3956. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

TITLE XXXVI—VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE

SEC. 3601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Vessel Incidental Discharge Act”.

SEC. 3602. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning with enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in 1980 (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 21,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) Over the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted statutes on a number of occasions dealing with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) in 1980;

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 415 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3434) and section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residue;

(E) title XIV of division B of Appendix D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1902a), which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural cargo residue material in the form of hold washings; and

(G) title X of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), which provided for the implementation of the International Convention on the Control of

Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this title is to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 3603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.**—The term “aquatic nuisance species” means a non-indigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(3) **BALLAST WATER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “ballast water” means any water, including any sediment suspended in such water, taken aboard a vessel—

(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment technology of the vessel.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “ballast water” does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology under this title.

(4) **BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.**—The term “ballast water performance standard” means the numerical ballast water discharge standard set forth in section 151.2030 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations or section 151.1511 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (a)(1)(B), (b), or (c) of section 3605.

(5) **BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “ballast water treatment technology” or “treatment technology” means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, alone or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

(6) **BIOCIDE.**—The term “biocide” means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into or produced by a ballast water treatment technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this title.

(7) **DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” means—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I)(aa) ballast water, graywater, bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust,

sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel;

(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, weldeck effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, or repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the vessel is waterborne.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel” does not include—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

(II) oil or a hazardous substance as those terms are defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321);

(III) sewage as defined in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6)); or

(IV) graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6));

(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

(8) **GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.**—The term “geographically limited area” means an area—

(A) with a physical limitation, including limitation by physical size and limitation by authorized route, that prevents a vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(9) **MANUFACTURER.**—The term “manufacturer” means a person engaged in the manufacture, assembly, or importation of ballast water treatment technology.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) **VESSEL.**—The term “vessel” means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or practically or otherwise capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

SEC. 3604. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. The standards and requirements shall—

(1) be based upon the best available technology economically achievable; and

(2) supersede any permitting requirement or prohibition on discharges incidental to

the normal operation of a vessel under any other provision of law.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary shall administer and enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title. Each State may enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this title.

SEC. 3605. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements set forth in the final rule, Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (77 Fed. Reg. 17254 (March 23, 2012), as corrected at 77 Fed. Reg. 33969 (June 8, 2012)), shall be the management requirements for a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water performance standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) **ADOPTION OF MORE STRINGENT STATE STANDARD.**—If the Secretary makes a determination in favor of a State petition under section 3610, the Secretary shall adopt the more stringent ballast water performance standard specified in the statute or regulation that is the subject of that State petition in lieu of the ballast water performance standard in the final rule described under subparagraph (A).

(2) **INITIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) **REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD; 8-YEAR REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the feasibility review under paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water performance standard under subsection (a)(1) so that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 living organism per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension;

(B) less than 1 living organism per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension;

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxigenic *Vibrio cholera* (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples;

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of *Escherichia coli* per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of intestinal enterococci per 100 milliliters; and

(D) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes and of viruses as may be specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) **FEASIBILITY REVIEW.**—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1).

(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—In conducting a review under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water performance standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

(ii) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

(I) the capability of such treatment technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

(II) the effectiveness and reliability of such treatment technology in the shipboard environment;

(III) the compatibility of such treatment technology with the design and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(IV) the commercial availability of such treatment technology; and

(V) the safety of such treatment technology;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

(II) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) LOWER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water treatment technology can be certified under section 3606 to comply with the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the treatment technology that achieves the performance levels of the best treatment technology available.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall recommend action to ensure compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) HIGHER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that ballast water treatment tech-

nology exists that exceeds the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water performance standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher performance standard.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024.

(4) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water performance standard under this subsection.

(B) PROCESS FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(D) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(c) FUTURE REVISIONS OF VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further re-

vision of the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) REVISED STANDARDS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may include in a decennial review under this subsection best management practices for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more best management practices for such discharges after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising 1 or more of such practices would substantially reduce the impacts on navigable waters of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall consider the criteria under section 3605(b)(2)(B).

(4) REVISION AFTER DECENNIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water performance standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

SEC. 3606. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Beginning 60 days after the date that the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (i), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for a vessel unless the treatment technology has been certified under this section.

(b) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the treatment technology in achieving the current ballast water performance standard when installed on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel);

(B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations;

(C) the effect of the treatment technology on vessel safety;

(D) the impact on the environment;

(E) the cost effectiveness; and

(F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL.—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the treatment technology meets the criteria, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(3) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a process to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this section.

(c) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment

technology onboard a vessel as is necessary for—

- (A) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;
- (B) the protection of the environment; or
- (C) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

(2) **FAILURE TO COMPLY.**—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condition imposed under paragraph (1) shall be considered a violation of this section.

(d) **PERIOD FOR USE OF INSTALLED TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.**—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this title or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allow a vessel on which a system is installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard under this title to continue to use that system, notwithstanding any revision of a ballast water performance standard occurring after the system is ordered or installed until the expiration of the service life of the system, as determined by the Secretary, so long as the system—

(1) is maintained in proper working condition; and

(2) is maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and any treatment technology certification conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(e) **CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL FOR THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—

(1) **ISSUANCE.**—If the Secretary approves a ballast water treatment technology for certification under subsection (b), the Secretary shall issue a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology to the manufacturer in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) **CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.**—A certificate of type approval issued under paragraph (1) shall specify each condition imposed by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(3) **OWNERS AND OPERATORS.**—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology under this subsection shall provide a copy of the certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

(f) **INSPECTIONS.**—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under subsection (e)(3) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

(g) **BIOCIDES.**—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water treatment technology under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide, as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under that Act or the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator, has approved the use of the biocide in such treatment technology; or

(2) it uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

(h) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the use of a ballast water treatment technology by an owner or operator of a vessel shall not satisfy the requirements of this title unless it has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(A) **COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.**—An owner or operator

may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

(B) **BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.**—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) **TESTING PROTOCOLS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue requirements for land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

(1) certifying the performance of each ballast water treatment technology under this section; and

(2) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

SEC. 3607. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this title apply to—

(1) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is less than 79 feet in length and engaged in commercial service (as defined in section 2101(5) of title 46, United States Code);

(2) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a fishing vessel, including a fish processing vessel and a fish tender vessel, (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code);

(3) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a recreational vessel (as defined in section 2101(25) of title 46, United States Code);

(4) the placement, release, or discharge of equipment, devices, or other material from a vessel for the sole purpose of conducting research on the aquatic environment or its natural resources in accordance with generally recognized scientific methods, principles, or techniques;

(5) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or part 153 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or human life, or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shore-side facility; or

(7) a sovereign immune vessel of a foreign nation (including a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel) when engaged in non-commercial service.

(b) **BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standards under this title apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area;

(B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a

substantial risk of introduction or establishment of an aquatic nuisance species;

(C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code, or an equivalent restriction issued by the country of registration of the vessel; or

(D) continuously take on and discharge ballast water in a flow-through system that does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters;

(2) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel consisting entirely of water suitable for human consumption; or

(3) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel in an alternative compliance program established pursuant to section 3608.

(c) **VESSELS WITH PERMANENT BALLAST WATER.**—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standard under this title apply to, a vessel that carries all of its permanent ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge.

(d) **VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to apply to—

(1) a vessel owned or operated by the Department of Defense (other than a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel); or

(2) a vessel of the Coast Guard, as designated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

SEC. 3608. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may promulgate regulations establishing 1 or more compliance programs as an alternative to ballast water management regulations issued under section 3605 for a vessel that—

(1) has a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters;

(2) is less than 3 years from the end of the useful life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary; or

(3) discharges ballast water into a facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards promulgated by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

(b) **PROMULGATION OF FACILITY STANDARDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate standards for—

(1) the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility; and

(2) the disposal or treatment of the ballast water under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3609. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An interested person may file a petition for review of a final regulation promulgated under this title in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—A petition shall be filed not later than 120 days after the date that notice of the promulgation appears in the Federal Register.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a petition that is based solely on grounds that arise after the deadline to file a petition under subsection (b) has passed may be filed not later than 120 days after the date that the grounds first arise.

SEC. 3610. EFFECT ON STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No State or political subdivision thereof may adopt or enforce any statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State or political subdivision thereof may enforce a statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that specifies a ballast water performance standard that is more stringent than the ballast water performance standard under section 3605(a)(1)(A) and is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator and any other Federal department or agency the Secretary considers appropriate, makes a determination that—

(1) compliance with any performance standard specified in the statute or regulation can in fact be achieved and detected;

(2) the technology and systems necessary to comply with the statute or regulation are commercially available; and

(3) the statute or regulation is consistent with obligations under relevant international treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party.

(c) PETITION PROCESS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—The Governor of a State seeking to enforce a statute or regulation under subsection (b) shall submit a petition requesting the Secretary to review the statute or regulation.

(2) CONTENTS; DEADLINE.—A petition shall—

(A) be accompanied by the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based; and

(B) be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make a determination on a petition under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date that the petition is received.

SEC. 3611. APPLICATION WITH OTHER STATUTES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this title shall be the exclusive statutory authority for regulation by the Federal Government of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies. Except as provided under section 3605(a)(1)(A), any regulation in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act relating to any permitting requirement for or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this title applies shall be deemed to be a regulation issued pursuant to the authority of this title and shall remain in full force and effect unless or until superseded by new regulations issued hereunder.

SA 3957. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.”.

SA 3958. Mr. REID (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 669, to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act”.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) collecting information, such as sociodemographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;

(2) disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and

(3) collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, “Examining Takata Airbag Defects and the Vehicle Recall Process.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-

430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 1 p.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Why Are Some Generic Drugs Skyrocketing in Price?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, in room S-216 of the Capitol, immediately following the floor vote at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Wall Street Bank Involvement With Physical Commodities.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Amanda Clinton, a health care fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the calendar year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH DATA ENHANCEMENT AND AWARENESS ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 669, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Harkin substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the Harkin amendment to the title, which is also at the desk, be agreed to, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3958) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act”.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) collecting information, such as sociodemographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;

(2) disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and

(3) collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report

that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 669), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 3957) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.”.

PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTION ON SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC SERVICES IN CRITICAL ACCESS AND SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4067.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4067) to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4067) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL CHARTER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5441.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5441) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

STELA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5728.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5728) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will finally act to send legislation to the President's desk that will ensure that Vermonters and 1.5 million Americans across the country will continue to receive satellite television programming at the end of the year. The legislation reauthorizes the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act, STELA, which creates a distant signal statutory license to receive broadcast television signals via satellite. This legislation is the product of four committees in the Senate and House. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked with Senator GRASSLEY on the copyright aspects of this legislation to focus on preventing disruption to consumers. Because of our work together, the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported its portion of this bill on June 26 and all of these provisions are in the bill the Senate will pass today.

Sending this bill to the President shows the American people that Congress can come together in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to pass legislation. Vermonters who rely on the distant signal license for their broadcast programming can rest easy today knowing that their existing television stations will not disappear from their screens come December 31.

Over the years I have worked on the Judiciary Committee to ensure that all Vermonters have access to Vermont broadcast television stations. In previous reauthorizations, including STELA's most recent reauthorization in 2010, I have made it a priority to ensure that every Vermont satellite subscriber has the option to watch Vermont-focused programming. Local broadcast stations play an important

role in informing and fostering a sense of community. This is particularly true in a small State like mine. I am proud to have made sure that residents in every corner of Vermont will continue to have a choice to see Vermont news.

The Judiciary Committee portion of this legislation reauthorizes the distant signal license for another 5 years. It is narrowly crafted to ensure that consumers do not see any disruption in service, but also designed to make sure that content holders who are paid royalties under this license continue to receive an annual cost of living adjustment beginning from the rate that is currently in place. The distant signal license is important to consumers. I recognize, however, that compulsory licenses do not always reflect the true market value of the content that is being licensed. The mechanisms to modestly increase the rate when appropriate remain in place. Through the Senate Judiciary Committee process, I worked with Senator DURBIN, who offered a non-controversial amendment to expand the carriage of low power television stations on cable systems. I was happy to support this amendment because improving the reach of these stations so that more viewers can see them will help to expand the diversity of voices available on cable. That is as important in Burlington, VT as it is in Chicago.

I share the concerns of several Senators who wanted this legislation to do more to promote competition. It is unfortunate that the House of Representatives would not agree to the Senate's stronger language in this regard, but I was willing to compromise because the threat of letting the law expire was too great. The language in the bill we will pass today is better than what was in the original House bill. Overall, this legislation is a win for viewers in Vermont and across the country. I look forward to the President signing it into law.

Mr. ROCKFELLER. Mr. President, the bill being considered by the Senate today represents what can happen through hard work on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress. The STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 will make sure that 1.5 million Americans do not lose access to distant broadcast network signals at the end of the year. It also adopts a number of pro-consumer video policy reforms, many of which originated in the bill that Senator THUNE and I worked diligently to pass through the Senate Commerce Committee. I am proud of this legislation, and pleased that it has garnered the unanimous support of both the House and the Senate.

I know not everyone in this body agreed with all of the specific policy provisions in the bill before us. But such is the nature of legislative compromise. I was sympathetic with many of those policy concerns, but failing to

reauthorize STELA and disenfranchising millions of television viewers simply was not an option. I appreciate my colleagues' recognition of this important fact.

I want to thank Senator THUNE, as always, for his willingness to work with me in a strong bipartisan manner throughout this year-long reauthorization effort. I also want to thank Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY for their good work and contributions to this must-pass legislation. And I am grateful to Representatives UPTON, WAXMAN, WALDEN, and ESHOO for working with us in good faith to find consensus on an eminently reasonable compromise bill.

Of course, legislation of this magnitude does not come about without dedicated and savvy staff. So, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of Ellen Doneski, John Branscome, Shawn Bone, David Quinalty, and Hap Rigby, as well as House Energy and Commerce staff David Redl, Grace Koh, Ray Baum, Shawn Chang, Margaret McCarthy, and David Grossman. Their commitment to public service is commendable, and the American people ultimately will benefit from their work.

This legislation, and the debate around it, has started what I believe will be a lasting conversation about the future of the video marketplace. Today's action takes positive steps toward a more consumer-centric video policy in this country. More importantly, it also represents what can be accomplished when we all go about our business legislating in a practical and productive way.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5728) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 580.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 580) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and en-

couraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 580) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Monday, November 17, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) designating November 30, 2014 as "Drive Safer Sunday."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 583) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Wednesday, November 19, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL AREAS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 588, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 588) recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 588) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS M. MENINO

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 589.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 589) honoring the life of Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 589) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 590.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 590) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, each November, we reflect on the tremendous contributions Native Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I am honored to continue that tradition by introducing this resolution, along with 26 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, honoring National Native American Heritage Month.

Native Americans have contributed immeasurably to the character and culture of the United States. They played an instrumental role as code talkers in both World Wars by using their Native languages on the battlefield, and to this day, they continue to serve in the military at a higher rate

per capita than any other group in the country. In my home State of Montana, I am proud to represent more than 5,000 Native American veterans, as well as eight great tribal nations.

As we celebrate and commemorate the rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Native Americans nationwide, it is important to acknowledge the enduring challenges many tribal communities face in meeting the education, healthcare and general welfare needs of their people.

This month is an opportunity to recommit to strengthening the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the United States. It is also a reminder that the Federal government has treaty and trust obligations to the 566 Federally recognized tribes, and we must do more to ensure they have the tools they need to build stronger and healthier communities.

I look forward to continuing my work with Indian Country, and I hope my colleagues and the American people will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Native Americans, not just this month, but throughout the year.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November, we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to celebrate the heritage and culture of the great nations that originally inhabited this country. During this month, we should reflect on the numerous achievements made over the previous year. Each day, individuals and organizations across Indian Country continually tackle tough issues and strive to make significant impacts for their people and tribes. It is these efforts that show the strength and vitality of Indian Country.

This year, across the Nation, Native American movements have unified and rallied the Native voice on several important issues to Indian Country. Thousands of individuals have come together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to share their views on environmental protections, treaty rights and the use of a racial slur by a professional sports league. A grassroots movement in South Dakota also spurred voters living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to get out the vote and approve the change of their county name from Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County. These actions reflect a positive drive in the Native community; a drive that tribal, local, State and Federal Governments cannot simply ignore.

As sovereign nations, tribes have the ability to empower and govern their own people. Native American leaders in South Dakota and across the country have recognized that preserving their culture is vital to future growth and success. Native languages are being revitalized and tribal cultures are being infused into programs. With its treaty and trust responsibility, the Federal

Government must support this continued progress. I have always fully believed that the best ideas come from tribal governments and leaders, and not from Washington, DC. We must continue to work together to understand and implement successful approaches.

South Dakota is home to nine treaty tribes, each with its own distinct culture and heritage. Throughout my years of service, I have had the opportunity to work closely with many leaders from each reservation. I would like to personally honor each of the South Dakota tribes: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

With the commencement of the National Native American Heritage Month, I encourage everyone to join in commemorating the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the United States. Throughout the country, numerous tribes and organizations are coordinating educational events and celebrations. While the month of November is in tribute of traditions and accomplishments of tribal nations, it is important to contemplate the many more undertakings that must be addressed. We must all continue to work together to find positive solutions for Indian Country.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 590) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTING THE DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 129, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 119, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 119) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 119) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 119

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 1, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant

to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, November 20, through Monday, December 1, 2014, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 119 until 2 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m.—cloture

on the Mamet and Bell nominations on the Monday when we get back.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014, at 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 1, 2014, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ANN DONNELLY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA L. TOWNES, RETIRING.

ROSEANN A. KETCHMARK, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE GARY A. FENNER, RETIRING.

TRAVIS RANDALL MCDONOUGH, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE CURTIS L. COLLIER, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 20, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DONALD LU, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

TAMARA WENDA ASHFORD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

L. PAIGE MARVEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JON K. KELK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. NATHANIEL S. REDDICKS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. WITHAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LUIS G. MORENO, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANGELA R. HOLBROOK AND ENDING WITH MARTHA A. RODRIGUEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 4, 2014.

THE JUDICIARY

PAMELA PEPPER, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

BRENDA K. SANNES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE ALBERT KROL, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF

MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

JAMES D. PETTIT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

BRENT ROBERT HARTLEY, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RAMIN TOLOUI, OF IOWA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CARY DOUGLAS PUGH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT M. SPEER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LISA AFUA SERWAH MENSAH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE JUDICIARY

MADELINE COX ARLEO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

WENDY BEETLESTONE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

VICTOR ALLEN BOLDEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA LEORA SPRATLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LESLIE MEREDITH TSOU AND ENDING WITH LON C. FAIRCHILD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 20, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have welcomed the newly-elected Members of the House who will join the 114th Congress, honored a great world statesman in Vaclav Havel, and voted on the first of many difficult bills to be considered at the end of the 113th Congress.

We now approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NO AMNESTY OR BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer's crisis on the border was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants. Now, the President is planning to grant amnesty to every illegal in the country—almost—millions more. To make matters worse, these illegal immigrants may also become eligible for government benefits. That is just wrong.

What the President is doing is illegal. Hardworking American taxpayers didn't sign up to foot the bill for unlawful, illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the President is ignoring the American people, our Constitution, and our way of government. America is a country of laws, not men. My constituents are outraged at the President's imperial actions. American people want, need, and deserve a President who respects and follows the Constitution.

On behalf of my outraged constituents, I am fully committed to stopping this illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

WESTERN NEW YORK PUMMELED BY SNOW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, the western New York community has been pummeled by unrelenting lake-effect snow. Areas of the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs were blanketed in over 5 feet of snow, and it continues to fall.

Stranded in cars and trapped in homes, people are unable to access potentially necessary emergency services. Over 150 miles of the New York State Thruway closed, and thus far, the storm has claimed the lives of eight people.

Snowstorms are a routine part of western New York winters, but even with advance notice, storms of this capacity are nearly impossible to prepare for.

I applaud the leadership of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Mayor Byron Brown, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Their emergency management teams have been hard at work and will not rest until the snow has been cleared and everybody affected is safe.

However, it is not just those trained for emergencies that have turned out. Neighbors helping neighbors shovel and dig out are common sights around western New York. The city of Buffalo once again proved itself to be The City of Good Neighbors.

TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR ENSEMBLE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my alma mater, Tarpon Springs High School, and its outdoor ensemble for winning the 2014 Bands of America championship.

This is their sixth championship in 14 years, Mr. Speaker. They have won a total of 11 grand championships in Bands of America regionals in Georgia and Florida. The Tarpon Springs marching band has also been dubbed Grand Champions at the Seminole Sound Spectacular for the past 13 consecutive years.

The Sponger band, named for the early 20th century sponge divers who migrated from Greece to Tarpon Springs, Florida, are the single most dominant and accomplished marching band in Florida.

Congratulations to the students; the band leader, Kevin Ford; and the parents involved in this year's championship. "Go, Spongers!" Mr. Speaker, I am so proud.

ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Affordable Care Act. Over 8 million Americans have signed up for private health insurance plans for 2014, almost 20,000 in the district I represent.

Overall, the number of uninsured residents in our district has declined by 8 percent. 33,000 people in the district purchased quality, affordable care through the new health insurance marketplace. 11,000 young adults were able to continue coverage through their parents' plans. For 84 percent of those enrolled in the health insurance marketplace, the cost of the average plan was reduced to \$72 a month.

Unfortunately, 52,000 individuals who would otherwise have health insurance remain uninsured in our district because Texas did not expand Medicaid.

The open enrollment period for 2015 through the marketplace began Saturday, November 15. I encourage all Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to access quality, affordable coverage and enroll.

Please, for your family and for our community, we need more people insured so they have that certainty.

JONATHAN GRUBER GRANT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Jonathan Gruber, "smart" MIT professor, ObamaCare architect, who has had to apologize for repeatedly calling the American voters stupid, has received millions of taxpayer dollars from Federal and State governments.

He now has an NIH—National Institutes of Health—grant that adds up to \$2 million. This grant is for an analysis to determine how people choose their Medicare part D prescription drug plan. That might be something good for CMS and HHS to know, but it is far from the real kind of medical research we expect NIH to be doing.

Just a few weeks ago, the Director was saying they lacked enough money to fund Ebola vaccines. That was before it became widely known that they were funding a grant for Swedish massage for rabbits and other outrageous grants.

We expect NIH to fund groundbreaking medical research to prolong life, develop medicines, to cure and treat diseases, not economic research by a man who is now infamous for insulting the American public.

Dr. ANDY HARRIS and I wrote the Director with questions about this grant. I hope we hear soon before another check goes out the door.

AURORA STAFF WENT ABOVE CALL OF DUTY DURING EMERGENCY OUTAGE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the air traffic controllers and FAA safety and technical employees who went above and beyond the call of duty surrounding the recent emergency situation in Aurora, Illinois.

Following unprecedented circumstances, the Chicago center staff kept the surrounding air space operational, safe, and efficient during the 17-day outage. On several different days during the outage, Chicago O'Hare, which serves my constituents in the 14th District, was the Nation's busiest airport.

Controllers from two dozen facilities around the Midwest and also the FAA Command Center worked together to keep the flying public safe and the system operating at close to capacity.

The air traffic controllers, technical operations personnel, and management at Chicago center and in all facilities throughout the Midwest and the National Airspace System have proven why the United States has the safest, busiest, and most efficient system in the world.

The public should be proud of the teamwork and professionalism that they demonstrated as they met a difficult challenge and kept America safe.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to illegal immigration, President Obama has long said that he has no legal authority to extend executive amnesty. Now, I don't say this very often, but you know what? I agree with him.

His job as President is to enforce the laws that Congress has passed, but now, President Obama seems to have forgotten that he is not a king. President Obama's plan to extend executive amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is an unacceptable abuse of power that goes against the will of the American people. As the President said himself, "That's not how our democracy works. That's not how our Constitution is written."

President Obama should abandon this planned executive overreach and work with Congress to secure our borders and strengthen enforcement of the existing immigration laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

STANDING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ON EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first year or the second year or the third year of the administration. In actuality, we are going towards the end of the term of this administration.

From my perspective as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security Committee and the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security on the Committee on the Judiciary, every single year, this administration has extended its hand of collaboration to this Congress to intervene in the desperate lives of those who have been stolen from their children, deported, or families that have been disunited, if you will, wanting to be reunited.

I stand with the President tonight as he gives his message to America that we are a humanitarian country and that "under my constitutional authority, as can be documented by scholars across this Nation, I have the authority to be merciful to give humanitarian relief," citing the U.S. v. Arizona case in 2012, when Justice Roberts said that the President has the authority for humanitarian relief.

Every difficult decision, unfortunately, in this Nation, from freeing the slaves to making the armies or the militaries integrated, took courage from Presidents. Lyndon Baines Johnson had courage when he signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Mr. President, you are doing the right thing. I stand with you on exercising your executive authority. We need mercy for these people who are desperate.

PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4795, Promoting New Manufacturing Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4795.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, President Obama has made it very clear that if the U.S. Congress does not pass legislation that he has said that is a priority for his administration, that he intends to accomplish his goals by the use of executive orders and through regulations. Today, with H.R. 4795, we are here to address a specific problem caused by regulations coming out of EPA relating to the Clean Air Act.

We know that announcements have been made for manufacturing expansions in the United States amounting to about \$135 billion. But we also know that EPA has gone into a pattern of when they issue new regulations, it takes them sometimes years to come up with guidances so that State EPAs and manufacturing applicants for clean air permits will know what is required to meet the new regulations. Because of the lack of clarity and the time of meeting timely guidances, it creates great confusion and uncertainty for the States and for the specific manufacturing facilities trying to meet these requirements.

To give you an example, the last ozone rule that was adopted by the EPA in 2008, the guidance for people trying to meet those requirements of that regulation still have not been issued. So we find ourselves in a situation where these new regulations are creating great obstacles to economic growth in the United States, and I think all of us recognize that economic growth has been quite stagnant for some time.

We have had many hearings on this issue, and we hear from people on a regular basis that one of the reasons that they can't get new plants built is because of the uncertainty, the lack of clarity, the lack of guidance from the EPA when they come out with new regulations.

Anyone that follows EPA is quite aware that they are particularly aggressive in new regulations. They have

come out with new regulations on the Clean Air Act on a regular basis for the last 4 years. And so once again we find ourselves with lack of clarity, lack of guidance from EPA.

This legislation, which was introduced by Mr. SCALISE, simply says to EPA, if you come out with a new regulation, simultaneously you must provide the guidance for the States and the individual applicants who will be required to obtain permits to build their manufacturing facility. So that is what this bill is all about.

I think it is a commonsense piece of legislation, and obviously all of us want to create new jobs. We have companies out there today with a lot of cash who want to produce these, build these new plants, but because of bureaucratic difficulties, lack of clarity, and lack of guidance on a timely basis from the EPA, it makes it extremely difficult to do.

So that is why we are here today to discuss this legislation. I think it is very important that we adopt this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This has been a fascinating week in terms of the environment. We started it with the President orchestrating one of the truly groundbreaking breakthroughs in carbon emissions and getting the Chinese, for the first time, to agree to limit their carbon emissions, setting new standards for the United States.

Then this week, in the Congress, we basically have three bills that are the equivalent of saying, through statute, to polluters, "Smoke 'em if you got 'em." I mean, three bills that represent one of the worst trifectas I have ever seen, and I come from horse racing country.

Yesterday we voted on a bill that, in the title, suggests that we are somehow improving the science behind the environment, and basically what it did was limit the ability of EPA to have scientists as part of the decision-making process. Today we are discussing the so-called Promoting New Manufacturing Act, and, as we heard from my good friend from Kentucky, the goal of the legislation is to facilitate a manufacturing renaissance in the United States by expediting air permits for new facilities.

But the premise of the bill is very flawed: new manufacturing facilities aren't being held back by clean air requirements; weakening the Clean Air Act won't create jobs; and the specific provisions of this bill will slow down permitting, not speed it up. In truth, this bill is yet another Republican attempt to weaken the Clean Air Act protections and attack EPA's authority to reduce harmful air pollution.

The Clean Air Act requires major new or expanding sources of air pollution to obtain permits with pollution limits before the facilities start construction. It is a lot easier and less costly to minimize air pollution when you are designing and building a facility compared to cleaning up existing facilities.

These pre-construction permits are based on a simple principle: a new facility should not increase local air pollution above levels that are safe to breathe. The bill before us violates this principle by creating a permitting loophole, allowing new facilities to obtain permits under old, less protective air quality standards unless EPA promulgates new regulations or guidelines.

This provision is bad for existing manufacturing in the United States. The permitting loophole would actually impose new costs on the manufacturing sector rather than help it. The bill allows new facilities to pollute more than their fair share, leaving the existing manufacturers to make up the difference.

In areas struggling to clean up their air, like in my district in Louisville, Kentucky, this effectively shifts the responsibility and cost of pollution control to existing manufacturing facilities. This provision does not make economic sense. Furthermore, in all of the limited testimony pursuant to considering this bill, there was not one company identified that actually said they would build a manufacturing facility if they could do it under older guidelines.

I am kind of amused that the Republicans now want the EPA to issue nationwide guidelines, when their ideology says States are better prepared to deal with issues at their own level; and, in fact, States, under the existing law, have done a very, very good job of creating guidelines and strategies for meeting problems with pollution in their jurisdiction.

So, for a wide variety of reasons, this bill doesn't accomplish what its title suggests, and we urge its defeat.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I might say that during the time we had the hearing on this legislation, we had several State representatives from the State EPA come in and testify, and they all were talking about the absence of timely implementation guidance from EPA produces a lack of clarity.

Both the Colorado, Arkansas, even the National Association of Clean Air Agencies wrote a letter to EPA on September 4, 2013, complaining about this.

Now, I would remind everyone, this bill does not do anything about the science, trying to diminish the importance of science and coming forth with new regulations. All it does is says

that if EPA comes out with a new regulation under the Clean Air Act, they must provide the guidance to the States and to the entities who want to build new plants.

I might also say that the American Chemistry Council, particularly, raised this issue with us—and through their membership—of companies trying to build new manufacturing plants and meeting great difficulty because of the lack of clarity.

I might also say, all of us are very much concerned about climate change, but I don't think America has to take a backseat to any other country in the world. Our CO₂ emissions are the lowest that they have been in 20 years.

I might also say, we find ourselves today, because of regulations from this administration, being one of the only countries in the world where you cannot build a new coal-fired plant to produce electricity because the technology is not available to meet the stringent emissions standard unless you are going to spend huge sums of government money, as they are in the Kemper plant in Mississippi.

By the way, the standard was set for that regulation, the emission standard, based on the Kemper plant, which is still not in operation. It is about 2 years overdue, is way over cost, and all the entities involved in it said that kind of plant would never be built again without huge government dollars involved.

We would like to get back to a situation in America where, on energy projects, we use private money. I notice that Google recently was involved in the Ivanpah Solar facility out west, one of the largest in the world. They used a lot of government loans to build that plant, and now Google and other companies are coming back to the government and applying for grants to help pay off the loans.

So this is a commonsense piece of legislation. It does not change the science; it simply provides additional clarity.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague from Kentucky for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4795. It was my hope to resolve the issues of this bill during the committee. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, could be a solution to a longstanding problem. The problem relates to Federal permitting, in this case, New Source Review permits.

While the majority of permitting takes place at the State level, the EPA plays a critical role in the permitting process. When EPA promulgates a final

National Ambient Air Quality Standard, called NAAQS, States and industry must respond through implementation and application, respectively.

EPA should work as quickly as possible to offer States guidance on how to implement these new standards. Lack of guidance can lead to significant permitting delays as industry is forced to submit incomplete New Source Review applications.

While I will support the intent of the bill, I can't support the bill itself. H.R. 4795 is ultimately a lengthy delay in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards implementation; and then a NAAQS standard cannot be implemented, and this bill does not reflect current negotiations over that NAAQS implementation.

Until this point, the administration and the EPA have indicated a willingness to work on this issue. Further, EPA has not proposed these new National Ambient Air Quality Standards, so I see this bill as a solution to a problem that doesn't yet exist.

I want EPA to be transparent and work with the industry, and H.R. 4795 does not support a collaborative working relationship.

Additionally, the New Source Review permitting and the construction of new facilities are important to the economy, but we must also have a balance between economic growth and the protection of public health. The bill, unfortunately, does not strike that balance effectively, and, for that reason, I am unable to vote in favor of it.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the time offered by the gentleman from Kentucky.

If experience has taught us anything over the past two decades, it is that the Clean Air Act has been a success. New businesses have started, the economy has grown, and the air is cleaner and, beyond that, healthier for all of us.

□ 0930

The adjustments to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards Act are about a large body of research on the impacts of air pollutants on human health and the environment. H.R. 4795 assumes we cannot continue that record of success. The predictions of dire consequences to our economy before and after Congress adopted the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act have never materialized. We have, however, grown our economy and have achieved cleaner, healthier air for everyone. So, contrary to its title, this bill does nothing to promote manufacturing. It is simply another of many

attempts to undermine the Clean Air Act.

Instead of bringing this partisan bill to the floor—yet another bill that has no chance of becoming law—we could be working together on legislation that would reinvigorate our domestic manufacturing sector. We could pass pending tax legislation or, better yet, tax reform, which would provide the certainty, provide the fairness, and provide the clarity that everyone needs and deserves. If it were enacted, this bill before us would be more likely to cause confusion and legal challenges than to generate new manufacturing jobs.

States develop comprehensive implementation plans that take account of all possible pollution sources and balance the needs of all stakeholders in the effort to achieve cleaner air. H.R. 4795 would allow a new facility to operate under less strict air quality standards than existing facilities if the EPA has not issued all final regulations and guidance required for any type of facility that would be covered by a newly established standard.

If the Agency would call a standard into question by issuing guidance at a time after a regulation is finalized, why would the Agency ever do that? Guidance is useful for the regulated community. As new or unique situations arise, the Agency can work with applicants to find the most appropriate and most cost-effective means for moving a project forward under the law.

It seems to me that we want to simplify the regulatory process, not complicate it, and to encourage communication and flexibility, not stifle them. We should ensure that regulations are implemented fairly and consistently, and we should facilitate communication and encourage the Agency to work with regulated entities.

H.R. 4795 is going to result in greater confusion, more legal challenges, and a less flexible regulatory process. H.R. 4795 will not provide more jobs, and it will not deliver clean air. I reject the notion that clean air and economic progress are incompatible. They simply are not. H.R. 4795 is a bad bill, and I urge its defeat.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, it is now my great honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), one of the truly great champions of the environment who has ever served in this body.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank my colleague for those generous comments, and I am pleased to be here today to express why this bill should not pass.

Mr. Chairman, the bill is called the Promoting New Manufacturing Act. We would all want to do that—what a nice title—but the bill does not live up to the title.

The bill does not do anything to promote manufacturing, and it does not do anything to improve the permitting process for new and expanding facilities, but it does weaken air quality protections. It allows more pollution, and it threatens public health. Now, let me explain why I reached that conclusion.

The Clean Air Act requires a new or an expanding source of air pollution to obtain permits with pollution limits before the facility starts construction. These pre-construction permits ensure that a new or an expanded facility will not increase local air pollution to levels that violate National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are based on public health.

When the EPA issues a new, more protective air quality standard to reflect the latest science, permit applicants have to meet the new standard and show their emissions will not increase the amount of pollution that will then end up harming public health. This bill, H.R. 4795, creates a loophole in this process.

The bill says that, if it is a new or an expanding facility, they can apply for a permit based on the old air quality standard, which is not adequate to protect the public health, unless, they say, the EPA has been able to jump over a new procedural hurdle that they set with this legislation requiring new regulations on permitting. In effect, this bill could give new sources of pollution amnesty from new air quality standards. This amnesty provision could have serious, real-world consequences. The amnesty provision would force the States and the EPA to issue permits for facilities that pollute more than they would under current law. In fact, this bill would allow new facilities to degrade air quality to levels that are not safe to breathe.

This loophole is also bad for business because, if you are not getting the reductions from new sources, you are going to have to get those reductions from existing sources. It is shifting the burden from the new sources onto existing facilities. It raises pollution control costs overall because the whole doctrine under the Clean Air Act, which has long been recognized, is that it is generally far more efficient and cost-effective to build pollution controls into a facility upfront rather than adding them later, but this bill does the opposite.

When we had our hearing, Representative DINGELL asked the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources from the State of Delaware whether creating this loophole in the Clean Air Act would do anything to expedite permitting at his agency. He responded with a categorical "no."

The California Air Resources Board argues this bill would actually slow the permitting process.

It wrote:

Waiting for the U.S. EPA to develop guidance will result in unnecessary delays and public health risks because permitting agencies appear to be barred from issuing permits consistent with the new, more health-protective air quality standards until the U.S. EPA provides guidance.

If we really want to expedite the permitting process, we should give the EPA and the State and local agencies more resources. This bill does not add a single penny more to the EPA or to State and local permitting agencies to hire more staff to review and process these permits. That is what the agencies need.

States don't need more loopholes. They don't need more lectures about so-called "red tape." They need more money and more people, but instead of providing these resources, House Republicans have voted repeatedly to slash funding for environmental protection. Punching holes in the Clean Air Act won't help these cash-strapped agencies work any faster, but it will make the air dirtier. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) has 23 minutes remaining, and the other gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), who has been a real leader on this issue.

Mr. STUTZMAN. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his work on this particular issue that is really important to the Third District in Indiana.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Promoting New Manufacturing Act.

For too long, the Obama economy has remained weak, and the American worker has suffered the consequences. Too many people are struggling to find work and to provide for their families. They want to know when things are finally going to pick up.

We in Congress have a responsibility to help create an economic environment that allows individuals to succeed and businesses to grow, and we can achieve that kind of success by cutting back on job-killing regulations, by removing bureaucratic red tape, and by increasing transparency. That is what this bill today is all about.

As a Representative from Indiana, I understand that a strong manufacturing industry is absolutely critical to our national and local economies. The Third Congressional District, the place that I call home, is one of the top manufacturing districts in the entire country. This bill will not only bring new opportunities to Hoosier families but to families all across America.

Strengthening our manufacturing industry should not be a partisan issue, and, today, we have an opportunity to stand together and support legislation that will help create jobs and move our economy in the right direction.

I would like to thank Whip SCALISE, Chairman UPTON, and the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their hard work on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to support this particular legislation.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I would say that some of the top issues that I hear from folks as I travel across the district back home in northeast Indiana are those of regulations and the effect of Washington, D.C., bureaucracy and red tape. The impact that it is having on jobs in Indiana and across the country is hurting, and they need relief.

Again, I would definitely urge my colleagues to support this particular legislation. Let's start taking the boot off of the American economy, and let's let it and its families succeed.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I close my side of the argument, I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank my colleague Mr. WAXMAN for his incredible service to this body and to the country over the last several decades.

One of the first things I did when I was elected to Congress in 2006 was to call Mr. WAXMAN to ask if I could serve under his leadership on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee because I respected him so much. He has been a phenomenal mentor to me, as he has been to hundreds of other Members of Congress over the years, and I think the country owes him a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say, in the spirit of his championing of the environment, what we have seen again this week, not just with this bill but with the two other bills in the last 2 days, is kind of a "wolf in sheep's clothing" approach to the environment—dressing legislation up with very, very nice-sounding titles that essentially do exactly the opposite of what they are intending to do.

This bill, far from promoting manufacturing, will make it much more difficult for the EPA to set rules, and in the process, it will not accomplish anything in encouraging manufacturing. I don't know of one businessperson who would say, "I am going to build a plant that I, otherwise, would not build because I get to build it under old pollution rules." Most businesspeople are very forward looking. They look for opportunities not to exploit the environment. They look for opportunities to make money because they have a vision. Virtually every good businessperson I know these days understands that building facilities that have the latest

technologies and the cleanest technologies is the way to make money and to make sound business decisions.

For all of those reasons, as Mr. WAXMAN laid out in very clear terms, this bill does not promote manufacturing. It will do, actually, the opposite, so we urge the defeat of the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I might say that I certainly agree that the owners of these manufacturing plants do not want to build new plants while using old rules. They want to use the best technology, but they want clear guidance from the EPA about what it should be because, when they don't have that, they find themselves involved with lawsuits with all sorts of environmental groups on a regular basis.

I might also say that there are many reports out there relating to manufacturing—I am just going to read from a few—that state that one of the key factors for investor confidence is a timely and efficient permitting process that is matched to current technologies.

Ken Weiss, global managing partner for Environmental Resources Management, which has extensive experience in the permitting process, testified:

We routinely advise clients that obtaining a PSD permit can take anywhere from 1 to 3 years and that a minimum of 12 to 18 months need to be allowed in the project schedule.

□ 0945

The President, himself, acknowledged in his latest State of the Union speech this year that projects were being delayed and that there is a need to “cut red tape” to get factories built. And that is what this legislation is about. We are not telling EPA what the regulations should be. We are not telling EPA to disregard science. We are simply telling EPA, with all of their expertise, that when they issue the new regulation, that they provide clear guidance for the States and the companies and the individuals and the entities that want to build these new plants with new technology. That is what this legislation is all about.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chair, America is on the verge of becoming an energy superpower. Not only do we possess more energy than any other country, but we are capable of using that energy to accomplish great things.

Perhaps most important of all to manufacturing states like Michigan, we can use our energy advantage to reverse the gradual decline in American manufacturing that has been going on for decades and create a real resurgence in the years ahead. The Promoting New Manufacturing Act will help us achieve that goal and continues our efforts to build the Architecture of Abundance.

The U.S. has all the ingredients to strengthen our domestic manufacturing dominance.

We have the affordable energy supply to run our factories, especially our growing abundance of natural gas. We have private investors willing to invest billions of dollars on new projects in America. We have a workforce that is second to none but many of whom need jobs. And we have the technical knowledge to build manufacturing facilities that are the cleanest and most efficient in the world. All we need is a regulatory process that will allow it to happen.

We all know about Keystone XL, which despite our best efforts, is still caught up in red tape. I wish I could say that bureaucratic nightmare is an isolated incident, but sadly, it isn't. Potential future manufacturing facilities face a similar regulatory maze that can delay projects for years on end or stop them outright.

We want to be a world leader in manufacturing, not in red tape. I am glad the President identified the potential of new American manufacturing in his State of the Union address, and acknowledged that there is red tape that needs to be cleared away. Passage of H.R. 4795 will help make this goal a reality.

The Promoting New Manufacturing Act is a good starting point. We know changes to National Ambient Air Quality Standards are on the horizon, which will ultimately have an impact on how much of this manufacturing renaissance we can actually get permitted into existence. This bill takes some very sensible steps toward a more transparent and timely process for air permits under EPA's New Source Review program. It increases transparency by making more information publicly available on these permit applications, and gives the states and permit applicants the critical information they need to ensure that when it comes to air quality standards, future implementation rules and guidance documents are developed, proposed, and finalized in a timely manner.

I hope that we can all agree that the current regulatory process leaves room for improvement. I urge my colleagues to support our pending manufacturing renaissance and to support this constructive legislation.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4795

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting New Manufacturing Act”.

SEC. 2. BUILDING AND MANUFACTURING PROJECTS DASHBOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, with respect to fiscal year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, publish in a readily accessible location on the Environmental Protection Agency's public Website the Agency's estimate of the following:

- (1) The total number of preconstruction permits issued during the fiscal year.
- (2) The percentage of such preconstruction permits issued within one year after the date of filing of a completed application.
- (3) The average length of time for the Agency's Environmental Appeals Board to

issue a final decision on petitions appealing decisions to grant or deny a preconstruction permit application.

(b) INITIAL PUBLICATION; UPDATES.—The Administrator shall—

(1) make the publication required by subsection (a) for fiscal years 2008 through 2013 not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) update such publication not less than annually.

(c) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section:

(1) With respect to information to be published for fiscal years 2008 through 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency's estimates shall be based on information that is in the Agency's possession as of the date of enactment of this Act, including information in the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

(2) With respect to information to be published for any fiscal year, nothing in the section compels the Environmental Protection Agency to seek or collect any information in addition to the information that is voluntarily provided by States and local air agencies for the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

SEC. 3. TIMELY ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE TO ADDRESS NEW OR REVISED NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS IN PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In publishing any final rule establishing or revising a national ambient air quality standard, the Administrator shall, as the Administrator determines necessary and appropriate to assist States, permitting authorities, and permit applicants, concurrently publish regulations and guidance for implementing the standard, including information relating to submission and consideration of a preconstruction permit application under the new or revised standard.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF STANDARD TO PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITTING.—If the Administrator fails to publish final regulations and guidance that include information relating to submission and consideration of a preconstruction permit application under a new or revised national ambient air quality standard concurrently with such standard, then such standard shall not apply to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application until the Agency has published such final regulations and guidance.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) After publishing regulations and guidance for implementing national ambient air quality standards under subsection (a), nothing in this section shall preclude the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing subsequent regulations or guidance to assist States and facilities in implementing such standards.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate the obligation of a preconstruction permit applicant to install best available control technology and lowest achievable emissions rate technology, as applicable.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE REVIEW OF PRECONSTRUCTION PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report—

- (1) identifying the activities being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency to increase the efficiency of the preconstruction permitting process;
- (2) identifying the specific reasons for delays in issuing—

(A) preconstruction permits required under part C of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7470 et seq.) beyond the one-year statutory deadline mandated by section 165(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7475(c)); or

(B) preconstruction permits required under part D of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) beyond the one-year period beginning on the date on which the permit application is determined to be complete;

(3) describing how the Agency is resolving delays in making completeness determinations for preconstruction permit applications;

(4) describing how the Agency is resolving processing delays for preconstruction permits, including any increases in communication with State and local permitting authorities; and

(5) summarizing and responding to public comments concerning the report received under subsection (b).

(b) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—Before submitting each report required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall publish a draft report on the Website of the Environmental Protection Agency and provide the public with a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on the draft report.

(c) **SOURCES OF INFORMATION.**—Nothing in this section compels the Environmental Protection Agency to seek or collect any information in addition to the information that is voluntarily provided by States and local air agencies for the RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “best available control technology” has the meaning given to that term in section 169(3) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7479(3)).

(3) **LOWEST ACHIEVABLE EMISSIONS RATE.**—The term “lowest achievable emissions rate” has the meaning given to that term in section 171(3) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7501(3)).

(4) **MAJOR EMITTING FACILITY; MAJOR STATIONARY SOURCE.**—The terms “major emitting facility” and “major stationary source” have the meaning given to those terms in section 302(j) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7602(j)).

(5) **NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD.**—The term “national ambient air quality standard” means a national ambient air quality standard for an air pollutant under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409) that is finalized on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) **PRECONSTRUCTION PERMIT.**—The term “preconstruction permit”—

(A) means a permit that is required under part C or D of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7470 et seq.) for the construction or modification of a major emitting facility or major stationary source; and

(B) includes any such permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency or a State, local, or tribal permitting authority.

(7) **RACT/BACT/LAER CLEARINGHOUSE DATABASE.**—The term “RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse database” means the central database of air pollution technology information that is posted on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Website.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part C of House Report 113–626. Each such amendment may be of-

fered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 113–626.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of my colleague from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 3(b), strike “If the Administrator fails” and insert

(1) **STANDARD NOT APPLICABLE.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if the Administrator fails

At the end of section 3(b), add the following:

(2) **STANDARD APPLICABLE.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application by a Federal, State, local, or tribal permitting authority if such authority determines that application of such paragraph is likely to—

(A) increase air pollution that harms human health and the environment;

(B) slow issuance of final preconstruction permits;

(C) increase regulatory uncertainty;

(D) foster additional litigation;

(E) shift the burden of pollution control from new sources to existing sources of pollution, including small businesses; or

(F) increase the overall cost of achieving the new or revised national ambient air quality standard in the applicable area.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, subsection 3(b) creates a loophole in the Clean Air Act that allows new facilities to meet old air quality standards. This means more pollution will enter the air, and it will be harder to clean up. When one facility is allowed to pollute more, other facilities in the area will have to invest more to reduce their emissions. That is not fair. That is not good for the economy. This loophole harms public health, burdens existing facilities, and creates regulatory uncertainty.

If one is unwilling to remove the loophole from the bill entirely, then we should at the very least give State and local permitting authorities the opportunity to opt out, and that is what this amendment does.

We know States have concerns about this provision. We heard strong concerns from the State of Delaware at the hearing on this bill. In my own

State of California, the California Air Resources Board wrote to the committee last week to express their serious concerns about this legislation, and this provision in particular. CARB wrote that “the provisions proposed in this bill would not increase efficiency, would result in additional delays in permitting, and would pose increased public health risks.”

They, in other words, made two key points. First of all, CARB explained that States don’t need EPA guidance to issue permits under a new air quality standard. They said, “For decades, permitting authorities have successfully implemented their programs in response to every new standard U.S. EPA has promulgated. In fact, permitting agencies have historically been the advisers to U.S. EPA on the guidance that it ultimately issues.” They point out that the bill effectively requires EPA to issue “‘one size fits all’ permit guidance that could not realistically take into account the uniqueness of every jurisdiction.”

CARB also explained that in regions with severe air quality issues, barring the States from issuing permits consistent with new, more health-protective air quality standards will “result in unnecessary delays and public health risks.” CARB highlighted that “this is particularly an issue for vulnerable and already overburdened populations, such as in disadvantaged communities.”

All of California’s San Joaquin Valley is in extreme non-attainment for air quality standards. This bill threatens the flexibility needed by the regional air pollution control district, the flexibility that has led to 2013 being the cleanest year on record in this region. This bill would take a step backward in that progress.

Let’s not make State air pollution regulators’ jobs harder by constraining their flexibility and imposing counterproductive requirements. At least let’s give them a choice.

The amendment simply says, if a Federal, State, local, or tribal agency determines that adopting this loophole will increase air pollution that harms human health, slow issuance of permits, increase regulatory uncertainty, create new regulation, shift the burden of pollution control to small businesses and other existing facilities, or increase the cost of achieving breathable air, then that agency may opt out. The agency does not have to issue a permit that exempts a new facility from meeting protective air quality standards.

If you don’t think the bill’s Clean Air Act loophole will cause these problems, then States wouldn’t opt out, and you shouldn’t object to this amendment. But just in case the States we have heard from are correct, let’s provide a safety hatch to make sure that we aren’t harming public health and making air pollution permitting more difficult.

I have heard my colleagues, especially on the Republican side of the aisle, say over and over again, We don't need one size fits all. We need to let localities make some of these determinations. And I agree, in this case particularly, that if they see, given their circumstances, a reason why they don't want to follow this new regime that would be created by this legislation, let them opt out. Let them decide at the local level how to proceed.

For that reason, I urge passage of the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, this amendment basically would eliminate section 3(b), or make it applicable in a different way of the legislation, which really would defeat the whole purpose of this bill.

As I said in the beginning, this is very simple. We are not telling EPA what the regulations should be. We are not telling EPA not to use science. We are simply telling EPA, when you come out with a new regulation, you must provide the guidance for the States and for the entities that are trying to build new plants to create jobs in America. So this amendment would simply change that process.

All of us understand and recognize the great contribution that has been made by the Clean Air Act, but yet anytime we try to come up and we try to amend the Clean Air Act, it is almost like we are touching the Holy Grail.

Things change over time. As I said, the EPA has been so aggressive with so many regulations, they are not providing the guidance for clarity so that entities can invest dollars to create jobs. Obviously we want to balance a good, clean environment, but we also want a healthy economy. That is what this legislation is designed to do.

And with as much admiration and respect that I have for the gentlemen from California, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. McNERNEY, I do oppose this amendment and ask that the Members not adopt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WHITFIELD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part C of House Report 113-626.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I offer my amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 10, insert the following:

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of a State, local, or tribal permitting authority to impose more stringent emissions requirements pursuant to State, local, or tribal law than Federal national ambient air quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, as I have said repeatedly, the intent of this bill is to ensure that when the EPA issues new air quality standards, the Agency provides timely guidance about how to comply with the new standards in the permitting process.

Now, at the hearings that we have had and in individual discussion with other Members, people have argued that section 3(b) of this bill would prevent a State or local permitting authority that wanted to impose the new standards, even in the absence of EPA implementing regulations and guidance, from doing so. So that was not the intent of the bill, and this amendment clarifies that.

So if you have a State like California or even Delaware, which are the two that I can think of, that would like to go on and impose the new standard without the guidance, then this amendment ensures that they have the opportunity to do that. So that is what this amendment does. It is simply a clarification.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, the reason I qualified it is because I see no reason to oppose the amendment. It is not objectionable. But it doesn't actually fix the bill's four problems.

Subsection 3(b) of the bill gives new sources amnesty from compliance with a new or revised air quality standard until EPA issues rules and guidance on the implementation of the air quality standard.

The provision effectively creates two classes of sources. New sources would be permitted under the outdated and less protected air standard, but existing sources would be permitted under the updated, more protective standards. This amendment doesn't affect this requirement in any way.

The Whitfield amendment says that States can set their own more stringent

air quality standards under State law. I don't disagree with that. Section 116 of the Clean Air Act already gives the States the right to adopt more stringent air quality standards. It has been in the Clean Air Act for decades. That is fine as far as it goes, but it doesn't address our concern with subsection 3(b).

If my colleagues are in favor of State flexibility, they should either oppose the underlying bill entirely or support the State opt-out amendment. The Whitfield amendment does not provide them any relief from the loophole and procedural burden envisioned under the bill.

I don't object to this amendment as it doesn't make the bill worse. It doesn't make it worse, but it doesn't make it better. I would urge my colleagues to oppose the bill, even if this amendment is adopted.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Kentucky has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I would just remind everyone that even if EPA fails to do its job, the bill makes clear that nothing relieves new facilities of their obligations to install the best available control technology in attainment areas and the lowest available emissions rate technology in non-attainment areas.

I would also say that while my amendment allows those States who want to go on and implement the new regulation without the guidance, they can do that; but on the other hand, our legislation is designed to protect those States and those entities who find that they are unable to interpret the new regulation. And because of that uncertainty, it has been the experience of many companies, when they build new facilities with technology under new regulations, they end up being sued over it frequently.

So this legislation is about common sense. This amendment allows those States that want to implement the stricter standard, they have the ability to do that. I would urge the adoption of this amendment and the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim 1 minute just for clarification for the RECORD.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, Mr. WHITFIELD mentioned that the National Association of Clean Air Agencies would like timely implementation guidance. That is true. But just yesterday, they wrote a letter making clear they oppose this bill.

I insert in the RECORD the letter that came under the signature of S. William Becker, National Association of Clean Air Agencies.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLEAN AIR AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2014.

Hon. ED WHITFIELD,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power,
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ray-
burn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WHITFIELD: At a hearing before the House Rules Committee earlier this week, you spoke in support of H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act. In your testimony, you seemed to imply that the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) favors passage of this legislation.

I am writing to clarify that NACAA has never expressed support for H.R. 4795. Although we appreciate the Committee's desire to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue implementation guidance for new and revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in a timely manner, we do not believe that public health should be sacrificed in promoting that goal.

Many of our members are very concerned by the provision in Section 3 of the bill that would allow facilities seeking pre-construction permits to conduct air quality analyses based on outdated air quality standards, should EPA fail to issue implementation guidance concurrently with the promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS. They believe this would likely cause substantial adverse health impacts and undermine public confidence in permitting programs that were designed to protect public health. In addition, agencies have expressed concern that the bill could cause unnecessary regulatory uncertainty, as well as unfairly shift the burden of reducing emissions to existing facilities, where it is far less cost-effective to do so.

Accordingly, NACAA cannot support this legislation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

S. WILLIAM BECKER.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 113-626 by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 225, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 529]

AYES—183

Adams	Gibson	Nolan
Barber	Grayson	Norcross
Barrow (GA)	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Bass	Grijalva	Pallone
Beatty	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Becerra	Hahn	Payne
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Perlmutter
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Peters (CA)
Blumenauer	Higgins	Peters (MI)
Bonamici	Himes	Pingree (ME)
Brady (PA)	Honda	Pocan
Braley (IA)	Hoyer	Polis
Brown (FL)	Huffman	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Israel	Quigley
Bustos	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Butterfield	Jeffries	Rangel
Capps	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Cárdenas	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Carney	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Cartwright	Kennedy	T.
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Castro (TX)	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Chu	Kind	Schakowsky
Ciциlline	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kuster	Schneider
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schrader
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Conyers	Levin	Serrano
Cooper	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
Costa	Lipinski	Shea-Porter
Courtney	Loebback	Sherman
Crowley	Lofgren	Sinema
Cummings	Lowenthal	Sires
Davis (CA)	Lowey	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	Lujan Grisham	Speier
DeFazio	(NM)	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Luján, Ben Ray	Takano
DeLauro	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Deutch	Maffei	Tierney
Doggett	Maloney,	Titus
Doyle	Carolyn	Tonko
Edwards	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
Ellison	Matsui	Van Hollen
Engel	McCollum	Vargas
Enyart	McDermott	Veasey
Eshoo	McGovern	Vela
Esty	McIntyre	Velázquez
Farr	McNerney	Visclosky
Fattah	Meeks	Walz
Foster	Meng	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Michaud	Schultz
Fudge	Miller, George	Waters
Gabbard	Moore	Waxman
Gallego	Moran	Welch
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
García	Napolitano	Yarmuth
	Neal	

NOES—225

Aderholt	Carter	Farenthold
Amash	Chabot	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Chaffetz	Fleischmann
Bachmann	Clawson (FL)	Fleming
Barletta	Coble	Flores
Barr	Coffman	Forbes
Barton	Cole	Fox
Benishek	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Bentivolio	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Bilirakis	Conaway	Gardner
Bishop (UT)	Cook	Garrett
Black	Cotton	Gerlach
Blackburn	Cramer	Gibbs
Boustany	Crawford	Gingrey (GA)
Brady (TX)	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Brat	Cuellar	Goodlatte
Bridenstine	Daines	Gosar
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Rodney	Govdy
Brooks (IN)	Denham	Granger
Broun (GA)	Dent	Graves (GA)
Buchanan	DeSantis	Graves (MO)
Bucshon	DesJarlais	Griffin (AR)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Griffith (VA)
Byrne	Duffy	Grimm
Calvert	Duncan (SC)	Guthrie
Camp	Duncan (TN)	Hanna
Capito	Ellmers	Harper

Harris	McMorris	Runyan
Hartzler	Rodgers	Ryan (WI)
Hastings (WA)	Meadows	Salmon
Heck (NV)	Meehan	Sanford
Hensarling	Messer	Scalise
Herrera Beutler	Mica	Schock
Holding	Miller (FL)	Schweikert
Hudson	Miller (MI)	Scott, Austin
Huelskamp	Miller, Gary	Sensenbrenner
Huizenga (MI)	Mullin	Sessions
Hultgren	Mulvaney	Shimkus
Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Shuster
Hurt	Neugebauer	Simpson
Issa	Noem	Smith (MO)
Jenkins	Nugent	Smith (NE)
Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Smith (NJ)
Johnson, Sam	Nunnelee	Smith (TX)
Jolly	Olson	Southerland
Jones	Owens	Stewart
Jordan	Palazzo	Stivers
Joyce	Paulsen	Stockman
Kelly (PA)	Pearce	Stutzman
King (IA)	Perry	Terry
King (NY)	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Kingston	Petri	Thornberry
Kinzinger (IL)	Pittenger	Tiberi
	Pitts	Tipton
Kline	Pompeo	Turner
Labrador	Posey	Upton
LaMalfa	Price (GA)	Valadao
Lamborn	Reed	Walberg
Lance	Reichert	Walden
Lankford	Renacci	Walorski
Latham	Ribble	Weber (TX)
Latta	Rice (SC)	Webster (FL)
LoBiondo	Rigell	Wenstrup
Long	Roby	Westmoreland
Lucas	Roe (TN)	Whitfield
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (AL)	Williams
Lummis	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)
Marchant	Rogers (MI)	Wittman
Marino	Rohrabacher	Wolf
Massie	Rokita	Womack
McAllister	Rooney	Woodall
McCarthy (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoder
McCauley	Roskam	Yoho
McClintock	Ross	Young (AK)
McHenry	Rothfus	Young (IN)
McKinley	Royce	

NOT VOTING—26

Bachus	Fortenberry	Nadler
Campbell	Green, Al	Negrete McLeod
Cassidy	Hall	Pastor (AZ)
Clay	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)
Clyburn	Holt	Richmond
Culberson	Horsford	Rush
Dingell	Matheson	Smith (WA)
Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Wagner
Fincher	McKeon	

□ 1030

Mr. MEADOWS changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 529 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 529, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill

(H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 756, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4795 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of section 3, add the following new subsections:

(d) PROTECTING CHILDREN AND SENIORS FROM EXPOSURE TO DANGEROUS AIR POLLUTANTS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application if—

(1) the new or revised national ambient air quality standard protects children and seniors from exposure to dangerous air pollutants, including any air pollutant that causes cancer; and

(2) the preconstruction permit application is for a source that is located within 5 miles of a school, day care facility, hospital, or nursing home.

(e) PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND AMERICAN JOBS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the review and disposition of a preconstruction permit application for a source if subjecting the source to the existing national ambient air quality standard would result in higher costs or job losses for small businesses that—

(1) are subject to the new or revised national ambient air quality standard; and

(2) are located in the State or nonattainment area involved.

Ms. KUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which

will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree on the importance of revitalizing the American manufacturing sector. We need to work across the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to support manufacturing workers and businesses, so that more products across this planet can be stamped “Made In America.” That is why I am a proud supporter of the Make It In America agenda.

We need to pass this agenda which will help more businesses manufacture goods in America, so more families can make it in America. For example, we need to work with the Senate to permanently extend the research and development tax credit. This tax credit will help companies like Airmar in Milford, New Hampshire, a world leader in ultrasonic sensor technology.

We need to expand Trade Adjustment Assistance and invest in workforce development, like the \$2.5 million Department of Labor grant recently awarded to Nashua Community College. This funding will help teach students the skills needed for advanced manufacturing careers, so that a graduate with a 2-year associate degree can leave school and walk into a good job that pays \$45,000 a year.

We need to pass long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, to help companies like Boyle Energy in Concord, New Hampshire, ship American-made products around the world.

These are the policies that will promote new manufacturing jobs, and they deserve bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bill before us today is not a commonsense bipartisan proposal for strengthening manufacturing; instead, it would tie the hands of our public health officials and make it harder to advance lifesaving rules to protect our air and our lungs from pollution.

That is why I am offering my motion, which would provide two exemptions from this bill. First, my motion would exempt rules that protect children and seniors from cancer-causing pollution within 5 miles of a school or nursing home, and second, my motion would protect small businesses from any job losses or increased costs resulting from this bill.

Whether you support or oppose the underlying bill, every Member of this body should be able to vote to protect the health of children and seniors and to protect small businesses.

I urge support for my motion. I urge my colleagues to move on from these partisan proposals and instead work to find bipartisan ways to strengthen American manufacturing without putting our air quality or public health at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit because I strongly support American manufacturing, and that is what our bill is about. It is about getting Americans back to work.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle want to talk about protecting seniors. The biggest threat we hear about seniors right now is the President's health care law that cut hundreds of billions of dollars out of the Medicare program.

Why don't you work with us to repeal that law and replace it with reforms that actually strengthen Medicare and help seniors? That would be a really good place to start.

Now, let's talk about jobs, Mr. Speaker, because that is the focus of this bill, and this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. What we are trying to do is actually support some of the things the President himself has talked about.

The President said that he wants to cut red tape. Do you know what this bill does, Mr. Speaker? It cuts red tape.

The President says he wants to be the most transparent President ever. We would actually like to help him fulfill that promise. In our bill, we actually require transparency from the EPA to actually start proving what they are saying that they want to do with actual science.

If you look at what has been holding back our economy, so many States will tell you, when they are trying to issue permits, it is agencies like the EPA that are holding back their ability to create jobs and issue permits that would result in higher air quality standards.

Ironically, the motion to recommit that they are bringing forward would actually make it harder to implement higher air quality standards.

We have had testimony in committee, Mr. Speaker, from companies that have told us that they are right now delayed by years, in some cases, in the permitting process to build new or better plants to create thousands of jobs in America because the EPA will come up with rules and guidelines; yet they won't even show States or industry groups how they can achieve this in the real world.

There is this parallel universe, Mr. Speaker. You have got the EPA coming out time and time again with rules and regulations that cannot be implemented in the real world, and then you have got people that are trying to create jobs in America saying, “The biggest thing holding us back from creating good American jobs is these crazy radical rules coming out by the EPA and other agencies like it.”

Mr. Speaker, we have got a choice to make, here in this Chamber and across this country. The President says he

wants to create jobs; yet he comes out with rules with those agencies like the EPA that are the biggest impediment to us creating jobs in America.

The President says he wants to be transparent, and yet he refuses to be transparent, and a bill, like our bill here today, says he has to be transparent. Show us how you are expediting the permitting process. He talks about that. It is time to walk the walk.

He says he actually wants to remove that red tape. Well, do you know what, Mr. Speaker? In our bill, we hold the President to his promise by removing that red tape.

We ask ourselves today: Do we want to get our economy moving again? I say “yes.” Do we want to cut the red tape the President promises but doesn’t deliver? I say, “Yes. Let’s cut that red tape.”

Do we want to get our economy moving again? I say, “Let’s create those jobs, get our economy moving again, and get these radical agencies that are slowing down job growth in our country out of the way.”

Let’s vote down this motion to recommit, pass the underlying bipartisan bill, and get the economy moving again.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 223, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 530]

AYES—189

Adams	Carney	Davis (CA)
Barber	Carson (IN)	Davis, Danny
Barrow (GA)	Cartwright	DeFazio
Bass	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Delaney
Becerra	Chu	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Cicilline	DeBene
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Deutch
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Doggett
Blumenauer		Doyle
Bonomici	Cleaver	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Ellison
Braley (IA)	Cohen	Engel
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Enyart
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Eshoo
Bustos	Cooper	Esty
Butterfield	Courtney	Farr
Capps	Crowley	Fattah
Capuano	Cuellar	Foster
Cárdenas	Cummings	Frankel (FL)

Fudge	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Ruiz
Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Ruppersberger
Gallego	Lynch	Rush
Garamendi	Maffei	Ryan (OH)
Garcia	Maloney, Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda T.
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
Green, Gene	Matsui	Sarbanes
Grijalva	McCollum	Schakowsky
Gutiérrez	McDermott	Schiff
Hahn	McGovern	Schneider
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Schrader
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Schwartz
Heck (WA)	Meeks	Scott (VA)
Higgins	Meng	Scott, David
Himes	Michaud	Serrano
Honda	Miller, George	Sewell (AL)
Horsford	Moore	Shea-Porter
Hoyer	Moran	Sherman
Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Sinema
Israel	Napolitano	Sires
Jackson Lee	Neal	Slaughter
Jeffries	Nolan	Speier
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Swalwell (CA)
Johnson, E. B.	O’Rourke	Takano
Kaptur	Owens	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	Pascarella	Tierney
Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)	Titus
Kildee	Payne	Tonko
Kilmer	Pelosi	Tsongas
Kind	Perlmutter	Van Hollen
Kirkpatrick	Peters (CA)	Vargas
Kuster	Peters (MI)	Veasey
Langevin	Peterson	Vela
Larsen (WA)	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Visclosky
Lee (CA)	Polis	Walz
Levin	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Lewis	Quigley	Schultz
Lipinski	Rahall	Waters
Loebach	Rangel	Waxman
Loftgren	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Lowenthal		Wilson (FL)
Lowey		Yarmuth

NOES—223

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)
Amash	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Amodei	Duffy	Jolly
Bachmann	Duncan (SC)	Jones
Barletta	Duncan (TN)	Jordan
Barr	Ellmers	Joyce
Barton	Farenthold	Kelly (PA)
Benishek	Fitzpatrick	King (NY)
Bentivolio	Fleischmann	Kingston
Bilirakis	Fleming	Kinzing (IL)
Bishop (UT)	Flores	Kline
Black	Forbes	Labrador
Blackburn	Fox	LaMalfa
Boustany	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Lance
Brat	Garrett	Lankford
Bridenstine	Gerlach	Latham
Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Latta
Brooks (IN)	Gibson	LoBiondo
Broun (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Long
Buchanan	Gohmert	Lucas
Bucshon	Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer
Burgess	Gosar	Lummis
Byrne	Gowdy	Marchant
Calvert	Granger	Marino
Camp	Graves (GA)	Massie
Capito	Graves (MO)	McAllister
Carter	Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)
Chabot	Griffith (VA)	McCaul
Chaffetz	Grimm	McClintock
Clawson (FL)	Guthrie	McHenry
Coble	Hanna	McKinley
Coffman	Harper	McMorris
Cole	Harris	Rodgers
Collins (GA)	Hartzler	Meadows
Collins (NY)	Hastings (WA)	Meehan
Conaway	Heck (NV)	Messer
Cook	Hensarling	Mica
Cotton	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Cramer	Holding	Miller (MI)
Crawford	Hudson	Miller, Gary
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Mullin
Culberson	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney
Daines	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Hunter	Neugebauer
Denham	Hurt	Noem
Dent	Issa	Nugent
DeSantis	Jenkins	Nunes

Nunnelee	Roskam	Thompson (PA)
Olson	Ross	Thornberry
Palazzo	Rothfus	Tiberi
Paulsen	Royce	Tipton
Pearce	Runyan	Turner
Perry	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Petri	Salmon	Valadao
Pittenger	Sanford	Wagner
Pitts	Scalise	Walberg
Pompeo	Schock	Walden
Posey	Schweikert	Walorski
Price (GA)	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Reed	Sensenbrenner	Webster (FL)
Reichert	Sessions	Wenstrup
Renacci	Shimkus	Westmoreland
Ribble	Shuster	Whitfield
Rice (SC)	Simpson	Williams
Rigell	Smith (MO)	Wilson (SC)
Roby	Smith (NE)	Wittman
Roe (TN)	Smith (NJ)	Wolf
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Womack
Rogers (KY)	Southerland	Woodall
Rogers (MI)	Stewart	Yoder
Rohrabacher	Stivers	Yoho
Rokita	Stockman	Young (AK)
Rooney	Stutzman	Young (IN)
Ros-Lehtinen	Terry	

NOT VOTING—22

Bachus	Gardner	McKeon
Campbell	Green, Al	Nadler
Cassidy	Hall	Negrete McLeod
Costa	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)
Dingell	Holt	Richmond
Duckworth	King (IA)	Smith (WA)
Fincher	Matheson	
Fortenberry	McCarthy (NY)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1050

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 530 had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 172, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 531]

AYES—238

Aderholt	Bridenstine	Collins (GA)
Amash	Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)
Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Conaway
Bachmann	Broun (GA)	Cook
Barletta	Buchanan	Cotton
Barr	Bucshon	Cramer
Barrow (GA)	Burgess	Crawford
Barton	Byrne	Crenshaw
Benishek	Calvert	Cuellar
Bentivolio	Camp	Culberson
Bilirakis	Capito	Daines
Bishop (GA)	Carter	Davis, Rodney
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Delaney
Black	Chaffetz	Denham
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	Dent
Boustany	Coble	DesJarlais
Brady (TX)	Coffman	Diaz-Balart
Brat	Cole	Duffy

Duncan (SC) Lankford
 Duncan (TN) Latham
 Ellmers Latta
 Farenthold LoBiondo
 Fitzpatrick Long
 Fleischmann Lucas
 Fleming Luetkemeyer
 Flores Lummis
 Forbes Marchant
 Foxx Marino
 Franks (AZ) Massie
 Frelinghuysen McAllister
 Gallego McCarthy (CA)
 Garrett McCaul
 Gerlach McClintock
 Gibbs McHenry
 Gibson McIntyre
 Gingrey (GA) McKinley
 Gohmert McMorris
 Goodlatte Rodgers
 Gosar Meadows
 Gowdy Meehan
 Granger Messer
 Graves (GA) Mica
 Graves (MO) Miller (FL)
 Griffin (AR) Miller (MI)
 Griffith (VA) Miller, Gary
 Grimm Mullin
 Guthrie Mulvaney
 Hanna Murphy (FL)
 Harper Murphy (PA)
 Harris Neugebauer
 Hartzler Noem
 Hastings (WA) Nugent
 Heck (NV) Nunes
 Hensarling Nunnelee
 Herrera Beutler Olson
 Holding Owens
 Hudson Palazzo
 Huelskamp Paulsen
 Huizenga (MI) Pearce
 Hultgren Perlmutter
 Hunter Perry
 Hurt Peters (CA)
 Issa Peterson
 Jenkins Petri
 Johnson (OH) Pittenger
 Johnson, Sam Pitts
 Jolly Pompeo
 Jones Posey
 Jordan Price (GA)
 Joyce Rahall
 Kelly (PA) Reed
 King (IA) Reichert
 King (NY) Renacci
 Kingston Ribble
 Kinzinger (IL) Rice (SC)
 Kline Rigell
 Labrador Roby
 LaMalfa Roe (TN)
 Lamborn Rogers (AL)
 Lance Rogers (KY)

NOES—172

Adams Connolly
 Barber Conyers
 Bass Cooper
 Beatty Courtney
 Becerra Crowley
 Bera (CA) Cummings
 Bishop (NY) Davis (CA)
 Blumenauer Davis, Danny
 Bonamici DeFazio
 Brady (PA) DeGette
 Braley (IA) DeLauro
 Brown (FL) DelBene
 Brownley (CA) Deutch
 Bustos Doggett
 Butterfield Doyle
 Capps Edwards
 Capuano Ellison
 Cardenas Engel
 Carney Enyart
 Carson (IN) Eshoo
 Cartwright Esty
 Castor (FL) Farr
 Castro (TX) Fattah
 Chu Foster
 Cicilline Frankel (FL)
 Clark (MA) Fudge
 Clarke (NY) Gabbard
 Clay Garamendi
 Cleaver Garcia
 Clyburn Grayson
 Cohen Green, Gene

Rogers (MI) Lewis
 Rohrabacher Lipinski
 Rokita Loebach
 Rooney Lofgren
 Ros-Lehtinen Lowenthal
 Roskam Lowey
 Ross Lujan Grisham
 Rothfus (NM)
 Royce Lujan, Ben Ray
 Runyan (NM)
 Ryan (WI) Lynch
 Salmon Maffei
 Sanford Maloney,
 Scalise Carolyn
 Schock Maloney, Sean
 Schrader Matsui
 Schweikert McCollum
 Scott, Austin McDermott
 Sensenbrenner McGovern
 Sessions McNeerney
 Sewell (AL) Meeks
 Shimkus Meng
 Shuster Michaud
 Simpson Miller, George
 Sinema Moore
 Smith (MO) Moran
 Smith (NE) Napolitano
 Smith (NJ) Neal
 Smith (TX)

Grijalva
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 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
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Nolan
 Norcross
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Peters (MI)
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schwartz

Bachus
 Campbell
 Cassidy
 Costa
 DeSantis
 Dingell
 Duckworth
 Fincher

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1058

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 531, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes:

Waxman/McNeerney Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4795. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 4795—Promoting New Manufacturing Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during November 19–20, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Wednesday, November 19, 2014: rollcall No. 526, Kennedy of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 2—"yea;" rollcall No. 527, On motion to recommit with instructions—"yea;" rollcall No. 528, H.R. 4012 Secret Science Reform Act of 2014—"nay."

Thursday, November 20, 2014: rollcall No. 529, Waxman of California Part C Amendment No. 1—"yea;" rollcall No. 530, On motion to recommit with instructions—"yea;" rollcall No. 531, H.R. 4795 Promoting New Manufacturing Act—"nay."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5114

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor from H.R. 5114.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS AT MARYSVILLE-PILCHUCK HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today with my colleagues from Washington State to ask you, at the end of my comments, to ask for a moment of silence because, on October 24, the Marysville, Washington, and Tulalip communities were violently ripped apart by a tragic shooting at Marysville-Pilchuck High School. Four students and their assailant have died, and one student was seriously wounded.

Now, as the father of two teenage boys, my heart breaks as I consider the families who were given the worst news imaginable as a result of this horrible event.

Healing is a difficult process, especially as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday. Marysville and Tulalip and the surrounding communities have shown their strength, however, and their resilience by celebrating these young people and giving thanks for their lives, although those lives were cut terribly short—the lives of Zoe Galasso, Gia Soriano, Shaylee Chucklunaskit, Andrew Fryberg, and, yes, a celebration of even the life of the shooter, young Jaylen Fryberg.

Our thoughts are also with Nate Hatch and his family as he continues to recover.

We all want to thank our first responders and the Marysville-Pilchuck High School staff and leadership for their quick action on that sad day. We want to thank the Tulalip leadership for their resiliency and the faith communities throughout the area for opening their buildings and their arms to the grieving population. Everybody involved deserves our thanks and deserves our prayers.

For our first responders, you put yourselves at risk to keep our children safe, and I know I speak for our whole community when I thank you for your service and your bravery.

I want to commend the strength of the community leaders during this incredibly difficult time. And my colleagues and I want to continue to send thoughts and prayers to students, teachers, and families of the Marysville and Tulalip communities.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the House, and we all ask the

House, to observe a moment of silence as we remember these young people whose lives ended far too soon.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JEFF GREENE

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in memory of Union County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Jeff Greene, who died yesterday in a tragic motor vehicle accident in Monroe, North Carolina.

Sergeant Greene was a 10-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and managed the offices responsible for gun permits, for fingerprinting and the sex trafficking registry. He was also a veteran, having served honorably in both the United States Air Force and the United States Marines.

Sergeant Greene was a family man, and I would ask my colleagues to remember his wife, April, his daughters, Nicolle and Allison, and his five precious grandchildren in your prayers.

Sergeant Greene was committed to serving his community both as a law enforcement officer and as an active volunteer. He will be greatly missed.

May we honor all like Sergeant Greene and remember to pray daily for them, these brave men and women who faithfully work to protect our communities.

REMEMBERING BILL MCCAMMON

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember retired Alameda County Fire Chief Bill McCammon, who passed away on October 13.

Bill lived to serve, and he served all who lived in Alameda County. He devoted his life to keeping our community, State, and Nation safe.

After serving the Dublin-San Ramon and San Leandro fire departments, Bill took over as the first fire chief of the Alameda County Fire Department in 1993. With Bill at the helm, the fire department took on new responsibilities and doubled in size. He added new divisions, too, including a hazardous response team and a water rescue program.

When Bill tragically passed away, he was still working to protect his community, as executive director of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority. It is this organization that provides for the interoperable communications for dozens of agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

We should all be thankful for Bill's many years of dedicated service to the

East Bay. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, children, family, and friends.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday is National Adoption Day, a day in which people and organizations from across the Nation come together to bring awareness to a truly admirable cause, and one that has become very close to my heart.

Last year, our family was blessed to adopt twin girls, Ivy and Lynnette. These girls have become one of life's greatest blessings to my family, and Christie and I truly cannot imagine life without them.

People come to us all the time and say, You are going to be such a blessing to these girls; and I can tell you, these girls are a bigger blessing to Christie and me than I can ever even say.

Right now, our country is needing adoptive families. There are nearly 400,000 children in the United States without permanent homes, and the 30,000 a year that will age out of foster care programs will face unlimited hurdles that will limit their success.

So this Adoption Day, I challenge Members of this body to do their part, promoting awareness of adoption throughout their districts. If we want to create a brighter future for our Nation, ensuring that every child has a safe home and a loving family is a great place to start. I believe this is a cause we can all agree is worth the effort.

STOP MILITARIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is not the kind of vehicle that you want to see cruising the streets of your neighborhood. This is not a police cruiser. And while walking the streets of your neighborhood, you don't want to see these kinds of military-garbed officers patrolling your neighborhood on routine patrol.

When you militarize your police department, you get a militarized response to peaceful and lawful citizen protests.

If you don't want to see the continued militarization of your police departments through the 1033 National Defense Authorization Act program, then support my legislation, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 5478.

TROOP REWARDS

(Mr. JOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional organization from the Tampa Bay area.

Troop Rewards is a group that helps our veterans heal from the psychological stresses of war and reunites them with their families in a safe and relaxing environment.

In 2009, the founder of Troop Rewards, Tom Burkett, received a phone call from a private first class overseas inquiring about the cost of returning home to Clearwater Beach and having a short rest with his family.

Tom replied, How can you be charged anything when you have spent the last year risking your life for our country?

This donation was the first of many for Mr. Burkett, and it inspired him to start the nonprofit Troop Rewards organization. Since then, Troop Rewards has helped more than 100 military members readjust to life after deployment by reintegrating them with their family in a moment of rest and relaxation through the foundation's recovery vacations. With destinations ranging from Maine to Florida, returning military troops have the opportunity to spend time with their family—a reward they have rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, Troop Rewards reflects one of our highest priorities as a nation: to repay a debt owed to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I rise today to commend Troop Rewards and their many partners in this effort, including the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater, Florida, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

May God bless these fine organizations, and may God bless our troops.

EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of November as Epilepsy Awareness Month. Each year, more than 200,000 people are diagnosed with epilepsy, yet research for this condition remains vastly, vastly underfunded, impeding scientific advancements for better treatments and a potential cure.

We are extremely lucky to have organizations like the Epilepsy Foundation and the Matty Fund active in Rhode Island. They help raise awareness, provide support, promote safety, and improve the quality of life for children and families living with epilepsy.

The Matty Fund is the product of two loving and dedicated parents who, sadly, lost their 5-year-old son, Matty Siravo, on Mother's Day 2003 following a grand mal seizure. The Siravos honor

their son's memory every day by continuing to raise awareness about epilepsy.

I am so proud to represent such an inspiring family, and I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect on what they can do to support epilepsy awareness, not just in November, but every day of the year.

REMEMBERING NIEVES OLEMBERG

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to recognize and remember a wonderful woman from south Florida who was taken from this Earth too soon, Nieves Olemborg.

Nieves passed away last month at age 79 following a tragic car accident. She is survived by her loving husband, Isaac; their children, Roberto, Lily, Hannah, and Lisette; and grandchildren, Rachel, Aaron, Jacqueline, David, Daniel, and Samuel.

Beyond her noted devotion to her family, Nieves was a pillar of the south Florida Jewish community. She was a founding member and president of Hadassah's Inter-American Chapter, and was also actively involved with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Hebrew Academy.

Nieves will be greatly missed, but her generosity and kindhearted soul will forever leave an enduring imprint on our community. May her memory be a blessing.

NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION'S LAW, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program on its 40th anniversary.

In 1974, the LYC was established to promote citizenship and law-related education in schools throughout New York State, imparting knowledge to 5,000 students per year for more than four decades.

Under the current leadership and the tireless efforts of Director Eileen Gerrish, the LYC engages students in one of the primary statewide education programs of its kind.

Although the institution officially turned 40 in October, this is truly a year of celebration as the school continues to meet its mission and improve communities in New York's capital region.

Along with the teachers, the civic leaders, and the students touched by this work, I congratulate the Law,

Youth and Citizenship Program and wish them another 40 years of excellence in civic education.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a former rural health care professional for three decades, I rise today to recognize National Rural Health Day.

National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" by honoring the selfless, community-minded, can-do spirit that prevails in rural America.

Rural families and communities face unique health care challenges, including accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers, and the needs of an aging population suffering from a great number of chronic conditions.

Today we take the opportunity to showcase the efforts of rural health care providers, State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders to meet those challenges.

I am proud to represent Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, which includes rural communities in 24 percent of Pennsylvania's landmass. Rural communities are a great place to live and work, which is why nearly 62 million people call them home.

Our rural hospitals are the economic foundation of rural communities, providing good-paying jobs and access to affordable and accessible health care. Thank you to those that dedicate themselves to serving the health care needs of their neighbors in rural America.

□ 1115

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, November 22, we recognize National Adoption Day, which is a time to celebrate over 4,500 adoptions out of foster care in the United States in the last year.

While that statistic represents positive news for a number of children and families, estimates show that there are still nearly 150 million orphans worldwide, many living in institutions, shelters, or out on the streets. Additionally, reports indicate that international adoptions in the United States have plummeted by over 62 percent in the past 9 years as a result of our Nation's broken adoption system.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I have com-

mitted myself to working towards sustainable, pro-family policies that help facilitate the process of giving a home to every child.

One of those policies is the Children and Families First Act, H.R. 3323. This legislation aims to remove burdensome regulations that slow the adoption process and bolster our international diplomacy centered on child welfare and adoption.

While Congress may be entering the so-called lameduck period, it is my hope that leaders in both Chambers will bring this important bill to the floor so we can begin the process of aligning our Nation's policies with the fundamental truth that every child deserves to grow up in a loving family.

PRESIDENTIAL OVERREACH

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly. They want Congress and the President to work together in a bipartisan manner to deliver real solutions to the problems facing our country, one of which is our broken immigration system. So it is profoundly disappointing that the President has decided to ignore the will of the American people and act unilaterally to provide legal status and work permits to millions of people who have violated our immigration laws and are living in the United States illegally.

We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws, and so there is a right way to reform our immigration system and a wrong way. Bypassing Congress, ignoring the Constitution, and issuing a unilateral executive order is the wrong way. It is unfair to those who immigrated to this country legally for the President to fail to do his duty to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

The Constitution and the rule of law matter. Instead of issuing yet another overreaching executive order, the President should join good faith Congressional efforts to solve this problem. The House has already passed bipartisan legislation to secure our border, which is what my constituents tell me is the most important first step.

So I call on the President to follow suit. Stop dividing the American people, follow the Constitution, and work through the legislative branch to reform our immigration system the right way.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 119

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 20, 2014, through Friday, November 28, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 1, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, November 24, 2014, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 119, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

KEEPING AMERICA SAFE FROM EBOLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I want to talk about a piece of legislation that I am dropping with a colleague from the Senate, Senator RUBIO. It is H.R. 5746. Its title is Keeping America Safe from Ebola.

Now, I know a couple weeks ago, Ebola was in the headlines everywhere and we couldn't stop talking about it. Every newscast was filled with more and more information about Ebola. There was a great concern around not only our country, but around the world about this disease that was so lethal and what were we going to do to stop it.

Well, I didn't know that much about Ebola, so what I decided to do was go back and look in and find out as much as I could about Ebola and find out how we ever became even knowledgeable of Ebola.

I found out that there was a doctor in 1976 by the name of Dr. Peter Piot. He is a Belgian doctor. He discovered the Ebola virus in 1976. In fact, my staff and I said: Okay, we know Dr. Piot discovered Ebola. We know he knows about this virus. Let's find out from him the true information that we need to have. If this is such a dangerous disease, if this is such a dangerous virus, if it is so lethal, shouldn't we try to find out everything that we can about Ebola?

And so I contacted Dr. Piot. He was in London. Let me just tell you who he is.

Dr. Peter Piot is not only a doctor, but he has a Ph.D. He is a clinical microbiologist. He is the director of the legendary London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He is the former Undersecretary General of the United Nations and a former executive director of UNAIDS. He lives in London, and he has spent his entire life studying infectious diseases.

Despite the fact that when he was in med school and he had said: I am going to study infectious diseases, he was told: You don't have to worry about infectious diseases. I don't know why you would even be concerned about infectious diseases. The world is no longer being troubled with or being threatened with infectious diseases, Dr. Piot thought: That doesn't make sense. There is no reason for us not to continue to study.

So he did study. In 1976, as I have already told you, he is the doctor that discovered the Ebola virus.

Now, you may wonder, so what was our conversation like?

I said: Well, Dr. Piot, I just want to tell you, here in the States, we are

very concerned now about Ebola. In fact, we have written about Ebola. We have said this is a Paul Revere moment when people have to really understand that there is something coming that we are not ready for.

Dr. Piot said to me: You know what, Mr. KELLY, I am glad you called me, because let me tell you a little bit more about Ebola. Let me tell you that right now what the world is looking at, and not just your country but the world is looking at a dress rehearsal for the next great virus. It is true that this one is very lethal, but this is tactile. In other words, you have to come in contact with it some way. But it is constantly mutating, as are other viruses.

And I said: Okay, Doctor. Because our idea was, first of all, you must isolate those who have this disease.

He said: That is right.

I said: Well, I can remember growing up, if you had the mumps or the chicken pox or the measles, the first thing you were told is you can't go to school. You have got to stay home, because you don't want to carry this into a school or with your friends. So we would stay home. They would isolate us from the general population. Even though we were children and we would only go outside and play, they said, No, not until you are clear. It just seems so basic.

He said: It is absolutely basic. We must contain it to West Africa. We cannot let it get beyond those shores.

Now, because of who we are today and the technology we have today, we can be sitting in this wonderful House this afternoon and we can be in Rome tonight. We can be halfway around the world in a very short period of time. It is not like the old days where these diseases, these viruses were carried and it took months for them to get from shore to shore and from country to country. It now can travel very quickly. It mutates very quickly.

So I said to Dr. Piot: What else should we do?

Number one, isolate. Number two, quarantine.

I said: I have heard of quarantines.

He said: Well, you should have heard of quarantines. Back in Italy, when the bubonic plague broke out, they took people who were infected and they put them on an island. They left them there for a quarantine, or 40 days. They were then allowed to come back in if they survived, to enter the general population.

Isn't it amazing that during those days everybody understood you must isolate, you must quarantine. Why? So you don't infect the general population. It is so basic. But yet we are trying to struggle today to find out how do we contain this disease, this lethal disease? What can we possibly do?

The answers, my friend, are so obvious.

The other thing that Dr. Piot talked about—I want you to think about this. Dr. Piot discovered the Ebola virus in 1976. Fast forward, 1986, 1996, 2006, and now 2014. It has been almost 40 years since Dr. Piot discovered the Ebola virus. In those 40 years, we have not developed a vaccine to inoculate people against the Ebola virus.

It is unthinkable that at this time in human history we are still playing around trying to figure out what we should do. The answer is it better be politically correct or we can't possibly do it.

So we are going to risk entire populations. We are going to risk infecting people that have absolutely no contact but come in contact because somebody is able to travel the world freely—somebody wasn't isolated, somebody wasn't quarantined because it doesn't fit our political agenda. This makes no sense.

This administration appointed an Ebola czar. That is as far as it went. We have got an Ebola czar. We don't have an Ebola agenda. We don't have an Ebola strategy. We don't have anything to combat this very lethal virus.

What is it going to take to wake this country up?

And I would just suggest that while it is no longer a headline, it is still very important—not just to every citizen of this great country, but every citizen of the world. And so the answer is to isolate. The answer is to quarantine. The answer is to develop a vaccine.

The problem with developing a vaccine, there are at least four vaccines that are available right now. Dr. Piot told me the greatest advances have been made by our Department of Defense. The United States Department of Defense has made the greatest progress in developing a vaccine for Ebola.

□ 1130

I said: Then why don't we just bring it out?

He said: It has not been tested on humans.

I said: That doesn't make sense.

He said: Of course it doesn't make sense, but that is how these infectious disease concerns work.

I said: So what would the process be?

He said: We have tested it on monkeys. We haven't tested it on humans.

The biggest thing when it comes to a vaccine is what dosage should we be giving. You have to give the right dosage in order to defeat the disease.

Now, think about if we develop a vaccine. We can now talk to the medical providers, and we can talk to the doctors and nurses that go into these infected areas and say: We are going to inoculate you. You are not going to come home with this lethal disease.

How basic is that?

Then the question is: So what are we waiting for? Why are we not developing

this today? Why are we not fast-forwarding this? It is because there is a new headline.

Now, we are going to talk about immigration. Forget about Ebola. That is by the wayside. The election, that is ancient history. It was 2 weeks ago. We are not going to worry about that, but we are going to worry about immigration today. We are going to turn our backs on a discovery that will save thousands and thousands of lives. We are going to turn our backs on science that we know to be true and on a cure that we know is there. We are at the threshold right now.

I want to read from Dr. Piot's book because there were several things that really struck me. He not only worked on the Ebola virus, he also worked on the AIDS virus.

He said: Perhaps, most important, I have seen over and over and over again how a catastrophe like AIDS brings out the very best and very worst in the human species, regardless of whether a person is well-educated or illiterate. These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—coming to a cure for AIDS.

This is what he said: These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—and just translate Washington into this—brain-killing meetings that I had to endure during my tenure at UNH, where I learned not to be guided by the modern plague, the quarterly result, the short-term view, but to focus on the ultimate goal of saving as many lives as possible.

What he is saying is forget the politics. Keep your eye on where it is you are trying to go. Let's fix this problem. Let's save as many lives as possible.

As I finished up the book, Dr. Piot finishes it this way. He says: Above all, the history of AIDS is one of refusing the inevitability of death because of a lack of treatment, defeat, prejudice, and the institutional obstacles in moving mountains beyond familiar territory. It is perhaps the strongest example of global altruism out of a rational necessity in our evermore interconnected world.

As I talk to you today, H.R. 5746 and a bicameral piece of legislation which is crafted with Senator RUBIO from the Senate, all we are asking for is to please wake up. Understand that this is truly a Paul Revere moment for the world.

As I talked to Dr. Piot, he said: MIKE, this is a dress rehearsal, and I am going to send you my book so you can see why I feel the way I feel.

The title of his book is "No Time to Lose."

How many times in our lives have we looked back and we said, "If only I had known, I would have fixed it. If only I knew what was going to happen if I didn't act, I would have fixed it?"

My friends, there is truly no time to lose. The vaccine is right on the

threshold of being available to us, but it is not just Ebola that I worry about, and it is not just Ebola that this country should worry about, and it is not just Ebola that the world should worry about. It is what is coming.

Believe me, we have not seen the end of infectious disease. We have not seen the end of lethal viruses that will cripple us, as a Nation, and could become the weapon of bioterrorists that would use it at any cost without any regard for human life.

We have the ability right now, within our hands, within our grasp, to develop a vaccine in order to defeat this horrible virus. All that I would ask is that we come together in this House, the American people's House—it is not a Republican House, not a Democrat House, but the American people's House—to once again conquer a disease that could infect not only our own American citizens, but the citizens of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

EBOLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is exactly right. We haven't heard the last of Ebola. It will continue to mutate. It will continue to be a threat.

As this President is sending around 3,000 or so of our military members to west Africa—and they have been told they are going to be given gloves and masks and are urged to wash their hands and feet several times a day—basically, what that says is the men and women who have sworn and pledged their lives to protect ours are not going to be adequately protected by this administration. The rules of engagement already put our military at risk, and now, we are going to send them to Ebola-infested countries.

The initial report said, initially, our military will not be seeing Ebola patients, but they are certainly going to come into contact with people who have had exposure to Ebola.

I recall our President George W. Bush—a good man, a smart man, a witty, clever gentleman, despite what some might say—but he asked after 9/11, in essence, who would have ever dreamed someone would fly a plane into a building like a bomb? My thought immediately was, "Well, actually, Tom Clancy wrote about that several years ago." It was not a radical Islamist as had happened on 9/11/2001.

The late Tom Clancy had quite an imagination, but he did his homework in amazing fashion. Some have said his

books had too much detail in them, but one of his latter books had research going on in Africa with the strain of monkeys that is the one strain that is believed and has support for having been transferred through the air instead of through liquid body fluids.

In the fiction novel, Clancy had somebody working to develop that strain into a mutated strain, since it mutates constantly into one that people could pass through the air, and then it was used to infect our military or expose our military and many Americans.

Basically, in his fiction novel, that allowed radical Islamists to take over much of the Middle East, while our military had been exposed to Ebola and much of it was quarantined.

There are many things Tom Clancy has written about that I hope and pray never happen. That is one of them, but since some things that Tom Clancy's mind dreamed up as a fiction writer novel actually came to fruition, we shouldn't think for a minute that if Clancy could dream it up, our enemies could as well.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. GOHMERT. I have been on the border many nights, all hours of the night, and I have seen people just as they have finished crossing. The first time I went, I expected I would see people crossing in droves, not realizing the coyotes—the paid employees of the gangs, drug cartels that bring people across—they don't want to get caught because if a drug cartel or gang employee gets caught by one of the Texas boats running up and down—I say Texas boats because our administration has not provided any Federal boats in the area most crossed down south of McAllen.

There are no Federal boats down there. It is an area where Texas has stepped up and provided a number of boats that are zipping up and down the river, and you can hear them coming.

The coyotes don't want to be caught. They know if the Texas DPS catches them, they will destroy the raft, and that will put the coyote in very deep trouble for getting caught, so they don't want you to see them crossing.

As the State of Texas has placed DPS officers, Texas Rangers, game wardens up on the high bank—even in the dark, with just the least bit of light at all, you can see their silhouettes—and coyotes won't cross, again, if they think they are about to get caught.

Once across, groups anywhere from eight to 90 will immediately look for someone to surrender to unless, of course, they are like the people I have seen fleeing down there, who apparently had drugs or something they didn't want to be caught with.

It is an open border, far too open, and now, before the border is secured, with talk of amnesty and legal status that our Border Patrolmen have assured

over and over again causes a massive surge, a massive influx of people trying to get to the United States, just the President or anyone in Washington talking about amnesty or any type of legal status helps lure Central Americans and others to their demise, girls to being raped, sold into sex trafficking. Many make it across; some don't.

I would think the most compassionate thing that the government of the United States could do is, number one, secure the border so that families are not tempted to send their little children, little girls up with other people, paying gang members to bring them up, who frequently rape them as they come to the U.S.

A good neighbor would not only secure their border, but then we would help Mexico and Central American countries, as we did Colombia, to overcome the drug cartels.

Colombia had made great strides I think, largely in part, because they had a President like President Uribe whose parents had both been assassinated. As one of our Federal agents in Colombia told me some years back, the toughest job they had back then was keeping Uribe alive because he was so courageous and so determined to defeat the drug cartels.

Well, they kept him alive. With our help, some British help and some other help, the drug cartels were placed on the run. Coca fields were eliminated. It is still an ongoing battle they face constantly.

If Mexico elects the right leader, then the United States Government should be a friend that helps them create an environment where people want to stay and work because many of the people come and they would love to remain in their country if it wasn't so dangerous and there was work.

We can't take every person who resides in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras. We can't take every person without destroying the country that is the magnet, that is the shining light on the hill.

□ 1145

As a very precious, wise, and elderly West African told me when I was over there:

We were so excited when you elected your first black President, but ever since he has been President, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. At least from what we see, it appears you are getting weaker and weaker. We need you to spread around in Washington that you have got to stop getting weaker because it doesn't just affect you. We are Christians, and we know where we are going when we die, but we have no hope of a secure life and a safe life unless America is strong and is an intimidating force to the forces of evil around the world.

Forces of evil will not go away. They will be with us until the end of time, and America makes a difference when we stand strong. We don't even have to

send people, just the threat, as a former Ambassador from Israel said:

America is not a serious threat to take out Iran's nuclear capability, and, in fact, quite the opposite. Everybody realizes America now is no threat to Iran. And since America is no threat to Iran, and Iran knows it, the world knows it, then Israel is more at risk than ever before.

It is true in West Africa as Boko Haram gets more powerful, radical Islamists that want to take out Americans—and America is the Great Satan. It is true in North Africa, it is true in the Middle East, in Asia, in Russia, and in Europe: we need a strong America.

And instead, though the official unemployment numbers have been shown to come down, when you cook the books by not including the massive millions of Americans who are adults, who could work, who are not institutionalized, and they have given up hope of finding a job. They have tried so long they are not counted in the unemployed. They are unemployed, but they are not counted as unemployed because they have given up looking. They have lost hope. That is absolutely tragic.

I mentioned an article from September previously, but this report from CNS News on September 5 says that a record 92,269,000 Americans 16 and older did not participate in the labor force in August as the labor force participation rate matched a 36-year low of 62.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Well, the article goes on to mention that that has happened six times in the past year, and, again, that matches the all-time high of non-participation, matching that set during the malaise days of the Carter administration. Back then, there was double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment officially, and double-digit interest rates. People were hurting in America.

Now people are still hurting. They are hurting across the country. That is why people are so desperate for sales. No telling what Thursday, Thanksgiving, the day after will look like. People are so desperate for sales because the data indicates on average people are taking home less than they did when compared with the rate of inflation.

So we have a President whose administration has tied the Carter administration for the highest number of American adults who have given up hope of finding a job.

Just as we get this news that the Obama administration continues this year to tie the Carter administration for the all-time high of Americans who have given up hope of finding a job, we get the story today, an article from *The Daily Caller*, that Obama's amnesty will add as many foreign workers as jobs since 2009. Because, Mr. Speaker, think about it: over 92 million Americans have given up hope of finding a job. That has tied the Carter administration. When this President in

this economy says to people who have come illegally into this country, I am going to grant you 5 million or so permits to work, then it will put this President in a category all by himself. He will no longer be tied with the Carter administration as presiding over the highest number of Americans giving up hope of finding work. It will propel him into a league all of his own because it only makes sense that if you are giving 5 million legal work permits to people who are here illegally, they will then be able to offer their services cheaper than union workers and other workers who are here getting a proper wage, and it will displace millions more Americans from the jobs they currently hold.

You can anticipate that, not immediately, but in the months ahead if the President does this unconstitutional act because he is tired of waiting on Congress to change the law the way he has dictated, and he has decided to dictate new law to America. Well, that is unconstitutional, and it is illegal. But the good news for the President is it will propel him out of the tie with the Carter administration for the most Americans giving up hope of finding employment and get him to the all-time high that will likely remain for as long as there is an America.

Well, this article from *The Daily Caller* today points out that:

President Barack Obama's unilateral amnesty will quickly add as many foreign workers to the Nation's legal labor force as the total number of new jobs created by his economy since 2009.

The plan, expected to be announced late November 20, will distribute 5 million work permits to illegal immigrants and also create a new inflow of foreign college graduates for prestigious salaried jobs, according to press reports.

Obama has already provided or promised almost 1 million extra work permits to foreigners, while his economy has only added 6 million jobs since 2009.

Under the President's new amnesty plan, "up to 4 million undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 5 years can apply. An additional 1 million people will get protection from deportation through other parts of the President's plan," according to a November 19 report in *The New York Times*.

The 5 million total was attributed to "people briefed on his plans," the *Times* reports.

The 5 million work permits will add to Obama's prior giveaways, which have provided work permits to almost 1 million foreigners.

Since 2009, the U.S. economy has added only 6 million jobs, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Further, it says:

Not all the 5 million illegal immigrants who get permits will work, and many are already working under fake names or for cash. However, their new work permits will allow them to compete for jobs now held or sought by blue-collar Americans, including the many African American and Latinos who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012.

It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that if the President wants to do some-

thing about the massively unfair high unemployment rate for African Americans who are legal citizens that the thing to do would not be to give 5 million work permits to people that are illegally here so that they can knock more African Americans and more Hispanics out of the jobs they legally currently hold because they will work cheaper, probably without requirement for health benefits.

My dear friend, STEVE KING, had invited me to Iowa, and I was visiting with a businessman there about their meatpacking plant where they had felt like, gee, they had to have illegal aliens doing the work because they were just jobs that Americans wouldn't do. And after a raid on their plant and illegal aliens were arrested, he reported that it turned out those were jobs that Americans just would not do at that price. But by raising the wages a couple of dollars and providing health care benefits, amazingly, they could find Americans who would do that job. So it seems that as this story is replicated around the country, there are not so many jobs that Americans won't do; it is that there are jobs that Americans won't do at the market rate. So that is why you see so many millionaires and billionaires, many of them massive Democratic donors, who are—and some Republican donors, including the National Chamber of Commerce; my local chambers aren't pushing like this—but they say we want and we need this massive influx of unskilled laborers to do these jobs Americans won't do. They don't finish the sentence and say "these jobs Americans won't do at what we would like to pay them." They require more in order to be hired, which skews the living wage that workers in America are getting paid and skews it downward.

So that under the Obama administration, Americans have really been hurt, and that was reflected in the results of the election. I know there are many Democratic friends who said they don't understand why Americans that came out and voted didn't feel better about the economy. Well, try talking to them because they make it very clear, they haven't had a raise in years. They have lost health care benefits because of ObamaCare. They have had deductibles. Some have told me: Mine went from a \$500 deductible, which was really tough, to \$5,000, which I just can't ever meet because I can't spend \$5,000 extra to cover the deductible of my new ObamaCare policy.

So, yeah, the old joke was always, Well, I am from the government, and I am here to help you. It is one of the most frightening lines in America. It is no longer a joke. It is quite scary when you look at what the government has done to people. And then as this article points out, for the Obama administration to, using their terminology, create 6 million jobs—because as we know the

President and also Hillary Clinton have said, you businesses, you didn't create those jobs. Oh, no, you weren't the one that put your capital at risk, that took out a loan, that is paying more in taxes for the police and for the roads than anybody else. No, you didn't build that company that you risked your sacred honor and everything you hold dear on. You didn't create that; the government did that. We did that for you.

Well, that is the way socialists generally start talking.

□ 1200

Having been an exchange student to the Soviet Union back when it was the Soviet Union, I saw what happens to a country that has to live under that for decades. So even in the 1970s, I could see, wow, I don't want their health care. Thank goodness we have free market health care. Of course, that was back before insurance companies and the government skewed the cost of health care.

So when I was being told this week by a parent that the bill they got for their child having stitches in a medical facility was \$4,500, well, I did enough work with and for health insurance companies and people who had claims with health insurance companies that I know good and well that the top health insurance companies, they wouldn't pay \$4,500. You get a bill for \$4,500, they probably don't pay \$500 for that bill.

So why shouldn't an American who can't afford an insurance policy under ObamaCare, why shouldn't that American be able to pay \$500 cash instead of being hit with a \$4,500 bill, and then the health institution says hey, since you are going to pay cash, we will cut you a real deal, we will knock off 20 percent. So yes, we will save you a bunch of money. And you will still pay several times more than what the insurance company would pay.

The bill I proposed, even though there are those in ignorance who say Republicans didn't have any solutions, one of the parts of my health care bill would require every health care facility and provider to post the costs. And if you are giving a different rate to the insurance company than you do to an American paying cash, you have to post it and let everybody see, because only then would you ever get back to having some competition.

The doctors that we used to go to in my hometown have passed away now, but my late mother, a very, very smart lady, was always looking for a bargain. I remember one time I asked: Why are we going to this doctor instead of the one we went to last time?

Well, he raised his rates, and you know good and well this doctor is as good as the other one.

When is the last time somebody said that? I'm going to a different doctor because the other one raised his rates. People don't even know what doctors charge because it has been so skewed.

You want to fix the health care system, one thing that should be required is that there actually be truth in the charges of health care. We don't have that now. You don't know what the insurance company pays specifically. Government rates are posted, but that is also why many physicians and health care providers, like hospitals, they have gotten out of the business. Doctors have told me that they have, and I have seen that they have. We lost our second hospital in my district this past week, they announced at least.

If we want to help Americans, it is not by more government takeover. The question keeps coming to me: I don't understand why my insurance is so much more. My deductible went way up. I am covering things like maternity care I will never use, and my premiums went up. I don't get it. I don't understand why it is more expensive.

Well, one thing that is very basic as part of that answer is, if you are going to hire with health care dollars 1,800 new IRS agents, if you are going to hire millions more people for the government that will never so much as put a bandaid or Bactine or anything on a cut or help anybody with a real problem, then your health care costs will go up because you have added huge amounts of government that have nothing to do with getting you treatment. They are government. They may make you sick to your stomach, they may cause you to get ill, they may scare you, but they are not going to fix your problem. They are government workers.

And thank you very much, I was in the Army for 4 years, and I know there were some good doctors there. I was friends with some. But, wow, we did have some quacks. The last thing I want is to be forced back into a hospital where the government has total control. But that is part of the price you pay by being in the military.

Well, thank goodness, Congress has stepped up enough to provide our military with really the best health care when it comes to traumatic injuries. But as some have found around here, if you have a problem with your gall bladder, you better go to a private hospital. If you have a traumatic injury, sure, our military doctors and facilities are awesome, but I will take my private facilities for anything else.

Well, this article from *The Daily Caller* points out:

Each year, the Nation accepts 1 million new immigrants, or roughly 5 million new immigrants since 2009. That total includes roughly 3.5 million working-age immigrants, which is slightly less than the number of Americans—4.3 million—who turn 18 each year.

Also, companies annually hire roughly 450,000 blue-collar guest workers and roughly 200,000 white-collar guest workers. Most of these guest workers stay for less than a year, but many stay for 6 years.

That current population of roughly 600,000 foreign graduates is expected to increase, if,

as reported, Obama's plan allows American universities to offer green cards to foreign tuition-paying students.

Each year, roughly 4.3 million Americans join the workforce in search of good jobs. That total includes roughly 800,000 Americans with expensive degrees in business, engineering, medicine, technology, and architecture.

At least 9 million Americans are unemployed, and at least 7 million have given up looking for work. Employment rates among African Americans and Latinos are lower than rates for Whites and Asians.

Since 2000, the number of native-born Americans with jobs has stalled, despite a growing population of working-age native-born Americans.

The surplus of domestic and foreign job seekers also helps ensure that U.S. median wages have flatlined since 2000. Economists—including Obama's top economic adviser—say that wages stall when the labor supply is larger than the supply of new jobs.

Down further:

Obama has already provided or promised about 1 million work permits to foreigners since 2011.

Since June 2012, Obama used the legally questionable Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals program to give work permits to almost 600,000 illegal immigrants. That DACA number may go above 1.5 million.

In May 2014, Obama's deputies announced they would provide work permits to 100,000 spouses of university-trained guest workers used by brand name companies.

In October 2014, his deputies announced they would accelerate the paperwork for 110,000 would-be Haitian immigrants, allowing them to begin working in the United States long before they were due to get green cards.

This is bad news for American workers. It is really bad news for American workers, and you would think it would come at a tremendous cost to the Democratic Party, which gets the huge majority of African Americans and a lesser majority of Hispanic and Latino voters. So this action to provide legal work permits to as many as 5 million people who are illegally here is a slap in the face, as hard a slap as you could give to Hispanics and to African Americans, whose unemployment rate is dramatically higher than it should be because this action that the President is about to take unconstitutionally and illegally for political purposes is basically saying to the masses, the millions of African Americans and Hispanic voters who are out of work: Look, we know you are going to always vote for us no matter how much damage we do to your lives, your employment, your ability to pay your bills. We know you are still going to vote for us no matter what because you haven't figured out that Republicans, they want you to have a job. They want you to be able to provide for yourself. They want you to learn English so you can be president of the company and not just a manual laborer for the company. We want you to live and achieve the American dream while the President is pushing a program that is going to push millions more, many of them Af-

rican Americans and Hispanics, out of the jobs they have and bring in cheaper labor and make it even tougher.

Why? We keep hearing it is a political move. Of course it is a political move. Well, the only way it is a political move is if the Democrats take the African American and Latino votes for granted. You are going to vote for us no matter how bad we mess up your lives, so this will allow us to eventually pick up the votes of people who have come in illegally because they will want to reward those of us who helped them.

Well, I tell you, my office helps so many Hispanic families try to go through the legal route of getting family members here, or people who are trying to get a loved one here, a fiancée here. We help with those things. And, of course, there is no charge. And I have had a lot of people say: I don't know why we are working so hard and for all of these years to bring this person in legally when I would have been better off just saying, come on across, you will get amnesty some day and we will have saved all of this frustration—because we were trying to do what we thought was the American way, the legal way, when the President is about to reward lawbreakers by being a lawbreaker himself.

The New York Times reports today:

Officials of the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee have concluded that the government agency most responsible for implementing any new executive order, Citizenship and Immigration Services, would not be hindered if government funds are cut off. It operates entirely on revenue it generates through immigration applications. In short, lawmakers have no fiscal leverage over the agency, which could keep operating even if the rest of the government were shut down.

We understand that. CIS, Citizenship and Immigration Services, they operate with fees they generate. Who allows them to do that? Congress does. Who created CIS? Congress did. Who has the authority to prevent CIS from implementing any illegal dictate that comes from the White House? Congress does.

So even though CIS is funded by fees, we have the ability to do what Democratic Congresses have done post-Watergate. You want people out of Vietnam immediately who are Americans? Then no matter where the Federal money comes from, you make it a crime to spend any Federal revenue, no matter where it comes from, to have people in Vietnam.

You want to prevent Americans from helping the contras keep communism off our southern border and out of Central America? They pass a law. It is easy to do. You pass a law saying it is a crime to use any Federal funds no matter where they come from for this purpose.

□ 1215

That is one thing we can and should do. I deeply regret that our Members were told we are done until after Thanksgiving when the President is about to announce this lawlessness, and then we are hearing secondhand from leadership of the Republican Party, "There is not much we can do. Gee, they get their own funds." Yeah, there is plenty we can do.

We ought to be here right now passing a resolution that authorizes a lawsuit, an injunction. I have signed plenty of injunctions. There is a standard you have to meet, but it can be done.

If you have a President acting lawlessly, just like if you have a mayor that is acting lawlessly or a county judge or a commissioner or a Governor, somebody that is adversely affected—ought to have standing, bring a lawsuit, bring an injunction—to keep them from violating the law when they are supposed to be enforcing the law.

It makes sense that as an administration acts more and more lawlessly, you have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was created, we were told, by the Democrats—by an all-Democrat House—and Senate majority, signed by President Obama, created this entity that was supposed to protect Americans from unscrupulous banking practices. It turns out now that is being used to gather debit card and credit card activity on Americans.

The government shouldn't be able to get that information without a warrant or without permission from that American. We don't need a Federal agency that goes snooping, getting material that should require a warrant, and only after the government has shown probable cause that that American has committed a crime. Officers would come to me—I have signed orders ordering the disclosure of bank records like that, but the government had to establish probable cause, or I wasn't going to sign the warrant.

Yet we create this monstrosity that, in the name of helping us poor stupid ignorant Americans, they will just monitor every bit of our financial activity while the NSA is watching over our emails and we are having our phone calls, all the logs from them go into the government.

I mean, for heaven's sake, is it any wonder that we get a report this week. There is an article from the Washington Examiner that reports: "Under Obama, U.S. Personal Freedom Rankings Slips Below France."

For heaven's sake, we ought to be the freest country in the history of the world, and we have been previously. As Peter Sellers used to say, as the Pink Panther, "Not anymore."

How sad is this? The United States in the personal freedom rankings for 2014 is number 21. Well, is that any surprise that our freedom is under such attack and our freedoms are diminishing and

going away when the government is looking at every private aspect?

You look at the control that was taken by ObamaCare over all aspects of our life. It allowed the Federal Government to have all of your most personal secrets that should be only between you and your doctor. How many times have we heard that from liberals?

Yet they passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote that puts the government, not only in their bedroom, as they have previously objected to—the government is in your bedroom, your bathroom, your garage; they are in your dining room, your refrigerator, they are on machines you buy food from. They are everywhere now.

As I have said before, the ObamaCare bill was not so much about health care, it was about GRE. ObamaCare was about the "government running everything." Holy cow, are they actually doing that.

Anyway, quite interesting, as our government is going to put another 4 or 5 million hardworking Americans out of work and turn those jobs over to people who came in illegally displacing—I guarantee you, when the smoke clears, there will be a disproportionate number of African Americans and Hispanics who have lost their jobs because of this action the President is going to take.

New Zealand, Norway, Australia, Iceland, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Uruguay, Denmark, United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Austria, Malta, Portugal, those are all ahead of us in the personal freedom rankings for 2014, and there we are down below Portugal.

Well, tonight, it is also reported in The Washington Post, that the President's announcement coincides with the Latin Grammy Awards. The article points out that the 15th annual Latin Grammys, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday on Spanish TV network Univision, they are going to take a break for the President's announcement.

Clearly, it is political. Clearly, it will make points with those who are rewarded by legal work permits for coming in illegally. It is going to be a disaster for many Latinos, for many African Americans, to keep their job. They are going to have to start making less than a living wage than they had before.

We need to be about the business of stopping this. We can, we have the will, but it is kind of tough, as we approach Thanksgiving, for many Americans to be thankful. This is still the greatest country in the world, but we are losing what we have had, losing freedoms, losing revenue, losing control of our lives to the government.

It was George Washington, along with every single President since, who have said, "This time of year for all we

have, for all we have been given, those that do believe the Bible know all good gifts come from God and to God be the glory."

I yield back the balance of my time.

MONTE'S MARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, for the second time, I participated in Monte's March, which is a 26-mile walk from Northampton, Massachusetts, to Greenfield, Massachusetts, to raise awareness about the problem of hunger, not only in our community but throughout America, and to raise funds for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The march is led by Monte Belmonte, 93.9 FM, The River radio host, who dressed up as Evel Knievel to attract some attention, a very unique personality, but somebody with a heart of gold, who has been doing this now for several years.

Joining us on the march was David Sullivan, the northwestern district attorney; Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Erika Connell Cooper of Williamsburg, Massachusetts; Georgiann and Rick Kristek of Northampton; Sean Barry, who runs 4 Seasons Liquor store, who was with us last year when we marched, a great guy; Dan Finn of Pioneer Valley Local First; a group called Mutton and Mead, which is a medieval performance troop, that walked with us for a big portion of the walk; Brian Lapis, Channel 22 weather team; "Steve the Hippie" Fendell, a local activist, who is well-known in the community; and also joining us was Natalie Blais and Keith Barnicle of my staff in Northampton.

It was a cold and rainy day when we began our march at 6 a.m. in the morning in Northampton. We were greeted by the mayor of Northampton, David Narkewicz, who walked with us to the border and wished us well.

We had many stops along the way. We stopped at the Amherst Survival Center and met with Executive Director Mindy Domb and her incredible crew. The Amherst Survival Center is a place where people go to get food, sometimes to get clothing, to get support and advice, and even sometimes medical attention. It is an incredible place, but when you visit there, you realize the fact that there are so many in our community who are struggling.

We had a brief stop at Chandler's Restaurant in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, and met with Chef Greg Monette, who prepared this wonderful meal for us.

We then continued our walk and met with Gordie and Barbara Woodward of

Richardson's Candy. That is also in Deerfield—probably the best chocolate you are ever going to taste—and we were given some to keep our sustenance up.

We also were greeted by Emily and Oliver Rich from Tea Guys, which is this remarkable business in Whately, Massachusetts, where they blend teas from all around the world and blend teas to your personal liking, but they met us on this cold and rainy day with their crew and gave us hot tea to keep us going. It was very much welcome.

We ended in Greenfield at 6 p.m. at night and kind of celebrated our achievement at Seymour, the pub, which is a new pub in Greenfield, and we had incredible pizza—the best pizza in the world—from Magpie Pizza, also in Greenfield.

We did this, again, to raise awareness and to raise funds. I want my colleagues to understand that for me, even though the march was physically grueling, it was unbelievably inspirational because, along the way, people would stop their cars and hand us donations for the food bank. They would tell us their stories in which many people struggled to put food on their table and how they got through it.

This was all broadcast live on 93.9 FM. People called in constantly, making pledges and telling stories and offering their support. It made me realize what a generous community that I have the privilege of representing, and it was really uplifting on a whole number of levels.

Mr. Speaker, what happened on November 6 with Monte's March is not unique in the fact that there are people all over this country that are trying to raise funds and that are trying to help people put food on their table.

We live in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, and close to 50 million of our fellow citizens are hungry. It is unconscionable. We should be ashamed of that fact.

There are people like Monte Belmonte and others who are doing their part, but what I worry about is that those of us in this Chamber are not doing our part. As we bring this Congress to a close, I think it is important that we reflect on the fact that, when it comes to the issue of hunger, this Congress has done nothing, absolutely nothing; in fact, we have made it worse.

Time and time again, we have had Members of Congress come onto this floor and attack the programs that provide people food—whether it is SNAP or WIC or summer feeding programs or school feeding programs—that have come under attack by Member after Member, on the Republican side in particular, and we have seen an attack on poor people that is really disconcerting. The war on the poor, Mr. Speaker, has to come to an end.

We have had debates on SNAP, which used to be known as Food Stamps, where Members of Congress have come on the floor and said, "Well, we can cut that program because it is wasteful; it is inefficient," when the reality is it is one of the most efficiently run programs in the Federal Government, with a record low error rate and a record low fraud rate.

I wish the Department of Defense had that kind of record when it comes to procuring weapon systems and other things that they utilize. We ought to hold them to the same standard that we hold the agency that oversees our SNAP program.

We have had Members of Congress come on this floor and demean poor people and insult them and belittle their struggle. Maybe it makes it easier for those Members to vote against programs like SNAP when they demonize and belittle poor people, but it is wrong.

The fact of the matter is that more and more people are utilizing food banks and food pantries. They are going to their churches and their synagogues and their mosques trying to get the resources and the food to put on their table for their families.

□ 1230

Here in Washington, the response of Congress is to cut it. More cuts. And then I read in a publication this morning that next year the Republican majority plans to go after these programs even more.

Let me just say to my colleagues that those who benefit from places like the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts are not just the homeless and the unemployed. Increasingly, their clientele include people who have jobs, but the jobs pay so little that they can't afford to pay their bills and put food on the table.

The minimum wage in this country is so low that if you go to work, you still live in poverty. Now, we can fix that. But, unfortunately, in this last Congress, the Republican leadership refused to allow us even to bring a minimum wage vote to this House floor for a vote. We could have lifted a whole bunch of people out of poverty and we could have helped make a big dent in the hunger problem if we increased people's wages, but we were told, No, we are not going to do it. And not only are we not going to do it, you can't have a debate and a vote on it in the people's House of Representatives.

It is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that hunger is a political condition. We ought to be talking about how to solve this problem. And it is solvable. There are some problems I am not sure how we solve. This is not one of them. What we need is the political will. What we need is the inspiration, like those who marched with Monte Belmonte from

Northampton to Greenfield. I hope that that spirit is contagious so that more people in this Chamber will take this issue seriously. There is no reason why anybody in the United States of America should go hungry. There is no reason at all.

I have called on the White House to put together a White House conference on food and nutrition so we can come up with a holistic plan to deal with this issue. I have pleaded with my colleagues on the Republican side to stop their assault against the poor in this country. And we are going to continue to battle them next year, unfortunately, because it seems like that is the direction they want to go.

But as we recess today to go home for Thanksgiving, we are all going to go back to our respective districts, have a nice turkey dinner, enjoy our family and enjoy the day, but for millions and millions and millions of Americans, they don't have that luxury. They don't know where they are going to get their meal tonight, never mind on Thanksgiving.

So I would urge my colleagues to visit their local food banks, visit their food pantries, talk to people who are on SNAP, talk to families that are struggling with hunger. Listen and learn, and then come back here and act. It may not fit into a particular ideology that some of my colleagues ascribe to in this Chamber, but the fact of the matter is we have a moral obligation to deal with this issue. These are our brothers and our sisters and their children we are talking about. We cannot ignore this problem anymore.

So I just want to say that, Mr. Speaker, for me, joining Monte's march on November 6 was an incredible experience because at the end of the day they raised over \$65,000 for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. That march made a difference. People will be fed. That is an important thing. I wish everybody in this Congress would do something similar. I wish that when we come back next year, when we deal with these safety net programs, when we deal with programs that provide people good food and nutrition, we approach these issues with the intent to help people, not hurt people.

I will just close with this, Mr. Speaker. Hunger costs this Nation very dearly: you have lost productivity in the workplace; kids who go to school hungry don't learn; senior citizens taking their medication on an empty stomach because they can't take medicine without food who end up in emergency rooms. There is also a link between food insecurity and obesity, because the cheapest food available is usually junk food.

So we are paying dearly for hunger in America. And when people say we can't afford to deal with this issue, my response is, We cannot afford not to deal

with this issue. This is something that we can solve.

To my colleagues who only seem concerned about the bottom line, who say we can't invest in anything because we have a deficit and a debt, I will tell you that the lack of attention that we are giving this issue is costing us, is adding to our deficit, and is adding to our debt. So if all you care about is the bottom line, you should join with me and others and those who do marches like Monte Belmonte all across this country and make a difference.

Let's get together. Let's make it our mission next year to come together in a bipartisan way to end hunger now. That is my hope and that is what I will pray for during this holiday season. I look forward to seeing my colleagues when we come back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE PRESIDENT'S IMMIGRATION PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be recognized by you to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives in this great deliberative body that we are.

I come to the floor at a time when America is anxiously awaiting to see the specific language that will be delivered presumably tonight at 8 o'clock in the President's press conference. He has announced as of yesterday that he is going to do a national message to the Nation at 8 o'clock eastern time tonight. And that message will be, as they have long dangled this threat out here, that the President is prepared to grant some type of executive amnesty to a number of people that are estimated by the trial balloons that float out to be somewhere between maybe 3.5 million and 5 million people. It is probably not as many as 9 million people, as has been part of the trial balloons that have been floated out here over the last few months.

First, Mr. Speaker, I will assert that if the President could have found a constitutional way to grant executive amnesty, he would have done so by now. He has had 6 years to comb through this Constitution—6 years, with an almost unlimited amount of staff and lawyers that can comb through history and case law and statute—and I would like to think they would actually read the Constitution first as the supreme law of the land and try to find a way to do what he wanted to do policywise.

But what has happened here is that the people have spoken. The people of the United States go to the polls. And

the President has famously said, "I won the election," so elections have consequences. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the President, were I addressing him, elections have consequences. Yes, they do, and they have benefits as well.

After actions in 2009 and into early 2010, ObamaCare was pushed to the President's desk where, about March 22 or so, the President signed the ObamaCare legislation. It came through this floor and it passed through in two different versions in the Senate; one on rescission, one not. But it was. And I said in this RECORD a number of times that they passed ObamaCare on to the American people by hook, by crook, and by legislative shenanigan. And they did it in a partisan way, without a single Republican vote.

It was Thomas Jefferson that said:

Large initiatives should not be advanced on slender majorities.

What would be the slenderest of majorities would be barely squeaking by with enough votes to pass it in two different versions in the Senate, packaged together, and this version in the House—I guess two different versions in the House, too—with people's arms being verbally twisted up behind their backs, Democrats that wanted the President to succeed but had reservations about the imprudence of a takeover of our health.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare itself is a takeover of the second most sovereign thing we have and are. The most sovereign thing we have is our soul. And they haven't figured out how to nationalize our soul yet, but the Federal Government stepped in with ObamaCare and nationalized our health, our skin, and everything inside it. It is a usurpation of God-given liberty. It tramples on our constitutional rights. It was a huge initiative, and it was passed on the slenderest of majorities, directly against Thomas Jefferson's advice.

And look at what happened. In the fall of 2010, there was a wave election and we welcomed 87 new freshmen Republicans into the House of Representatives, every one of whom ran on the pledge to come here and repeal ObamaCare, every one of whom has voted for the full, 100 percent, rip-it-out-by-the-roots repeal of ObamaCare. And every Republican seated in the United States Senate has done the same. That was the wave election of 2010.

Then the President was up for reelection in 2012. The lines were not as distinct. The debate was, I will say, less easy to draw those lines between President Obama's position and those of Mitt Romney, but the election was decided. The President was reelected. I think that is on the American people. They made that decision. Of course, elections have consequences.

And so we were not able to repeal ObamaCare in 2013 or 2014 as we so ea-

gerly anticipated that we might. But elections have consequences. We abide by the inability to repeal ObamaCare, knowing that we didn't have the votes in the Senate and we didn't have a President that would sign the full repeal.

So a lot of us stood up about 14 or 15 months ago and said, "I'm not going to vote to fund ObamaCare." That was our pledge, Mr. Speaker. And we held our ground. That message came out about a year ago. It was late last June or July. We are going to hold our ground and we are not going to fund ObamaCare.

We went to this floor time after time after time, Mr. Speaker. We appropriated the funds to keep the government open—actually, to dollar figures we had agreed to between the House and Senate—and sent those appropriations bills over to the Senate, but not with the funding to fund ObamaCare. We were elected to repeal it. We were elected to rip it out by the roots.

We made a valiant effort to cut off the funding to ObamaCare, but the President insisted he would have his namesake piece of legislation and policy in the form that he wanted it. And if he couldn't get that from this Congress, then he would shut the government down. And that is what happened, Mr. Speaker.

Time after time after time here in the House we voted to fund the government, and we funded the government without funding ObamaCare in every configuration that we could come up with that we thought could effectively keep those functions of the government open. The President resisted and HARRY REID in the Senate resisted, and it brought about that time when there was a shut down for 17 days.

During that time there is a shutdown, all essential services continue and nonessential services cease. That is the simplest definition. When you run out of money, there is a shutdown. So we now have a definition of what essential services are. About 87 percent of the government was essential services and about 13 percent were nonessential services.

We had a new essential service that had never been defined before that was delivered to us courtesy of, I think, a petulant Barack Obama, Mr. Speaker, and that was that since there had been a shutdown in 1998, the people in this country put their money together, pooled their money—private money—to build the World War II Memorial. That World War II Memorial is a glorious memorial that sits on The Mall. It had never been closed down in its history. There was no reason to. It, like many of the other memorials, is an open-air memorial: the World War II Memorial; of course, the outside of the Washington Monument—not so much the inside; the Lincoln Memorial, wide open at all times; the Vietnam Wall, wide

open at all times; the Korean Memorial, wide open at all times.

But the President decided that there was a new essential service, and that essential service was to call people off of furlough and rent barricades with money, theoretically borrowed from the Chinese, to barricade the public, including our World War II veterans coming in on Honor Flights, out of their Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, and the Korean Memorial. They were all barricaded out by rented barricades, with Park officers who were called off of furlough.

A new essential service. We surely couldn't have American citizens and tourists walking through these memorials if 80 percent of the government is shut down. We would have to have a new service created. That is how spiteful our President was.

But in that period of time, in that process, now we have identified what is essential and what is not—and the 87 percent essential services, the 13 percent that are not, we can go back and look through the records and put that list together—we presume, and I think rightly so, if we should be forced into that situation and if the President were to shut the government down again, we would be in a similar circumstance and we can pretty well predict.

□ 1245

So I want to fund all of those appropriations bills and departments save those that he is likely to direct to violate the law or the Constitution in his press conference tonight, his statement to the American people.

And by the way, we are not going to see the language of this I don't believe, either, tonight. I think what we will hear is a very carefully crafted speech with lots of ambiguities in it, lots of nuances in it. There will be very little information in it, and we will have to divine what it is that the President has said. And some time after they have their meeting in the school with HARRY REID in Nevada, then I think there will be a document that will be released or noted that will more precisely define what the President is preparing to do. Then we can actually weigh in on the constitutionality, or lack thereof, that we anticipate is going to be the case tonight.

Mr. Speaker, if this were a constitutional act, he would have done it by now. If he were prepared to abide by the Constitution some time in the last year or so, he would have repeated the things that he has said in the previous 5 years of his Presidency and probably many times in the classroom as he was teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago, a stellar law school in this country.

I think I would be wanting some of my money back if I had had any one of

my kids that were learning Con. law from our President.

But many times he said, and I can think of a date, March 28, 2011, out here at a high school in Washington, D.C., wherein he said, You want me to pass the DREAM Act by executive order. I don't have the authority to do that because, he said, my job, as President, is to take care that we enforce and execute the laws; and the judicial branch's job is to interpret them, and it is the legislature's job to write them.

Congress writes the laws; the executive branch enforces the laws; the judicial branch interprets them. Pretty simple, pretty compact, pretty concise, pretty accurate.

There is no question the President understands this. On multiple occasions he has made remarks that would seek to restore the separation of powers, but they have been missing from his dialogue for a long time now; and that is just about how long it is that he has been planning, made his decision that he is going to go forward and now try to rationalize, he will try to justify and he will try to rationalize an unconstitutional act that, put it in quotes, "legalizes" 3½ million, 5 million, 7 million, maybe as many as 9 million people.

This Congress has, we have the enumerated power to set naturalization, and by a good number of case law, also immigration policy. No one else sets the immigration policy. The United States Congress does.

There is a statute that exists that directs that when immigration enforcement encounters someone who is unlawfully present in the United States, it says they shall place them in removal proceedings.

The President has already ordered that they not place them in removal proceedings. He has created four classes of people and said, under his prosecutorial discretion on an individual basis, only he has the authority to decide to waive the law against people who have broken our laws, most of whom are criminals by the definition of the laws that they have broken. That is the President of the United States.

Seven times in the document that was actually signed by Janet Napolitano, then the Secretary of Homeland Security, they reference on an individual basis only—because they know that the executive branch has prosecutorial discretion.

That is the term for how you decide which resources, how you prioritize your resources, where you apply those resources—and it is reasonable to do. If you don't have the resources to enforce all of the laws, it is reasonable to apply them where the greatest danger to the American citizens are. I agree with that. But when you send out a memo that says, if you have not committed a

felony and if you have not committed any one of these three mysterious misdemeanors—or these three serious misdemeanors, as they would say—then we are not going to enforce immigration law against you.

That says that you can break into this country and you can live in America as long as you want if you don't become a felon or if we don't catch you at it, and as long as you avoid these three serious misdemeanors, then you can stay in America the rest of your life and we are not going to bother you.

That is directly contrary to the law, the statute that requires immigration enforcement officers, ICE, in particular, to place them in removal proceedings.

Congress has written the laws, and that is what we do. That is article I. That is the opening sentence in article I of the United States Constitution. And yet the President believes, apparently, that he can write and rewrite law at will.

This will come tonight. We will look at the language. And when we look at the language, there will be constitutional scholars all over America, most of the judges will read the statement and reflect upon the application of the Constitution, the restraint of it. Most of the lawyers will, too.

A lot of Americans that understand this document—you don't have to wear a black robe to understand what this means. Our Constitution, Mr. Speaker, is written in plain English. It is real clear, and there is a lot of the language of the Constitution that comes out in the language on the streets of America, because it is very, very close to our heart.

But article I of the Constitution grants the legislative power to the United States Congress, not the President of the United States.

I do know a little bit about this. In a similar circumstance, at the State level, we had a Governor who believed that he could just simply, by executive order, it happened to be Executive Order No. 7, write law and insert language into 19(b)(2) of the civil rights section of the Iowa code. I read that executive order, and the smart lawyers all told me, No, you don't understand. This is nuanced, and it's deft and it is carefully drafted, so it is going to be constitutional, and the Governor can do this.

So I took the language and I put it into the code with strike-throughs and underlines like we do when we write legislation to see how it changes, and it read clearly to me that the Governor was inserting language into the code. So I filed a lawsuit. I was the lead plaintiff, and I spent some money out of my kids' inheritance to pay the lawyers and came out of that on top. I have been through these arguments.

Article I, section 1, says, "All legislative powers herein granted shall be

vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.”

That is here, Mr. Speaker, and it is down through the rotunda to the United States Senate. We join together and write legislation. The President signs it, then that goes into law. That is the Federal code.

It is the executive branch’s job to enforce it. He has no authority to waive it, not *carte blanche*, not huge chunks of people. He has prosecutorial discretion, but that is not what he is talking about.

What he is likely to do is to take the DACA group, the deferred action for childhood arrivals, which is another constitutional violation, those several hundred thousand that he has issued work permits to in another unconstitutional way, and say—and remember, they have our sympathy because they were brought here, according to a lot of people—and I agree, at least some of them—due to no fault of their own, little babies that are carried across the border by their mother or their father. They are not aware of where the border is or what is right and what is wrong at age 1 day. So they arrive here in the United States not citizens, unlawfully present in the United States. It wasn’t their fault—that is the argument that has been made over here time and again—and so we shouldn’t enforce the law, even the letter of the law, against people that were not aware that their parents were causing them to break it.

Now, that is an argument that I will take some time at another time, Mr. Speaker, to rebut. But there has always been, then, what about the people that caused the DACA kids to break the law? Their parents, presumably. Weren’t they aware when they snuck across the border with their children, age 1 day or 15 years and 364 days, weren’t they aware that they were breaking the law? Of course they were. And the President is prepared now to reward the family members of DACA recipients.

Why? Because he doesn’t want to break up families is my presumption. But these are the people that are breaking up their own families. They put themselves in that condition. They are leaving a lawless land and bringing lawlessness to this land. And we have a lawless President who won’t enforce the law, and he won’t abide by his oaths to the Constitution.

So we are put in this fix, Mr. Speaker. It is a fix of this Congress is now hopefully recessed—not adjourned—at the call of the Chair, I hope, expecting to go home for Thanksgiving on a calendar that we publish early enough that the President and his minions at the White House can look at the—I suppose they can look and see who owns a plane ticket to go where. But all you have to do is look at the flight schedules flying out of Dulles and out

of Reagan, and you look at the schedule here in Congress and you will know when it is likely that almost everybody is gone from town and gone home for Thanksgiving. Well, 95 percent of us are going to be out of town tonight by the time the President has his conference and speaks to the American people.

We shouldn’t think that it is timed that way by accident. It is strategically timed, Mr. Speaker, so that Members of Congress have just left town, anxious to embrace our families and celebrate Thanksgiving.

And so he drops this bomb in the middle of us that will be; it will tear asunder this Constitution. The President is prepared to do this, Mr. Speaker, take this Constitution—and I can’t bring myself to actually do this. So, take this Constitution. Separate out article I of the Constitution, the legislative authority. Tear that out. That is what he will do tonight at 8. He will tear article I of this Constitution out of this document. He will probably fold it one time, tuck it into his shirt pocket and say, I am also the legislative branch of government, and don’t interfere with me because I am the President.

That is what you are going to hear at 8 tonight, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to tear that out and show you what it looks like, but I can’t bring myself to do that to my Constitution.

Also, our choices that we have, alternatives to deal with this, I would make this point. Not only have I said the President takes an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, take care that the laws be faithfully executed, Mr. Speaker, we also here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate take an oath to the Constitution as well; 535 oaths to the Constitution, between the seated Members in the House and Senate that have a vote, that represent the people in this constitutional Republic—535 oaths. We have an oath to keep and protect this Constitution, as the President does.

I expect he will violate his oath again tonight, Mr. Speaker. We have an obligation then, under our oath to restrain the President’s extra-constitutional activity.

I think it is prudent for us to do the minimum necessary to restrain the President. I think it is prudent. And so the limitations on that, they go from one end to the other. It is a pretty broad list of things that we have the opportunity to do. But the easiest and the most gentle would be a resolution that would, I believe, with some level of comfort, pass here in the House of Representatives, that would be a resolution of disapproval for the President’s actions.

Now, if we bring that resolution of disapproval, we do so in language that, let’s say, doesn’t start a big debate, that it just simply lays out the facts.

We have done that when we disagreed with the Supreme Court. A resolution of disapproval comes to mind on the Kelo decision as one of them. So we could disapprove as a House. We could perhaps do a concurrent resolution or joint resolution—doubtful that HARRY REID would allow it to come to the floor of the Senate, and doubtful that it would pass. But in any case, the House can act on its own with a resolution of disapproval.

That may not be strong enough to cause the President to come to his constitutional senses, so the next step would be, in my judgment then, a resolution of censure for the President.

Now, again, I will reserve the language in that and not define it more precisely until we get an opportunity to actually see what it is that he does, but nobody in this country can paint the picture on how the President can expand amnesty and still be restrained by the Constitution because of the statutes that exist and the restraints that he has that are built into the separation of powers.

So a resolution of disapproval, number one; a resolution of censure, number two; and if, perhaps, that resolution of censure will bring the President to his senses and the President could look at the outrage of the American people, which I believe will boil over, by tomorrow morning I believe it will boil over, that outrage, perhaps he will realize that he has got to rescind his order.

□ 1300

Now, here is one of those examples.

When we were all promised under ObamaCare that we would have conscience protection, a right of conscience that ObamaCare wouldn’t compel us to fund abortions and sterilizations and abortifacients, of course, we found out that it did. After 2 weeks of the religious community’s being critical of the President, the President finally stepped up to the podium at noon on a Friday—another finely calculated time of the week—and he said there have been some complaints from the religious communities. I am going to make an accommodation to them. Now I am going to require the insurance companies to provide these services for free.

That is the President also legislating by press conference. It is not the United States Congress. I stand in the middle of the United States Congress right now, and I am hearing some of my colleagues say we don’t have the tools to restrain this President. Well, after a resolution of disapproval, after a resolution of censure, the next tool then is to cut off the funding to implement or to enforce his unconstitutional executive amnesty edict. We can do that in this Congress. We will be forced to do so in this Congress if the President doesn’t restrain himself. That is how we must restrain him.

I don't want to go down that path, but if we do, let's appropriate the funds into the departments that are not relevant to this subject matter and send those appropriations bills down the hallway—to the Senate—and get them to the President's desk one at a time if we can. Let him pick and choose. They can all sit there on his desk, all but Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. Those two pieces of legislation will be necessary for us to pass by exempting from funding those components of the President's edict.

Some have said that we could always claw that money back in a recisions bill. The simple answer to that is, no, we would not be able to do that because, even if we got a recisions bill to the President's desk, he would veto it. Some have said that we can't cut the funding off to implement what we anticipate to be the President's act because it is fee-based under USCIS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. So that is fees, fee for service, and that would be authorizing on an appropriations bill. I would remind people that this Congress has multiple times done just that.

They used the rule when I wanted to cut off the funding to ObamaCare, and I brought it before the Rules Committee—anybody can look it up—on February 14, 2011. I was advised that I shouldn't have put them in that position. They were going to have to say "no" to me even though they agreed with me on the policy because we couldn't effect policy in an appropriations bill. Of course, the answer is, yes, we can. We can do anything we choose to do. I would start with this.

In the Constitution, it says:

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings.

We set the rules here. In the Rules resolution, we waive continually the provisions. Here is one:

All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived . . . All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived . . . The previous question shall be considered ordered and the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion.

That is an example of a rule. The rule, itself, waives points of order here on the floor. We can write what we choose to write into legislation that would cut off the funding to implement or enforce a lawless and unconstitutional act. To those who say we can't do so with fees, I will read you the language that does so:

None of the funds made available in this Act or any user fees and other revenue may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the documents described—and we describe the documents.

This is not rocket science.

Are we going to allow a President to violate the Constitution and say our rules in the House won't let us restrain the President?

I call that another red herring, red herring number two. There will likely be another one or two.

This Congress, Mr. Speaker, must do its constitutional duty. It must adhere to our oath to the Constitution. We will be called to do that at 8 o'clock tonight. I will be prepared and so will millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Is the adjournment resolution more broad than this? The reason I am asking is because, if we have an emergency, are we able to return at the call of the Chair?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct that the House adopted an adjournment resolution earlier today. The Chair understands that the gentleman's motion will invoke a separate order.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FORTENBERRY (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of a family illness.

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 1, 2014, at 2 p.m., unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 119, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7817. A letter from the FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Farm Loan Programs; Entity Eligibility (RIN: 0560-AI25) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7818. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0031] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7819. A letter from the Acting Director, Legislative Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Interim Rule [Docket No.: NRCS-2014-0008] (RIN: 0578-AA63) received November 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7820. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Onions Other Than Bermuda-Granex-Grano/Creole; Bermuda-Granex-Grano [Doc. Number: AMS-FV-12-0013] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7821. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quality and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) Spearmint Oil for the 2014-2015 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0087; FV14-985-1A IR] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7822. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Late Payment and Interest Charges on Past Due Assessments [Document Number: AMS-FV-12-0023] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7823. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis Class Free States and Certified Brucellosis-Free Herds; Revisions to Testing and Certification Requirements [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0083] (RIN: 0579-AD22) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7824. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Cape Gooseberry From Colombia into the United States; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2012-0038] (RIN: 0579-AD79) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7825. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards (RIN: 3052-AC93) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7826. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052-AC84) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7827. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Affairs,

NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfflam and Ocean Quahog Fishery [Docket No.: 140529461-4795-02] (RIN: 0648-BE26) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7828. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-0648-XD519) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7829. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7830. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Bureau of the Census' Salaries and Expenses account, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

7831. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting a letter regarding a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7832. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mark D. Harnitchek, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7833. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7834. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting account balance in the Defense Cooperation Account, as of September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7835. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates—Special Contracting Methods, Major System Acquisition, and Service Contracting (DFARS Case 2014-D004) (RIN: 0750-AI27) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7836. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates—Foreign Acquisition (DFARS Case 2013-D005) (RIN: 0750-AH94) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7837. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled "Combating Terrorism Activities FY 2015 Budget Estimates, Amended"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7838. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the

approved retirement of Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7839. A letter from the Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (CARD ACT, HOEPA and ATR/QM) received November 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7840. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Application of Regulation Z's Ability-To-Repay Rule to Certain Situations Involving Successors-in-Interest [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0016] (RIN: 3170-ZA00) received November 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7841. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0009] (RIN: 3170-AA43) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7842. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Calvert County, MD, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8355] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7843. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Greene County, Indiana, and Incorporated Areas [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7844. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Clarion County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8357] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7845. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2014 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7846. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exchange of Mutilated Paper Currency received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7847. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Royal Air Maroc of Casablanca, Morocco, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7848. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards (RIN: 3064-AE04) received November 6, 2014,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7849. A letter from the Director, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Minority Depository Institutions Annual Report for 2014; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7850. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Filing Financial and Other Reports (RIN: 3313-AE25) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7851. A letter from the Special Inspector General, Office of the Special Inspector General, transmitting SIGTARP's October Quarterly Report to Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7852. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Violence Against Women Act [Docket ID: ED-2013-OPE-0124] (RIN: 1840-AD16) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7853. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Rehabilitation Training: Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center [CFDA Number: 84.264A.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7854. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0082] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7855. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Program Integrity: Gainful Employment [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0039] (RIN: 1840-AD15) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7856. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7857. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7858. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Improving the Identification of Health Care Disparities in Medicaid and CHIP", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396w-5; Public Law 111-148, section 1946(b)(2); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7859. A letter from the General Attorney, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Magnet Sets [CPSC Docket No.: CPSC-2012-0050] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7860. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in

Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7861. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter notifying the Congress of the Secretary's determination to contract for storage of petroleum products owned by the United States in facilities other than those of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7862. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Tobacco Product Exports That Do Not Conform to Tobacco Product Standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7863. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Premarket Approval of Pediatric Use of Devices — FY 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7864. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report entitled "Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7865. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, and Removal of Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0318] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7866. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 2013 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress, in accordance with the requirements in Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7867. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0177; FRL-9917-67-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7868. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing; Flexible Package Printing; and Industrial Solvent Cleaning Operations for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0476; FRL-9917-16-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Approval of Revision to PSD Program [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0242; FRL-9916-27-Region 5] received October 7, 2014, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Removal of Sulfur Storage and Handling Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0746; FRL-9917-64-Region 4] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7871. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0214; FRL-9917-63-Region 6] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7872. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Affecting Visibility State Implementation Plan Revisions; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan for the San Juan Generating Station [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0214; FRL-9917-43-Region 6] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7873. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Automatic Delegation of Authority to the States of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming to Implement and Enforce New Source Performance Standards [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0272; FRL-9917-49-Region 8] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7874. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Criteria for the Certification and Recertification of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance with the Disposal Regulations; Panel Closure Redesign [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0684; FRL-9917-57-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR60) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7875. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Florida: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2012-0179; FRL-9917-53-Region 4] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7876. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0568; FRL-9917-72-Region 3] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7877. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements, and Confidentiality Determinations Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program; Final Rule

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0929; FRL-9916-76-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ81) received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7878. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0615; FRL-9916-94-Region 9] received October 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7879. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approval and Promulgation: Missouri; 2013 State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0448; FRL-9918-18-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7880. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0300; FRL-9918-15-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7881. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Control of Emissions from Hand-Fired Equipment [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0688; FRL-9918-10-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7882. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Restriction of Emissions of Particulate Matter from Industrial Processes [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0687; FRL-9918-17-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7883. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nebraska; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0685; FRL-9918-13-Region 7] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7884. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Air Quality Standards and Regulations [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0183; FRL-9918-20-Region 8] received October 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7885. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Revisions to the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations; Ambient Standards for Nitrogen Oxides and for Ozone; Correction of Docket Number [EPA-R08-OAR-

2014-0698; FRL-9918-03-Region 8] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7886. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0173; FRL-9918-21-Region 8] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7887. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0401; FRL-9918-19-Region 7] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7888. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0500; FRL-9918-11-Region 7] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7889. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Imperial County; Ozone Precursor Emissions Inventories [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0542; FRL-9917-77-Region 9] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7890. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan; California; Interstate Transport Requirements for 2006 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0646; FRL-9918-38-Region 9] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7891. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metrafenone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0255; FRL-9917-56] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7892. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polyoxyalkylated sorbitan fatty acid esters; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0217; FRL-9916-97] received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7893. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import and Export, 2015-2019 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0236; FRL-9917-98-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR04) received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7894. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0390; FRL-9914-56] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received October 21, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7895. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Controlling Emissions During Episodes of High Air Pollution Potential [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0602; FRL-9918-75-Region 7] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7896. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Volatile Organic Compound Regulations [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0243; A-1-FRL-9918-00-Region 1] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7897. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [R05-OAR-2011-0968; FRL-9918-78-Region 5] received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7898. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0297; FRL-9918-24] received November 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7899. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetic acid ethenyl ester, polymer with ethane, ethenyltriethoxysilane and sodium ethenesulfonate (1:1); Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0393; FRL-9918-50] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7900. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-Propenoic acid, 2-methylphenylmethyl ester, polymer with 2-propenoic acid, peroxydisulfuric acid ([HO]S(O)₂]2O₂) sodium salt (1:2)-initiated, compounds with diethanolamine; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0418; FRL-9918-28], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7901. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FD&C Red No. 40; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0572; FRL-9917-14] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7902. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Approval of Revisions to Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Regulations Within the North Carolina State Implementation Plan; Correcting Amendment [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0765 FRL-9918-94-Region 4] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7903. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0347; FRL-9918-23] (RIN: 2070-AK01) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7904. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Technical Amendment to Update Data Management Systems Nomenclature [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2014-0733; FRL-9918-52-OSWER] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7905. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan, Enhanced Monitoring, Clean Fuel Fleets and Failure-to-Attain Contingency Measures for the Dallas/Fort Worth 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; and Transportation Conformity [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0099; FRL-9919-02-Region 6] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7906. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0140, FRL-9918-97-Region 10] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7907. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County; Control of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0169; FRL-9918-73-Region-3] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7908. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington; Non-attainment New Source Review [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0343; FRL-9918-84-Region-10] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7909. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0808; FRL-9912-50-

OAR] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7910. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0808; FRL-9912-51-OAR] received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7911. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits [EPA-HQ-OECA-2014-0551-FRL-914-32-OECA] (RIN: 2020-AA50) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7912. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Tribal Implementation Plan [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0557; FRL-9917-07-Region 10] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7913. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit a Complete State Implementation Plan for Section 110(a) Pertaining to the 2010 Nitrogen Oxide (NO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0337; FRL-9919-67-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS33) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7914. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Washington; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Best Available Retrofit Technology for Alcoa Intalco Operations, Tesoro Refining and Marketing, and Alcoa Wenatchee [EPA-R10-OAR-2010-1071; FRL-9919-38-Region 10] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7915. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana — Air Quality, Subchapter 7, Exclusion for De Minimis Changes; Final Rule [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0100; FRL-9918-35-Region 8] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7916. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0690; FRL-9919-48-Region 3] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7917. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0722; FRL-9919-10-Region 4] received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7918. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Steam Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; FRL-9919-21-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS39) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7919. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Reconsideration of Certain Startup/Shutdown Issues: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0044; FRL-9919-29-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS07) received November 18, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7920. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers; AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services [WC Docket No.: 05-25] [RM-10539] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7921. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Kansas City, Missouri) [MB Docket No. 14-140] [RM-11733] received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7922. A letter from the Chief, Mobility Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters [WT Docket No.: 10-4] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7923. A letter from the Chief of Staff, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 1 and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the Cellular Service, Including Changes in Licensing of Unreserved Area; Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Relocation of Part 24 to Part 27, etc. [WT Docket No.: 12-40] [RM No.: 11510] [RM No.: 11660] received November 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7924. A letter from the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the

Commission's final rule — Reform of Rules and Policies on Foreign Carrier Entry into the U.S. Telecommunications Market [IB Docket No.: 12-299] received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7925. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities [Docket No.: RM05-5-022; Order No. 676-H] received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7926. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases [NRC-2009-0359; NRC-2013-0133] (RIN: 3150-A172) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7927. A letter from the Staff Director and Deputy Staff Director, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, transmitting the Commission's annual report for 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7928. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-41, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7929. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-52, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7930. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-57, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7931. A letter from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report entitled "Venezuela: Restrictions on Certain Military End Uses and End Users"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7932. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Commerce Control List: Imposition of Controls on Integrated Circuits, Helicopter Landing System Radars, Seismic Detection Systems, and Technology for IR Up-Conversion Devices [Docket No.: 140131087-4087-01] (RIN: 0694-AG08) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7933. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarifications and Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Spacecraft Systems and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML) [Docket No.: 130110030-4928-03] (RIN: 0694-AF87) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7934. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's

final rule — Venezuela: Implementation of Certain Military End Uses and End Users License Requirements Under the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 141029906-4906-01] (RIN: 0694-AG31) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7935. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 06-14 informing of an intent to sign the Project Arrangement with Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7936. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense, transmitting a Report on Utilization of Contributions to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7937. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Report to Congress on Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" covering the period from February 7, 2014 to August 6, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7938. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report listing outstanding expropriation cases for 2014, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 527(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7939. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7940. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning corrections to a final rule amended parts 121, 123, 125, and 126 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7941. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Policy on Exports to Vietnam (RIN: 1400-AD73) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7942. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7943. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7944. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national

emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7945. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7946. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the twenty-fifth quarterly report on the Afghanistan Reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7947. A letter from the President, Federal Financing Bank, transmitting the Annual Report of the Federal Financing Bank for Fiscal Year 2014, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 5528 (b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7948. A letter from the President and CEO, African Development Foundation, transmitting a letter fulfilling the annual requirements contained in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, covering the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7949. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending September 30, 2014, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7950. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2014 Inventory of Commercial Activities, as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7951. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7952. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7953. A letter from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting submission of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) 2014 Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7954. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's annual financial report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7955. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7956. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual

Report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7957. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7958. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Agency's Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7959. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting five reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7960. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7961. A letter from the Inspector General, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; and the semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the same period; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7962. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7963. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7964. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2014 Audits; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7965. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Requests received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7966. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Progressive Awards and Monthly Quantity Allocations [GSAR Change 60; GSAR Case 2014-G501; Docket No.: 2014-0007; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AJ47) received October 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7967. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report "Veterans' Employment Redress Laws in the Federal Civil Service"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7968. A letter from the Archivist, National Archives, transmitting the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (Integrity

Act) Report for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7969. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7970. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7971. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Modification of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules (RIN: 3206-AM86) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7972. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Annual Privacy Activity Report to Congress for 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7973. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees' Retirement System; Present Value Conversion Factors for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees (RIN: 3206-AM99) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7974. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Audit of the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7975. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7976. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Outcomes of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Employment Program"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7977. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Audit of ANC 5B for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2013, 1st Quarter"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7978. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual financial statement audit for FY 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7979. A letter from the Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7980. A letter from the Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7981. A letter from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7982. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Excess Spoil, Coal Mine Waste, Diversions, and Buffer Zones for Perennial and Intermittent Streams [Docket ID: OSM-2012-0010; S1D1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F 13XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC69) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7983. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 140115049-4528-02] (RIN: 0648-XD456) received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7984. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 26 and Amendment 29 Supplement [Docket No.: 130606533-4646-02] (RIN: 0648-BD36) received October 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7985. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD496) received November 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7986. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-X100714b) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7987. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" in the Aleutian Island Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD537) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7988. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2014 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Porgy Complex [Docket No.: 120815345-3525-02] (RIN: 0648-XD495) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7989. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

transmitting the Administration's final rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2014-2015 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in the Florida West Coast Northern Subzone [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XD586) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7990. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Accountability Measures and Closure for Commercial Wrasses in the U.S. Caribbean Off Puerto Rico [Docket No.: 100120037-1626-02] (RIN: 0648-XD549) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7991. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Allowances in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD565) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7992. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD566) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7993. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish Fishery; 2015-2017 Specifications [Docket No.: 140822715-4882-02] (RIN: 0648-BE37) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7994. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2014 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130717632-4285-02] (RIN: 0648-XD504) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7995. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Boundary Expansion of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary [Docket No.: 130403324-4647-03] (RIN: 0648-BC94) received October 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7996. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod

in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD520) received November 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7997. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2014 Sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Harvested for Management Area 3 [Docket No.: 130919816-4205-02] (RIN: 0648-XD501) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7998. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six month period ending December 31, 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; the Act of June 8, 1938, ch. 327, section 11; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7999. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Continued Prosecution Application Practice [Docket No.: PTO-P-2014-0001] (RIN: 0651-AC92) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8000. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Permit Delayed Submission of Certain Requirements for Prioritized Examination [Docket No.: PTO-2014-0003] (RIN: 0651-AC93) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8001. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Annual Report on the Use of Special Immigrant Status for Citizens or Nationals of Afghanistan or Iraq: Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8002. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a Report on Internal Affairs Investigations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8003. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2013 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8004. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report of the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for Fiscal Year 2012, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3712(b); Public Law 98-473, section 603(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8005. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision not to appeal the decision of the district court in the case of Gerardo Manuel Mendoza Lopez v. Janet Napolitano, et al. No. 1:12-cv-1750-MJS, 2014 WL 1091336 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2014); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8006. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment for Commercial Space Adjudications; Second Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0822; Amdt. No. 406-8] (RIN: 2120-AK55) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8007. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Report to the Congress on U.S. Government Receivables and Debt Collection Activities of Federal Agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8008. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restriction; Revision of Departmental Component Designations (RIN: 3209-AA14) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8009. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugus River, Revere and Lynn, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0272] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8010. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments; Correction [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0410] (RIN: 1625-AC13) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8011. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; South Bristol Gut Bridge Replacement, South Bristol, ME [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0214] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8012. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Dignitary Arrival/Departure and United Nations Meetings, New York, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0737] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8013. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Navy Exercise, Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean; Cape May, NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0855] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8014. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Delaware River; Delaware City, DE [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0883] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8015. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Tennessee River between mile 4.8 and 5.8; Ledbetter, KY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0831] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8016. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bridge Demolition, Fox River, Green Bay, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0835] received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8017. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; University of Alabama vs. University of Alabama at Huntsville Rowing Competition; Black Warrior River mm 339 to mm 341.65; Tuscaloosa, AL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0791] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8018. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Suisun Bay Electromagnetic Scan and Ordnance Recovery, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0862] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8019. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Mile 45.7; Kittanning, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0747] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8020. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Mavericks Invitational Surf Competition, Half Moon Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0715] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8021. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Bridge 1 Structural Repairs at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0215] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8022. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pier 39 36th Anniversary Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0832] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8023. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; English Station Emergency Environmental Response; Mill River; New Haven, CT [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0917] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8024. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disaster Assistance; Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program — Deadline Extension and Administrative Correction [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0004] (RIN: 1660-AA78) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8025. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Portland Dragon Boat Races, Willamette River, Portland, OR [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0492] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8026. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage; Ashley River Anchorage, Ashley River, Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0819] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8027. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Cruise Ship Hamburg, Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0916] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8028. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Slip 4 Early Action Area Superfund Site, Lower Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0293] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8029. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ordnance Removal; Saipan Harbor, CNMI [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0849] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8030. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Semisubmersible Loading Operation Safety Zone, South San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0922] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8031. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile 170 to Mile 172; Darrow, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0780] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8032. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Moving Security Zone Around Crane Barge, New York Harbor Upper Bay and Hudson River, NY and NJ [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0886] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 5, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8033. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Report on Recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Aviation Consumer Protection as required by Public Law 112-95, Sec. 411; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8034. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats France (formerly Sicma Aero Seat) Passenger Seat Assemblies [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0730; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-206-AD; Amendment 39-17984; AD 2014-20-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8035. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0654; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-071-AD; Amendment 39-17983; AD 2014-20-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8036. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0494; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-017-AD; Amendment 39-17986; AD 2014-20-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8037. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0516; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-021-AD; Amendment 39-17987; AD 2014-20-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8038. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0740; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-030-AD; Amendment 39-17978; AD 2014-20-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8039. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Brantly International, Inc. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1093; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-020-AD; Amendment 39-17989; AD 2014-20-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8040. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alexandria Aircraft LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0438; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-015-AD; Amendment 39-17985; AD 2014-20-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8041. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0757; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-030-AD; Amendment 39-17988; AD 2014-20-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8042. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0283; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-17980; AD 2014-20-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8043. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0290; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-210-AD; Amendment 39-17981; AD 2014-20-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8044. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0650; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-162-AD; Amendment 39-17974; AD 2014-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8045. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1067; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-17982; AD 2014-20-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8046. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0058; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-116-AD; Amendment 39-17977; AD 2014-20-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8047. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas; California [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0722; Airspace Docket No. 14-AWP-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8048. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Harmonization of Airworthiness Standards — Miscellaneous Structures Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0109; Amdt. No. 25-139] (RIN: 2120-AK13) received November 4, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8049. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0532; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-016-AD; Amendment 39-17994; AD 2014-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8050. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0705; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-18006; AD 2014-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8051. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company; Beech Aircraft Corporation) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0345; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-230-AD; Amendment 39-17998; AD 2014-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8052. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0140; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-176-AD; Amendment 39-18004; AD 2014-21-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8053. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0581; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-167-AD; Amendment 39-17999; AD 2014-17-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8054. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30977; Amdt. 3607] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8055. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30980; Amdt. No. 3610] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8056. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30979; Amdt. No. 3609] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8057. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Departing IFR/VFR When Weather Reporting Is Not Available; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0502; Amdt. No. 135-131] (RIN: 2120-AK49) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8058. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Orders of Compliance, Cease and Desist Orders, Order of Denial, and Other Orders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0505; Amdt. No. 13-36 A] (RIN: 2120-AK43) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8059. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Airplane and Engine Certification Requirements in Supercooled Large Drop, Mixed Phase, and Ice Crystal Icing Conditions [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0636; Amendment Nos. 25-140 and 33-34] (RIN: 2120-AJ34) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8060. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fiberglass-Technik Rudolf Lindner GmbH & Co. KG Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0292; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-18001; AD 2014-15-02 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8061. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees [Docket No.: FRA-2009-0033, Notice No. 3] (RIN: 2130-AC06) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8062. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30978; Amdt. No. 3608] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8063. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30985; Amdt. No. 516] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8064. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Alma, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0745; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ACE-3] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8065. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cando, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0746; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AGL-2] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8066. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Thomas, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0263; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASW-27] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8067. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Establishment of Class E Airspace; Encinal, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0741; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-4] received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8068. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Restricted Areas R-4105A and R-4105B; No Man's Land Island, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0760; Airspace Docket No. 14-ANE-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8069. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0431; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-041-AD; Amendment 39-18003; AD 2014-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8070. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International, Inc. Air Data Pressure Transducers [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0285; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-035-AD; Amendment 39-17990; AD 2014-20-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8071. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0832; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-044-AD; Amendment 39-17995; AD 2014-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8072. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0451; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-17996; AD 2014-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8073. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28413; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-25-AD; Amendment 39-17993; AD 2014-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8074. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0548; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-008-AD; Amendment 39-18002; AD 2014-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8075. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0287; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-247-AD; Amendment 39-18000; AD 2014-21-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8076. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter regarding the use of private sector health

care for the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8077. A letter from the Chief Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections Based on Public Law 104-262 (RIN: 2900-AO93) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8078. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 2900-AO41) received November 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8079. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Expand Access to Non-VA Care Through the Veterans Choice Program (RIN: 2900-AP24) received November 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8080. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exempting Mental Health Peer Support Services from Copayments (RIN: 2900-AP11) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8081. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Policy, Tracking and Control, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designee for Patient Personal Property (RIN: 2900-AO41) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8082. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report on Child Welfare Outcomes 2009-2012, pursuant to Public Law 105-89, section 203(a) (111 Stat. 2127); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8083. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting "Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse: Fourth Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8084. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Surety Companies Doing Business With the United States (RIN: 1510-AB27) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8085. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Eagle Peak Mendocino County Viticultural Area and Realignments of the Mendocino and Redwood Valley Viticultural Areas [Docket No.: TTB-2013-0004; T.D. TTB-124; Ref: Notice No. 135] (RIN: 1513-AB96) received October 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8086. A letter from the Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a letter regarding negotiations with a new Trade in Services Agreement member; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8087. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Private Business Use of Tax-Exempt, Bond-Financed Facilities [Notice 2014-67] received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8088. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Election Procedures and Information Reporting with Respect to Interests in Certain Canadian Retirement Plans (Rev. Proc. 2014-55) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8089. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Lifetime Income Provided Through Target Date Funds in Section 401(k) Plans and Other Qualified Defined Contribution Plans [Notice 2014-66] received October 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8090. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Removal of the Qualified Payment Card Agent Program [TD 9699] (RIN: 1545-BG53), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8091. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2014 (Rev. Proc. 2014-59) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8092. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2015 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items (Rev. Proc. 2014-61) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8093. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Designation of West African Ebola Outbreak as a Section 139 Qualified Disaster [Notice 2014-65] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8094. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment received [Notice 2014-64] November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8095. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Group Health Plans That Fail to Cover In-Patient Hospitalization Services [Notice 2014-69] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8096. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Marginal Production Rates [Notice 2014-63] received November 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8097. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Highway Use Tax; Sold Vehicles and Electronic Filing; Taxable Period Beginning July 1, 2014 [TD 9698] (RIN: 1545-BG63) (RIN: 1545-BK35) received November 6, 2014, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8098. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Basis in All Cash D Reorganizations [TD 9702] (RIN: 1545-BJ21) received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8099. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2015 Limitations Adjusted as Provided in Section 415(d), etc. [Notice 2014-70] received November 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8100. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Earnings and Profits in Tax-Free Transfers from One Corporation to Another; Acquiring Corporation for Purposes of Section 381 [TD 9700] (RIN: 1545-BK73; 1545-BL80) received November 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8101. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2014 Base Period T-Bill Rate (Rev. Rul. 2014-27) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8102. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Arbitrage Rebate Overpayments on Tax-Exempt Bonds [TD 9701] (RIN: 1545-BK80) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8103. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Failure to File Gain Recognition Agreements or Satisfy Other Reporting Obligations [TD 9704] (RIN: 1545-BK65) received November 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8104. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Genitourinary Disorders [Docket No.: SSA-2009-0038] (RIN: 0960-AH03) received October 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8105. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting a letter for determining whether a cost-of-living adjustment formula can be applied to Social Security and Supplemental Security Income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8106. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the November 2014 Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits in Compliance with Section 2(h)(2)(D)(ii) of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8107. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the "Report on the Purchase and Usage of Ammunition for 2013"; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8108. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Evaluation of the Medicare

Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Demonstration (FESC)", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395x note Public Law 108-173, section 434(f); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8109. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the "Medicare Imaging Demonstration Evaluation Report to Congress"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8110. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Medicare Home Health Study: An Investigation on Access to Care and Payment for Vulnerable Patient Populations"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8111. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting fourth quarterly report of FY 2014 on Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

8112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report "Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery Threshold"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

8113. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 113th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and the Budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4329. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-628). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5746. A bill to prohibit an alien who is a national of a country with a widespread Ebola virus outbreak from obtaining a visa and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. COOK, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-

BALART, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5747. A bill to authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5748. A bill to extend the requirement that drug manufacturers that increase prices faster than inflation pay an additional rebate to State Medicaid programs to include manufacturers of generic drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5749. A bill to clarify membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 5750. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize a 6-month extension of certain exclusivity periods in the case of approved drugs that are subsequently approved for a new indication to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5751. A bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as "black lung disease"), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COOK, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 5752. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley, Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, or the kidnapping and murder of any other citizen of the United States by a foreign terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5753. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5754. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STOCKMAN (for himself and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H.R. 5755. A bill to withhold certain highway funds from a State that uses an automated traffic enforcement system on a Federal-aid highway; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in

each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5756. A bill to restore a public firearms range to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5757. A bill to redesignate the Frances Perkins Department of Labor building located at 200 Constitution Ave., NW in Washington, DC as the "Reed Larson Department of Labor Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 5758. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies when requesting or ordering a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LONG, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 5759. A bill to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 5760. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide seven person firing parties in the funeral honors details for World War II veterans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5761. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to expand the definition of an unauthorized alien to include aliens who have not been admitted to and are not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. FARR, Mr. POLIS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5762. A bill to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions to veterans regarding participation in State marijuana programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5763. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Billings, Montana, as the "Bear Root Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 5764. A bill to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5765. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 5766. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the criteria for selecting communities to participate in the Small Community Air Service Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 5767. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 5768. A bill to prohibit the use of funds for granting deferred action or other immigration relief to aliens not lawfully present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 761. A resolution recognizing the benefits of charitable giving and expressing support for the designation of December 2, 2014, as Giving Tuesday; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. BASS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOK, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. YODER):

H. Res. 762. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H. Res. 763. A resolution expressing support for designation of November 20 through November 26, 2014, as "End Child Slavery Week" to raise awareness of human rights abuses against children and to acknowledge the global fight against child slavery and child labor; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. ROONEY):

H. Res. 764. A resolution congratulating Congresswomen Frederica S. Wilson and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen on their induction into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H. Res. 765. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of passage of the Solar Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1974; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

331. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 430 urging the President and the Congress to publicly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

332. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 urging the Congress to enact legislation that will extend the MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership in Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

333. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 385 urging the Congress to investigate the Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of military veterans seeking health care at facilities throughout the country; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

334. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 urging the President and the Congress to join California in opposing any reduction of the national and high-cost conforming loan limits; to the Committee on Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, establishing an uniform Rule of Naturalization; and Article I, Section 8, Clause, regulating Interstate Travel.

Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 5749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have the power to "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states the Congress shall have the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 5750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which gives the Congress the authority to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Additionally, under Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 which gives Congress the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (The Congress shall have the Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;), and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof).

Enacting this bill is consistent with the powers vested to the Congress of the United States. With regard to Clause 1, the enactment of this bill will buttress the cause of "provid[ing] for the common Defence and general Welfare" by incentivizing individuals with knowledge of the referenced crimes to come forth so that the perpetrators may be brought to justice. Further, the language in the bill serves as a deterrent to the enemies of the United States, for if they know others have monetary incentive to bring them to justice, they may be less inclined to continue their criminal activity.

With regard to Clause 18, the bill provides the specific language, means, and authorizations to carry out the missions set forth in Clause 1.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 5754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in

the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment II of the Constitution of the United States

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress the ability to make laws necessary to carry out that power. Additionally, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9 grants Congress authority over federal courts and therefore implicitly allows Congress to require Judicial Branch review of Executive Branch actions. Finally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. YOHIO:

H.R. 5759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the Power "To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization . . ."

By Mr. BARBER

H.R. 5760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulations of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18.

Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitution of the United States provides clear authority for Congress to pass legislation to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Article I of the Constitution, in detailing Congressional authority, provides that "Congress shall have

Power to provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States. . . ." This legislation is introduced pursuant to that grant of authority.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. JOYCE:

H.R. 5764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 5765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section A.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 5767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 679: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 684: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 713: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 786: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1070: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1731: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1734: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1812: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1910: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1981: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 2146: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2368: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2502: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2737: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2847: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2901: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 3116: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 3426: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3471: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3480: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3486: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 3512: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 3717: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3742: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4163: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4221: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 4347: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4365: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 4426: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4507: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4551: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4679: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4693: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 4726: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4748: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 4778: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 4887: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4930: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. REED, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 4960: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BARR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DENT, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4977: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5059: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 5186: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5227: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 5229: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 5267: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5364: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 5372: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 5391: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 5473: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 5499: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5532: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 5589: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5638: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 5648: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5655: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 5656: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5680: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5685: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5690: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

H.R. 5697: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 5706: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 5710: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5737: Mr. GOHMERT.

H. Res. 72: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. Res. 755: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H. Res. 757: Mr. GOHMERT.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

101. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the National Guard Association, Washington, D.C., relative to urging the Congress to remove the specter of sequestration from defense funding; to the Committee on Armed Services.

102. Also, a petition of the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, relative to Resolution 050-2014 expressing its desire for Congressional approval of H.R. 965; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

103. Also, a petition of the City of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution R-14-0343 urging the Congress to enact the "Bella Bill" to advance pediatric cancer research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

104. Also, a petition of the Township of Berkeley, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. 14-388-R urging the President to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to secure the release of United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

105. Also, a petition of the Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C., relative

to Resolution 14-14 urging the Senate to ratify the CRPD treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

106. Also, a petition of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Passaic County, New Jersey, relative to Resolution R-2014-753 urging the President to secure the release of United States Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican prison and custody and transferred to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

107. Also, a petition of the Council of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 20-624 to approve the transfer of jurisdiction of a portion of Reservation 497 (Square 3712, Lots 101-104) from the United States, by the Department of the Interior, National Park Services, to the Dis-

trict of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

108. Also, a petition of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, relative to an appeal for action on legislation that will help ensure the continued economic recovery of the islands; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary.

109. Also, a petition of Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico, relative to Resolution No. 2 reaffirming the Association's historic opposition to the death penalty in Puerto Rico or sentences of Puerto Ricans convicted of death penalty crimes in any applicable jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

110. Also, a petition of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association, Ohio, relative to a peti-

tion urging consideration and support for HR 5178; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

111. Also, a petition of the Senior Citizens League, Virginia, relative to a petition to pass the Strengthen Social Security Act S. 567 and H.R. 3118; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce.

112. Also, a petition of the Blinded Veterans Association, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 21-14 supporting legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system; jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and Veterans' Affairs.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CODY R. MCKINNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody R. McKinney. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Cody has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Cody R. McKinney for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SHETAL I. SHAH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal I. Shah, MD, FAAP, who has worked tirelessly as an advocate for children over the past 10 years. Dr. Shah is a noted pediatrician, neonatologist, and scientist advocate who works to provide members of the Long Island Congressional Delegation information about the practical impact of national policy decisions on the children across Long Island. He is a recognized and award-winning child health advocate, serving as both Legislative Chairman and Treasurer of the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as serving on the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics' Policy and Advocacy Committee, which advises the New York State Legislature on matters of child health and development. At the national level, Dr. Shah also serves as an appointed member of the national advocacy committee of the Society for Pediatric Research, a leading organization of pediatric scientists, researchers, and policy analysts in the Nation.

Dr. Shah's parents, Dr. Indravadan C. Shah, MD, FACS, and Dr. Saroj Shah, MD, FACOG, emigrated from India to Long Island over 40 years ago and they have worked tirelessly to provide healthcare to underserved popu-

lations. They instilled in him the personal and professional qualities we all desire in our physicians. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Princeton University, Dr. Shah attended Cornell University Medical College, graduating with Honors in Research prior to completing a three-year pediatric residency at Duke University Children's Hospital. He then completed a three-year intensive fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at New York University. As a neonatologist, he has dedicated his life to the care of our most vulnerable and fragile citizens—critically-ill newborns.

Dr. Shah—a Fulbright Scholar—is past winner of the National Physician Advocate Award from the Institute of Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University. He also received a National Physician Leadership award from the American Medical Association and has been recognized by my colleagues in the 111th and 112th Congress for his contributions to the health of children in New York.

Over the past decade, Dr. Shah has provided my office with counsel on a host of issues related to child health, including stem cell and pediatric research funding, government appropriations for children, immunization policy, tobacco prevention, gun violence protection and child health insurance programs. Most importantly, Dr. Shah provided analysis of the local and statewide impact of the Affordable Care Act, providing a thoughtful review of the significant health improvements in the legislation and detailing areas where it can be further improved.

Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to leave Congress and transition to the next phase of public service, I wish to thank Dr. Shah for his unwavering support for our region's children. His expert child healthcare policy work has significantly informed our conversations on child health issues. He is an involved, thoughtful and forceful citizen who epitomizes the concept that a politically-engaged public promotes national progress. On behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Shah on his accomplishments in the field of pediatric and child health.

RECOGNIZING LIGHTHOUSE WORKS, INC.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for being selected to receive the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Business Alliance Award for Outstanding Ability-One Program Vendor. As a support agency of the Department of Defense, DLA provides military, federal agencies and joint allied forces with a va-

riety of logistics, acquisition and technical services. The Business Alliance Award recognizes businesses that have made exceptional efforts in partnering with DLA to provide supplies and services to America's defense forces.

Lighthouse Works, Inc. provides material components for the Army's Combat Life Saver Kit and other medical kits. The professionals at Lighthouse Works ensure medical material component shipments are of the highest quality, that they meet all required specifications and that shipments are delivered in a timely manner. The company is well-known for its flexibility and willingness to support the military's dynamic needs.

It is an honor to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for their support of our nation's military and for their contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING ANDREW R. HOOG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew R. Hoog. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Andrew R. Hoog for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BE THANKFUL: IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS THANKSGIVING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families on this upcoming Thanksgiving Day. Let us remember all of those who are now separated by death,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

distance, and in hospital beds across our Nation. Say a prayer of thanks for them all. I submit this poetic tribute to them, written by Albert Carey Caswell.

BE THANKFUL

Be
Be thankful
Be thankful on this Thanksgiving Day,
when with your families you sit down to pray
Please, please say a prayer for all those who gave
All so with your families you may break this bread
And what their selfless sacrifice has so said
Who for all our freedom paid
All throughout the generations the ones who gave
And be thankful
Be thankful for our freedom so very bright
Be thankful for all of these heroes who fought the fight
Who all so live and died in valor's light
All out across the deep blue seas
Who all gave so selflessly
And now lie all in deep dark quiet graves
Showing us all how to behave
Whose families still cry still this day
Who live all in the kind of pain only Heaven can allay
Until they are all reunited one fine day
So be thankful to all those who gave
All of their strong arms and legs
Who must now live without them each day
And gave their eyesight away
Who'll not see another beautiful sunrise today
And be thankful for all those who carry the scars of war
Who with PTS no longer sleep peacefully anymore
And as you look upon your children's faces
And see all of their warm smiles in place this
Remember, remember, remember to say in your grace this
A prayer for all those children with tears upon their faces
Because their mommies or daddies aren't coming home no more
As each new holiday this heartache they must endure
And all those families separated by distance and war
Who on this Thanksgiving Day each other so long for
And all they ask
Is for your thanks to stand by them all steadfast
Be thankful this Thanksgiving Day,
for all of their most precious gifts the Armed Forces and families gave
And on this Thanksgiving sitting around the table
You, this Thanksgiving you for all our freedoms so bright
thankful for our freedom so bright,
be thankful for all of those heroes who fight the fight

CONGRATULATING DIANA RUDEEN

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diana Rudeen who was elected President of the Department of Illinois' Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars on June 14, 2014.

Diana joined the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in 1992 to honor her father, James Contizano, who served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Over the course of more than twenty years of service to the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Diana has served as the Junior Vice President and President of the Clifford E. John Post in Loves Park, Illinois.

As a veteran, I especially appreciate Diana's special commitment to helping veterans coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury, addiction, and homelessness. As her special project she has chosen the Rosecrance Treatment Center in Rockford, Illinois, which provides treatment for substance abuse and mental health disorders, including PTSD, and gives veterans of the U.S. armed forces priority admission status. I am incredibly proud to represent men and women, like Diana, who selflessly serve our nation's veterans and their families.

Today, I am honored to join with the members of the Clifford E. Johnson VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Post to honor Diana's many accomplishments and her election as President. Over 21,000 women are members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Illinois and it is a testament to Diana's character and commitment to be chosen as their leader. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the hard work Diana and all the women of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW have done for our veterans and our community and to congratulate Diana Rudeen on her well-deserved leadership position.

HONORING JORDAN J. O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan J. O'Brien. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jordan J. O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
ALICE LEE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, there are some people you encounter in life who are just truly

remarkable individuals. The first time I met Alice Lee from Monroe County, Alabama, I could tell she was one of them.

As a newly minted lawyer, I had to travel to Monroeville, Alabama, to work on a legal matter with a local lawyer by the name of Alice Lee. Ms. Lee was not just any lawyer though. As one of the few women who practiced law in Alabama before World War II, she was quite a dynamic figure.

She was an expert of the law and incredibly gracious to me. When she spoke on matters of the law, people listened. She continued to actively practice law until after her 100th Birthday, making her the oldest practicing attorney in Alabama history.

Outside of the courtroom, Alice Lee was very active in the United Methodist Church. In fact, she was the first female to lead the Alabama-West Florida Conference delegation to the church's general conference. She appropriately has an award named in her honor that is presented to other women who have shown a commitment to God and leadership.

As the years went by, on occasion I would stop by Monroeville to say hello to Ms. Lee and catch up. She was just the kind of person that you enjoyed being around.

Sadly, on November 17, Alice Lee died at the age of 103. No one will ever be able to fill her shoes as a true trailblazer and student of the law. Retired minister Thomas Lane Butts of Monroeville put it best when he said, "Whenever there was a question in the community that no one could answer, the saying was, 'Go ask Miss Alice. Her death is like the closing of a great library.'"

Mr. Speaker, I know I join with countless others throughout Monroeville and the state of Alabama in sharing our condolences with the family of Alice Lee. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING MRS. BONITA M. HERRING, INTERNATIONAL GRAND BASILEUS OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor, Mrs. Bonita M. Herring on the occasion of her re-election as the 24th International Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. is a leading international, non-profit community service organization founded by seven African American educators November 12, 1922, on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The mission of Sigma Gamma Rho is to enhance the quality of life within the community through public service, leadership development, and the education of youth. With more than 500 chapters in the United States, Bermuda, Virgin Islands, Germany, and Korea, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has grown tremendously in Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service.

Mrs. Herring embodies the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She has served her community locally, regionally, and

nationally with vigor and grace for over 40 years. Mrs. Herring's leadership and interpersonal skills are unparalleled. She has served on a myriad of boards, such as the Southeast Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, and as Director of Recruitment for the College of Education at Chicago State University.

As the newly re-elected International Grand Basileus, Mrs. Herring represents the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho which is encapsulated in the words of their motto: "Greater Service, Greater Progress." Mrs. Herring also served as the 22nd International First Grand Anti-Basileus from 2008–2012 and as Executive Director of the sorority for 23 years. She is the only Soror of Sigma Gamma Rho to hold the distinction of serving as both Executive Director and International Grand Basileus.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Herring is the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois-Chicago and a Masters of Arts degree in Communications and Training from Governors State University. Mrs. Herring is married to Mr. Chester Herring, a Certified Public Accountant. They have one daughter, Ms. Chevonne Herring who is also a Certified Public Accountant and member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Herring lives by the mantra, uttered by Harriet Tubman, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Mrs. Herring's passion and impact on society are immense. She has cultivated a rich legacy as a woman that is fair, dedicated, business oriented, and honors the importance of the power of kindness and sisterly support.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of International Grand Basileus Bonita M. Herring. Her commitment to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and indeed this nation is commendable. I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THOMAS R. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas R. Givens. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Thomas R. Givens for his accom-

plishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JAMES P. PAPAGEORGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. James P. Papageorge on the occasion of his retirement from the Navy after more than 30 years of service as a Submarine Officer and civilian employee. Mr. Papageorge is a resident of Ashburn, Virginia, and has been a Department of the Navy civilian employee since 1985. His prior active-duty Navy experience includes service as a nuclear-trained machinist's mate and as a submarine strategic weapons officer.

Since 2007, Mr. Papageorge has served as the Deputy Program Manager for In-Service Aircraft Carriers (PMS 312) at the Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers in the Naval Sea Systems Command. As Deputy Program Manager, he was the lead civilian manager for our nation's 10 active nuclear powered aircraft carriers and the deactivation of the nation's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, USS *Enterprise*. He was the lead civilian supervising more than 65 personnel in Washington and 130 more at the Carrier Planning Activity in Newport News, Virginia, managing more than \$12 billion in aircraft carrier related contracts.

Mr. Papageorge received electrical engineering degrees from Norwalk State Technical College in 1978 and from the University of Missouri in 1981. In 1993, he received a Master of Engineering Administration Degree from Virginia Tech, and in 1999 he received a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Mr. Papageorge is an acquisition professional, certified to Level III in the Program Management and Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering career fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Papageorge for his tremendous service to his country and in wishing him all the best upon his retirement.

HONORING ALEX W. LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex W. Lewis. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Alex W. Lewis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLIAM G.
BATCHELDER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of the Honorable William G. Batchelder, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, on the occasion of his retirement from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Speaker Batchelder has served his community and state as an elected representative in excess of forty years, and has helped lead Ohio through tumultuous times into recovery and growth. In 1967 after graduating from The Ohio State University College of Law, he began serving the needs of his community as an attorney while also teaching law to future generations of litigators. He established a record of success in public service, earning the voters' confidence for more than thirty years as a member of the General Assembly and six years on the Ohio 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ever sensitive to the call of public service, Speaker Batchelder returned to the state capital in 2007 and ultimately took on the role of leading the people's house of the great state of Ohio.

I am extremely proud to play a small role in recognizing the life and accomplishments of such a uniquely dedicated public servant. I was honored to serve with Speaker Batchelder for six years in the Ohio House. He gives generously to his community through his time and diligent work. He has taken incredible leadership roles in advocating for seniors, farmers, public servants, conservation, and veterans. He continues to serve with organizations that meet the needs of folks ranging from children with dyslexia to adults with Alzheimer's. Throughout, Speaker Batchelder has utilized coalition building and bipartisanship to meet the needs of Ohioans in common sense ways. He has earned the public's trust, and deserves our recognition here today.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank Speaker Batchelder for service to our state. I offer my most sincere congratulations on his accomplishments and wish him well as he embarks on his next great ventures.

2014 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
WEEK**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12–18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 700 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure. Today, I would like to recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations that operate under the definitions supported by the National Standards for Community Foundations. Indiana is blessed to have a community foundation in every county, including 10 in my district: Unity Foundation of LaPorte County; Starke County Community Foundation; Community Foundation of St. Joseph County; Elkhart County Community Foundation; Kosciusko County Community Foundation; Marshall County Community Foundation; Pulaski County Community Foundation; Fulton County Community Foundation; Miami County Community Foundation; and Community Foundation of Wabash County.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. In Marshall County, the Community Foundation, United Way, and economic development leaders are working together to address challenges and opportunities for economic growth such as the need for a more highly skilled workforce. Community conversations spearheaded by these organizations brought together local units of government, educators, private sector partners and nonprofit organizations and laid the groundwork for becoming a model region for Project Lead The Way. It was through this type of partnership that a \$4.4 million matching grant pilot program was launched in 2014 that provides all K–12 schools, both public and private, in a five-county area with the opportunity to implement Project Lead The Way's rigorous, world-class STEM programs in science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition to providing every student with access to PLTW, the project will help develop a robust talent pipeline for businesses and industries.

This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 700 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

HONORING NOLAN P. McMICHAEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan P. McMichael. Nolan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nolan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nolan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nolan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Nolan P. McMichael for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LENOIR CITY**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to congratulate a celebrated institution in my District on the occasion of its 120th anniversary.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City was founded in 1894 with just 16 members in a one-room log cabin. Today, it has grown to more than 3,000 worshippers and a 34-acre campus.

I have represented Lenoir City in Congress for 26 years, and I have visited this church many times. It is a special and welcoming place with a history older than the city in which it is housed.

Lenoir City is one of the most beautiful places on this Earth, tucked in the mountains and surrounded by lakes and rivers. It is easy to see why this area has become one of the most popular places to move in the entire Country.

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City has helped build the community since its inception. I know many people who worship there, and they are some of the kindest and most generous people I know.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City operates under a philosophy of community involvement. Its congregation does not just worship from afar; it gets involved at every level of the community and serves as an example of Christian values to all.

The church is involved in more than 100 separate ministries with focuses ranging from young children to senior adults.

The church also owns and operates the Lenoir City Christian Academy, serving students from kindergarten, to fourth grade, and

runs after-school and day care programs. The church also operates the Lenoir City Arts Center, designed to teach students music and the performing arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine an institution having a bigger impact on a community than First Baptist Church of Lenoir City. I call on my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating this church and its congregation on 120 years of Christian service.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE
HALTING OF A McDONALD'S AT
UTULEI BEACH**HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, Apr. 26, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA MAKES FINAL APPEAL TO
MCDONALD'S CORPORATION

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has made a final appeal to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, in a letter dated April 26, 2006. The letter was copied to Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director of the National Park Service, Governor Togiola, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, President Lolo Moliga and Senators, Speaker Matagi R. McMoore and Representatives, Lydia Faleafine of the DOI in American Samoa, Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia, Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, and Lelie Peau, Chairman, PNRs Board, ASG. The full text of the Congressmans letter is included below.

Dear Mr. Skinner:

As a follow-up to my letter of May 25, 2005, I am once again requesting your immediate intervention regarding a decision made by McDonalds to build a new facility at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. Utulei Beach is the only public beach in America Samoa and building at this site goes against the core values of McDonalds which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of your customers and everyone else affected by your business.

Most importantly, based upon relevant information including documents, maps, and other material, there is a signed agreement (attached) between the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the US National Park Service (NPS) that places Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity. Also included with the agreement is a map (attached) clearly showing that the entirety of the Utulei Beach Park is included in the agreement which places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. Because ASG has accepted over \$4 million from the federal government since signing this agreement, I can assure you that the NPS is prepared to take whatever legal action is necessary against ASG and the McDonalds Corporation if this matter is not

expeditiously resolved. Please note that both NPS and ASG are under the jurisdiction of the US Department of the Interior and any action taken will directly involve the US Secretary of the Interior and this will not be good for ASG or for McDonalds.

As you know, last year I copied you on a letter I wrote to Mr. Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, in which I requested a copy of the feasibility study of the proposed plan to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park. To date, I have not received a copy of the feasibility study and I am very concerned about how the McDonalds Corporation can support construction of a new facility at any location when no environmental study has been conducted.

I also question how the McDonalds Corporation can support a lease agreement which is itself under review by the court. In brief, the Governor initially signed what he thought was a 9-year lease agreement with an option of renewal for an additional 20 years plus. However, the legal counsel for the local Senate noted that the proposed lease was actually for ten years and, as such, local law requires the lease to be approved by the local legislature. Consequently, the counsel for the Senate filed suit in court challenging the validity of the proposed lease. While the case was pending in court, the Governors counsel re-drafted the lease agreement to make sure the terms of the lease was for less than ten years so that it did not require legislative approval. ASGs attorneys petitioned the court to dismiss the Senates lawsuit but the court denied the request so this matter is also pending.

While it was my hope that the McDonalds Corporation would have interceded and resolved this situation more than a year ago for no other reason than it was the right thing to do, I would strongly urge you to take action now before this situation brings unwanted embarrassment to the McDonalds Corporation. I would also suggest that you direct your Managing Director for McDonalds Australia to be more responsive to the concerns of the people of American Samoa. I am extremely disappointed that he did not even offer a courtesy response to my letter of almost a year ago and I consider his lack of interest in this issue to be unprofessional and unbecoming of a corporate official of the McDonalds Corporation.

Considering that this issue now involves the federal government and based on documentation provided by NPS which I am convinced is correct, I am trying my best to prevent a confrontation between the McDonalds Corporation, ASG, and the US Department of the Interior. For this reason, I am making a final appeal to you and I am hopeful that at your earliest convenience you will work to favorably resolve this matter and support efforts to put an end to construction of a new McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park.

The Congressman concluded his letter by saying, As I have previously stated, the people of American Samoa will support the construction of a new McDonalds in American Samoa at any other location. We also applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa and wish you continued success.

[Press Release, July 24, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA THANKS US NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR RESPONDING TO HIS CONCERNS ABOUT ITS RECENT MEETING WITH GOVERNOR TOGIOLA REGARDING MCDONALDS LEASE

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he wishes to thank the US Na-

tional Park Service (NPS) for responding to his concerns about its recent meeting with Governor Togiola in Oakland, California on Friday June 23, 2006 regarding the McDonalds lease and Utulei Beach Park. The NPS provided clarification about its meeting in a letter dated July 6, 2006 which was addressed to Governor Togiola and copied to Congressman Faleomavaega, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Papalii David Cohen, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at the DOI.

I thank the NPS for responding to my concerns which I raised in a letter to US Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on June 29, 2006, about a week after the Governor met with OIA and the NPS behind closed doors to discuss the proposed construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park, Faleomavaega said. While I appreciate that the meeting was held as a result of Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlets letter to Governor Togiola dated June 7, 2006 regarding ASGs failure to comply with the legal requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, I stated that the public wants to know what federal and local officials are doing to resolve this problem.

I also stated that I expect the DOI to strictly adhere to the standards of conversion, or replacements of lands, as outlined by federal law. While I was also hopeful that Governor Togiola would protect American Samoas only beach for future generations, federal law leaves him with two alternatives. One, he can propose construction of a McDonalds at a site other than Utulei Beach or, two, he must give up valuable ASG land of similar value and recreational use in order to commercially develop Utulei Beach if he can find ASG land that meets the strict criteria set forth for conversion, Faleomavaega said.

Federal law requires the NPS to consider the Governors proposal to offer up replacement lands but I have made it clear that I am opposed to any proposal or framework of resolution that lowers the standards of conversion. I have also urged the DOI to let conversion negotiations proceed between NPS and ASG without undue influence.

In response to the concerns I raised in my letter, NPS has responded appropriately and provided clarification which shows that NPS is committed to adhering strictly to the law. In fact, The NPS makes it clear that the framework of resolution which resulted from the Governors meeting of June 23rd is only an outline and a brief summary of their conversation. NPS states, we feel other details of our conversation are important to keep in mind as we move forward.

Some of these details include the following statements made by NPS in its letter of July 6, 2006 to Governor Togiola:

We are obliged both philosophically and legally to preserve the publics outdoor recreation estate. The National Park Services ability to authorize conversions of LWCF property is strictly circumscribed by the LWCF Act, and in particular the regulations found in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 59. The details of these requirements were referenced in our conversation in terms of the proposed replacement property needing to meet LWCF standards. We spoke specifically at the time of the necessity of having sufficiently considered alternatives to converting parkland, the need for appraisals for all properties involved to insure that the replacements are of at least equal fair market value, the necessity of any replacement property meeting the criterion of rea-

sonably equivalent usefulness and location, and that the proposal be in conformity with the Territorys Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The NPS further outlined nine criteria that govern conversions and informed Governor Togiola that it will need documentation showing that these criteria have been met. The NPS also said that—

Being that Utulei Beach Park is the only beach affording public access to good swimming and recreational boating on Tutuila Island, the threshold for replacement property to meet the reasonably equivalent usefulness and location criterion is quite high. The Government of American Samoa must make the case that this criterion is met by any replacement property in another location.

In offering replacement lands, the NPS stated that Governor Togiola said other locations had been considered for the McDonalds lease but that locating it at Utulei Beach is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fagatogo area.

Based on this representation, the NPS said it would consider the Governors proposal as required by federal law, Faleomavaega said. However, in the same letter, the NPS also stated that in its discussion with the Governor, the Governor said that he did not intend for there to be any further commercial development of Utulei Park other than the proposed McDonalds.

On the one hand, the Governor says he needs to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach because this is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fagatogo area and, on the other hand, he says that the McDonalds corporation will be the only corporation allowed to build at Utulei Beach. How fair is this to Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, and the rest of our local business owners? Faleomavaega asked.

Do our business owners have a say in this? What about our Fono? Has the Governor submitted an economic development plan to our Legislature for consideration? If not, why not? Also, what is the role of the Fono in determining what lands the Governor may offer up as replacement lands for Utulei Beach?

Whatever direction this takes, I believe the NPS has an obligation to keep the public informed and I will do my part to make sure this is so. For now, I am pleased that the NPS has agreed to provide an initial review of proposed replacement properties that would indicate if there are any obvious facts that would render them ineligible before funds are expended to obtain surveys, appraisals, recreational development plans, and environmental compliance. Most importantly, I am pleased that the NPS has underscored the importance of the Governors commitment to prohibiting any ground disturbing activity related to the McDonalds lease until NPS has completed the review and approval process for replacement properties.

Again, I thank the NPS for providing clarification on its recent meeting with the Governor and I am encouraged that the NPS is taking this matter very seriously. I am also encouraged that the NPS has documented its meeting with the Governor in its July 6th letter so that all facts pertaining to this historic issue can be made part of the public record. Utulei Beach is the peoples beach and, as such, our people have every right to know how ASG officials make decisions that will impact, for generations to come, the use of the most scenic and only beach park in American Samoa.

Our people also have every right to know what local lands will be given away to the

federal government to accommodate the needs of one business owner. For this reason, a full copy of the NPS letter dated July 6, 2006 is posted on my website, Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, May 19, 2006]

HOUSE PASSES INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL WITH OVER \$33 MILLION FOR AMERICAN SAMOA; URGES ACCOUNTABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND DISCOURAGES COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that late last night the House Committee on Interior Appropriations passed by a vote of 293 to 128 H.R. 5386, the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill which includes over \$33 million for the operations of the American Samoa Government and Capital Improvement Projects (CIPS). The bill also includes language which urges greater accountability of ASG funds and discourages the commercial development of Utulei Beach Park.

As I said in my release of May 16th, ASG continues to be the only government that receives a direct appropriation from Congress for the operations of its government despite being designated as high risk, the Congressman said. As a result of this support, I am hopeful that our local government will provide better accountability and I commend ASG for the progress it is making.

At this time, I thank the House Committee on Interior Appropriations for including my request to set aside \$500,000 of the \$22,880,000 ASG will receive for government operations. As stated in the Committee report, The Committee expects the government of American Samoa will use no less than \$500,000 of this funding for physical education activities at school. I am pleased by this outcome since our public schools lack adequate facilities, equipment and personnel to provide quality health and education programs which are critical to the physical, mental, and social development of our students. As a result of this funding, I am hopeful that our local DOE will have the support it needs to purchase equipment and establish sports programs for the benefit of our children.

I am also hopeful that our local leaders will work quickly to resolve the McDonalds issue that has now drawn Congressional attention. Again, I like McDonalds and I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa. I also support construction of a new McDonalds anywhere in American Samoa but Utulei Beach.

The fact is Utulei Beach is a federally protected park area and, by contractual agreement, cannot be used for any commercial purpose. Therefore, the current proposal to construct a McDonalds within a federally protected park area is a potential violation of ASGs agreement with the US National Park Service (NPS) and, as such, is an issue that has escalated into a federal problem that must be expeditiously resolved.

In other words, the current debate about McDonalds is a debate about location. If McDonalds builds on land solely-controlled by ASG, then its a local issue. But if McDonalds seeks to build on land that has been protected as a federal park area, then its a federal issue and this is why Congress has taken an interest.

Put another way, ASG, by choice, entered into an agreement with the NPS to protect Utulei Beach and now Congress has spoken out in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill to encourage the American Samoa government to not allow commercial develop-

ment of waterfront areas of Utulei Beach Park because this site has such high recreational and natural values, and it has enjoyed funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program which indicates that this park land should be dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity.

While it is unfortunate that construction of a new McDonalds in our Territory has received Congressional attention and while it is worrisome that the US Congress has taken notice that ASG received federal funds to preserve Utulei Beach but is not being accountable for those funds, I believe it is in the best interest of our Territory to resolve this matter quickly so that other federal funding we receive will not be jeopardized.

As I said in a previous release, American Samoa, on a per capita basis, receives more federal education funding per pupil than any other State or Territory. Our health care funding has also doubled and recently we were able to significantly increase our Medicaid funding. With the amount of support and funding we are receiving, I am convinced if there is better accountability of federal funds we will see significant improvements in this Territory.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their support and, as this bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, I will continue to work to make sure American Samoa receives its fair share of federal dollars, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING WILLIAM L. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly want to recognize William L. Givens. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending William L. Givens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DJOUNEDOU TITIKPINA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Djounedou Titikpina for his many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Djounedou Titikpina originally hails from the nation of Togo, but brought his passion for

public service and community building with him to the United States. This passion is clearest in Mr. Titikpina's founding of the African People Alliance, Incorporated. This organization, which serves as an umbrella organization for other groups working to develop the African community here in The Bronx, has the unique dual role of providing social services while also working to fortify the work of existing groups throughout the community. The African People Alliance routinely hosts cultural exhibitions, youth and adult soccer programs, and legal assistance to individuals, while providing groups with infrastructural support and development they need to grow. Additionally, the African People Alliance plays a lead role in the annual coordination of the Bronx African United Day Parade and Festival.

Today, he serves as Founder and CEO of Djounedou T.'s African Fashion & Embroidery Design, Corporation, is a member of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition's Immigrant Rights Campaign Board of Directors, and provides services as a family court interpreter at Geneva Worldwide, Incorporated. With the ability to speak more than nine languages, Mr. Titikpina's talent to communicate and understand the needs of the community, and respond to them in meaningful ways comes as no surprise.

Mr. Titikpina is an individual who is clearly committed to ensuring that our community's work in tandem to grow in healthy, respectable ways. He has fostered partnerships among groups and individuals that are all working towards a common goal, and this type of leadership is what keeps our community moving in the right direction each day. I am grateful to know that someone like Djounedou Titikpina is working in, with, and for our residents each day, and am proud to call him a fellow public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Djounedou Titikpina for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

**NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND
NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY**

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, this November, I am proud to celebrate National Adoption Month and also National Adoption Day, an important time to recognize those wonderful parents who have adopted children in need of a permanent, loving home. It's also a time to remind ourselves of the thousands of children across the country who still remain in foster care, waiting for a family to call their own.

Earlier this year, I was honored to recognize Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen as the 2014 Angel in Adoption award recipient from my district. In her 14 years as a judge, she has finalized nearly 700 adoptions, and through this and her prior work she has dedicated her career to serving Michigan's most vulnerable children. There are many incredible advocates like Judge Allen around the country, and I am grateful for their efforts and for

the opportunity we have to recognize them today.

Adoption is not something I'm speaking about just today, but something I have focused on throughout my career in private practice as well as my years in Congress. As an attorney before coming to Congress, I worked with parents and children in the foster care system. In Congress, I have been privileged to meet many adoption advocates as well as youth who have benefitted from adoption. Those sorts of experiences provided much of the background for legislation I have helped craft that has contributed to the landmark changes in adoption policy Congress has approved in recent years.

In 1997, my colleagues and I on the Ways and Means Committee crafted the Adoption and Safe Families Act. That legislation streamlined the adoption process to help more children in foster care quickly move into permanent adoptive homes. It also, for the first time, offered incentives to states to safely increase the number of children adopted from foster care.

It worked. In the decade following that legislation, the number of U.S. children adopted from foster care increased by 71 percent. In the years since, adoptions have continued to remain higher even as the foster care caseload started to decline. Overall, almost 300,000 children have been adopted as a result of the increase in adoptions starting in 1997. One study estimated the federal government saved \$1 billion over eight years by ensuring children were adopted instead of remaining in foster care.

In 2001, I worked with my colleagues to pass the historic 2001 tax relief package that expanded the adoption tax credit to \$10,000, easing the financial burden of adopting a child. In 2012, we made the adoption tax credit permanent.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law my legislation, the Adoption Promotion Act, to create new financial incentives for states that increase adoptions of older children from foster care.

In 2008 as part of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, my proposal to provide equitable access to foster care and adoption services for Indian children in tribal areas became law. This allowed tribal governments to receive funding to administer adoption and foster care programs directly.

And just this year—after many months of hearings, public comment, and bipartisan work between the House and Senate—the President signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This law is designed to reduce child sex trafficking as well as increase adoptions, including among the hardest-to-place children.

Together, these efforts have resulted in more children living in loving, adoptive families. I am grateful for the support I have received from my colleagues in these efforts during my time in Congress, and I am grateful that today we can recognize and honor the most important people in this process—the parents who adopt children, the children who have been adopted, and those children still searching for a loving family.

Children in foster care deserve a place to call home, not for a few months or years, but

for good. We have already seen great progress in increasing adoptions in recent years, and I hope that we will continue to see progress in the years ahead.

HONORING COLONEL ROY PLUMMER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of Columbus, Georgia's finest leaders: Colonel Roy Plummer. Colonel Roy Plummer is retiring as a Director of Army Instruction for the Muscogee County School District JROTC where he is responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. From 1998 to the present he has dedicated his efforts toward creating a formidable district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets early in his tenure to a current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. His partnership with the high school principals in moving JROTC forward in terms of relevancy and as an enhancer to each high school's vision has been extremely successful. Under Colonel Plummer's mentorship, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, State-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Colonel Plummer is the Senior Pastor, Founder and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church in Columbus since its inception in October 1994. He had finished his Active Duty Army career as the Chief of Chaplains of Fort Benning, Georgia prior to his retirement. He also currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, Columbus, Georgia. He has served on numerous Boards as both a chairman and as a member: St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce are but a few.

Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies at Columbus State University. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Masters of Arts in Human Relations & Group Process and Guidance & Counseling, a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and a Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background and his benevolence inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

A native of May Penn, Clarendon Parrish, Jamaica, Colonel Roy Plummer is a leader, pastor and friend to many; and the father to four daughters and seven grandchildren. He will share with you that "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" To Roy Plummer and the endless contributions he has made to JROTC, the Muscogee County School District, and the Columbus community, we say "Thanks a Million!"

HONORING GEORGE ALLEN ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albuquerque resident George Allen Ortiz for his honorable military service in the United States Marine Corps.

George Allen Ortiz, affectionately known as "Al", was born in the northern New Mexico town of Raton. At the ripe age of 17, Al began his service in the Vietnam War. He would honorably serve his country from February 28, 1964 to February 16, 1970 in the First Marine Division at battles that ensued in the South Vietnam city of Da Nang.

I had the pleasure of personally meeting with Al on Veteran's Day to thank him for his dedicated service to the United States of America. In that wonderful moment I could sense Al's burning pride and fervent patriotism. It reminded me of the countless individuals, throughout history, who fought tirelessly to preserve the guiding principles and enduring freedoms of our country. Al's commitment to the preservation of these pursuits and our country's continued success is unwavering.

Al was recently diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a result of the risks that American soldiers face when they step onto the battlefield. He has the wonderful support of Cathy, his wife of 45 years, daughter Tamra and six grandchildren who love him dearly. Like a true soldier, he is always thinking about the young Americans who are currently making sacrifices to defend the United States. At age 65, Al still talks about his desire to travel overseas to help our brave men and women as they courageously engage in combat.

It is heroes like Al who make our country great. He is a man of great integrity, revered by his family, friends and community. I would like to take this moment to thank Al for his service, his sacrifice, and his steadfast devotion to the great state of New Mexico and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JACK D. BALLARD AND THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, all of us who work on Capitol Hill owe a tremendous debt to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. One of my constituents, Jack D. Ballard of Greenbrier County, wrote to me to share some of his own memories and about the friendships he forged during his tenure on the force of Capitol Hill's finest. His late father, Leonard H. Ballard Jr., who retired as an inspector after 38 years on the force instructed Jack that, "on Capitol Hill, you can be struck by lightning when there isn't a cloud in the sky." That's sound advice from a seasoned voice for everyone on the Hill.

Jack worked with many fellow West Virginians during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including Emery "Bud" Aliff, Donald Shumate,

Jimmie Young, Lenvil Young, Charles Farmer, William Harrah, William Hall, and Lt. Colonel Jervis. Jack found a common trait among these West Virginians, they all worked together to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, we all ought to celebrate that common thread of the "can do" spirit that weaves throughout the hills of West Virginia and throughout our Nation. It is a trait that has and can continue to serve our Nation well.

RECOGNIZING BROWN'S CIGAR STORE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on its 125th anniversary. Located in the historic Gaffer District of Corning, New York, Brown's Cigar Store has proudly served the community since 1889.

Brown's Cigar Store is locally owned and operated by the Smith family. As experienced tobacconists, Sue, Terry, and Bejay Smith use their knowledge and expertise to carry on the strong, time honored tradition of tobacconist culture.

At the turn of the twentieth century, local patrons would visit Brown's to get a haircut, purchase a steamship ticket, and converse about the latest news. Although the products and services have changed over the years, the sense of camaraderie remains as strong today as when the store first opened its doors to the Corning community. Today, the store offers its guests the opportunity to step back in time, to an era when friends and neighbors would gather to discuss family, sports, politics, and national news. Patrons of Brown's experience a warm and friendly atmosphere, where the finest tobacco products and friendliest smiles are always in stock.

I once again congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on 125 years of success. As a small family-owned business in my home town, I am proud to recognize this impressive milestone.

HONORING STEPHANIE ARTHUR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Stephanie A. Arthur, MPA for her dedication to advocacy and working to improve access for members of the African community in New York.

Stephanie Arthur is the Founder of the African Leadership Project, which is a civic training organization that provides a leadership pipeline for various professions. The overarching goal of the African Leadership Project is to foster and develop the talent of individuals within African communities, and match these individuals to key leadership opportunities throughout the community.

Ms. Arthur is a very accomplished individual. She is an alumna of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, The White House Project, Eleanor's Legacy, Coro Leadership Center of New York, and the Center for American Women and Politics. Having gained tremendous experience and knowledge of the political realm over the years, Ms. Arthur has worked on several high-profile elections ranging across all levels of government, and is respected as a grassroots activist across the nation. As a first generation Ghanaian-American and important voice in the African Diaspora, Ms. Arthur has continuously taken her many acquired skills and used them to amplify the voice of the African community at large.

Today, Stephanie Arthur serves as the political strategist and Founder of S. Arthur Group, LLC, which is a boutique public affairs and government relations consultancy. Ms. Arthur continues to be a fierce advocate for immigrant rights, for the advancement of criminal justice policy, for gender equality, and for many other social justice issues that are important to all of our community's residents.

Ms. Arthur's dedication to working with civic organizations, individuals, and figures in public office speaks to her natural ability to build coalition of support for issues that matter to all of us, and it is this dedication and ability to lead that makes her such a valuable asset in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Stephanie Arthur for her consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding public service of Dr. Julian Crocker, longtime educator, superintendent and public servant. Julian plans to retire this January after fifty years as a scholastic leader, a fixture of the San Luis Obispo County public school system.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Julian matriculated at Vanderbilt University and joined the United States Army shortly after graduating. On the completion of his term of service, Captain Crocker settled in sunny San Mateo, California in 1964, where he began to teach high school. Julian also earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from Harvard University in 1972, and upon returning to San Mateo, was appointed principal.

A renaissance man to the core, Julian recognized early in his career that education represented only the last, most public component of childhood development. All his professional life, he strove to unite broad coalitions of businesses, nonprofits and local government offices to improve housing and medical care for young and poor children.

Julian spent twenty one years as superintendent of different school districts in California—in San Mateo, Palo Alto and eventually Paso Robles. In 1999, he was elected County

Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo, in which capacity he has worked ever since. Under his tenure, San Luis Obispo expanded its charter school system, enlarged its English proficiency program, and founded the Grizzly Academy—an innovative boarding school for at-risk youth—in partnership with the California National Guard. These are but a few of his many accomplishments on behalf of his community.

Julian acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge from his years of service, a foundation of wisdom which I have often relied upon throughout the years, either by seeking his counsel directly or in meeting him and other County Superintendents to discuss educational needs on the Central Coast. I could always count on straight talk and sound advice—advice I took back with me to the halls of Congress.

In fact, in his office, Julian kept a framed quotation above his desk—one of my favorite Presidential quotes as it happens, from one of my favorite presidents: Theodore Roosevelt. It reads: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly . . ." Julian's arena has been the classroom, where he has lived that phrase, educating our students, expanding our curriculum, fighting to ensure students have the resources they need.

In this next chapter of his life, I know Julian is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Donna, his children, and his six grandchildren. While the next County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo has large shoes to fill and Julian's presence will be missed, I know he will always remain involved on the issues important to him. I thank Julian for his friendship and counsel, and his leadership to improve education in California, and wish him and Donna all the best.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF McDONALD'S AT UTULEI BEACH

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, May 25, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA CALLS UPON McDONALDS CORPORATE OFFICERS TO INTERVENE AND HALT CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has written to Mr. Charles Tautolo, President and CEO of McDonalds American Samoa Franchise, and has expressed his opposition to construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach. A copy of the Congressmans letter dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate and Senators, the Speaker and Representatives, the

Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, and the Managing Director/CEO of McDonalds Australia, is included below:

Dear Mr. Tautolo:

I am writing to express my opposition to your decision to build a McDonalds restaurant at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. I am also requesting a copy of your feasibility study pertaining to this proposed location.

It is my understanding that as a responsible corporation it has been the practice of McDonalds to conduct a feasibility study and/or an environmental impact assessment of a proposed site before construction of a new facility may proceed. I am hopeful that this is also the case in American Samoa and, for this reason, I would appreciate a copy of your study.

I also believe McDonalds feasibility study for the Utulei Beach Park should be shared with the people of American Samoa because they deserve to know what impact your proposed restaurant will have on the welfare of our community. While I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa, I do not believe your current plans are sensitive to the social and environmental concerns of our Territory.

Since the day McDonalds announced plans to build on the Utulei Beach, which is the only public beach in American Samoa, my office has been inundated with calls from constituents voicing their objections to your proposal. I have read of further complaints in our local papers and the Senate has passed a resolution recommending that the Governor not finalize the McDonalds lease.

I have also received a petition signed by water sport organizations incorporated in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa which includes Executive Committee Members of the American Samoa National Olympic Committee. Organizations opposed to the construction of a McDonalds at the Utulei Beach include the American Samoa Kayak Canoe Association Inc., the American Samoa Swimming Association Inc., the American Samoa Canoe Racing Association Inc., the Aiga Tautai O Samoa Inc., the American Samoa Yacht Racing Association Inc., the American Samoa Surfing Association Inc., the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association Inc. and Common Cause.

Aquatic sports such as sailing, canoeing, and yachting are flourishing at Utulei Beach. International sailing and especially outrigger events which celebrate our proud heritage have been hosted at Utulei Beach and, in time, Utulei Beach may become a major tourist attraction. It is also my understanding that Utulei Beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautausi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef.

More importantly, Utulei Beach has been enjoyed by the people of American Samoa for generations and, in keeping with traditional Samoan culture, families travel for miles to swim or picnic at this public location so as to respect the more restrictive customs set forth by each village council. For many reasons, including the historical and social significance it holds for our families and the economic implications it has for our future, Utulei Beach must be preserved. This is why federal funds have been appropriated to finance the Utulei Beach Project which was included as a priority project for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

These are facts which I believe must be shared with the McDonalds Corporation and

given the importance of this issue I am copying this letter to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia. I am also informing both that there are other sites available for construction of another McDonalds in American Samoa.

Also, with the popularity McDonalds enjoys in American Samoa, I am confident that the people of American Samoa will appreciate, support and welcome another McDonalds in any location other than Utulei Beach. In turn, McDonalds must be sensitive to the wishes of our people. The McDonalds Corporation has built its reputation on being a responsible corporate partner and invests millions of dollars to promote family values.

Therefore, I am hopeful that this issue will be immediately resolved at the corporate level. However, if I must go to the House Floor on a daily basis to express my outrage about McDonalds unwillingness to respect the public concerns regarding your proposed lease agreement with the local government, I will have no choice but to do so.

Sincerely,

ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

Member of Congress.

cc: Gov. Togiola Tulafono; Lt. Gov. Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia; President of the Senate and Senator; Speaker of the House and Representatives; Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman & CEO, McDonalds Corporation; Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia

I am hopeful that this matter will be resolved locally but, if not, I have called upon the McDonalds Corporation to immediately intervene and put an end to construction at Utulei Beach. Constructing a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa goes against the core values of the McDonalds Corporation which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of its customers and everyone else affected by its business. It is time for McDonalds to live up to its promise and I trust that all involved will do right by the people of American Samoa, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 29, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA AND MCDONALDS MEET TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that Mr. Bo Bryant, Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation, contacted his office on June 17, 2005 and requested a meeting to discuss the controversy surrounding the potential construction of a McDonalds at Utulei beach. The meeting was held yesterday in the Congressmans Washington office and Ms. Nicole E. Storey, a Government Relations Specialist for McDonalds, also attended the meeting. The meeting was in response to Congressman Faleomavaegas letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation.

My meeting with Mr. Bryant was very worthwhile, the Congressman said, and I am pleased that the McDonalds corporation is taking this issue seriously. McDonalds has built its reputation on being a good corporate citizen and upholding the values of the communities which it serves and, today, the McDonalds corporation has demonstrated that the people of American Samoa matter.

My job is to make sure that your concerns on behalf of the people are heard and addressed, Mr. Bryant told the Congressman,

and we are only at the beginning of this process. Mr. Bryant gave the Congressman his personal assurances that he would report back to his leadership about the concerns the Congressman raised in the meeting and that he would also keep Congressman Faleomavaega updated as this matter progresses.

From the outset, I made it clear that the people of American Samoa will support the establishment of another McDonalds at any location other than our only public beach. However, as I explained to Mr. Bryant, there is no point of compromise when it comes to Utulei beach and I remain hopeful that this situation can be diffused.

While I appreciate the contributions Mr. Tautolo has made to the local community, I expressed my concerns about the feasibility study that should have been conducted before any kind of contractual agreement was entered into between McDonalds and our local government. In fact, I informed Mr. Bryant that I had requested a copy of the feasibility study but, to date, I have not received a copy or a response to my request, Faleomavaega said.

Mr. Bryant said that he was not aware of whether or not a feasibility study had been conducted and he thought that at least four or five more permits still needed to be acquired and, without those, construction could not begin. He said it was also his understanding that a public hearing would be scheduled in the near future and he asked if I would like to participate. I told him that if my schedule permits I will definitely participate.

I also informed Mr. Bryant that our local Senate passed a resolution opposing construction at Utulei beach and that Mr. Roy Hall, the general counsel for the Senate, is questioning the legality of the lease agreement. By law, any lease agreement that extends beyond 10 years must be approved by our Legislature. In this instance, it is my understanding that a lease agreement was signed between McDonalds and ASG for 9 years, 11 months and 29 or so days with an option to renew for 30 years.

Mr. Bryant said he was not aware of these developments and expressed concern about the questions surrounding the lease agreement. As Mr. Bryant agreed, use of the McDonalds name is not just a local issue. McDonalds is a global corporation worth approximately \$36 billion and the corporation is very protective of its name.

If we were talking about a local fast-food operation not affiliated with a national or international chain, then this would be a local issue. But we are not talking about a village store. We are talking about McDonalds and, therefore, the McDonalds corporation is interested in what is happening in American Samoa, the Congressman said.

At this time, I am very pleased that the McDonalds corporation is committed to reviewing the legal and social aspects of constructing a McDonalds at Utulei beach. I am also pleased that Mr. Bryant has agreed to keep my office informed about any new developments in this case. In turn, I am reviewing the possibility of introducing federal legislation to include Utulei beach as part of the National Park of American Samoa so as to prevent any company including but not limited to KFC, Burger King, Pizza Hut, or local businesses from building at this site.

I believe we must not only resolve the immediate crisis facing us but we should also protect ourselves in the future from any other corporation seeking to build at Utulei beach. Utulei beach offers the only stretch of

shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautasi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef and, out of respect and reverence for our Samoan traditions and customs, I believe we must work together to preserve Utulei beach.

On a separate matter, I also mentioned to Mr. Bryant that I am concerned that American Samoa is being treated like a foreign country by the McDonalds corporation. It does not make sense to me why we have to get permission from Australia in order to establish a McDonalds in American Samoa. American Samoa is a territory of the United States and our local owners ought to be able to do business with McDonalds in America, not Australia.

I also expressed my concerns about the previous lease agreement done for McDonalds at the current site in Tafuna. It is my understanding that the previous lease agreement between ASG and McDonalds stipulates that all lawsuits must be filed in Australia and be subjected to Australian law. This is not fair to ASG or to anyone in American Samoa and I suggested that the attorneys in Australia representing McDonalds should be more ethical in the contracts they put forward in this territory.

While I have not heard from McDonalds Australia regarding construction at Utulei beach, I appreciate Mr. Bryant's efforts in meeting with me and I thanked him for the great service McDonalds is currently providing in American Samoa. The people of American Samoa welcome and support McDonalds and we continue to remain hopeful that this situation can be favorably resolved, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 22, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA RESPONDS TO GOVERNORS RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT McDONALDS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is responding to the Governors comments published by Samoa News on April 17, 2006 regarding the McDonalds controversy. Togiola responded directly to Faleomavaegas public support of the National Parks position on the Utulei Beach Park lease saying, the congressman is not the federal judge for American Samoa yet, so he should wait until he knows all the facts.

He has not even asked us about this matter. He is basing his opinion on one side only. He should really learn to ask people who live here first before he goes off and releases these kinds of statements, said Togiola.

I am saddened by the Governors comments, Faleomavaega said. As part of a free and democratic society, each of us is entitled to a difference of opinion but it is beneath the office of an elected official to make false claims and stoop to name-calling. I am not nor do I ever desire to be a federal judge and my position regarding McDonalds has been clear from the beginning. I stand with the people of American Samoa in opposition to this deal.

Unlike the Governor, I have heard what our people have to say and my office has been inundated with calls opposing the construction of a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa. Furthermore, the Governor has known of my opposition since May 25, 2005 almost a year ago at which time I copied him on my letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo of McDonalds in American Samoa. I also copied our Fono as well as the CEO of the McDonalds Corporation headquartered in Illinois.

Nearly a year ago, on June 28, 2005, I also met with the Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corpora-

tion and expressed my grave concerns about McDonalds failure to conduct a feasibility study, Faleomavaega said. Based on a press release I issued, our local media published the details of this meeting in which I informed the Director that the people of American Samoa would support the construction of a McDonalds anywhere else in American Samoa but not at Utulei Beach Park.

Utulei Beach is our only public beach and preserving it now and for future generations is what is best for American Samoa. This is why our people want a public hearing. So let the hearing begin. And when it begins, let us question its purpose since the Governor has already signed the lease and made his decision before listening to the people.

As we carefully consider this matter, let us also be very clear about ASGs involvement with the National Park Service (NPS). According to the NPS, ASG entered into a contractual agreement with NPS in 1995 placing Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity which means forever. ASG has also accepted over \$4 million since signing the agreement.

As I stated previously, if our local government makes a promise to the federal government and accepts grant money and then decides the terms of the agreement are inconvenient and no longer apply, it sends the message that American Samoa does not respect the federal grant process and therefore should not be trusted with any federal money. This is the wrong message to send to Congress and the wrong message to send to the US Department of the Interior.

For this reason, I am trying to prevent a confrontation or a legal battle between the US Department of the Interior and ASG. While the Governor has suggested that I do not have the facts, the truth is I have copies of every letter exchanged between the NPS and Governor Togiola which began on May 16, 2005 and continue to March 28, 2006. I also have copies of survey maps and the Governor has also been provided with these maps on more than one occasion. In other words, the Governor knows that the lease that was signed places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. This said, I remain hopeful that we can find a favorable solution to a local issue that should have never escalated to a federal problem, Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING JACK ROTZIEN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my grandfather, Jack Rotzien, on his 90th birthday.

Born and raised in Holmesville, Indiana, my grandfather has spent the past 90 years of his life exemplifying what it means to be a Hoosier. At 20 years old he joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II. During the war, he was stationed at Wendling Air Force base in England where he served as the gunnery teacher for the troops. After graduation from Indiana University, my grandfather worked in the retail industry with both L. S. Ayres and Maison Blanche in Indiana. He worked hard

for decades to provide for his family. Now that he is retired, he spends time at his VFW post and has found passion in speaking with students about his time in the military.

While he has made many professional contributions to our state and our country, he has also had a significant impact on me and my family. I will never forget the summer vacations my brother, mother and I used to take with my grandfather. One year, we all visited Lake Okeechobee in Florida because he knew how much we loved to go fishing. We spent the week sitting by the lake and must have caught nearly a hundred fish (or at least that's how I remember it). This is just one memory I cherish. I also remember the time my brother was almost eaten by an alligator—but, that's another story.

This year my grandfather's birthday will fall on Thanksgiving Day, which gives me an even greater opportunity to give thanks for the role he has played in my life. My grandfather is a man of compassion, strength, and faith and I am privileged to have had his love and guidance over the last 45 years. I hope that he knows how much he has meant to me and I look forward to the many memories we will continue to make with one another. Today, I wish him a happy 90th birthday as he celebrates this milestone in his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE OWLS' WHIST CLUB, INC.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Owls Whist Club, Inc., a historic organization founded 100 years ago in Charleston, SC. The club was founded on February 14, 1914 as something that was—in the words of their founding charter “strictly social and for the entertainment of our friends.” It was founded by a group of African American men and is one of the oldest social clubs of its kind in the United States.

On November 26, 2014, they will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Eve event to continue their 100th anniversary celebration, and I plan to be in attendance.

The earliest available records of the organization are the official minutes of their meetings and their constitution that was written in 1924. The original members numbered sixteen, and when Arthur Clement, Jr. wrote “A Brief History—Owls' Whist Club” in 1950, he stated that Frank W. Dawson, the first host, was a barber.

Each year the members hold a black tie affair. Many of these events were held at Dart Hall, which back then was the “Negro Branch” of the Charleston County Library. The members decided in 1939 that they would buy land and build their own place to hold events, and in 1945 they did just that. They purchased two lots in Maryville, SC directly across the Ashley river from the Citadel, South Carolina's Military College.

During this time in Charleston's history, banks did not lend money to African Americans to construct buildings, consequently the

membership created a building fund. Each member was assessed a proportionate share of the cost of constructing the building now known as the Owls' Roost.

The historical impact of this organization was proven throughout the 20th century as this group of African American men overcame the racial nature of South Carolina. During its founding and throughout its development, the Owls' Whist Club members experienced numerous indignities and adversities, including numerous lynchings by vigilantes and several legislative actions by the SC House of Representatives that relegated African American citizens to a second-class existence.

This club has given African American men of Charleston a place to socialize and strategize for 100 years. Its membership has always included a variety of occupations and when they meet on November 26 to celebrate this milestone they will do so with members and guests from every background and sets of experiences that is possible to gather under one roof, and holding fast to history and tradition, among their membership will be one barber.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the Owls' Whist Club on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. I commend its members for continuing a much-needed tradition. Their perseverance and tenacity are appreciated by a grateful community.

HONORING DANIEL J. RIDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Rider. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Daniel J. Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING FORMER POW DARRELL STARK OF STAFFORD SPRINGS, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Darrell Stark,

92, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Mr. Stark, a veteran of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and former prisoner of war of the Empire of Japan in World War II, recently returned from a historic trip to Japan he and six other former POWs, accompanied by their family members, were guests of the Japanese government last month on a trip of reconciliation and remembrance.

Mr. Stark was 17 when he joined the Army in 1941, and was immediately sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to a heavy weapons company as a weapons carrier and runner. He participated in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, where despite disease, lack of supplies and obsolete weapons, he and his fellow defenders were able to fight the Japanese to a four-month standstill. Despite their efforts, however, Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. Mr. Stark was taken prisoner and over the course of the next three years was held in various prisons and camps in the Philippines, forced into labor and suffering extremely harsh and difficult conditions. After being liberated in September 1945, Mr. Stark returned home for treatment, eventually settling in Connecticut where he worked for the Department of Corrections and spoke often to students about his role in the defense of the Philippines.

Between October 11 to 20, Mr. Stark and six of his fellow POWs were guests of the Government of Japan as part of the fifth American POW Friendship delegation to visit Japan. This delegation included members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Marines who fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Their trip was part of an ongoing reconciliation process that began in 2010 when the Japanese government delivered to the first American POW delegation an official Cabinet-approved apology for the damage and suffering these men endured.

As part of the delegation, Mr. Stark was able to travel to his former POW camp in Yokkaichi near Kyoto. The managers of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha (ISK), the company that controlled the camp, not only received him warmly, but honored him. ISK is now a multi-national chemical company with operations in the United States and one of only a handful of companies that have apologized to POWs forced into labor.

This once in a lifetime trip for Mr. Stark was made possible through the hard work of many people, including the U.S. State Department and the Government of Japan. While coming to terms with the past is undoubtedly difficult for our American survivors and the Japanese people, it is my hope that our two nations will continue to work together to sustain and improve efforts such as this to provide reconciliation with our shared history, provide closure to our POWs and their families, and build stronger relations for the future.

NATIONAL INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis patient com-

munity in observance of National Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Awareness Week. As the Co-Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I have enjoyed working with my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW to raise awareness of and improve access to treatments for IBD.

Our caucus has worked to champion funding for IBD research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has led to accomplishments like the identification of the first gene linked to Crohn's Disease (NOD/CARD15), which will lead to better treatments and a cure for IBD, and the discovery of Remicade, the only biologic drug for treatment of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

We have also been strong advocates for the IBD Epidemiology program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program yields invaluable information about the prevalence of IBD in the US and expands our knowledge about the demographic characteristics of this vulnerable population. The data derived from this study will not only provide an analysis of the etiology of the disease, but could also explain why the course of illness varies among individuals and what environmental or treatment factors improve patient outcomes.

While there is currently no known cure for IBD, we can already see the importance of Congress's continued support of IBD research. National IBD Awareness Week offers the opportunity to build upon our efforts for the Crohn's and Colitis patient community.

I have been honored by the opportunity to lead the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to speak out in support of IBD research efforts and to raise awareness for IBD.

HONORING SHEIKH MOUSSA DRAMMEH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Though Sheikh Drammeh has a varied professional portfolio ranging from entrepreneurial development to ecommerce, his dedication to improving the access and opportunities available for members of the African community can be seen in all of his endeavors. Most notably, Sheikh Drammeh founded HalalFinder.com, which is the first online halal auction market of its kind. This platform was established in order to ensure that providers and consumers alike would have an interactive service market space that would allow them access to goods that were previously virtually unavailable.

Beyond his dedication to improving access for residents of the African community, it is clear that Sheikh Moussa Drammeh has a passion for fostering peace and understanding throughout our communities. Sheikh Drammeh currently serves as the Principal and Founder

for the Islamic Leadership School in the Bronx, which remains as the first, and only, Islamic school in The Bronx. This school is also one of only four schools in New York City that established the "Interfaith Living Museum," where Jewish students and Muslim students participate in a yearly cultural exchange curriculum in efforts to promote a global, long term peaceful co-existence. Sheikh Dammeh has also helped establish the Community Peace Patrol Officers, which are a group of community volunteers who have dedicated themselves to patrolling high crime areas in efforts to make them safer and more livable for all residents. This program not only encourages local residents to take an active role in maintaining the safety of local neighborhoods, but also works to foster better relationships between community members and local law enforcement.

Today, Sheikh Dammeh serves as Executive Producer of the African Union Profile and Public Emergency Management Adherence television programs on Bronxnet Television network, and is the founder of Adopt-A-Friend, which is a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting peace and dialogue among all individuals for a healthy co-existence.

Each of the aforementioned projects and programs speaks to the complete nature of Sheikh Moussa Dammeh's dedication to improving the quality of life for residents throughout The Bronx, as well as his undying commitment to fostering camaraderie and understanding among residents. I am proud to say we have someone like Sheikh Moussa Dammeh living in our community, and am very grateful for all the work he has done, and continues to do to improve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sheikh Moussa Dammeh for his consistently remarkable dedication to peace and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the establishment of the VA clinic in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Nov. 11, 2000]

FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING A VA MEDICAL CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS UNDERWAY

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that a technical team will be in American Samoa from November 13th-17th to set up and test telecom connections for the veterans enrollment plan scheduled for early December.

This is an important moment for our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said. And it is an important moment for American Samoa. Establishing an accurate method for enrolling our veterans is the first step in establishing a VA medical clinic in American Samoa. The purpose of the technical teams

visit is to ensure that all systems are go when the VA team arrives to enroll our veterans in early December. Congressman Faleomavaega also explained that the teams visit is part of a collective effort between his office, ASG, and the VA offices in Honolulu and American Samoa.

I want to thank Governor Tauese for his commitment to our veterans. I also want to thank the Governors Special Assistants on Veterans Affairs, High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Fua Ioane, President of the Veterans Advisory Council, and High Talking Chief Paogofie Fiaigoa, Veterans Affairs Officer, Congressman Faleomavaega said. We are working together to ensure that our veterans receive top-notch health care and benefits. We are working together to ensure that every veteran in American Samoa counts and that no one is left behind. We will not be satisfied with the process until every veteran in Samoa is accounted for and enrolled in the system.

I have also been working with Senator Akaka, a senior member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressman Lane Evans, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Both gentlemen are fully supportive of our efforts to establish a VA medical clinic with a full-time physician in the Territory. The technical teams planned visit for the week of November 13th is the first step in our collective effort to establish the process that may lead to the construction of our own facility.

Congressman Faleomavaega also noted that Federal law requires an accurate accounting and enrollment of veterans before any consideration can be made to establish a VA medical clinic. It is incumbent upon every veteran living on island to take part in the enrollment process. If we want a clinic with a full-time physician, every veteran must participate.

Congressman Faleomavaega said. I strongly urge all veterans on island to participate and enroll when the time comes.

For now, the technical team, headed by Dr. Norman Okamura, will visit Fagatua, Tafuna, Leone and Samoa High Schools to confirm facility arrangements for enrollment activity. According to Congressman Faleomavaega, the team will also confirm the VAs clinical patient record system server configuration and network requirements.

The technical team plans to meet with LBJ and Health Department officials to consider the registration process and to discuss the IHS data system. During this time the team will also be working closely with Johnny Mapu, PTSD Coordinator for the office of Veterans Affairs. Provided all systems are go, the VA enrollment team will arrive in American Samoa during the week of December 4th to begin the enrollment process.

[Press Release, Feb. 14, 2004]

CARES COMMISSION AGREES WITH FALEOMAVAEGA; VA CLINIC SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released its report yesterday and agreed that a Veterans community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa.

The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20 years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve.

On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA.

The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which is next to our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further segregated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by the end of this year.

Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) and Dr. Weibe, Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 21 have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately \$1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa and over 1,000 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoan veterans have made in defense of this nation and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have one doctor, one nurse, one clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa.

Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars. Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoan CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations.

I also asked for American Samoan CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans

Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans, Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same.

On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and I am pleased that our CBOC is included in its final recommendations. I am also pleased that the Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans. Given the Commission's report, I am now hopeful that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, will use the recommendations made by the CARES Commission to create better access to health care for American Samoan veterans.

At this time, I want to thank the CARES Commission for undertaking this mission and for seeking the views of veterans and stakeholders across the country. I also want to thank Senators Inouye and Akaka, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Evans, and General John Ma for their support throughout this process.

As I have said many times before, our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that the CARES Commission has recognized our service and agreed that it is time to do right by American Samoan veterans.

Once again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001. I also thank American Samoan veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 22, 2004]

U.S. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVES FALDOMAEGA'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, has approved Faleomavaega's request to establish a VA clinic in American Samoa.

"The Secretary announced his decision on May 7, 2004 and I will be meeting on June 24, 2004 with Dr. Wiebe, Director of VISN 21, which is the Veterans Integrated Service Network responsible for California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"On April 26, 2004, I briefed Major General Joseph G. Webb, Jr., Commander of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and the Lead Agent for TRICARE Pacific on my efforts to establish a clinic in American Samoa. Dr. Wiebe was also present for these discussions which took place in American Samoa during the April recess, or district work period."

"I am pleased that I was able to take General Webb and Dr. Wiebe on a tour of the butler building which the 9th Regional Support Command has agreed to turn over for our use, Faleomavaega continued. I am also pleased that General Webb and Dr. Wiebe were able to see first-hand the needs of our local veterans."

"Most of all, I am thankful that Secretary Principi has agreed that a VA community

based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa. Only 156 new CBOCs will be established and one of those will be for our veterans," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"Recognizing that resources are not available to open all of these clinics immediately, the VA will establish the new CBOCs by using criteria within the existing approval process. This includes sound business plans and the capacity to manage specialty referrals and inpatient needs of a new population."

"Given our immediate need and the arrangements we have in place with the U.S. Army Reserve, I am hopeful that VISN 21 and Dr. Wiebe will be able to act quickly on the establishment of our clinic, the Congressman said. At this time, I want to thank the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission which included American Samoa in its recommendations to the Secretary."

"The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20 years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve."

"On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA."

"The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which currently houses our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further separated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by October of this year."

"Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC), and Dr. Wiebe have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately \$1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa but only about 800 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need."

"As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoan veterans have made in defense of this nation, and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have at least one doctor, one nurse, and a clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable rec-

ommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa."

"Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars."

"Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoan CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations."

"I also asked for American Samoan CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans, Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same."

"On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and, as I announced in a press release dated February 14, 2004, our CBOC was included in its final recommendations. The Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans."

"In turn, Secretary Principi included our clinic on his list of 156 and I am hopeful that with his support VISN 21 will now move to improve health care for American Samoan veterans, the Congressman said. As I have said time and time again, our men and women have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that Secretary Principi has made it clear that it is time to do right by American Samoan veterans."

"I thank Secretary Principi for his support. I also thank the CARES Commission, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Chairman Chris Smith and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Dave Burge, General Webb, and General John Ma for their support and commitment throughout this process."

"Again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001. I also thank American Samoan veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best," the Congressman concluded.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to four extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Ruby Grace, Chelsea Banks, Adam Kong, Lauren Buchanan, Rachel Foster, Keome Rowe, Jesus Vasquez, Maria Mojica, and Ruth Welland, and finally to Victoria Brayer, to whom today I also wish a very happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge American Education Week. This annual celebration was established by the National Education Association and the American Legion in 1921, and it serves as a time to remember the paramount importance of education.

This year's theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, is a renewed call for all citizens—from parents and teachers, to school staff and education support professionals, to elected officials and community leaders—to work together to improve our schools.

Public education is the bedrock of our democracy, and we must provide robust support of public schools to ensure our young people can fulfill their potential.

But these days, education programs are on the chopping block. State and federal officials seem to have lost sight of the value of investing in our schools. With that in mind, I cannot imagine a better time to acknowledge the importance of public education and the vital and underappreciated contributions that educators make every day.

Somewhere along the line, we have all been inspired by great teachers who have helped us develop the perspective and good judgment to be active participants in our communities. But the support these teachers need to do their jobs effectively—including a competitive salary and funding for supplies and textbooks—is too often the target of over-eager budget hawks.

We've learned this in our home state of North Carolina, where the Republican majority in the General Assembly has slashed the education budget, even as enrollment has increased. Teacher pay ranks 46th in the nation, having fallen from 20th in the last five years. Overall state funding for our schools has dropped by 8.6 percent since 2008, and believe me when I tell you that our teachers and students are feeling the squeeze.

That trend is hardly unique to North Carolina—a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that 30 states have cut education budgets. Insufficient funding for teachers and public schools has quickly become a national problem.

The picture is even bleaker at the federal level. This year, my Republican colleagues once again plan to oversee major reductions in discretionary spending, including education funding. That will mean new threats to all federal education initiatives, from primary and secondary school support to Pell Grants and other college affordability programs.

As state and federal officials debate budgets, we would be wise to remember that none of our education policies will succeed until committed teachers and administrators, critical school support staff and education support staff, and engaged students all have the support that they need to thrive.

Government should be in the business of recruiting great educators who are willing to

dedicate their careers to public education. We must provide them with adequate training, opportunities for professional development, competitive salaries, sufficient classroom resources, and support from effective administrators and staff.

We also have to work to ensure that every American student who works hard can afford to go to college. It is wholly irresponsible to make further cuts to Pell Grants and burden students with additional debt. Instead, we should be doing everything possible to incentivize college for bright students who have a passion for learning.

This American Education Week, students and teachers around the country are calling out for our support. I encourage my colleagues in Congress and friends in the General Assembly to answer the call and restore education funding to sustainable levels. It's the best investment we can make in a future we can be proud of.

ACKNOWLEDGING NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Alzheimer's is a disease that now afflicts more than five million people in our nation and one of them is my father, Ignacio. It is a heart-breaking disease that affects every member of the family, community, and country.

As someone whose father suffers from this debilitating illness, I am acutely aware of the pain and hardship that Alzheimer's inflicts not just on my family but on society as well. In 2014, the direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer's will total \$214 billion, including \$150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, this situation is only going to get worse. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's is projected to grow to sixteen million and the costs of caring for these people will grow to \$1.2 trillion by 2050.

This November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, a time to be mindful of the struggles that families face in caring for loved ones with this disease. It is also a time to raise awareness, support, and outreach for those confronted with Alzheimer's disease and for their families. These efforts will help increase community awareness and understanding to better equip us as a nation to face this disease.

This Thanksgiving break I will visit my father, whose hands never lost their memory, and I will give thanks that those hands helped shape my life. This is why I am committed to finding a cure and calling for increased funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institute of Health. It is my hope that a commitment to research and improving treatments will one day rid us Alzheimer's disease entirely.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF VIL-
LAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN
AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the legislative history of village road improvements in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGREES
TO INCREASE HIGHWAY FUNDING FOR TERRI-
TORIES AND INCLUDE \$14 MILLION FOR VIL-
LAGE ROAD AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN
AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced that the House Committee on Transportation agreed yesterday to increase federal highway funding for the Territories and include \$14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa.

Although this bill still must pass the House and Senate, I am pleased that my good friends Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar of the House Transportation Committee have agreed to increase transportation funding for the Territories, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) and I have worked on this issue for the past year and Congressman Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, has supported our efforts.

As a result of our work, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to \$50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA-LU) being \$100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

Moreover, American Samoa will receive \$14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. On January 23, 2004, I called Governor Togiola to let him know that the Committee had informed me of its intentions and asked that we keep this information confidential until the Committee held its mark-up. The Committee originally intended to hold its mark-up in February but postponed it until March 24, 2004.

On February 4, 2004, I also wrote to Governor Togiola in response to his January 15, 2004 letter to me. In my letter, I explained that from 1992 to 2003 American Samoa received over \$77 million in federal highway funds including \$12 million I obtained to improve village roads in American Samoa.

Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made for American Samoa and in 1998 they agreed to support my request for \$12 million for village road improvements.

The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. Again, the House Transportation Committee

has agreed to my request for additional funds for American Samoa. On March 5, 2003, the House Committee on Transportation notified members of Congress that it would accept written and oral testimony regarding requests for funding. On March 5, 2003, I wrote Governor Sunia and requested his input. Although I did not hear back from Governor Sunia, I testified and appeared before the Committee.

Initially, I requested money for a ferry boat and terminal construction as well as funding for our village roads. However, since September 2003, Governor Togiola and I have worked together to obtain funding for the purchase of a vessel for Manua and on January 22, 2004, the House Committee on Transportation informed me that it would be able to grant \$14 million of my requests for highway projects in American Samoa. This funding is in addition to our annual federal highway funds.

In consultation with the Governor, we have set aside \$9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tualo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaga, Representative Fagasoia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nu'uuli council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nu'uuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 2, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION
BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S RE-
QUEST OF ADDITIONAL \$14 MILLION FOR VIL-
LAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN
SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 357 to 65 the House passed H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) which increases federal highway funding for the Territories and includes an additional \$14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa. The Senate has already passed its version of TEA-LU and the bill will now go to conference in May after which time it is expected that the President will sign it into law.

Once signed into law, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to \$50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA-LU) being \$100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

In addition to our share of funds from the Territorial Highway Program, American Samoa will receive an extra \$14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection, and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. At this time, I want to thank my good friends, Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, of the House Transportation Committee for agreeing to my requests to increase American Samoas annual funding and to include an extra \$14 million for our village road improvements and other high priority projects, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

Regarding our funding, I believe it is important to explain how Congress authorizes transportation funds. Simply put, a federal gas tax is collected nationally to fund the transportation bill. Residents of American Samoa and other territories are not required to contribute to this fund or pay federal gas taxes. Although we pay no federal gas taxes, Congress provides for our transportation needs by way of a direct-set aside for the Territories and this is known as the Territorial Highway Program.

Since 1992, American Samoa has received more than \$77 million in federal highway transportation funds including \$12 million I obtained in 1998 to improve village roads in American Samoa. Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made for American Samoa and in 1998 I was able to get \$12 million for Village Road Development on the islands of Tutuila and Manua.

This was the first time that Congress ever agreed to let federal highway funds be used for constructing roads that are not part of the federal highway system and I am pleased that Congress acted favorably on my request. The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. As of today, the House has now agreed to support my request to provide American Samoa with an additional \$14 million over the next six years for village roads and other transportation improvements.

In consultation with Governor Togiola, we have set aside \$9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tualo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaga, Representative Fagasoia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nuuli council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nuuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Again, Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative.

I also thank Chairman Don Young (Republican from Alaska) and Ranking Member Jim

Oberstar (Democrat from Minnesota) of the House Committee on Transportation as well as the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Resources, for their support of increased funding for the Territories. I also commend Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam) and Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) who have also worked tirelessly to increase funds for the Territorial Highway Program.

Out of 422 members of the House who voted today, 357 overwhelmingly voted to support this historic legislation. In other words, its not about whose in the majority. It takes both Democrats and Republicans to get the job done. It also takes seniority and this is why I am thankful that the people of American Samoa have trusted me time and time again to get the job done for them. With your continued support and prayers, I am hopeful that our increases and add-ons will be supported when the House and Senate meet in May to conference this bill, the Congressman concluded.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the bipartisan Veterans Equal Access Act along with my colleagues DANA ROHRBACHER, DINA TITUS, JUSTIN AMASH, PAUL BROUN, WALTER JONES, THOMAS MASSIE, SAM FARR, JARED POLIS, BETO O'ROURKE, STEVE STOCKMAN and STEVE COHEN, which will allow Veterans Health Administration physicians to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in states where it is legal.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide for legal access to medical marijuana. As a result, well over one million patients across the country, including many veterans, now use medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physician to treat conditions ranging from seizures, glaucoma, anxiety, chronic pain, and nausea.

There are also nine states and the District of Columbia that now allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana for the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), due to a growing body of anecdotal evidence suggesting that marijuana offers relief when nothing else has.

While outdated federal barriers often prevent the research necessary to develop marijuana into an FDA approved drug, states have heard from their citizens, including veterans suffering from PTS, that marijuana is helping them now, and have adjusted their laws.

Despite this growing state availability of medical marijuana, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prohibits VA medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding participation in a state marijuana program.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to authorize physicians and other health care workers employed by the VA to provide recommendations and opinions regarding the par-

ticipation of a veteran in a state medical marijuana program. This includes authorizing them to fill out any forms involved in the process of recommending medical marijuana.

Veterans should not be forced outside of the VA system to seek a treatment that is legal in their state. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation they think may meet the needs of their patient. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMEN FREDERICA S. WILSON AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their induction into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives FRANKEL, DIAZ-BALART, CLAWSON, DEUTCH, GARCIA, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, MURPHY and ROONEY of the South Florida delegation in celebrating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on receiving this honor. Both Representative WILSON and ROS-LEHTINEN are products of the Miami-Dade County Public School System and are a testament to the quality of MDCPS. I invite you to join me in congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their myriad accomplishments and their induction into the MDCPS Hall of Fame.

HONORING DR. BOLA OMOTOSHO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Bola Omotosho for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the health of our community residents.

Dr. Omotosho left Nigeria to relocate to The Bronx in 1995, after an extended career in medicine that culminated in studying anesthesiology through the Nigerian Navy. Bringing his passion for medicine along with him, Dr. Omotosho went on to study the nature of infectious diseases upon his arrival, and currently works with Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, which is one of the largest healthcare providers in the United States. Additionally, Dr. Omotosho remains very closely involved with several other medical missions, both local and international in their scope. Dr.

Omotosho recently facilitated the donation of 3 dialysis machines to the Haut-Nkam of New York, who will provide these machines for usage by the Haut-Nkam community in Cameroon. Locally, Dr. Omotosho continues to be our community's champion for kidney donation amongst Africans here in New York City.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is not only a distinguished medical leader, he is also an individual who stands as the model of an active, civically engaged community member. Dr. Omotosho serves as Chairperson of Community Board 5, President of the Harrison Avenue Homeowners Association, and President of the Mount Hope Housing Corporation Board of Directors. He is also the Vice Chair of the Bronx Multi Faith Advisory Group, and an active member of the United Africa Coalition as well as the Black United Leadership group of The Bronx. Each of these groups works tirelessly to improve the quality of the life here in The Bronx, and Dr. Omotosho's commitment to each of them speaks to his longstanding commitment to our community.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is an alumnus of New York Police Citizen Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizen Academy, from which he received the 2009 Humanitarian Award. Today, Dr. Omotosho continues to work with several residential boards that work with law enforcement agencies to improve community relations and amplify safety efforts throughout our neighborhoods.

Individuals like Dr. Bola Omotosho remind us all that we all have a duty to be faithful community servants, and should work each day to improve the quality of life for all of neighbors alike. Dr. Omotosho has a true passion for community, which is clear in all of his work, and I am sincerely grateful to call someone like him a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Bola Omotosho for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

HONORING THE WORK OF ADOBE SERVICES DURING NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of November 15–23 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to honor the distinguished work and advocacy of Adobe Services, a non-profit working in the 15th Congressional District and throughout the Bay Area to end homelessness.

The week before Thanksgiving has been designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to bring about community awareness and to help those in need. Throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season, we must always remember how hunger and homelessness remain serious problems in our communities across the

United States. I am proud to have Adobe Services as a strong community partner in the Bay Area working to end homelessness and advocating on behalf of the hungry.

Throughout National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Adobe Services has planned several events to engage community members in the Bay Area and raise awareness regarding homelessness and hunger. For example, today, Adobe Services is hosting the "Feed Your Soul" performance night at Mission Coffee in Fremont. At this performance night, guests will have the chance to understand more about the impact homelessness has on families and the wider community through artistic renditions. Additionally, tomorrow, Adobe Services will host a candlelight vigil at St. James' Episcopal Church to remember Alameda County residents who died last year while homeless. To combat hunger in the East Bay, Adobe Services also is organizing a food drive to provide festive holiday meals to those in need.

Adobe Services not only works to fight homelessness and hunger during this national awareness week, but also serves more than 4,000 Bay Area residents throughout the year. Its mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people and secure stable and supportive housing. I am grateful for the assistance Adobe Services provides, and I applaud its continued dedication to the homeless community.

COMMENDING PROJECT GIVEBACK'S VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the more than 500 volunteers who will gather at the District of Columbia's Columbia Heights Educational Campus Saturday, November 22, 2014, to begin packing and distributing Thanksgiving parcels for Project GiveBack's 20th Annual Food Distribution. Their efforts provide over 1,500 families in the National Capital Area with wholesome Thanksgiving dinners.

Ransom Miller III founded Project GiveBack in 1995. In its first year, six local families and one shelter received food baskets. Over the next two decades, this small effort grew to serve 3,500 families in locations across the country, including Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Tulsa, Oklahoma; St. Louis, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

Project GiveBack's scope has also grown to include: Children's Toy Drive, to provide toys for children in low-income families; Children's Easter Celebration, to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for children in Southeast D.C. to celebrate the spiritual meaning of Easter; Computer Sponsor Program, to assist local schools and community organizations in the acquisition of more than 100 laptops and personal computers; and Youth EXPOSURE Program, to connect students of various backgrounds and to expose them to a wide range of experiences that will spark career aspirations, ingenuity, and creativity.

Project GiveBack is achieving its mission to be a vehicle for firms and professionals to give back to the communities where they work and live in by coordinating programs that benefit less fortunate individuals and families, with a focus on children. It is the intent of the organization to uplift communities around the United States mentally, spiritually, and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Project GiveBack's volunteers and sponsors and may they soon join the more than 650,000 residents in our nation's capital in thanksgiving for full representation for D.C. in Congress.

WELCOMING ENSLIE COLE DECK

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, it is my pleasure to announce the birth of Enslye Cole Deck on November 19, 2014 at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia.

Enslye is the daughter of Wiley Deck, my Chief of Staff, and Elizabeth Deck. The former Elizabeth Buckles and Wiley Deck met as staff members in our Washington office. Both of them moved to our Florida District Office in St. Augustine in 2003. They married and had their first child, Emilia Hayward Deck. The Decks returned to Washington, DC in 2011 and now have expanded their family with the arrival of Enslye.

To the Deck and Buckles families, we extend our warmest congratulations and wish them years for continued health and happiness.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about a provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA home loans.

[Press Release, Nov. 10, 2005]

HOUSE PASSES VA HOUSING ASSISTANCE BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR AMERICAN SAMOAS VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a voice vote the House passed H.R. 3665, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2005 and included Faleomavaega's provision for American Samoan veterans.

I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity for their leader-

ship in making it possible for Native Americans to participate in the veterans housing loan program, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

I am especially thankful that American Samoan veterans have also been able to participate in this very successful program and I thank my colleagues for working with me to address the concerns of American Samoans without adversely affecting the rights of other tribes. Many Samoans have served in the military and they are allowed to obtain home loans under current law. Other Samoans are married to non-Samoan veterans. Non-native military spouses married to native Samoans have not been able to qualify for the VA home loan program. In part, this is because the Native American Home Loan program excludes the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan.

This has been problematic in American Samoa because most land in American Samoa is communal and the VA has only made it possible for Samoans of Tutuila, Manus, Aunu'u, or Swain Islands to qualify for home loans offered by traditional lending institutions because only they can make claim to native land. As a result, non-native spouses of veterans or persons serving in the US Armed Forces who are married to a Samoan have not been able to qualify for a VA home loan. However, the VA has been helpful in assisting the Veterans Affairs Committee and my office in drafting language to rectify this problem and I am pleased that this language has now been included in H.R. 3665.

As we have agreed, it is our understanding that this language now makes it possible for a non-Samoan military member or veteran to qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

This is good news for our veterans and their spouses. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation. I also thank the VA for its assistance and my good friend Ranking Member Lane Evans of the VA Committee for his tireless efforts and support, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, May 22, 2006]

HOUSE AND SENATE PASS VETERANS BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 372 to 0 the House passed S. 1235, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 and included his provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA Home Loans. As we approach Memorial Day to remember and honor our military men and women who have died while serving our nation during a time of war, it is especially fitting that the House and Senate have passed the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 in tribute to those who are still with us, Faleomavaega said.

America is what she is today because of the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families. This is why I am pleased that the US Congress is recognizing their service by passing S. 1235. After years of hard work, I am also pleased to announce that once the President signs this legislation

into law, non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will finally be able to qualify for VA home loans.

For too long, Native American veterans, including Samoans, were not able to participate in the VA Home Loan program because our land is communally rather than privately held. For the same reason, traditional lending institutions also would not make home loans to Native Americans because in case of default the bank would not be able to repossess the land or the home due to factors associated with communal ownership.

However, in 1992, with the support of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, were able to establish a pilot program making it possible for Native Americans, including Samoans, to qualify for VA home loans. Even though this was groundbreaking and very helpful to many of our veterans, the program was still problematic because it excluded the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan and for us this meant that non-Samoan military spouses married to native Samoans were also unable to qualify.

But thanks to the successful passage of today's legislation, our non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will now be able to qualify for VA home loans and I couldn't be happier that their dreams of home ownership can now come true. At this time, I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and Mary Ellen McCarthy, Democratic Staff Director for Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for their support and tireless efforts in making this possible. I also thank Senator Larry Craig and Senator Daniel Akaka, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, for their leadership.

Finally, I want to thank the VA for assisting the Veterans Affairs Committee and my office in drafting language that has been included in section 104 of S. 1235 which now makes home ownership a reality for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans. As a result of this language, it is our understanding that a non-Samoan military member or veteran may now qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

Again, I believe S. 1235 is a fitting tribute to our veterans and I am especially pleased that this legislation provides American Samoan veterans with the housing opportunities and other benefits they deserve. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation and for supporting the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006, the Congressman concluded.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. JENNETTE STARKS-FAULKNER, 2014 FENCING WORLD CHAMPION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Jennette Starks-Faulkner. As you know Mr. Speaker, great athletes are not born they are forged through the combined efforts of our entire community and the dedication and determination of individuals. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's discipline and her commitment to living a healthy and active lifestyle is evident in the success she has found participating in competitions hosted by the United States Fencing Association.

Ms. Starks-Faulkner's precise footwork, lightning thrusts, and deft ripostes have made her one of the most accomplished fencers in the entire world. This past October in Debrecen, Hungary she became the first U.S. woman ever to win the International Fencing Federation's Veteran Fencing World Championship gold medal in foil competition. Among her long list of achievements, which I ask be added into the RECORD, Ms. Starks-Faulkner won a gold medal at the 2014 USA Fencing National Championships in the Veteran Foil competition, a silver in the Veteran Saber competition and she has represented the United States as a member of the last seven Veteran World Championship teams.

Anyone who watches Ms. Starks-Faulkner compete will attest that her physical ability is only surpassed by her willingness to give everything she has to win. In a sport where there are very few African American participants, Ms. Starks-Faulkner has distinguished herself as the first among champions. While small in stature, her presence casts a great shadow on her competition. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's accomplishments are a testament to the power of the human spirit and the limitless potential each and every person possesses. Lastly, her dedication to fencing is an important reminder not only to her students, but to all Americans, that when you believe in your dreams, nothing can stop you.

As an ardent admirer of those who would push beyond their limitations, I salute Ms. Starks-Faulkner and her long list of accomplishments.

THE BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 today to help disabled coal miners get benefits that they are entitled to but often unable to access.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, commonly referred to as "black lung," is a debilitating

and deadly disease caused by the long-term inhalation of coal dust in underground and surface coal mines. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, black lung has caused or contributed to more than 76,000 deaths since 1968, with thousands of miners still sick and dying from the disease.

The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which included the Black Lung Benefits Act, contained a program designed to provide compensation and medical care to miners who are totally disabled due to black lung. To secure benefits, disabled coal miners must engage in lengthy and complex litigation against local operators that has been proven to unfairly burden claimants and prevent them from receiving the benefits to which they are entitled.

In 2009, the Government Accountability Office found that "coal miners face a number of challenges pursuing federal black lung claims, including finding legal representation and developing sound medical evidence to support their claims." More recent award-winning investigations by the Center for Public Integrity and ABC News uncovered numerous cases in which coal operators and their attorneys defeated claims by hiring doctors who systematically failed to diagnose black lung disease, or by withholding medical evidence from miners, surviving spouses, and judges that would have proven the miners' eligibility for benefits. These and other unethical practices were examined as part of a July 22, 2014, hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety. In addition, bureaucratic delays impede timely decisions about miners' benefits, with miners waiting an average of 42 months to receive a decision on their claim from an administrative law judge in the Department of Labor.

In the past year, the Department of Labor has taken several steps to address these issues; however, administrative actions alone will not be able to solve the systematic problems facing victims of black lung disease. That is why Congress has an obligation to reform this program so that it better serves and honors those who have helped supply the energy that our country relies on to light our homes and power our factories.

I want to thank Congressman GEORGE MILLER, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his leadership on this issue, and for Representatives JOE COURTNEY, NICK RAHALL and ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT for joining me in sponsoring this important legislation.

BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining Representatives CARTWRIGHT, SCOTT, COURTNEY, and RAHALL in introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014.

The Black Lung Benefits Act was enacted in 1969 to provide health care and modest benefits to coal miners who develop black lung disease, also known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, which is a crippling respiratory disease that has left generations of miners tethered to oxygen tanks. Today, the black lung benefits program is failing far too many miners and their survivors because there is an unfair disparity in medical and legal resources between miners and coal operators when it comes to establishing eligibility for benefits.

This legislation seeks to level the playing field by ensuring that miners have equal access to medical evidence, better access to legal resources, a remedy for those whose claims were denied due to recent discoveries of discredited medical evidence. In addition, it includes a requirement that the Department of Labor improve the timeliness of benefit decisions and an adjustment of benefit payments so that miners and their survivors receive the cost of living increases that Congress intended.

Black lung disease has killed more than 76,000 miners since 1968. Rates of black lung disease dropped steadily after the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969 set enforceable limits on exposure to coal mine dust. However, rates are now on the rise again, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH. The number of people with the most severe form of black lung disease has spiked ten-fold over the past 15 years. In a heartbreaking example of the disease's prevalence, autopsies of the 24 miners who died in the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in 2010 revealed that 17 of these miners had black lung. And the Department of Labor expects 7,300 black lung benefit cases to be filed in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, an increase of 35 percent since fiscal year 2012.

The Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 seeks to level the playing field for miners and strengthen our black lung benefits program in nine key ways.

First, it addresses the lack of legal assistance available to miners. The determination of a claimant's eligibility for black lung benefits often requires complex, adversarial litigation, but resource disparities between coal companies and claimants make it difficult for many miners and survivors with meritorious claims to prevail. The Government Accountability Office found that many claimants under the Black Lung Benefits Act are not equipped with the medical and legal resources necessary to develop sufficient evidence that can meet the requirements for benefits. Miners often lack complete and reliable medical evidence, which increases the risk that the individuals who review claims for benefits will be presented with insufficient medical evidence. Similarly, without better options for legal representation, significant numbers of such claimants proceed through a complex and potentially long administrative process without the resources that Department of Labor officials and black lung disease experts note are important for developing evidence and supporting their claims. Only a quarter of claimants are represented by an attorney when filing a claim. A major obstacle to securing legal counsel is that it can take up to ten years for a claim to be resolved, and

under the current system, a claimant's counsel receives no payment and must make numerous outlays during that time. Reforms must be made to remedy this resource imbalance between claimants and operators so that claimants with meritorious claims will receive the benefits they deserve.

To solve this problem, the legislation expands the Secretary's current statutory obligation to offer a complete pulmonary evaluation to a coal miner in order to substantiate a claim for benefits. It now requires that the Secretary supplement the medical evidence in cases where a party who opposes the claim provides evidence that could be considered contrary to the initial report of the pulmonary examination when the case is being considered by either a district director or an administrative law judge.

In addition, this section provides miners with greater access to legal representation by creating a system to pay a portion of their attorneys' fees earlier in the litigation process. Attorneys who prevail at each stage of the litigation would be paid \$1,500 per stage, not to exceed \$4,500 in total. These partial payments will be paid from the black lung trust fund, which is administered by the Secretary of Labor, but the advance payments must be reimbursed to the trust fund by the operator if the claimant ultimately prevails through all stages of the litigation.

Second, the legislation addresses circumstances in which medical information is withheld from miners. Full disclosure of relevant medical information between miners and coal companies (or their insurers) is essential for fair adjudication of claims under the Black Lung Benefits Act, regardless of whether the parties intend to submit such information into evidence. Records of adjudications reveal that some mine operators' legal representatives have withheld relevant evidence from claimants, administrative law judges, and, in some cases, even their own medical experts. In several cases, the disclosure of such evidence would have substantiated a miner's claim for benefits. Withholding medical information can endanger miners by depriving them of important information about their own health and the potential need to seek medical treatment or cease employment where there is risk from continued exposure to coal dust.

To solve this problem, the legislation requires that claimants and operators must share all information about medical tests and examinations, as well as interpretations of pathology and x-rays that are developed as part of the claims process, regardless of whether such information is going to be entered into the record or not. The bill balances sanctions by applying penalties for false statements to operators in addition to sanctions already applied to claimants. It also authorizes administrative law judges to levy sanctions for noncooperation in the discovery process. Full transparency and disclosure is needed for fair adjudication.

Third, the legislation provides the benefit of the doubt to miners in cases where the evidence is evenly balanced. Given the remedial nature of the Black Lung Benefits Act, when an adjudicator determines that evidence is evenly balanced, it is appropriate for any resulting doubt to be resolved in favor of the claimant. The Supreme Court vacated this

longstanding legal principle—known as the true doubt rule—in 1994. This provision had been applied to both the Black Lung Benefits Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and it was vacated because it was not expressly mandated in the underlying statutes. This principle should be reinstated in the Black Lung Benefits Act because it provides fairness.

This problem is resolved in the legislation by providing that claimants will receive the benefit of the doubt when the evidence is in equipoise.

Fourth, the legislation addresses recent cases where biased medical evidence was systematically used to defeat meritorious claims. Physicians who read lung x-rays as part of pulmonary assessments under the Black Lung Benefits Act are required to demonstrate competency in classifying chest radiographs by becoming certified as "B Readers" by NIOSH. However, an investigation by the Center for Public Integrity, or CPI, and ABC News uncovered that there are NIOSH-certified B Readers who were under retainer by coal operators or their law firms and who systematically misclassified chest radiographs so that they could be used in opposing claims. The CPI report found that since 2000, Dr. Paul Wheeler of Johns Hopkins Medical Center had never once interpreted an x-ray as positive for complicated pneumoconiosis in more than 3,400 x-ray readings. Dr. Wheeler consistently concluded that there was not severe black lung present, even as other doctors saw the disease in hundreds of cases and other evidence, including biopsies, repeatedly proved him wrong. In response to these reports, Johns Hopkins immediately began an internal investigation and suspended the black lung x-ray reading program. A year later, the investigation is reportedly ongoing and the program remains suspended.

In response, the Department of Labor has issued guidance to its claims examiners "not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis" by Dr. Paul Wheeler unless the conclusions of such physician "have been rehabilitated." DOL has provided written notice to miners whose claims were denied within the one-year window for reconsideration—and where Dr. Wheeler's evidence was used during the claims proceeding—that informs the miners of their right to seek reconsideration. Going forward, claimants need to have an unbiased place to turn to get their lung x-rays read.

To address this problem and help ensure access to credible medical evidence that can assist in establishing a claim or rebutting questionable medical interpretations, the bill establishes a pilot program at NIOSH that will provide impartial x-ray readings. These readings will be offered specifically to assess whether a miner has advanced stages of black lung disease—known as complicated pneumoconiosis or progressive massive fibrosis—which results in benefits being awarded on a presumptive basis. NIOSH is required to establish panels made up of three physicians who are certified as B Readers; the panels would prepare reports that can be used in claims proceedings as a service to claimants or operators on a fee-for-service basis.

Fifth, the legislation covers the need for remedies for those whose claims were unfairly

denied due to tainted evidence. More than a year has passed since many miners' survivors were denied benefits in cases where Dr. Wheeler, the discredited Johns Hopkins' physician, provided the chest radiograph interpretations. Logically, survivors should be permitted to file a new claim for benefits if they were denied based on bogus medical interpretations. However, under current law a survivor is barred from filing a new claim more than one year after a decision to deny benefits is final, unless they can show a change in medical conditions. Obviously, for a deceased miner, demonstrating a change in medical condition is impossible.

The legislation remedies this injustice by allowing survivors to refile their claim outside of the one-year window. In addition, in cases where DOL has directed its claims examiners "not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis" provided by any physician whose interpretations have been discredited, the legislation also directs claims examiners and administrative law judges to exclude consideration of those discredited medical interpretations.

Sixth, the legislation addresses cost of living increases that have not been provided to miners and their families as intended. Contrary to the intent of Congress, benefits payments under the Black Lung Benefits Act have not been automatically increasing with the rising cost of living. Benefit payments are tied to the monthly pay rate for federal employees in grade GS-2, step 1. In several of the prior fiscal years, there was a pay freeze for federal employees, which had the effect of eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for miners, surviving spouses, and dependents under the Black Lung Benefits Program during such years.

To resolve this issue, the legislation restores the cost-of-living adjustments for black lung beneficiaries that were blocked or reduced as a result of federal employee pay freezes in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Seventh, the legislation addresses the need for training to help improve claims administration. A competent assessment of medical information and testimony, which often involves multiple physicians disputing a diagnosis, is necessary to determine whether to award benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act. To ensure that a determination regarding a claim for benefits under the act is fair and accurate, regular training is needed by claims examiners and administrative law judges regarding: developments in pulmonary medicine relating to black lung disease; medical evidence necessary to sustain claims for such benefits; and the proper weight to be given to conflicting evidence.

To address this need and improve claims administration, the legislation requires those administering this program to have annual training on the latest medical developments.

Eighth, there is a need to eliminate excessive delays in the adjudication of claims. There are currently egregious delays in adjudicating claims before an administrative law judge at the Department of Labor due to budget and staffing cuts. Between 2004 and 2014 there was a large reduction in the number of administrative law judges, coupled with a large increase in the number of cases filed under the Black Lung Benefits Act. Compounding

this problem were furloughs resulting from sequestration and the 16-day shutdown of the federal government during calendar year 2013. Due to the imbalance between resources and caseloads, it currently takes 429 days to assign a case to an administrative law judge, and claims remain unresolved for an average of 42 months prior to a decision, according to Department of Labor data. These delays directly and severely impact the lives of workers throughout the United States, placing an undue financial and emotional burden on the affected individuals and their families.

To resolve this issue, the legislation directs the Department of Labor to develop a plan to eliminate the backlog and eliminate delays.

Ninth, continued studies of the Mine Safety and Health Administration's recently adopted rules are needed to prevent future cases of black lung disease. Black lung disease has been the underlying or contributing cause of death of more than 76,000 miners since 1968. After decades of decline, the incidence of coal miners with black lung disease is on the rise. According to NIOSH, miners are developing advanced cases of the disease at younger ages. In response, the Mine Safety and Health Administration in the Department of Labor has taken important steps to combat the disease, including the promulgation of a rule in 2014 that reduces the allowed concentration of coal dust and eliminates weaknesses in the current dust sampling system.

To ensure that these reforms are sufficient to stem the scourge of black lung disease, this legislation requires continuing retrospective studies.

In total, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 will restore a measure of justice to thousands of coal miners who have long toiled to provide the energy that powers our nation's homes, farms, and factories.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about American Samoa's Commemorative Quarter.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO PROVIDE AMERICAN SAMOA WITH A COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 411 to 14 the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2993, a bill to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In general, this legislation would amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include 6 new designs emblematic of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Designs on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 will be selected by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation

with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five delegates are and were original co-sponsors of this bi-partisan measure. This measure was first introduced in the 106th Congress and passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 377-6. Unfortunately, the 106th Congress ended before the Senate was able to consider our bill. During the 107th Congress, identical legislation (H.R. 4005) passed the House and was received in the Senate in October of 2002. Once again, the Senate was unable to consider this matter before the 107th Congress adjourned.

Now, we have introduced H.R. 2993 and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. At this time, I want to thank Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for her leadership and I also want to thank the other Delegates who have also worked tirelessly to ensure that this legislation is considered, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

It is only fitting for Congress to acknowledge the Territories relationship with the United States. Speaking on behalf of American Samoa, we have a long and proud history of supporting the United States. The traditional leaders of the islands of Tutuila and Aunuu ceded our islands to the United States in 1900. Four years later, the King of Manua and his chiefs ceded the Manua Islands.

In the early part of the century, the port village of Pago Pago was used as a coaling station for U.S. naval ships. During WWII, it was used as a support base for U.S. soldiers. To this day, American Samoa serves as a refueling point for U.S. naval ships and military aircraft.

American Samoa also has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is as high as any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I believe this relationship should be acknowledged with the issuance of a commemorative coin.

H.R. 2993 affords us an opportunity to recognize the special contributions that American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas and the District of Columbia have made to the history of our Nation. I thank my colleagues for voting in favor of this legislation and I urge the Senate to also support our cause, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Oct. 4, 2005]

QUARTER DOLLAR BILL COMMEMORATING AMERICAN SAMOA AND OTHER TERRITORIES REINTRODUCED

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Territorial Delegates have joined with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to reintroduce a bill that will grant circulating quarter dollars to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Essentially, this legislation will amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include six new designs representative of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The coins will be issued in 2009 and their respective designs will be issued by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five of the delegates are and were original co-sponsors to this bi-partisan measure.

The measure was originally introduced in the 106th, 107th and 108th Congresses and easily passed through the House on each occasion. But, in each instance, the Senate was unable to take up the matter before Congress adjourned.

Pleased by the support we have seen for this legislation by the House, we have introduced H.R. 3885 and are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 109th Congress adjourns, Faleomavaega said. H.R. 3885 is an appropriate way for Congress to acknowledge the historic relationship between the Territories and the United States. American Samoa has a long record of supporting the United States, specifically in relation to military service. American Samoa has an enlistment rate which is as high per capita to that of any other State of U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served proudly in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to the current operations in Iraq. Our territory has also served the U.S. military as a fueling station for naval ships and military aircraft and in WWII it served as a support base for U.S. soldiers.

At this time, I would like to thank my colleagues for their commitment to this effort. I especially want to thank Congresswoman Norton for her leadership. Together, we remain hopeful that Congress will take this opportunity to recognize the contributions that the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Marianas have made to our Nation and, together, we urge Congress to support our cause, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Jul. 27, 2009]

**FALEOMAVAEGA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF
AMERICAN SAMOA QUARTER**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that American Samoa's commemorative quarter has been released today by the U.S. Mint to the Federal Reserve banks.

"This quarter has been 9 years in the making and came about as a result of federal legislation the Congressional Delegates sponsored and cosponsored since 2000," Faleomavaega said.

"Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia championed the cause, and Congressman Jose Serrano of New York included our last bill in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act."

"After cosponsoring H.R. 5010, H.R. 4005, H.R. 2993, H.R. 3883 and H.R. 392 from the 106th Congress to the 110th, Congress finally passed our legislation into law, and my colleagues and I who represent the Territories and the District of Columbia are pleased by the outcome."

"As part of the legislation, we wanted to make sure our local Governors could also participate in this historic process so we made sure our legislation was modeled after the 50 State Quarters Program which included a provision to allow our local governments to design our quarters. I especially commend Governor Togiola and his administration for the work they did in designing American Samoa's quarter."

"While the U.S. Mint and my office had scheduled an unveiling ceremony in Washington this morning to coincide with today's release of American Samoa's quarter, Governor Togiola has requested to be part of this Congressional ceremony and, as a courtesy to him, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, and the First Lady who are traveling with the Governor, I have agreed to postpone the Congressional ceremony until Wednesday of this week since Governor Togiola had to cancel the local ceremony he had arranged with the U.S. Mint due to his decision to come to Washington DC this week. The Governor's event with the U.S. Mint was scheduled to be held in American Samoa on July 29 but, according to the U.S. Mint, the Governor has now rescheduled American Samoa's local ceremony for sometime in September."

"Since the coin was officially released today and because we want the people of American Samoa to be able to celebrate and share in this important moment, the U.S. Mint and my office will issue another statement with photos after we unveil the quarter in Washington this Wednesday," Faleomavaega concluded.

**HONORING JUDGE MONICA
DRINANE**

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before

you today to celebrate the Honorable Monica Drinane, and her many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Judge Drinane has been an exemplary contributor to the Bronx community, and has served as a mentor, leader to countless professionals, and fierce advocate for children and families across the New York City. Her career in legal services and community service has been a testament to the importance of selfless devotion.

While Monica Drinane's accomplishments over the course of her legal career speak to the distinguished nature of her work, what is clearest about her time as a public servant is her relentless commitment to the people of New York.

The Honorable Monica Drinane's last ten years working in Bronx Family Court, where she has been supervising judge since 2007, the six years she spent with the Legal Aid Society as the Attorney-In-Charge of the Juvenile Rights Division, and the countless other juvenile rights positions she has held speak to her unwavering commitment to some of our community's most vulnerable individuals. Monica Drinane has consistently distinguished herself as advocate in our community who speaks for those who may not always be heard, and who works to ensure that as a society we work to protect our youth and families.

Today, Monica Drinane continues to serve on the board of the NYPD Reengineering Initiative, School to Prison Pipeline, and the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. As she prepares for retirement, I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Honorable Monica Drinane for all of her work in The Bronx and throughout New York City, and to thank her for leaving our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Honorable Monica Drinane for her remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for countless families in New York City.

SENATE—Monday, December 1, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Master, You are too good to be true. Repeatedly throughout our history, You have been our anchor. Continue to bring stability and unity to our lawmakers as they strive to do Your will on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

May they trust Your promises, remembering that You are that rock-solid mountain on which they can always depend. Lord, encircle them with the shield of Your favor, doing for them more than they can ask or imagine. Renew their commitment to You as their guide and guardian and enable them to successfully meet the challenges of our time.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to two cloture votes on two Ambassador nominations to two very important countries, Argentina and Hungary; Noah Mamet to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic and Colleen Bell to be our Ambassador to Hungary.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID. I, of course, welcome all Senators and our staff back from the Thanksgiving recess. I am sure that, like me, people spent time with their loved ones, some here and some at their homes around the country.

For many families across America, this Thanksgiving was particularly

unique and special. Because of President Obama's recent Executive actions, many immigrant families celebrated their holiday together for the first time without the threat of someone knocking on their door in a police uniform.

These people now, instead of staying in the shadows, are having a good time. Their holiday is not threatened to be ruined. All over America they are openly giving thanks or blessings with family that they haven't been able to enjoy in the past. Instead of looking over their shoulder, they joyously revel in the time they spent with their loved ones.

What President Obama did needed to be done.

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the presiding President pro tempore, spent days and weeks coming up with a very difficult piece of legislation, comprehensive immigration reform. Amendments by the scores were heard and debated. Republican amendments were adopted, Democratic amendments were adopted, and that matter was brought to the Senate floor where there was a good, genuine, long debate. On the floor, amendments were offered, debated, and voted upon. We created a very good bill based upon the work of the Judiciary Committee. It was bipartisan, and it was one that had an overwhelming vote on the Senate floor.

This had to be done. It had to be done because we have all seen firsthand our Nation's failing immigration system was tearing families apart. Each day Senate offices all over America would receive pleas—I did in Nevada—from loved ones who have fallen victim to our Nation's flawed immigration system.

I met with these people personally. I have talked with them on the telephone, I have read their letters, I have seen their emails, and it is heart-breaking to listen and hear some of their stories, their experiences. So I always try to do everything within the law to help, and sometimes we can help. Other times they cannot be helped within the confines of the law, so they wind up very unhappy.

Early this year I was able to—for example, the experience that we have all had—unite Edith Fawkes, a mother from Las Vegas, with her 12-year-old son Brahyam. That was a festive occasion, it was touching, but it is all too rare. For every one family who is reunited, thousands and thousands of others have been decimated by deportations.

That is why the Executive action taken by the President is so very im-

portant. It helps mend our Nation's broken immigration system, gets criminals off the streets, strengthens our border security, and spurs our economy. It spurs our economy. Underline and underscore that.

President Obama's action keeps families together. That is the most important thing. It allows parents with children who are U.S. citizens or green card holders to temporarily stay in our country, this country they call their home. By acting, the President said mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters are no longer relegated to the shadows of American society.

The American community now knows there is a path forward. There really is a way. President Obama took the first step. It is a good first step, but it is only a temporary solution.

If I had my way, the President would have signed a comprehensive immigration bill into law, one that came out of the Judiciary Committee, instead of announcing Executive actions. But we could not sit idly by waiting for the Republicans to act while homes are broken up all over our country—and, frankly, their actions hurt our economy. The President has taken the first step. I repeat, the first step. Now Congress must act to address all the issues in our broken immigration system.

The House Republicans can still and should pass the bipartisan immigration bill that the Senate passed 520 days ago. In the meantime, I will keep fighting in Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that brings permanent long-term relief to our Nation.

We have done all we can in the Senate. We need to do more. I am begging the House to do something. If they brought this bill to the floor, it would pass overwhelmingly.

AGENDA

Mr. REID. I will spend a minute and talk about what we have to do this next week, 1 week, 2 weeks—hopefully not 3 weeks, but we may have to be here through the weekend. I hope everyone understands that our most important task at hand is to pass bills to fund our government, keep it from shutting down.

We have a number of vitally important nominations that must be confirmed.

We need to consider an extension of tax cuts for working families and businesses and we are going to work hard. I had a conversation today with Senator WYDEN.

We need to work on reauthorizing Defense authorization legislation. We

have a lot to do, and there isn't much time to accomplish it, so I urge all Senators to work hard and work in a timely and efficient fashion. We may have to be here the week before Christmas—and hopefully not into the Christmas holiday—but there are things we have to get done.

I talked to the Secretary of Energy today. He has seven nominations to fill. These are important positions in the Department of Energy—Chief Financial Officer, head of the science division, fossil fuels—all of these important issues that these people deal with. We need to confirm these Cabinet-level officers, so I hope people will cooperate and help us get these done.

Will the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Vermont.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senate leader is still on the floor, I thank him for his comments on the immigration bill. I would note he was kind to talk about hundreds of hours. I may not have spent that, but a whole lot of other Senators did—and that bill would not have been on the floor and would not have been voted on without the leadership of the Senator from Nevada. He made sure there was a calendar, that there was time, and that he would keep the Senate in session while we had rollcall after rollcall. We had 136 amendments that were adopted in committee, and more than a dozen were considered on the floor. But we passed that bill by a 2-to-1 margin. The Republicans and Democrats joined together, and I applaud the leader for what he did.

I would tell one short story. Not long after that I was in Oregon, north of Portland, and went to a farming area. I went to church on a Sunday. My brother-in-law was saying the mass. He is fluent in Spanish. There were hundreds and hundreds of workers—these are all taxpayers, hardworking people. They make the community and they make the economy of the area.

I was introduced at the end. They all stood, raised their hand, and asked

blessings on me and on the Senate for what we had done because it gave them hope for themselves and their families.

As long as I live, I will remember that, and I would hope—knowing at that time that we had enough votes, or enough votes to pass it in the House, I would call on the House leadership to do the right thing, allow it to come to a vote. Let Republicans and Democrats, everybody who does speeches on immigration, let them do what Senator REID had us do in the Senate, actually vote yes or vote no. Let them do the same—vote yes or vote no, and let the blessing the people gave for us in the Senate also be a blessing for those in the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair to the distinguished President pro tempore of the Senate, for me in Nevada it is very important in the State of Nevada because the State of Nevada is 10 or 15 years behind the State of California as far as demographic changes. We have the largest number of Hispanics and Asians in the State of Nevada now. But my friend, the senior Senator from Vermont, basically has very few minorities in the State of Vermont. He did this—led this bill—because it is the right thing to do.

The people of Vermont, I know, are very cognizant of their senior Senator. He has taken on issues during his time in the Senate not because necessarily they are important for the State of Vermont—which they are, because anything that is good for the country is good for Vermont—but he takes these issues on because it is certainly the right thing for the country. There is a long list of things he has done over the years that have very little bearing on the State of Vermont but have a tremendous bearing on this country. That is why he is the tremendous leader he is.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished majority leader.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Just before our August recess, this body passed S. Res. 525.

I thank Senator WYDEN, the vice chair of the Whistleblower Protection Caucus I am starting next year, for being an original cosponsor of the resolution.

S. Res. 525 recognized July 31 as National Whistleblower Appreciation

Day. On that day way back in 1778, the Continental Congress passed the first whistleblower law in the United States. I would like to quote it:

Resolved,

That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States . . . to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge.

This resolution was passed by the Continental Congress in 1778 without a recorded dissent.

Then and now, Congress's control of the purse strings has given us an obligation to guard against wasteful and fraudulent spending.

On this past July 31, whistleblower groups met to honor some of our colleagues on the Hill for their support of whistleblowers who report waste or fraud. I was not able to be there because the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee held a hearing on oversight of the False Claims Act. I am always wary when I hear the biggest violators of a law hire people to talk about "strengthening" the False Claims Act. So at the House of Representatives, I had an opportunity to comment on a chamber of commerce release of a report on the False Claims Act. It claims the act "plainly is not getting the job done" since "the government has recovered only \$35 billion since 1987." The current number as of today is actually \$42 billion that has been recovered under the False Claims Act of 1986, and that surely is nothing to sneeze at—at least where I come from it is not.

The fact is that since 1986 no other law on the books has been more effective in battling fraud. Before the 1986 amendments, the False Claims Act only brought in about \$40 million a year. At that rate it would have recovered only \$1 billion in the past 25 years. So thanks to the 1986 amendments, it brought back 42 times as much.

Clearly, I say to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the False Claims Act is working, and it is working fantastically. The chamber's report says the law is "ineffective at preventing fraud." Yet my staff have met with some of the authors of that chamber report, and I have to say to you that the chamber had no concrete proposals for preventing fraud more effectively than the False Claims Act.

Now, the chamber people meeting with my staff talked about "a gold-standard compliance certification program," but to me and my staff it is just a pie-in-the-sky idea with no specifics. They told my staff, "We deliberately left this vague." So that is the problem. They lack details on who would create the program, who would enforce the program. Basically, they lacked details about everything. But they want this Senate to believe that once this pipe dream is in place, it will

magically increase the amount of taxpayer dollars the government recovers.

In exchange, the report proposes hefty concessions for its big corporate sponsors. For starters, they want to eliminate the use of exclusion or debarment. These happen to be some of the government's strongest tools in deterring fraud. The chamber report would require whistleblowers to report internally 180 days before any whistleblower can file a False Claims Act suit. Yet, in most corporations, reporting internally just puts a huge target on the back of the employee blowing the whistle, just as it does on the back of a Federal whistleblower within the Federal bureaucracy. We should trust whistleblowers to use their common sense to know the safest place to report. Internal reporting and a 6-month head start on retaliation before the whistleblower gets a chance to be heard in court is a recipe guaranteed to reduce disclosures of fraud.

I have long advocated companies developing strong internal compliance programs, so I see nothing wrong with having those compliance programs. However, having one of these programs is not a reason to get a "get out of jail free" pass. I am skeptical that companies will self-report violations. Certification of a compliance program will not turn up the cold hard facts on whether they do or do not self-report. Even when a corporation does come forward, the company line is never going to be the complete picture. That is why the False Claims Act incentivizes whistleblowers, and, in fact, it has worked.

Further, some corporations have actually been using compliance programs as a trap for muzzling whistleblowers. By making their compliance program an arm of their legal department, anything a whistleblower reports is protected as confidential information covered under the attorney-client privilege. Many corporations also require employees who provide tips to their compliance departments to then sign nondisclosure agreements. This has a major chilling effect on whistleblowers contemplating filing a False Claims Act suit. Whistleblowers brave enough to file then find themselves the subject of legal action claiming they have violated attorney-client privilege or nondisclosure agreements. Now, a very simple question: Is this how we ought to treat whistleblowers?

This report's recommendations contradict its assertion that the False Claims Act has failed by not recovering enough money. The report proposes to limit government recoveries across the board, regardless of participation in any compliance certification program. That makes no sense.

In the last 5 years the Federal Government has grown larger and larger and spending has gotten more and more out of control. The Federal Gov-

ernment now spends about \$1 trillion in contracts and grants each year. Inspectors general, the Government Accountability Office, and congressional oversight committees simply have not been able to keep up. Whistleblowers using the False Claims Act have played a very key role in checking fraud and wasteful spending. Annual recoveries under the False Claims Act have increased dramatically in just the past 5 years. Last year the Justice Department recovered \$2.6 billion in just health care fraud through the False Claims Act. The False Claims Act is clearly doing exactly what we intended it to do, and that is to recover taxpayers' money being lost to fraud.

State attorneys general around the country have used State false claims acts to successfully recover billions of dollars for their States. I will give some examples.

Last October—that is, October of 2013—then-Virginia attorney general Ken Cuccinelli recovered \$37 million for the State of Virginia from a drug company that was inflating its prices to scam taxpayer dollars from Medicare. The next month, in 2013, Cuccinelli recovered \$21 million in two health care fraud settlements with multinational pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson, which was paying millions of dollars in kickbacks to the Nation's largest pharmacy. Yet, just days before Cuccinelli announced the settlements, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius also made an announcement. She revealed that this administration did not intend to treat ObamaCare as a Federal health care program, exempting it from antikickback laws. Precisely because of the fraud opportunities under ObamaCare, one provision Congress added to the law made a violation of antikickback law an automatic violation of the False Claims Act. This administration has chosen to ignore that part of ObamaCare.

Congress must step forward and reiterate that ObamaCare is no less subject to the antikickback law and False Claims Act than other Federal health care programs. Congress should strongly consider strengthening the False Claims Act's connection with suspension and debarment. That would keep repeat offenders away from the taxpayer dollars they have defrauded in the first place.

This issue, then, is really one about law and order. If we really want to improve the False Claims Act—not go the direction of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—we should make a judgment or settlement under the law result in an automatic review for suspension or debarment. That would capitalize on the success of the law while increasing its deterrent effect.

The False Claims Act has already provided a crucial check during a time of growing government and out of con-

trol Federal spending. Whistleblowers have been the key to the government finding out about fraud when it happens. We have to do all we can to honor them for the patriotic service they provide to the taxpayers and protect them from those who resist the role they play.

COLORETTI NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I continue my objection to consideration of the nomination of Nani Coloretti to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In keeping with my efforts to end secret holds, I have been very open about the reason I put a hold on this nomination. The Obama administration isn't giving me the same consideration.

In May, I found out about questionable hiring practices at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN. FinCEN is an agency within the Treasury Department that collects and analyzes financial reports for law enforcement agencies to use in their money laundering investigations.

FinCEN has been hiring additional personnel to beef up its enforcement division. The problem occurred when the agency posted the job requirements but then disqualified candidates for a criterion that was never in the original job posting: a law degree.

This is illegal under Federal hiring guidelines.

I also learned that FinCEN rejected qualified veterans who applied for the positions. Veterans' preference doesn't guarantee veterans a job but it does give them extra consideration for jobs for which they are qualified.

The unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans is significantly higher than the rate for the general population. These men and women are extremely capable. They have an array of job skills to offer in the workplace.

It is inexcusable for FinCEN, or any other Federal agency, to reject qualified veterans who faithfully served our country.

The Office of Personnel Management already determined that the FinCEN hiring practices were illegal and referred the case to both the U.S. Office of Special Counsel and the Treasury Department's Inspector General. The investigations need to cover whether Treasury Department officials knew about the hiring problems and did nothing until OPM forced their hand. And if FinCEN tried to game the system to shortchange our Nation's veterans Congress needs to know. In addition, whoever is responsible must be held accountable.

To find out what happened, I requested all emails sent between the Treasury Department and FinCEN on this matter.

As the Treasury Assistant Secretary for Management, Ms. Coloretti oversees the Treasury's human resources

department and may have known about the illegal hiring practices, or was at least in a position to know. If she did, she certainly shouldn't be rewarded with a promotion. However, regardless of her involvement, the Treasury Department needs to come clean.

As I said earlier, I have requested emails from the Treasury Department to help me get to the bottom of this. So far, I have received four emails.

Instead of open transparency, the Obama administration is once again obstructing access to the information I need to conduct proper congressional oversight.

The Treasury Department tried to convince me that no other relevant emails exist but I am not convinced. Their search was limited to only the 8 months when the vacancy announcements were open. This excluded any email communications that took place in preparation for posting the announcements or during 2014 when problems with the announcements were found. That is unacceptable. So I will continue my objection to consideration of Ms. Coloretti's nomination.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. HALE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1036.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United

States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Claire McCaskill, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK A. KEARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1037.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bill Nelson, Barbara A. Mikulski, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Dianne Feinstein.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GERALD J. PAPPERT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1038.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jon Tester, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF FRANKLIN M. ORR, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 555.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH S. HEZIR TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 660.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 291 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—36

Ayotte	Enzi	Kirk
Barrasso	Fischer	Lee
Blunt	Flake	McConnell
Boozman	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Rubio
Collins	Hoeven	Scott
Corker	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Crapo	Johanns	Thune
Cruz	Johnson (WI)	Wicker

NOT VOTING—14

Alexander	Mikulski	Stabenow
Coburn	Moran	Toomey
Cochran	Murkowski	Vitter
Landrieu	Roberts	Whitehouse
McCain	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF NOAH BRYSON MAMET TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Bill Nelson, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara Boxer, Tom Udall, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Carl Levin, Joe Manchin III, Bernard Sanders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator

from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 292 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—36

Ayotte	Enzi	Kirk
Barrasso	Fischer	Lee
Blunt	Flake	McConnell
Boozman	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Portman
Chambliss	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Heller	Rubio
Collins	Hoeven	Scott
Corker	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Crapo	Johanns	Thune
Cruz	Johnson (WI)	Wicker

NOT VOTING—14

Alexander	Mikulski	Stabenow
Coburn	Moran	Toomey
Cochran	Murkowski	Vitter
Landrieu	Roberts	Whitehouse
McCain	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF COLLEEN BRADLEY BELL TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Colleen Bradley Bell, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend today's cloture votes on the nominations of Noah Mamet to be U.S. Ambassador to Argentina and Colleen Bell to be U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported both cloture motions. •

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, on Tuesday, December 2, following the vote on cloture on Calendar No. 772, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar No. 918; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations—the Coloretti and Adler nominations—the time until 4 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form and that at 4 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business and that Senators who wish to speak be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AUDREY EVANS

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Judge Audrey Evans, who will be retiring as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas.

Judge Evans graduated Cum Laude from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967 and taught in public schools before eventually settling in Little Rock in 1975. Judge Evans became active in her community, including serving as a volunteer in Little Rock public schools and representing the Little Rock School Board on the Pulaski County Board of Equalization.

In 1983, Judge Evans received her Juris Doctorate, with high honors, from the University of Arkansas at

Little Rock School of Law where she was Associate Editor of the UALR Law Journal. Judge Evans began her legal career clerking for G. Thomas Eisele, then Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas. Prior to her appointment as bankruptcy judge, Judge Evans represented both debtors and creditors in private practice.

While in private practice, Judge Evans was an active member of the bar in many capacities. Notably, she was a member of the Arkansas Board of Law Examiners from 1995 until 2001, serving as Chairperson in 2001; and she was on the Board of the Volunteers' Organization for Central Arkansas Legal Services, VOCALS, for 8 years, serving as chair from 1993 to 1995.

Judge Evans was appointed to bankruptcy court in February of 2002 by President George W. Bush, and served as Chief Judge from 2003-2009. As a bankruptcy judge, Judge Evans is best known for her courtesy and patience as well as her respect for the law and pursuit of justice. Anyone appearing before Judge Evans felt they had a just, fair, and full opportunity to be heard.

Judge Evans continued her service to the bar regularly speaking at bankruptcy conferences in Arkansas, Memphis, and throughout the Eighth Circuit. She was the Education Chair for the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Conference, and served as President of the Central Arkansas Debtor-Creditor Bar Association from 2006-2007. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and an active member in the William R. Overton Inn of Court.

Judge Evans has been supported in her work by her husband, Don, their two sons, and five grandchildren. It is with great pleasure today that I rise to recognize and honor her service to Arkansas and to the country.●

TRIBUTE TO DON BAKER

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Don Baker, who will retire as the Pike County Judge after 17 years of honorable service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Pike County Judge, Don can be credited with building 16 steel and concrete bridges in the county, adding to and upgrading the road and landfill equipment, paving and improving many miles of Pike County roads, and organizing the Intermodal Authority for Pike, Montgomery, Clark, and Dallas Counties. In addition to his county judge duties, Don also served as a member of the board of West Central Planning and Development District and president of the Upper Southwest Solid Waste Landfill District.

Public service has always been an important part of Don's life. After graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1963 and teaching school in Mt. Ida, Don worked to extend credit to local

farmers, owned a Glenwood grocery business, and served as a member on the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce, was a charter member of the Glenwood Lion's Club and served for 9 years on the Glenwood School Board. In addition, he was active in the Glenwood industrial development and taught Sunday school at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Don Baker has displayed dedication, commitment, and an eagerness to serve his community we can all admire. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Judge Baker on the projects important to Pike County. I am truly grateful for his years of honorable service and dedication to Pike County and the State of Arkansas.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS TRUHE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my friend, Dr. Thomas Truhe, a generous supporter of the arts who was recently honored with a Golden Palm Star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars in recognition of his many contributions to the civic and cultural life of his hometown.

This prestigious honor is well deserved. For more than 6 years, Tom Truhe has served tirelessly as chair of the Palm Springs Museum's Annenberg Theater Council, ATC, which supports the museum through an innovative program of music and theatrical performances. The ATC's busy season includes an Opening Night Gala, a major fundraiser for the museum; the "performance series," featuring outstanding Broadway artists; and the tremendously popular Cabaret 88, a series of nine sold-out shows with top musical talents. Tom introduced the Cabaret 88 concept and is responsible for every aspect of its production, from selecting the talent and overseeing promotion to securing sponsors for each show.

In addition to his involvement with the Palm Springs Museum, Tom gives generously of his time and energy to numerous other area organizations and charities. He is a volunteer for "One Night Only," Michael Childers' annual gala concert benefitting Jewish Family Service of the Desert, and he served on the event committee for a recent luncheon honoring Mr. Childers for his contributions to JFS. As a dedicated patron of the arts, Tom also makes a point of attending theatrical productions, concerts, local performances, and other charitable events in the community.

On November 16, 2014, Tom Truhe's Gold Palm Star was dedicated and Mayor Stephen Pougnet officially proclaimed the date to be Dr. Thomas Truhe Day in the City of Palm Springs. As his friend and Coachella Valley neighbor, I am pleased to join in honoring Tom Truhe for his outstanding service to the community.●

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR CLOSING THE HEALTH GAP

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I attended a Martin Luther King, Jr. event in Cleveland on a cold, snowy day earlier this year. The keynote speaker said something that we have all heard, but so often do not think about. He said, "Your life expectancy is connected to your zip code."

Whether you grew up in a city like Cincinnati, a suburb like Kettering, or in rural Appalachia, your zip code often determines whether you have access to quality health care, great education, and the social support necessary to succeed.

Ohio is fortunate to have many organizations, like the Center for Closing the Health Gap in Cincinnati, working to create zip codes where every resident has the opportunity to succeed.

For the past 10 years, The Center for Closing the Health Gap under the leadership of Dwight Tillery has worked to address health disparities across Southwest Ohio through private-public partnerships. Their work is invaluable in the Queen City, as we know health disparities take both a moral and economic toll on our communities.

Today, more than 1.8 million Ohioans live in poverty and almost one in six families do not know where their next meal will come from. We also know that the end of the school year does not mean an end to hunger.

That is why the work of nonprofits like The Center for Closing the Health Gap and programs like the Summer Food Service Program are so important. They work together to ensure that Ohio families know about these programs and ensure our students have enough food to keep growing and learning long after the final school bell rings for summer vacation.

As we work together to address child hunger and nutrition, we are also working to eradicate infant mortality. Ohio ranks 48th in the nation for infant mortality, and we are the worst State for the survival of African American babies.

Each year, there are more than 4,600 sudden unexpected infant deaths, and there is no known cause for as many as half of the 25,000 stillbirths in this country.

No parent should ever have to grieve the loss of a child with no answers and no help.

My Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act would fill in the gap in how infant deaths are tracked by the Federal Government so that we can better understand and prevent these tragedies.

We can begin to address the disparities facing our communities—and our economies—by working together on the local, State, and federal levels. Ohio is fortunate to have organizations like The Center for Closing the Health Gap working to make sure that all Ohioans

have a chance to lead healthy, successful lives.●

SA-TECH'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mr. Timothy J. Adams, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Systems Application & Technologies, Inc., SA-TECH, and all SA-TECH employees on the firm's 25th anniversary. Since 1994, SA-TECH has been based in Maryland and has grown to be one of the largest privately held, minority-owned businesses in the Nation. Mr. Adams and each of the more than 400 full-time employees at SA-TECH deserve recognition for their valuable contributions supporting Department of Defense missions and the Maryland community.

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Adams founded SA-TECH in Oxnard, CA and then moved the headquarters to Largo, MD in 1994. SA-TECH's services originally focused on the high technology and technical support domain for the Department of Defense, but have since evolved into other areas including program management, operations & maintenance, security, and logistics support services. The company has grown from two employees at one California location to more than 400 full time employees in more than 20 domestic and international locations. SA-TECH is an example of a successful minority-owned business and has been rightfully recognized as one of Maryland's Top 50 Diversity Owned Businesses and a Top 100 Black Enterprise Industrial/Services Black Businesses in the Nation, and has received many other recognitions including the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce Exemplary Business Recognition Award.

Over the past few years, I have toured my home State on a "Made in Maryland Tour" to visit Maryland businesses and highlight the diverse products and services being produced in our great State. The tour is also designed to celebrate the hardworking Marylanders who make these products and provide the services, and the companies who provide those jobs in our local communities. One common thread running throughout all of these successful businesses has been the business and business leaders' willingness to give back to their local community. SA-TECH is no exception. Under Mr. Adam's leadership, SA-TECH has grown to be a true community partner, supporting Department of Defense facilities and the Maryland community at large. SA-TECH has worked with other partners to renovate the Maryland Room at Joint Base Andrews Malcolm Grow Medical Center for wounded servicemembers returning from deployment, build a Family Room at Joint Base Andrews' passenger terminal, and provide academic scholarships to the top graduates of the United States Air

Force's Airman Leadership School for enlisted personnel. In Mr. Adams' personal life as the former Chairman of the Board of the Bowie State University Foundation, he worked with the board to increase the endowment of the student scholarship fund to surpass \$5,000,000. These scholarships play a key role in retaining economically disadvantaged Bowie State students and ensuring that Bowie State maintains the highest retention rate among Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In closing, I am proud of this Maryland company, which provides good paying, full time work in service of our Nation's military mission and the Maryland community. I offer my best wishes for the continued success of SA-TECH, Mr. Adams, and all of SA-TECH's employees.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR LEWIS G. SORVILLO

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Maj. Lewis Sorvillo for his exemplary dedication to duty and service to the U.S. Air Force and to the United States of America. Major Sorvillo spent the last year serving in my office as a congressional defense fellow, and it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate him as he concludes an exemplary tour of duty in the Senate.

Major Sorvillo was born in Youngstown, OH. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1994 as a motor vehicle operator, ultimately advancing as a noncommissioned officer and aide on the Vice President's military staff. After his White House service across two presidential administrations, Major Sorvillo earned his commission in 2002 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL. For his superior performance at OTS, Major Sorvillo was awarded the Top Hawk Award as his squadron's No. 1 graduate.

Major Sorvillo subsequently qualified as a communications officer and was assigned to Patrick Air Force Base, FL, in support of the 45th Space Wing's mission of delivering assured space launch for the Nation. While at Patrick AFB, Major Sorvillo again distinguished himself by leading the Air Force Space Command's top information assurance unit of the year. He subsequently served at Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX, where he was responsible for the critical communication infrastructure necessary to train the Air Force's next generation of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance professionals.

From Goodfellow AFB Major Sorvillo joined the command staff of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe. As a senior officer in the USAFE communications directorate's plans and policy branch and subsequently force management

branch, he played an instrumental role in the manpower, training, utilization, and readiness of 130 cyber operations officers at 42 locations throughout 10 countries.

Across his two decades of service, Major Sorvillo has deployed to Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and just concluded his second tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom prior to joining my Senate staff. From June 2012 to May 2013, Major Sorvillo served as the principal adviser to the Afghan Ministry of Interior, Deputy Director of Information, Communication, and Technology, and led a team of military, civilian, and contract advisers in the development of enduring, nationwide systems and processes critical to the long-term sustainment of communication capabilities for the Afghan National Police. For his meritorious service, Major Sorvillo was awarded a Bronze Star Medal.

Over the past year, Major Sorvillo has distinguished himself among his fellowship peers as a leader in the Senate. From his legislative contributions supporting my role on the Senate Armed Services Committee to his dedication to constituent services, Major Sorvillo deftly applied his military expertise to elevate the performance of my personal office. He exemplifies the Air Force core values of integrity, service, and excellence, and I am deeply grateful for his significant contributions this year.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Major Sorvillo, his wife Amy, and their three children, Jessica, Brandon, and Ivy, as they leave the Senate and continue to serve our great Nation. I wish them the very best of luck.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION
SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 21, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) had signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 4067. An act to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

H.R. 5441. An act to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 5728. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed on November 24, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4795. An act to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4795. An act to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7934. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7935. A communication from the President of the Federal Financing Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's Annual Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7936. A communication from the Chief of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 1, and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Cellular Service, Including Changes in Licensing of Unreserved Area; Amendment to the Commission's Rules with Regard to Relocation of Part 24 to Part 27; Interim Restrictions and Procedures for Cellular Service Applications; Amendment of Parts 0, 1, and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Frequency Coordination for the Cellular Service; Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Radiated Power Limits for the Cellular Service" ((WT Docket No. 12-40) (FCC 14-181)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7937. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to the Administrative Rules of Montana—Air Quality, Subchapter 7, Exclusion for De minimis Changes; Final Rule" (FRL No. 9918-35-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7938. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Steam Generating Units" (FRL No. 9918-21-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Inspection and Maintenance Program Updates" (FRL No. 9919-10-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7940. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9919-48-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Washington; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Best Available Retrofit Technology for Alcoa Intalco Operations, Tesoro Refining and Marketing, and Alcoa Wenatchee" (FRL No. 9919-38-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings of Failure to Submit a Complete State Implementation Plan for Section 110(a) Pertaining to the 2010 Nitrogen Oxide (NO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9919-67-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Tribal Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9917-07-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7944. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reconsideration of Certain Startup/Shutdown Issues: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units" (FRL No. 9919-29-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7945. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Certain Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations Under Certain Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs to Aid Victims of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone" (Notice 2014-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7946. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Home Health Study: An Investigation on Access to Care and Payment for Vulnerable Patient Populations"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7947. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Arbitrage Rebate Overpayments on Tax-Exempt Bonds" ((RIN1545-BK80)(TD9701)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7948. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Failure to File Gain Recognition Agreements or Satisfy Other Reporting Obligations" ((RIN1545-BK65)(TD9704)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7949. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2014 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2014-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7950. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7951. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the quarterly exception Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) as of September 30, 2014 (DCN OSS 2014-1862); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7952. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of

lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7953. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Annual Return/Report—Multiple-Employer Plans" (RIN1210-AB66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7954. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, and Removal of Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0318) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7955. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA or Integrity Act) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7956. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7957. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2014 Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7958. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7959. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations" (RIN3209-AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7960. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Financial Report for the Office of Government Ethics for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7961. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-462, "License to Carry a Pistol Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7962. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7963. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7964. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7965. A communication from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1744, a bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-276).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2479, a bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada (Rept. No. 113-277).

Report to accompany S. 2480, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-278).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2030. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-279).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 2583, a bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (Rept. No. 113-280).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2338. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-281).

S. 2759. A bill to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport (Rept. No. 113-282).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Nicholas J. Rasmussen, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BURR:

S. Res. 592. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Montagnard indigenous tribespeople of the Central Highlands of Vietnam to the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and condemning the ongoing violation of human rights by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 864

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1686

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1686, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors.

S. 1853

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1853, a bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

S. 2549

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2549, a bill to amend the

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 2689

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend Public Law 110-299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 2963

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Mary-

land (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONTAGNARD INDIGENOUS TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, AND CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. BURR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 592

Whereas the Montagnards, sometimes referred to as "Dega", are the indigenous tribespeople living in Vietnam's Central Highlands region;

Whereas the Montagnards were driven into the mountains by invading Vietnamese and Cambodians in the 9th century;

Whereas French Roman Catholic missionaries converted many of the Montagnards in the 19th century and American Protestant missionaries subsequently converted many to various Protestant sects;

Whereas, during the 1960s, the United States Mission in Saigon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and United States Army Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, trained the Montagnards in unconventional warfare;

Whereas an estimated 61,000 Montagnards, out of an estimated population of 1,000,000, fought alongside the United States and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Special Forces, and the Montagnards cooperated on the Village Defense Program, a forerunner to the War's Strategic Hamlet Program and estimated 43,000 Montagnards were organized into "Civilian Irregular Defense Groups" (CIDGs) to provide protection for the areas around the CIDGs' operational bases;

Whereas, at its peak, the CIDGs had approximately 50 operational bases, with each base containing a contingent of two United States Army officers and ten enlisted men, and an ARVN unit of the same size, and each base trained 200 to 700 Montagnards, or "strikers";

Whereas another 18,000 Montagnards were reportedly enlisted into mobile strike forces, and various historical accounts describe a strong bond between the United States Special Forces and the Montagnards, in contrast to Vietnamese Special Forces and ARVN troops;

Whereas the lives of thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces were saved as a result of the heroic actions of the Montagnards, who fought loyally and brave-

ly alongside United States Special Forces in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975, thousands of Montagnards fled across the border into Cambodia to escape persecution;

Whereas the Government of the reunified Vietnamese nation, renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deeply distrusted the Montagnards who had sided with the United States and ARVN forces, and subjected them to imprisonment and various forms of discrimination and oppression after the Vietnam War ended;

Whereas, after the Vietnam War, the United States Government resettled large numbers of Montagnards, mostly in North Carolina, and an estimated several thousand Montagnards currently reside in North Carolina, which is the largest population of Montagnards residing outside of Vietnam;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam currently remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), which continues to restrict freedom of religion, movement, land and property rights, and political expression;

Whereas officials of the Government of Vietnam have forced Montagnards to publicly denounce their religion, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards who organized public demonstrations, and mistreated Montagnards in detention;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam's restrictions on foreigners' access to the Central Highlands region complicate accurate reporting of human rights violations against the Montagnards, including the hundreds of Montagnards who have reportedly been imprisoned since 2001 and Montagnards who have fled to Thailand seeking asylum in a third country;

Whereas some Montagnard Americans have complained that Vietnamese authorities either have prevented them from visiting Vietnam or have subjected them to interrogation upon re-entering the country on visits;

Whereas the Department of State's 2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and 2013 International Religious Freedom Report reference the mistreatment of Montagnards as an example of the detention of ethnic minorities in Vietnam and references reports from followers of the unsanctioned Church of Christ that local authorities in the Central Highlands provinces had harassed and persecuted them;

Whereas, in March 2014, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) submitted an alternative report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights summarizing the alleged violations of the economic, social, and cultural rights of Vietnam's Montagnard, Hmong, and Khmer Krom;

Whereas the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization report states that the Government of Vietnam has denied Montagnards of their right of self-determination; imposed discriminatory policies; curtailed religious freedom; impeded access to an adequate standard of living; limited access to health care and education; infringed on the Montagnards' cultural rights; and, in two recent cases, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards purportedly for their religious beliefs;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2014 Annual Report states that the Government of Vietnam controls all religious activities through law and administrative oversight, severely restricts independent religious practice, and represses individuals and religious

groups it views as challenging its authority, including independent Protestant house churches in the Central and Northwest Highlands; and

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends that Vietnam be designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) and that access to Priority 1 refugee resettlement authority should be increased for individuals from Vietnam facing a well-founded fear of persecution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and who continue to suffer persecution in Vietnam as a result of this relationship;

(2) condemns actions taken by the Government of Vietnam to suppress basic human rights and civil liberties for all its citizens;

(3) urges the Government of Vietnam to allow human rights groups access to all regions of the country and to end restrictions of basic human rights, including the freedom of religion, land and property rights, freedom of movement, and access to an adequate standard of living; and

(4) urges the President and Congress to develop policies that support Montagnards and other marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous populations such as the Khmer Krom and the Hmong in Vietnam and reflect United States interests and commitment to upholding human rights and democracy abroad.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3959. Mr. UDALL, of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3960. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3964. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3959. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to pre-

scribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO INCLUDE SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN ENTRY LEVEL AND SKILL TRAINING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE BETWEEN 18 AND 24 MONTHS.—Section 3311(b)(5)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “excluding” and inserting “including”.

(b) FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, OR CERTAIN OTHER CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—Section 3311(b) of such title is amended in paragraphs (6)(A) and (7)(A) by striking “excluding service on active duty in entry level and skill training” and inserting “including service on active duty in entry level and skill training for individuals who served on active duty in the Armed Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, or any other contingency operation (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 10) and excluding service on active duty in entry level and skill training for all other individuals”.

SA 3960. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—

(1) MINIMUM IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the day that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned may not permit a person who is 18 years old or older to enter a military installation in the United States unless such person presents, as determined by an authentication procedure that meets the minimum procedural requirements identified by the Secretary of Defense in paragraph (4), at a minimum—

(i) a valid Federal or State government issued photo identification card;

(ii) a valid Common Access Card; or

(iii) a valid uniformed services identification card.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN PASSPORTS.—The Secretary concerned may permit a person to enter a military installation in the United States if such person presents a valid foreign passport, as determined by an authentication procedure that meets the minimum procedural requirements identified by the Secretary of Defense in paragraph (4), if—

(i) such person is visiting such military installation on official business between the Armed Forces and the armed forces of a foreign country; or

(ii) such person is visiting a member of the uniformed services or a civilian employee of

the Department of Defense on such military installation.

(2) EXPIRED OR FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary concerned shall confiscate any form of identification that the Secretary determines, using an authentication procedure that meets the minimum procedural requirements identified by the Secretary of Defense in paragraph (4), to be expired or fraudulent.

(3) COORDINATION AMONG MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OF A STATE.—The Secretary concerned shall keep a list and shall inform the personnel at any other military installation in the State of such military installation of the name of any person—

(A) who attempts to help a person required to present a valid form of identification under paragraph (1) to enter a military installation in the United States without such required identification; or

(B) who attempts to enter a military installation in the United States with a form of identification that the Secretary concerned determines to be expired or fraudulent under paragraph (2).

(4) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall identify the minimum procedural requirements for the Secretary concerned to authenticate the forms of identification in paragraph (1) for a person entering a military installation in the United States. In identifying such requirements, the Secretary of Defense shall identify minimum procedural requirements to ensure that individuals who need to enter a military installation in the United States to perform work under a contract awarded by the Department of Defense present a valid form of identification under paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) COMMON ACCESS CARD.—In this section, the term “Common Access Card” means the standard identification card issued by the Secretary of Defense to active-duty military personnel, Selected Reserve personnel, Department of Defense civilian employees, and certain persons awarded contracts by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION CARD.—In this section, the term “uniformed services identification card” means the identification card issued by the Secretary of Defense to spouses and other eligible dependents of members of the uniformed services and other eligible persons, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SA 3961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 562. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY JOHNSON FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR I.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified

in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Henry Johnson for the acts of valor during World War I described in subsection (b).

(b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Henry Johnson while serving as a member of Company C, 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, during combat operations against the enemy on the front lines of the Western Front in France on May 15, 1918, during World War I for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

SA 3962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2813. ARSENAL INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY.

Section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection (h):

“(h) **ARSENAL INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY.**—(1) In the case of a military manufacturing arsenal, the Secretary concerned shall delegate, subject to paragraph (2), the authority provided by this section to the commander of the military manufacturing arsenal or, if part of a larger military installation, the installation commander for the purpose of—

“(A) helping to maintain the viability of military manufacturing arsenals and any installations on which they are located;

“(B) eliminating, or at least reducing, the cost of Government ownership of military manufacturing arsenals, including the costs of operations and maintenance, the costs of environmental remediation, and other costs; and

“(C) leveraging private investment at military manufacturing arsenals through long-term facility use contracts, property management contracts, leases, or other agreements that support and advance the preceding purposes.

“(2) The authority delegated under paragraph (1) does not include the authority to enter into a lease or contract under this section to carry out any activity covered by section 4544(b) of this title related to sale of articles manufactured by a military manufacturing arsenal or services performed by a military manufacturing arsenal or the performance of manufacturing work at the military manufacturing arsenal.

“(3) Both leases and contracts are authorized under this section for a military manufacturing arsenal, and—

“(A) notwithstanding subsection (b)(1), the term of the lease or contract may be for up to 25 years if a lease or contract of that duration will promote the national defense or be in the public interest; and

“(B) the lease or contract may fully utilize the authorities under subsections (b)(5) and (c).

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘military manufacturing arsenal’ means a Government-owned, Government-operated defense plant of the Department of the Defense that manufactures weapons, weapon components, or both.”.

SA 3963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN RADAR TECHNOLOGIES FOR FLIGHT SAFETY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) certain radar technologies developed in the United States and in use by the Department of Defense to perform air surveillance by detecting and tracking designated targets have variants which are being used by civilian airports to enhance the safety of flight operation for commercial air traffic;

(2) these technologies are being considered and reviewed by Federal agencies to provide additional air traffic control capabilities for the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems into the national airspace of the United States; and

(3) the Department should ensure that the benefits to flight safety in the United States from the use of these technologies are fully and openly demonstrated, tested, and reviewed by the Armed Forces, civilian Federal agencies, and commercial airports.

SA 3964. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2842. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND RELATED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO INCUR DELAYED-ONSET WOUNDS, INJURIES, OR ILLNESSES IN SERVICE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1013(a)(2) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(2)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting after “illness,” the following: “or in the case of a wound, injury, or illness with delayed expression or delayed identification, was at the time of expression or identification.”.

(b) **TAX TREATMENT OF BENEFITS.**—Section 132(n)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after “2009” the following: “and amended by section 2842(a) of the Carl Levin National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Collette D. Honorable to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Sam_Fowler@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Sallie Derr at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate immediately after the first roll call vote on December 1, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOLD MEDAL AWARD TO JACK NICKLAUS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO THE NATION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Development be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2203 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2203) to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2203) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then proceed to administering the oath of office to Senators SCHATZ and SCOTT; that following

any leader remarks, the Senate resume executive session and consideration of the Mamet nomination; and that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m., to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, there will be four rollcall votes at 10:30 tomorrow morning on confirmation of the Mamet and Bell

nominations and cloture on the Coloretti and Adler nominations. Another series of votes will occur at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, December 1, 2014

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK MEADOWS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with thankful hearts, we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the Members of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation, and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the first session approaches, and important work is yet to be done, bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 21, 2014 at 9:28 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 119.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 129.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5728.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5441.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4067.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 669.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution and bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore Thornberry on Friday, November 21, 2014:

H.J. Res. 129, appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress;

H.R. 4067, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014;

H.R. 5441, to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States;

H.R. 5728, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

AMNESTY PUTS ALIENS AHEAD OF AMERICANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's illegal alien amnesty plan is unconstitutional and destroys American jobs.

According to a recent article in The Washington Times:

President Obama's temporary amnesty, which lasts 3 years, declares up to 5 million illegal immigrants to be lawfully in the country and eligible for work permits, but it still deems them ineligible for public benefits such as buying insurance on Obamacare's health exchanges. Under the Affordable Care Act, that means businesses who hire them won't have to pay a penalty for not providing them health coverage, making them \$3,000 more attractive than a similar native-born worker, whom the business by law would have to cover.

This gives a disadvantage to legal Americans and citizens and also legal immigrants who deserve a job. Sadly, we are seeing yet another example of how the President has pushed failed policies instead of working with House Republicans to help American families find jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take actions, never forgetting September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

bill (H.R. 5421) to amend title 11 of the United States Code in order to facilitate the resolution of an insolvent financial institution in bankruptcy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5421

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO COVERED FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following after paragraph (9):

“(9A) The term ‘covered financial corporation’ means any corporation incorporated or organized under any Federal or State law, other than a stockbroker, a commodity broker, or an entity of the kind specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 109(b), that is—

“(A) a bank holding company, as defined in section 2(a) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956; or

“(B) a corporation that exists for the primary purpose of owning, controlling and financing its subsidiaries, that has total consolidated assets of \$50,000,000,000 or greater, and for which, in its most recently completed fiscal year—

“(i) annual gross revenues derived by the corporation and all of its subsidiaries from activities that are financial in nature (as defined in section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956) and, if applicable, from the ownership or control of one or more insured depository institutions, represents 85 percent or more of the consolidated annual gross revenues of the corporation; or

“(ii) the consolidated assets of the corporation and all of its subsidiaries related to activities that are financial in nature (as defined in section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956) and, if applicable, related to the ownership or control of one or more insured depository institutions, represents 85 percent or more of the consolidated assets of the corporation.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTERS.—Section 103 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) Subchapter V of chapter 11 of this title applies only in a case under chapter 11 concerning a covered financial corporation.”.

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.—Section 109 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) a covered financial corporation.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “and” before “an uninsured State member bank”; and

(B) by striking “or” before “a corporation”; and

(C) by inserting “, or a covered financial corporation” after “Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991”.

(d) CONVERSION TO CHAPTER 7.—Section 1112 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Notwithstanding section 109(b), the court may convert a case under subchapter V to a case under chapter 7 if—

“(1) a transfer approved under section 1185 has been consummated;

“(2) the court has ordered the appointment of a special trustee under section 1186; and

“(3) the court finds, after notice and a hearing, that conversion is in the best interest of the creditors and the estate.”.

(e)(1) Section 726(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “first,” the following: “in payment of any unpaid fees, costs, and expenses of a special trustee appointed under section 1186, and then”.

(2) Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

“(17) In a case under subchapter V, all payable fees, costs, and expenses of the special trustee have been paid or the plan provides for the payment of all such fees, costs, and expenses on the effective date of the plan.

“(18) In a case under subchapter V, confirmation of the plan is not likely to cause serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States.”.

(f) Section 322(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking “The” and inserting “In cases under subchapter V, the United States trustee shall recommend to the court, and in all other cases, the”.

SEC. 3. LIQUIDATION, REORGANIZATION, OR RECAPITALIZATION OF A COVERED FINANCIAL CORPORATION.

Chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER V—LIQUIDATION, REORGANIZATION, OR RECAPITALIZATION OF A COVERED FINANCIAL CORPORATION

“§ 1181. Inapplicability of other sections

“Sections 303 and 321(c) do not apply in a case under this subchapter concerning a covered financial corporation.

“§ 1182. Definitions for this subchapter

“In this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply:

“(1) The term ‘Board’ means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

“(2) The term ‘bridge company’ means a newly formed corporation to which property of the estate may be transferred under section 1185(a) and the equity securities of which may be transferred to a special trustee under section 1186(a).

“(3) The term ‘capital structure debt’ means all unsecured debt of the debtor for borrowed money for which the debtor is the primary obligor, other than a qualified financial contract and other than debt secured by a lien on property of the estate that is to be transferred to a bridge company pursuant to an order of the court under section 1185(a).

“(4) The term ‘contractual right’ means a contractual right of a kind defined in section 555, 556, 559, 560, or 561.

“(5) The term ‘qualified financial contract’ means any contract of a kind defined in paragraph (25), (38A), (47), or (53B) of section 101, section 741(7), or paragraph (4), (5), (11), or (13) of section 761.

“(6) The term ‘special trustee’ means the trustee of a trust formed under section 1186(a)(1).

“§ 1183. Commencement of a case concerning a covered financial corporation

“(a) A case under this subchapter concerning a covered financial corporation may be commenced by the filing of a petition with the court—

“(1) by the debtor under section 301 only if the debtor states to the best of its knowledge under penalty of perjury in the petition that it is a covered financial corporation; or

“(2) by the Board only if the Board states to the best of its knowledge under penalty of perjury in the petition that—

“(A) the debtor is a covered financial corporation that—

“(i) has incurred losses that will deplete all or substantially all of the capital of the covered financial corporation, and there is no reasonable prospect for the covered financial corporation to avoid such depletion;

“(ii) is insolvent;

“(iii) is not paying, or is unable to pay, the debts of the covered financial corporation (other than debts subject to a bona fide dispute as to liability or amount) as they become due; or

“(iv) is likely to be in a financial condition specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) sufficiently soon such that the immediate commencement of a case under this subchapter is necessary to prevent serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States; and

“(B) the commencement of a case under this title and effecting a transfer under section 1185 is necessary to prevent serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States.

“(b)(1) Unless the debtor consents to an order for relief, the court shall hold a hearing on the Board’s petition under subsection (a)(2) as soon as practicable but not later than 16 hours after the Board files such a petition, with notice only to—

“(A) the covered financial corporation;

“(B) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

“(C) the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury; and

“(D) the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(2) Only the Board and the entities specified in paragraph (1) and their counsel may participate in a hearing described in this subsection. The Board or the trustee may request that pleadings, hearings, transcripts, and orders in connection with a hearing described in this subsection be sealed if their disclosure could create financial instability in the United States.

“(3) All pleadings, hearings, transcripts, and orders sealed under paragraph (2) shall be available to only the court, the appellate panel, the covered financial corporation, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Board. Notwithstanding paragraph (2), if the case is dismissed, all court documents, including pleadings, hearings, transcripts, and orders, shall be permanently sealed.

“(c)(1) The commencement of a case under subsection (a)(1) constitutes an order for relief under this subchapter.

“(2) In a case commenced under subsection (a)(2), after notice and hearing required under subsection (b) and not later than 18 hours after the filing of the Board’s petition, the court shall enter—

“(A) an order for relief—

“(i) if the Board has shown at the hearing under this subsection that the requirements under subsection (a)(2) are supported by a preponderance of the evidence; or

“(ii) if the debtor consents to the Board’s petition under subsection (a)(2); or

“(B) an order dismissing the case.

“(d)(1) The covered financial corporation or the Board may appeal to the court of appeals from an order entered by the court under subsection (c)(2) not later than 1 hour after the court enters such order, with notice only to the entities specified in subsection (b)(1) and the Board. Such order shall be stayed pending such appeal.

“(2) The appellate panel specified under section 298(c)(1) of title 28 for the judicial circuit in which the case is pending shall hear the appeal under paragraph (1) within 12 hours of the filing of the notice of appeal under this subsection. The standard of review shall be abuse of discretion. The appellate panel shall enter an order determining the matter that is the subject of the appeal not later than 14 hours after the notice of appeal is filed.

“(3) The court may not, on account of an appeal from an order for relief under section 1183(d)(1), delay any proceeding under section 1185, except that the court shall not authorize a transfer under section 1185 before the determination of the appeal.

“(e) The members of the board of directors (or body performing similar functions) of a covered financial company shall have no liability to shareholders, creditors or other parties in interest for a good faith filing or consenting in good faith to a petition with respect to a case under this subchapter, or for any reasonable action taken in good faith in contemplation of or in connection with such a petition or a transfer under section 1185 or section 1186, whether prior to or after commencement of the case.

“(f) Counsel to the debtor or the Board shall provide, to the greatest extent practicable, sufficient confidential notice to the Office of Court Services of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts regarding the potential commencement of a subchapter V case without disclosing the identity of the potential debtor in order to allow such office to randomly designate and ensure the ready availability of one of the bankruptcy judges designated under section 298(b)(1) of title 28 to be available to preside over such subchapter V case.

“§ 1184. Regulators

“The Board, the Securities Exchange Commission, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in any case or proceeding under this subchapter.

“§ 1185. Special transfer of property of the estate

“(a) On request of the trustee or the Board, and after notice and a hearing that shall occur not less than 24 hours after the order for relief, the court may order a transfer under this section of property of the estate, and the assignment of executory contracts, unexpired leases, and qualified financial contracts of the debtor, to a bridge company. Upon the entry of an order approving such transfer, any property transferred, and any executory contracts, unexpired leases, and qualified financial contracts assigned under such order shall no longer be property of the estate. Except as provided under this section, the provisions of sections 363 and 365 shall apply to a transfer and assignment under this section.

“(b) Unless the court orders otherwise, notice of a request for an order under subsection (a) shall consist of electronic or telephonic notice of not less than 24 hours to—

“(1) the debtor;

“(2) the holders of the 20 largest secured claims against the debtor;

“(3) the holders of the 20 largest unsecured claims against the debtor;

“(4) counterparties to any debt, executory contract, unexpired lease, and qualified financial contract requested to be transferred under this section;

“(5) the Board;

“(6) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

“(7) the Secretary of the Treasury and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Treasury;

“(8) the Securities and Exchange Commission;

“(9) the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator; and

“(10) each primary financial regulatory agency, as defined in section 2(12) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, with respect to any affiliate the equity securities of which are proposed to be transferred under this section.

“(c) The court may not order a transfer under this section unless the court determines, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that—

“(1) the transfer under this section is necessary to prevent serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States;

“(2) the transfer does not provide for the assumption of any capital structure debt by the bridge company;

“(3) the transfer does not provide for the transfer to the bridge company of any property of the estate that is subject to a lien securing a debt, executory contract, unexpired lease or agreement of the debtor unless—

“(A)(i) the bridge company assumes such debt, executory contract, unexpired lease or agreement, including any claims arising in respect thereof that would not be allowed secured claims under section 506(a)(1) and after giving effect to such transfer, such property remains subject to the lien securing such debt, executory contract, unexpired lease or agreement; and

“(ii) the court has determined that assumption of such debt, executory contract, unexpired lease or agreement by the bridge company is in the best interests of the estate; or

“(B) such property is being transferred to the bridge company in accordance with the provisions of section 363;

“(4) the transfer does not provide for the assumption by the bridge company of any debt, executory contract, unexpired lease or agreement of the debtor secured by a lien on property in which the estate has an interest unless the transfer provides for such property to be transferred to the bridge company in accordance with paragraph (3)(A) of this subsection;

“(5) the transfer does not provide for the transfer of the equity of the debtor;

“(6) the party requesting the transfer under this subsection has demonstrated that the bridge company is not likely to fail to meet the obligations of any debt, executory contract, qualified financial contract, or unexpired lease assumed and assigned to the bridge company;

“(7) the transfer provides for the transfer to a special trustee all of the equity securities in the bridge company and appointment of a special trustee in accordance with section 1186;

“(8) after giving effect to the transfer, adequate provision has been made for the fees, costs, and expenses of the estate and special trustee; and

“(9) the bridge company will have governing documents, and initial directors and senior officers, that are in the best interest of creditors and the estate.

“(d) Immediately before a transfer under the section, the bridge company that is the recipient of the transfer shall—

“(1) not have any property, executory contracts, unexpired leases, or debts, other than

any property acquired or executory contracts, unexpired leases, or debts assumed when acting as a transferee of a transfer under this section; and

“(2) have equity securities that are property of the estate, which may be sold or distributed in accordance with this title.

“§ 1186. Special trustee

“(a)(1) An order approving a transfer under section 1185 shall require the trustee to transfer to a qualified and independent special trustee, who is appointed by the court, all of the equity securities in the bridge company that is the recipient of a transfer under section 1185 to hold in trust for the sole benefit of the estate, subject to satisfaction of the special trustee's fees, costs, and expenses. The trust of which the special trustee is the trustee shall be a newly formed trust governed by a trust agreement approved by the court as in the best interests of the estate, and shall exist for the sole purpose of holding and administering, and shall be permitted to dispose of, the equity securities of the bridge company in accordance with the trust agreement.

“(2) In connection with the hearing to approve a transfer under section 1185, the trustee shall confirm to the court that the Board has been consulted regarding the identity of the proposed special trustee and advise the court of the results of such consultation.

“(b) The trust agreement governing the trust shall provide—

“(1) for the payment of the fees, costs, expenses, and indemnities of the special trustee from the assets of the debtor's estate;

“(2) that the special trustee provide—

“(A) quarterly reporting to the estate, which shall be filed with the court; and

“(B) information about the bridge company reasonably requested by a party in interest to prepare a disclosure statement for a plan providing for distribution of any securities of the bridge company if such information is necessary to prepare such disclosure statement;

“(3) that for as long as the equity securities of the bridge company are held by the trust, the special trustee shall file a notice with the court in connection with—

“(A) any change in a director or senior officer of the bridge company;

“(B) any modification to the governing documents of the bridge company; and

“(C) any material corporate action of the bridge company, including—

“(i) recapitalization;

“(ii) a material borrowing;

“(iii) termination of an intercompany debt or guarantee;

“(iv) a transfer of a substantial portion of the assets of the bridge company; or

“(v) the issuance or sale of any securities of the bridge company;

“(4) that any sale of any equity securities of the bridge company shall not be consummated until the special trustee consults with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Board regarding such sale and discloses the results of such consultation with the court;

“(5) that, subject to reserves for payments permitted under paragraph (1) provided for in the trust agreement, the proceeds of the sale of any equity securities of the bridge company by the special trustee be held in trust for the benefit of or transferred to the estate;

“(6) the process and guidelines for the replacement of the special trustee; and

“(7) that the property held in trust by the special trustee is subject to distribution in accordance with subsection (c).

“(c)(1) The special trustee shall distribute the assets held in trust—

“(A) if the court confirms a plan in the case, in accordance with the plan on the effective date of the plan; or

“(B) if the case is converted to a case under chapter 7, as ordered by the court.

“(2) As soon as practicable after a final distribution under paragraph (1), the office of the special trustee shall terminate, except as may be necessary to wind up and conclude the business and financial affairs of the trust.

“(d) After a transfer to the special trustee under this section, the special trustee shall be subject only to applicable nonbankruptcy law, and the actions and conduct of the special trustee shall no longer be subject to approval by the court in the case under this subchapter.

“§ 1187. Temporary and supplemental automatic stay; assumed debt

“(a)(1) A petition filed under section 1183 operates as a stay, applicable to all entities, of the termination, acceleration, or modification of any debt, contract, lease, or agreement of the kind described in paragraph (2), or of any right or obligation under any such debt, contract, lease, or agreement, solely because of—

“(A) a default by the debtor under any such debt, contract, lease, or agreement; or

“(B) a provision in such debt, contract, lease, or agreement, or in applicable nonbankruptcy law, that is conditioned on—

“(i) the insolvency or financial condition of the debtor at any time before the closing of the case;

“(ii) the commencement of a case under this title concerning the debtor;

“(iii) the appointment of or taking possession by a trustee in a case under this title concerning the debtor or by a custodian before the commencement of the case; or

“(iv) a credit rating agency rating, or absence or withdrawal of a credit rating agency rating—

“(I) of the debtor at any time after the commencement of the case;

“(II) of an affiliate during the period from the commencement of the case until 48 hours after such order is entered;

“(III) of the bridge company while the trustee or the special trustee is a direct or indirect beneficial holder of more than 50 percent of the equity securities of—

“(aa) the bridge company; or

“(bb) the affiliate, if all of the direct or indirect interests in the affiliate that are property of the estate are transferred under section 1185; or

“(IV) of an affiliate while the trustee or the special trustee is a direct or indirect beneficial holder of more than 50 percent of the equity securities of—

“(aa) the bridge company; or

“(bb) the affiliate, if all of the direct or indirect interests in the affiliate that are property of the estate are transferred under section 1185.

“(2) A debt, contract, lease, or agreement described in this paragraph is—

“(A) any debt (other than capital structure debt), executory contract, or unexpired lease of the debtor (other than a qualified financial contract);

“(B) any agreement under which the debtor issued or is obligated for debt (other than capital structure debt);

“(C) any debt, executory contract, or unexpired lease of an affiliate (other than a qualified financial contract); or

“(D) any agreement under which an affiliate issued or is obligated for debt.

“(3) The stay under this subsection terminates—

“(A) for the benefit of the debtor, upon the earliest of—

“(i) 48 hours after the commencement of the case;

“(ii) assumption of the debt, contract, lease, or agreement by the bridge company under an order authorizing a transfer under section 1185;

“(iii) a final order of the court denying the request for a transfer under section 1185; or

“(iv) the time the case is dismissed; and

“(B) for the benefit of an affiliate, upon the earliest of—

“(i) the entry of an order authorizing a transfer under section 1185 in which the direct or indirect interests in the affiliate that are property of the estate are not transferred under section 1185;

“(ii) a final order by the court denying the request for a transfer under section 1185;

“(iii) 48 hours after the commencement of the case if the court has not ordered a transfer under section 1185; or

“(iv) the time the case is dismissed.

“(4) Subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) of section 362 apply to a stay under this subsection.

“(b) A debt, executory contract (other than a qualified financial contract), or unexpired lease of the debtor, or an agreement under which the debtor has issued or is obligated for any debt, may be assumed by a bridge company in a transfer under section 1185 notwithstanding any provision in an agreement or in applicable nonbankruptcy law that—

“(1) prohibits, restricts, or conditions the assignment of the debt, contract, lease, or agreement; or

“(2) accelerates, terminates, or modifies, or permits a party other than the debtor to terminate or modify, the debt, contract, lease, or agreement on account of—

“(A) the assignment of the debt, contract, lease, or agreement; or

“(B) a change in control of any party to the debt, contract, lease, or agreement.

“(c)(1) A debt, contract, lease, or agreement of the kind described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(2) may not be accelerated, terminated, or modified, and any right or obligation under such debt, contract, lease, or agreement may not be accelerated, terminated, or modified, as to the bridge company solely because of a provision in the debt, contract, lease, or agreement or in applicable nonbankruptcy law—

“(A) of the kind described in subsection (a)(1)(B) as applied to the debtor;

“(B) that prohibits, restricts, or conditions the assignment of the debt, contract, lease, or agreement; or

“(C) that accelerates, terminates, or modifies, or permits a party other than the debtor to terminate or modify, the debt, contract, lease or agreement on account of—

“(i) the assignment of the debt, contract, lease, or agreement; or

“(ii) a change in control of any party to the debt, contract, lease, or agreement.

“(2) If there is a default by the debtor under a provision other than the kind described in paragraph (1) in a debt, contract, lease or agreement of the kind described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(2), the bridge company may assume such debt, contract, lease, or agreement only if the bridge company—

“(A) shall cure the default;

“(B) compensates, or provides adequate assurance in connection with a transfer under section 1185 that the bridge company will promptly compensate, a party other than the

debtor to the debt, contract, lease, or agreement, for any actual pecuniary loss to the party resulting from the default; and

“(C) provides adequate assurance in connection with a transfer under section 1185 of future performance under the debt, contract, lease, or agreement, as determined by the court under section 1185(c)(4).

“§ 1188. Treatment of qualified financial contracts and affiliate contracts

“(a) Notwithstanding sections 362(b)(6), 362(b)(7), 362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 362(o), 555, 556, 559, 560, and 561, a petition filed under section 1183 operates as a stay, during the period specified in section 1187(a)(3)(A), applicable to all entities, of the exercise of a contractual right—

“(1) to cause the modification, liquidation, termination, or acceleration of a qualified financial contract of the debtor or an affiliate;

“(2) to offset or net out any termination value, payment amount, or other transfer obligation arising under or in connection with a qualified financial contract of the debtor or an affiliate; or

“(3) under any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement forming a part of or related to a qualified financial contract of the debtor or an affiliate.

“(b)(1) During the period specified in section 1187(a)(3)(A), the trustee or the affiliate shall perform all payment and delivery obligations under such qualified financial contract of the debtor or the affiliate, as the case may be, that become due after the commencement of the case. The stay provided under subsection (a) terminates as to a qualified financial contract of the debtor or an affiliate immediately upon the failure of the trustee or the affiliate, as the case may be, to perform any such obligation during such period.

“(2) Any failure by a counterparty to any qualified financial contract of the debtor or any affiliate to perform any payment or delivery obligation under such qualified financial contract, including during the pendency of the stay provided under subsection (a), shall constitute a breach of such qualified financial contract by the counterparty.

“(c) Subject to the court's approval, a qualified financial contract between an entity and the debtor may be assigned to or assumed by the bridge company in a transfer under section 1185 if and only if—

“(1) all qualified financial contracts between the entity and the debtor are assigned to and assumed by the bridge company in the transfer under section 1185;

“(2) all claims of the entity against the debtor under any qualified financial contract between the entity and the debtor (other than any claim that, under the terms of the qualified financial contract, is subordinated to the claims of general unsecured creditors) are assigned to and assumed by the bridge company;

“(3) all claims of the debtor against the entity under any qualified financial contract between the entity and the debtor are assigned to and assumed by the bridge company; and

“(4) all property securing or any other credit enhancement furnished by the debtor for any qualified financial contract described in paragraph (1) or any claim described in paragraph (2) or (3) under any qualified financial contract between the entity and the debtor is assigned to and assumed by the bridge company.

“(d) Notwithstanding any provision of a qualified financial contract or of applicable nonbankruptcy law, a qualified financial contract of the debtor that is assumed or assigned in a transfer under section 1185 may

not be accelerated, terminated, or modified, after the entry of the order approving a transfer under section 1185, and any right or obligation under the qualified financial contract may not be accelerated, terminated, or modified, after the entry of the order approving a transfer under section 1185 solely because of a condition described in section 1187(c)(1), other than a condition of the kind specified in section 1187(b) that occurs after property of the estate no longer includes a direct beneficial interest or an indirect beneficial interest through the special trustee, in more than 50 percent of the equity securities of the bridge company.

“(e) Notwithstanding any provision of any agreement or in applicable nonbankruptcy law, an agreement of an affiliate (including an executory contract, an unexpired lease, qualified financial contract, or an agreement under which the affiliate issued or is obligated for debt) and any right or obligation under such agreement may not be accelerated, terminated, or modified, solely because of a condition described in section 1187(c)(1), other than a condition of the kind specified in section 1187(b) that occurs after the bridge company is no longer a direct or indirect beneficial holder of more than 50 percent of the equity securities of the affiliate, at any time after the commencement of the case if—

“(1) all direct or indirect interests in the affiliate that are property of the estate are transferred under section 1185 to the bridge company within the period specified in subsection (a);

“(2) the bridge company assumes—

“(A) any guarantee or other credit enhancement issued by the debtor relating to the agreement of the affiliate; and

“(B) any right of setoff, netting arrangement, or debt of the debtor that directly arises out of or directly relates to the guarantee or credit enhancement; and

“(3) any property of the estate that directly serves as collateral for the guarantee or credit enhancement is transferred to the bridge company.

“§ 1189. Licenses, permits, and registrations

“(a) Notwithstanding any otherwise applicable nonbankruptcy law, if a request is made under section 1185 for a transfer of property of the estate, any Federal, State, or local license, permit, or registration that the debtor or an affiliate had immediately before the commencement of the case and that is proposed to be transferred under section 1185 may not be accelerated, terminated, or modified at any time after the request solely on account of—

“(1) the insolvency or financial condition of the debtor at any time before the closing of the case;

“(2) the commencement of a case under this title concerning the debtor;

“(3) the appointment of or taking possession by a trustee in a case under this title concerning the debtor or by a custodian before the commencement of the case; or

“(4) a transfer under section 1185.

“(b) Notwithstanding any otherwise applicable nonbankruptcy law, any Federal, State, or local license, permit, or registration that the debtor had immediately before the commencement of the case that is included in a transfer under section 1185 shall be valid and all rights and obligations thereunder shall vest in the bridge company.

“§ 1190. Exemption from securities laws

“For purposes of section 1145, a security of the bridge company shall be deemed to be a security of a successor to the debtor under a

plan if the court approves the disclosure statement for the plan as providing adequate information (as defined in section 1125(a)) about the bridge company and the security.

“§ 1191. Inapplicability of certain avoiding powers

“A transfer made or an obligation incurred by the debtor to an affiliate prior to or after the commencement of the case, including any obligation released by the debtor or the estate to or for the benefit of an affiliate, in contemplation of or in connection with a transfer under section 1185 is not avoidable under section 544, 547, 548(a)(1)(B), or 549, or under any similar nonbankruptcy law.

“§ 1192. Consideration of financial stability

“The court may consider the effect that any decision in connection with this subchapter may have on financial stability in the United States.”.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13.—Chapter 13 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 298. Judge for a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11

“(a) Notwithstanding section 295, the Chief Justice of the United States shall designate not fewer than 3 judges of the courts of appeals in not fewer than 4 circuits to serve on an appellate panel to be available to hear an appeal under section 1183 of title 11 in a case under such title concerning a covered financial corporation. Appellate judges may request to be considered by the Chief Justice of the United States for such designation.

“(b)(1) Notwithstanding section 295, the Chief Justice of the United States shall designate not fewer than 10 bankruptcy judges to be available to hear a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11. Bankruptcy judges may request to be considered by the Chief Justice of the United States for such designation.

“(2) Notwithstanding section 155, a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11 shall be heard under section 157 by a bankruptcy judge designated under paragraph (1), who shall be assigned to hear such case by the chief judge of the court of appeals for the circuit embracing the district in which the case is pending. To the greatest extent practicable, the approvals required under section 155 should be obtained.

“(3) If the bankruptcy judge assigned to hear a case under paragraph (2) is not assigned to the district in which the case is pending, the bankruptcy judge shall be temporarily assigned to the district.

“(c)(1) The court of appeals shall have jurisdiction of appeals from all orders for relief and orders of dismissal under section 1183 of title 11.

“(2) Notwithstanding section 295, in an appeal under paragraph (1) in a case under title 11 concerning a covered financial corporation shall be heard by—

“(A) 3 judges selected from the appellate panel designated under subsection (a); or

“(B) if the 3 judges of such panel are not immediately available to hear the case, 3 judges designated under subsection (a) from another circuit and assigned by the Chief Justice of the United States to hear the case.

“(3) If any of the judges of the appellate panel specified in paragraph (2) is not assigned to the circuit in which the appeal is pending, the judges shall be temporarily assigned to the circuit.

“(4) A case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11, and all proceedings in the case, shall take place in the district in which the case is pending.

“(d) In this section, the term ‘covered financial corporation’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(9A) of title 11.”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1334.—Section 1334 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) This section does not grant jurisdiction to the district court after a transfer pursuant to an order under section 1185 of title 11 of any proceeding related to a special trustee appointed, or to a bridge company formed, in connection with a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“298. Judge for a case under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5421, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we take an important step toward preventing the taxpayer-funded bailouts that characterized the 2008 financial crisis. The legislation before us, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act, enhances the Bankruptcy Code to facilitate the resolution of a failing financial institution through the bankruptcy process. In doing so, this will help to ensure that private creditors, not taxpayers, bear the losses related to a failing financial institution.

The Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act is the culmination of years of review and research by the Judiciary Committee; other committees; and experts from the financial, regulatory, legal, and academic communities who helped to examine how best to prevent another financial crisis from occurring and avert the use of taxpayer moneys to bail out failing firms.

The Judiciary Committee has participated in and promoted this review with the aim of examining whether the bankruptcy laws could be improved to enhance the prospects of resolving a financial institution through the bankruptcy process.

During the course of two oversight hearings this Congress, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law received testimony that the Bankruptcy Code could be improved to better facilitate a resolution of a financial firm

and that an amendment to chapter 11 to provide for a specialized subchapter would be the most efficient approach to that goal.

Following these hearings, the committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to draft legislation that built on this record and integrated witnesses' and leading experts' recommendations. These efforts culminated in a discussion draft of the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2014, which was the subject of a legislative hearing on July 15, 2014. All witnesses at the hearing testified that, subject to a few modifications, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act should be enacted into law.

In connection with the July 15 hearing, the committee circulated the draft legislation to a number of interested parties, including the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the National Bankruptcy Conference, and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association.

The committee again, in a bipartisan fashion, received, reviewed, and incorporated multiple comments submitted by these and other parties. The bill was introduced and approved by the committee by voice vote on September 10 of this year.

The bill on the floor today is a reflection of the careful, deliberate, thorough, and bipartisan process the bill received and is the product of a diverse range of views from a variety of interested parties.

The Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act makes several improvements to the Bankruptcy Code in order to enhance the prospect of an efficient resolution of a financial firm through the bankruptcy process. The bill allows for a speedy transfer of the operating assets of a financial firm over the course of a weekend.

This quick transfer allows the financial firm to continue operating in the normal course, which preserves the value of the enterprise for the firm's creditors without having a significant impact on the firm's employees, suppliers, and customers.

The bill also requires an expedited judicial review by judges designated in advance and selected by the chief justice for their experience, expertise, and willingness to preside over these complex cases; furthermore, the legislation provides for key input from the financial institution's regulators during the process.

The Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act is a bipartisan, balanced approach that increases transparency and predictability in the resolution of a financial firm.

I am pleased that the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee,

Mr. CONYERS, joined in introducing this important legislation, and I want to thank him and his staff for working hand in hand with us during the development of this bill.

I also would like to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law, Mr. BACHUS, for introducing the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act.

It is no mistake that the former chairman of the Financial Services Committee is the lead sponsor of this legislation. Mr. BACHUS has been a longstanding champion of the bankruptcy process, and that was reflected in the multiple subcommittee hearings he chaired on this issue.

This legislation is a tribute to his many years dedicated to financial services and bankruptcy issues, and he will be sorely missed next Congress. I wish him all the best during the next chapter of his life.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5421, as amended, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2014.

It is intended to ensure that the resolution of large, complex financial institutions on the verge of insolvency can be better facilitated under the Bankruptcy Code. I support this legislation for several reasons.

First, it addresses a real need, which is recognized by the regulatory agencies, bankruptcy experts, and the private sector, that the bankruptcy law must be amended, so that it can expeditiously restore trust in the financial marketplace after the collapse of a major financial institution.

Such was the case with the failure of Lehman Brothers in 2008, for example, which caused a worldwide freeze on the availability of credit, wreaking havoc on Wall Street, as well as on Main Street. The near collapse of our Nation's economy that resulted from Lehman's failure revealed that current bankruptcy law is, unfortunately, ill-equipped to deal with complex financial institutions that are in economic distress.

This legislation, accordingly, creates a court-supervised, orderly liquidation mechanism that will be guided by the regulators.

In sum, this process will allow a failing financial institution to transfer its assets to a newly-formed bridge company over a single weekend, which will promote confidence in the financial marketplace.

The institution's equity and debt will remain in the bankruptcy case to be administered by a trustee under court supervision. As a result, value assets will be maximized for the benefit of

creditors, and the marketplace will be stabilized.

Additionally, I support the legislation because it appropriately recognizes the important role the Dodd-Frank Act has in the regulation of large financial institutions. Without a doubt, the Great Recession was a direct result of the regulatory equivalent of the Wild West.

The Dodd-Frank Act goes a long way toward reinvigorating a regulatory system that makes the financial marketplace more accountable and, hopefully, more resilient. The act also institutes long-needed consumer protections that have up until now not been available.

Title II of the Dodd-Frank Act establishes a mandatory administratively-driven resolution process to wind down large financial institutions. Title II is a critical enforcement tool for bank regulators to facilitate compliance with the act's heightened regulatory requirements for large companies.

Nevertheless, the Dodd-Frank Act clearly recognizes that bankruptcy should be a first resort and that the title II's orderly liquidation process should be a last resort.

In fact, title I of the act explicitly requires these companies to write so-called "living wills" that must explain how they will resolve their financial difficulties in a hypothetical bankruptcy scenario. This is because bankruptcy law has, for more than 100 years, enabled some of the Nation's largest companies to regain their financial footing.

I am from Detroit, and I remember that General Motors and the Chrysler Corporation were major beneficiaries. H.R. 5421 will ensure that bankruptcy is a truly viable alternative to the Dodd-Frank Act's resolution process.

I am pleased to note, as has been referenced by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that this legislation is the product of a very collaborative, bipartisan, and deliberate process, which should be the norm, not the exception, when it comes to drafting legislation, so a tip of my hat to Chairman GOODLATTE and to the subcommittee chairman for the work that they have done in bringing this legislation to this point.

For example, this bill, unlike similar legislation in the Senate, doesn't include any controversial provisions aimed at undoing the important protections of the Dodd-Frank Act.

I should also note, however, that H.R. 5421 does not include any provision allowing companies to have access to lenders of last resort. Nearly every expert recognizes that such access, even if it is the Federal Government, is a necessary element to ensure financial stability.

I want to acknowledge the excellent level of cooperation on both sides of the aisle on the Judiciary Committee in producing the legislation that is

pending before us today, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I would like to just add that my friend, SPENCER BACHUS of Alabama, is a longtime Member who has been particularly active over the years in the areas of administrative law, as well as immigration and criminal justice.

I find him an individual of principle who has worked on many bipartisan initiatives. I understand Representative BACHUS' father often used the adage, "If you can't say anything nice about a person, don't say anything at all."

Mr. BACHUS has certainly adhered to that advice, as he was a consummate gentleman who wielded the gavel with fairness at all times when it was his turn to sit in the chair.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, and the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS—former Chairman CONYERS—for those kind remarks. I have been fortunate to associate with both of you gentlemen over the past years and appreciate the confidence you have entrusted in me, and I take those kind words to heart.

I want to thank both of you for this legislation because, as we know in the legislative process, this went by regular order, which is how all bills should proceed. And the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), who was then my subcommittee ranking member, and now the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) were both very cooperative.

We also know that good legislation has to have a good staff, and on the subcommittee, we were blessed by three fine individuals and their support staffs: Anthony Grossi and Daniel Flores on the majority side, and sitting over there next to Mr. CONYERS is Susan Jensen. And they worked together. They worked for what was best. I saw no partisanship, no gamesmanship. It was a group effort.

They were also backed by the National Bankruptcy Conference, the Administrative Office of Courts, the Bankruptcy Judicial Conference, as well as the attorneys bar both for creditors and debtors, both for consumers and for the institution. They all came together. We had many people from the academic world, experts in bankruptcy, and they pretty much identified how it ought to go.

The history of all of this really is the financial crisis of 2008, which none of us want to go through again. Now, we

may go through something similar, but we want to do everything we can do to avoid that, and that is what this bill is all about. It is to proceed under an established procedure rule of law, which separates the United States from many, many countries. This bill follows the rule of law.

If you look at Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and you see the total different paths that were taken, if you see in other bankruptcies where people were put out of jobs unnecessarily—and there were tremendous job losses—there was a consensus, in looking back, that that could have been avoided, much of that, except that bankruptcy didn't give us the tools to address it.

Now, there were two reasons, things that we have heard often during the financial crisis. One was that term "derivatives," credit default swaps, straddles, a lot of these new financial instruments. The Bankruptcy Code simply had not been updated to address derivatives.

And then the global economy. You have almost every large bank holding company, almost every large financial company which have both foreign subsidiaries and domestic subsidiaries, so you have got multiple jurisdictions trying to handle pieces of this. And through, really, a consensus, we came together and said we are going to let the U.S. operating subsidiaries and the foreign operating subsidiaries—and that is where 99 percent of your employees work and probably where 99 percent of the transactions with customers, creditors, debtors, the general public, that is where they transact. We allow that to continue.

We put the bank holding company alone, through a single point of entry, goes into bankruptcy. So there are not these tremendous disruptions that we saw first with Bear Stearns and then in a cascading effect. We hopefully can avoid a lot of that.

I see my time has almost expired, but let me close by saying this: Dodd-Frank said let's go to GAO, let's go to the Federal Reserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BACHUS. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

They actually called for us to have this procedure. And that part of Dodd-Frank—I have sometimes said "the good, the bad, and the ugly"—that was a good part. We needed to structure bankruptcy where it could handle these situations if at all possible.

We consulted with the Comptroller of the Currency, with the Federal Reserve, with the FDIC, and this is a rare consensus. There is a bill over in the Senate by Senator CORNYN of Texas and Senator PAT TOOMEY of Pennsylvania that is similar to this bill. Hope-

fully we will have a conference with the Senate and get this done.

Some people may say, well, it is not enough. Well, we need to do what we can do in a consensus way and do what we can. It is probably never enough. Sometimes it is too much. But at least this is in our general agreement.

With that, I would like to now introduce a memorandum on this bill which includes the section-by-section comments for the RECORD. This is basically a detailed narrative for the courts and those that would look at this to give illumination to exactly how this works.

H.R. 5421. THE "FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2014"

The orderly resolution of financial companies presents unique challenges to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code for many reasons, including these institutions' interconnectedness and, in the case of larger institutions, a potential to pose "systemic risk." H.R. 5421, the "Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2014," amends chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code to address better the unique challenges presented by the insolvency of a financial institution and better allow such an institution to be resolved through the bankruptcy process.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Brief Overview of Chapter 11

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code primarily is designed to allow a business to restructure its debt obligations while maintaining its operations. The underlying principle is that a business in its entirety is more valuable than its assets each valued independently. Preservation of a business through chapter 11, and in turn its enterprise value, can benefit both creditors, who should receive a higher recovery as a result of a debtor's restructuring than they would otherwise obtain through a liquidation, and debtors, which benefit from the ability to remain in business. Employees, suppliers, customers, and others can also benefit if the debtor remains in business.

A chapter 11 case begins by the filing of a petition for relief with the relevant bankruptcy court. Once the petition is filed, an "automatic stay" is put into place that prevents, with some exceptions, creditors of the debtors from taking actions to recover their debts. The automatic stay allows a debtor the breathing room necessary to organize its operations, negotiate with creditors, and achieve consensus on a chapter 11 plan. The inflection point of a chapter 11 case is the chapter 11 plan, which dictates what each of the creditors will receive as a recovery. The chapter 11 plan must be approved by the debtor's creditors and the Bankruptcy Court. Once a chapter 11 plan is approved, creditors of the debtor may only pursue recoveries as provided by the chapter 11 plan, and the reorganized company is treated as a new corporate entity.

There are generally two primary paths for a debtor to restructure under chapter 11. The first path is a traditional reorganization of a debtor's capital structure. A simple example of this type of reorganization would involve a debtor's shareholders not receiving any recovery on account of their shares, and the debtor's secured creditors becoming the new equity holders of the reorganized company. The second path is a sale of a debtor's primary business, with the proceeds of the sale used to provide recoveries to the debtor's creditors. The sale of a business as a whole is

distinct from a liquidation, in that the enterprise typically will continue to run in substantially the same manner under new, third party ownership. In a liquidation, the debtor's assets are sold in piecemeal fashion or simply handed over to secured creditors.

B. The Existing Bankruptcy Code and Addressing Financial Institution Insolvencies

The bankruptcy process has been the traditional mechanism for handling the orderly resolution of distressed companies in the U.S. because of bankruptcy's established history of laws, precedent and impartial administration. According to a report by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Bank of England (Resolving Globally Active, Systemically Important, Financial Institutions, December 2012), "[t]he U.S. would prefer that large financial organizations be resolvable through ordinary bankruptcy." However, the report added that "the U.S. bankruptcy process may not be able to handle the failure of a systemic financial institution without significant disruption to the financial system." Smaller financial companies are also eligible to restructure their operations under the Bankruptcy Code in the event of material financial distress or failure.

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111-203, directed the Federal Reserve and the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) to study the Bankruptcy Code and international issues related to the insolvency of financial institutions as part of an overall goal of reducing systemic risk within the financial sector. The studies identified a number of issues specific to the resolution of insolvent financial institutions and discussed theories regarding how to address such issues, without offering specific recommendations or independent opinions regarding potential revisions to the Bankruptcy Code.

One of the concepts discussed in the Federal Reserve and GAO reports is the resolution of a financial institution through a "single point of entry." This resolution approach relies on placing a parent holding company into receivership while maintaining the operations and solvency of its operating subsidiaries. The "single point of entry" approach is also the FDIC's intended method for implementing its resolution/orderly liquidation authority under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Act, a non-bankruptcy resolution process the Dodd-Frank legislation made available for large, systemically important financial institutions. Under this approach, the FDIC would be appointed receiver of the parent holding company and could transfer the parent company's assets into a bridge financial holding company, impose losses on the shareholders and creditors of the parent company, and eventually transition ownership of the bridge financial company into private hands.

Some commentators have suggested that the single point of entry approach should also be made available in the Bankruptcy Code. There are two principal proposals to amend the Bankruptcy Code to facilitate use of this approach. The first proposal is referred to as "chapter 14" and would introduce an entirely new chapter to the Bankruptcy Code. On December 19, 2013, Senators Cornyn and Toomey introduced legislation that would, among other things, create a chapter 14 of the Bankruptcy Code. The second proposal is referred to as "Subchapter V" and would create an entirely new subchapter within chapter 11.

As explained in additional detail below, both the chapter 14 and subchapter V proposals are designed to address the unique issues presented by a financial institution's bankruptcy. chapter 14 and subchapter V would, among other elements: apply to financial institutions; allow not just the debtor or institution, but also the financial institution's primary regulator, to initiate and have standing in the institution's bankruptcy proceeding; designate a select group of appellate and bankruptcy judges to oversee these bankruptcies; and, provide specialized treatment for derivative contracts. Advocates of these approaches argue that a transparent judicial process that allows for the reorganization, rather than liquidation, of a large financial institution is a preferable resolution strategy.

The Committee has conducted two separate hearings on the topic of enhancing the Bankruptcy Code to address the resolution of a financial institution through the bankruptcy process. On December 3, 2013, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law conducted a hearing entitled "The Bankruptcy Code and Financial Institution Insolvencies." At the hearing, witnesses testified that a financial institution's bankruptcy presents unique issues that the existing Bankruptcy Code could be equipped better to address. On March 26, 2014, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law conducted a hearing entitled "Exploring Chapter 11 Reform: Corporate and Financial Institution Insolvencies; Treatment of Derivatives." During this hearing, there was testimony in support of amending the Bankruptcy Code to create a subchapter V under chapter 11 to allow the resolution of a financial institution through the bankruptcy process. In addition, as detailed below, on July 15, 2014, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law conducted a hearing on a discussion draft of the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act.

C. The Challenges Presented by a Financial Institution Insolvency and How the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act Addresses These Challenges

There are a number of challenges posed by the insolvency of a financial institution, particularly the insolvency of a large, multinational financial institution. A resolution of a financial institution must be swift, transparent, and account for the potential impact on the general financial system, due to the typically liquid and quickly transferable assets of a financial institution. While the existing Bankruptcy Code possesses many of the provisions necessary to resolve a large, failing firm, commentators have suggested that improvements are necessary to resolve effectively a financial institution.

As explained above, commentators generally agree that the "single point of entry" approach is the most efficient proposal to provide for an expeditious resolution of a financial firm. There are several provisions contained in H.R. _____, the "Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2014" (referred to herein as "Subchapter V") to allow the "single point of entry" approach to be utilized in the bankruptcy process. Subchapter V allows the debtor holding company that sits atop the financial firm's corporate structure to transfer its assets, including the equity in all of its operating subsidiaries, to a newly-formed bridge company over a single weekend. The debt and equity held at the holding company will remain in the bankruptcy process and absorb the losses of the

financial institution. Identifying the debt and equity to remain in the bankruptcy process allows existing creditors of the debtor to price appropriately their dealings and investment with the debtor prior to any bankruptcy proceeding.

Furthermore, the Subchapter V "single point of entry" approach allows all of the financial institution's operating subsidiaries to remain out of the bankruptcy process. Keeping these entities out of an insolvency proceeding is particularly helpful for multinational firms that otherwise could be required to comply with multiple, and potentially, conflicting insolvency jurisdictions.

To account for the potential of a financial firm's insolvency to impact the general financial markets, Subchapter V allows the Federal Reserve to initiate a bankruptcy case. In order to commence a case over the objection of the subject financial institution, the Federal Reserve must demonstrate to the presiding bankruptcy court, which must agree with the Federal Reserve's assessment, that initiating a Subchapter V case is "necessary to prevent serious adverse effects on financial stability in the United States." By allowing the Federal Reserve to commence a Subchapter V case, subject to careful judicial oversight, a near-failing financial firm may be resolved quickly and potentially in advance of its losses spreading to the financial markets.

Subchapter V also includes provisions designed to deal with the types of transactions that financial institutions engage in routinely—derivative and similarly-structured transactions. Currently, the Bankruptcy Code contains exemptions for counterparties to derivative and similarly-structured transactions to collect on outstanding debts notwithstanding the commencement of a chapter 11 case and the consequent "automatic stay." This exemption stands in contrast to the treatment of other contracts and debts under the Bankruptcy Code, which typically requires creditors to wait until a chapter 11 plan is approved before they receive a recovery on account of their relationship with the debtor. Subchapter V overrides the exemption for derivative and similarly-structured transactions contained in the Bankruptcy Code for two days to allow for the effective transfer of the financial institution's operations to a bridge company. Without overriding the existing exemptions, counterparties to derivatives and similarly-structured transactions could terminate their relationships with the debtor upon the commencement of a bankruptcy case, which likely would endanger the successful transfer and continued operation of the bridge company and potentially threaten other entities within the broader financial system.

The draft bill also recognizes that overseeing a Subchapter V case requires a presiding bankruptcy judge or a judge sitting on appeal in such a case to have a certain level of expertise and experience with either financial industry cases or large corporate reorganizations. To that end, Subchapter V contains provisions that require the advance designation of select bankruptcy and appellate judges who can be available to hear these cases and appeals from them.

II. THE HEARING ON A DISCUSSION DRAFT OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BANKRUPTCY ACT AND ENSUING LEGISLATIVE REFINEMENT PROCESS

On July 15, 2014, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law conducted a hearing on a discussion draft of the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act. The witnesses at the hearing were: Donald S. Bernstein, Esq., partner and

head of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP's Insolvency and Restructuring Practice; Stephen E. Hessler, Esq., Partner, Kirkland & Ellis, LLP; Professor Thomas H. Jackson, Simon Business School, University of Rochester; and, Professor Stephen J. Lubben, Seton Hall Law School. All four witnesses, including the Minority witness, testified that they believed the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act, subject to certain technical modifications, should be enacted into law.

Following the hearing, the Committee received comments on the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act from, among others, the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the National Bankruptcy Conference, and the International Swaps and Derivatives Association. The comments received from these parties served as the basis for the revisions to the discussion draft that was the subject of the July 15 Subcommittee hearing.

Mr. BACHUS. Again, I thank the chairmen, the ranking members, and their staff for putting this together.

The resolution process for financial institutions is one of the pieces of unfinished business from the 2008 financial crisis, and we will finish some of that business hopefully before the year is out. The American people are hungry for us to do some good things in a spirit of bipartisanship, and they are getting that today.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5421, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4924) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4924

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of certain claims among certain parties to water rights in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona for—

(A) the Hualapai Tribe (acting on behalf of the Tribe and members of the Tribe); and

(B) the Department of the Interior, acting on behalf of the Department and, as specified, the United States as trustee for the Hualapai Tribe, the members of the Tribe, and the allottees;

(2) to approve, ratify, and confirm—

(A) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement entered into among the Hualapai Tribe, the United States as trustee for the Tribe, the members of the Tribe and allottees, the Secretary of the Interior, the Arizona department of water resources, Freeport Minerals Corporation, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, to the extent the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement is consistent with this Act; and

(B) the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement entered into among the Tribe, the United States as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, the allottees, and the Freeport Minerals Corporation, to the extent the Hualapai Tribe Agreement is consistent with this Act;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary—

(A) to execute the duties and obligations of the Secretary under the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, and this Act;

(B)(i) to remove objections to the applications for the severance and transfer of certain water rights, in partial consideration of the agreement of the parties to impose certain limits on the extent of the use and transferability of the severed and transferred water right and other water rights; and

(ii) to provide confirmation of those water rights; and

(C) to carry out any other activity necessary to implement the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement in accordance with this Act;

(4) to advance the purposes of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program;

(5) to secure a long-term lease for a portion of Planet Ranch, along with appurtenant water rights primarily along the Bill Williams River corridor, for use in the Conservation Program;

(6) to bring the leased portion of Planet Ranch into public ownership for the long-term benefit of the Conservation Program; and

(7) to secure from the Freeport Minerals Corporation non-Federal contributions—

(A) to support a tribal water supply study necessary for the advancement of a settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water; and

(B) to enable the Tribe to secure Colorado River water rights and appurtenant land, increase security of the water rights of the Tribe, and facilitate a settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADWR.—The term "ADWR" means the Arizona department of water resources, established pursuant to title 45 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (or a successor agency or entity).

(2) ALLOTMENT.—The term "allotment" means the 4 off-reservation parcels held in trust by the United States for individual Indians in the Big Sandy River basin in Mohave County, Arizona, under the patents numbered 1039995, 1039996, 1039997, and 1019494.

(3) ALLOTTEE.—The term "allottee" means any Indian owner of an allotment under a patent numbered 1039995, 1039996, 1039997, or 1019494.

(4) ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION.—The term "Arizona Game and Fish Commission" means the entity established pursuant to title 17 of the Arizona Revised Statutes to control the Arizona game and fish department (or a successor agency or entity).

(5) BAGDAD MINE COMPLEX AND BAGDAD TOWNSITE.—The term "Bagdad Mine Complex and Bagdad Townsite" means the geographical area depicted on the map attached as exhibit 2.9 to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

(6) BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.—The term "Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement" means the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement dated July 2, 2014, and any amendment or exhibit (including exhibit amendments) to that Agreement that is—

(A) made in accordance with this Act; or

(B) otherwise approved by the Secretary and the parties to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

(7) BILL WILLIAMS RIVER WATERSHED.—The term "Bill Williams River watershed" means the watershed drained by the Bill Williams River and the tributaries of that river, including the Big Sandy and Santa Maria Rivers.

(8) CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—The term "Conservation Program" has the meaning given the term "Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program" in section 9401 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1327).

(9) CORPORATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Corporation" means the Freeport Minerals Corporation, incorporated in the State of Delaware.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "Corporation" includes all subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, and assigns of the Freeport Minerals Corporation (such as Byner Cattle Company, incorporated in the State of Nevada).

(10) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of the Interior and all constituent bureaus of that Department.

(11) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The term "enforceability date" means the date described in section 9.

(12) FREEPORT GROUNDWATER WELLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Freeport Groundwater Wells" means the 5 wells identified by ADWR well registration numbers—

(i) 55-592824;

(ii) 55-595808;

(iii) 55-595810;

(iv) 55-200964; and

(v) 55-908273.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "Freeport Groundwater Wells" includes any replacement of a well referred to in subparagraph (A) drilled by or for the Corporation to supply water to the Bagdad Mine Complex and Bagdad Townsite.

(C) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “Freeport Groundwater Wells” does not include any other well owned by the Corporation at any other location.

(13) **HUALAPAI TRIBE AGREEMENT.**—The term “Hualapai Tribe Agreement” means the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement dated July 2, 2014, including any amendment or exhibit (including exhibit amendments) to that Agreement that is—

(A) made in accordance with this Act; or

(B) otherwise approved by the Secretary and the parties to the Agreement.

(14) **HUALAPAI TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Agreement” means the comprehensive settlement agreement in the process of negotiation as of the date of enactment of this Act to resolve the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water and Verde River water with finality.

(15) **INJURY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “injury”, with respect to a water right, means any interference with, diminution of, or deprivation of the water right under Federal, State, or other law.

(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “injury” does not include any injury to water quality.

(16) **LINCOLN RANCH.**—The term “Lincoln Ranch” means the property owned by the Corporation described in the special warranty deed recorded on December 4, 1995, at Book 1995 and Page 05874 in the official records of La Paz County, Arizona.

(17) **PARCEL 1.**—The term “Parcel 1” means the parcel of land that—

(A) is depicted as 3 contiguous allotments identified as 1A, 1B, and 1C on the map attached to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement as exhibit 2.10; and

(B) is held in trust for certain allottees.

(18) **PARCEL 2.**—The term “Parcel 2” means the parcel of land that—

(A) is depicted on the map attached to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement as exhibit 2.10; and

(B) is held in trust for certain allottees.

(19) **PARCEL 3.**—The term “Parcel 3” means the parcel of land that—

(A) is depicted on the map attached to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement as exhibit 2.10;

(B) is held in trust for the Tribe; and

(C) is part of the Hualapai Reservation pursuant to Executive Order 1368 of June 2, 1911.

(20) **PARTY.**—The term “party” means an individual or entity that is a signatory to—

(A) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; or

(B) the Hualapai Tribe Agreement.

(21) **PLANET RANCH.**—The term “Planet Ranch” means the property owned by the Corporation described—

(A) in the special warranty deed recorded on December 14, 2011, at Book 2011 and Page 05267 in the official records of La Paz County, Arizona; and

(B) as Instrument No. 2011-062804 in the official records of Mohave County, Arizona.

(22) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(23) **SEVER AND TRANSFER APPLICATIONS.**—The term “sever and transfer applications” means the applications filed or amended by the Corporation and pending on the date of enactment of this Act to sever and transfer certain water rights—

(A) from Lincoln Ranch and from Planet Ranch to the Wikieup Wellfield for use at the Bagdad Mine Complex and Bagdad Townsite; and

(B) from portions of Planet Ranch (as determined on the date on which the applications were filed or amended) to new locations within Planet Ranch.

(24) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Hualapai Tribe, organized under section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”), and recognized by the Secretary.

(25) **WATER RIGHT.**—The term “water right” means—

(A) any right in or to groundwater, surface water, or effluent under Federal, State, or other law; and

(B) for purposes of subsections (d) and (e) of section 5, any right to Colorado River water.

(26) **WIKIEUP WELLFIELD.**—The term “Wikieup Wellfield” means the geographical area depicted on the map attached as exhibit 2.10 to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

SEC. 4. BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except to the extent that any provision of, or amendment to, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement conflicts with this Act—

(1) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed; and

(2) any amendment to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement executed to make the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement consistent with this Act is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(b) **EXECUTION.**—To the extent that the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement does not conflict with this Act, and in support of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall execute—

(1) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement (including all exhibits to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary);

(2) any amendment to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement (including any amendment to an exhibit of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary) that is necessary to make the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement consistent with this Act; and

(3) a conditional withdrawal of each objection filed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the sever and transfer applications in the form set forth in exhibit 4.2.1(ii)(b) to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

(c) **MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.**—The Secretary may execute any other amendment to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement (including any amendment to an exhibit to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary) that is not inconsistent with this Act, if the amendment—

(1) is approved by the Secretary and the parties to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(2) does not require approval by Congress.

(d) **PROHIBITION.**—The Secretary shall not file an objection to any amendment to the sever and transfer applications or any new sever or transfer application filed by the Corporation to accomplish the sever and transfer of 10,055 acre-feet per year of water rights from Planet Ranch and Lincoln Ranch to the Wikieup Wellfield, subject to the condition that the form of such an amendment or new application shall be substantially similar to a form attached to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement as exhibit 4.2.1(ii)(a)(1) or 4.2.1(ii)(a)(2).

SEC. 5. HUALAPAI TRIBE AGREEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except to the extent that any provision of, or amendment to, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement conflicts with this Act—

(1) the Hualapai Tribe Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed; and

(2) any amendment to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement executed to make the Hualapai Tribe Agreement consistent with this Act is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(b) **EXECUTION.**—To the extent that the Hualapai Tribe Agreement does not conflict with this Act, and in support of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall execute—

(1) the Hualapai Tribe Agreement (including all exhibits to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary); and

(2) any amendment to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement (including any amendment to an exhibit of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary) that is necessary to make the Hualapai Tribe Agreement consistent with this Act.

(c) **MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.**—The Secretary may execute any other amendment to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement (including any amendment to an exhibit to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary) that is not inconsistent with this Act, if the amendment—

(1) is approved by the Secretary and the parties to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(2) does not require approval by Congress.

(d) **CONTRIBUTION OF CORPORATION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The contribution of the Corporation to the economic development fund of the Tribe, as provided in section 8.1 of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement—

(A) may be used by the Tribe for the limited purpose of facilitating settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water by enabling the Tribe—

(i) to acquire Colorado River water rights with the intent to increase the security of the water rights of the Tribe; and

(ii) to otherwise facilitate the use of water on the Hualapai Reservation;

(B) shall be considered to be a non-Federal contribution that counts toward any non-Federal contribution associated with a settlement of the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water; and

(C) shall not be—

(i) considered to be trust funds; or

(ii) subject to responsibility or management by the United States as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, and the allottees.

(2) **LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHTS.**—The Colorado River water rights acquired by the Tribe may be used off the Hualapai Reservation only for irrigation of acquired appurtenant land, or for storage in accordance with Federal and State law in a permitted recharge facility in the State of Arizona, subject to the conditions that—

(A) the Tribe shall not seek to transfer or sell accumulated long-term storage credits generated from the storage of the acquired Colorado River water rights; and

(B) the Tribe shall not seek approval to change the place of use of the acquired Colorado River water rights, except for the purposes of storing the water in accordance with this paragraph.

(3) **EXPIRATION.**—The limitation provided under paragraph (2) expires on the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Agreement becomes enforceable; and

(B) December 31, 2039.

(4) COLORADO RIVER WATER RIGHTS COUNTED AGAINST CLAIMS OF TRIBE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Agreement does not become enforceable by December 31, 2039, any Colorado River water rights acquired by the Tribe with the contribution of the Corporation to the economic development fund of the Tribe shall be counted, on an acre-foot per acre-foot basis, toward the claims of the Tribe for rights to Colorado River water.

(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph restricts any claim for rights of the Tribe to Colorado River water.

(e) FUTURE LIMITATIONS ON LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST.—As provided in section 10.11 of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, the parties to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement shall negotiate in good faith with other parties the terms under which any land within the State of Arizona held or acquired in fee by the Tribe may be taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe, with any applicable terms to be incorporated into the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Agreement, subject to approval by Congress.

SEC. 6. WAIVERS, RELEASES, AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) CLAIMS BY DEPARTMENT UNDER BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary is authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims of the Department, acting in its own capacity, against the Corporation under Federal, State, or any other law for—

(A) all past and present claims for injury to water rights resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells arising prior to the enforceability date;

(B) all claims for injury to water rights arising after the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells in a manner not in violation of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(C) all past, present, and future claims arising out of, or relating in any manner to, the negotiation or execution of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The waivers and releases of claims under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in the form set forth in exhibit 7.2(ii) to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(B) take effect on the enforceability date.

(3) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—The Department shall retain all rights not expressly waived under paragraph (1), including the right—

(A) to assert any claim for breach of, or to seek enforcement of, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act in any court of competent jurisdiction (but not a tribal court); and

(B) to assert any past, present, or future claim to a water right that is not inconsistent with the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act.

(b) CLAIMS BY TRIBE AND UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE UNDER BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Tribe and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe and members of the Tribe, are authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims against the Corporation for—

(A) any water rights of the Tribe or the United States as trustee for the Tribe and members of the Tribe with respect to Parcel 3 in excess of 300 acre-feet per year;

(B) all past and present claims for injury to water rights arising before the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells; and

(C) all claims for injury to water rights arising after the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells in a manner not in violation of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The waivers and releases of claims under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in the form set forth in exhibit 7.1(ii) to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(B) take effect on the enforceability date.

(3) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—The Tribe and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe and members of the Tribe, shall retain all rights not expressly waived under paragraph (1), including the right—

(A) to assert any claim for breach of, or to seek enforcement of, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act in any court of competent jurisdiction (but not a tribal court); and

(B) to assert any past, present, or future claim to a water right that is not inconsistent with the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act.

(c) CLAIMS BY UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR ALLOTTEES UNDER BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the United States, acting as trustee for the allottees, is authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims against the Corporation for—

(A) any water rights of the allottees or the United States as trustee for the allottees with respect to—

(i) Parcel 1 in excess of 82 acre-feet per year; or

(ii) Parcel 2 in excess of 312 acre-feet per year;

(B) all past and present claims for injury to water rights arising before the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells; and

(C) all claims for injury to water rights arising after the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Wikieup Wellfield or the Freeport Groundwater Wells in a manner not in violation of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The waivers and releases of claims under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in the form set forth in exhibit 7.1(ii) to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(B) take effect on the enforceability date.

(3) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—The United States, acting as trustee for the allottees, shall retain all rights not expressly waived under paragraph (1), including the right—

(A) to assert any claim for breach of, or to seek enforcement of, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act in any court of competent jurisdiction (but not a tribal court); and

(B) to assert any past, present, or future claim to a water right that is not inconsistent with the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or this Act.

(d) CLAIMS BY TRIBE AND UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE UNDER HUALAPAI TRIBE AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Tribe and the United

States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, and the allottees, as part of the performance of obligations under the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, are authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims that the Tribe or the United States as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, or the allottees may have against the Corporation under Federal, State, or any other law, for—

(A) all past and present claims for injury to water rights resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Bill Williams River watershed arising prior to the enforceability date;

(B) all claims for injury to water rights arising after the enforceability date resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Bill Williams River watershed in a manner not in violation of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement or the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(C) all past, present, and future claims arising out of, or relating in any manner to, the negotiation or execution of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The waivers and releases of claims under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in the form set forth in exhibit 7.1(ii) to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(B) take effect on the enforceability date.

(3) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—The Tribe and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, the members of the Tribe, and the allottees, shall retain all rights not expressly waived under paragraph (1), including the right to assert—

(A) subject to paragraph 10.5 of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, a claim for breach of, or to seek enforcement of, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement or this Act in any court of competent jurisdiction (but not a tribal court);

(B) any claim for injury to, or to seek enforcement of, the rights of the Tribe under any applicable judgment or decree approving or incorporating the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(C) any past, present, or future claim to water rights that is not inconsistent with the Hualapai Tribe Agreement or this Act.

(e) CLAIMS BY TRIBE AGAINST UNITED STATES UNDER BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT AND HUALAPAI TRIBE AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In consideration for the benefits to the Tribe, as set forth in the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, and this Act, except as provided in paragraph (3), the Tribe, on behalf of the Tribe and the members of the Tribe, is authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States and the agents and employees of the United States for—

(A) all past, present, and future claims relating to claims for water rights for Parcel 3 in excess of 300 acre-feet per year that the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, asserted or could have asserted against any party to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, including the Corporation, including claims relating to—

(i) loss of water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights on Parcel 3 (including damages, losses, or injuries to hunting, fishing, and gathering rights due to loss of water, water rights, or subordination of water rights); or

(ii) failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure on Parcel 3;

(B) all past, present, and future claims relating to injury to water rights associated

with Parcel 3 arising from withdrawal of a protest to the sever and transfer applications referenced in the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement;

(C) all claims relating to injury to water rights arising after the enforceability date associated with Parcel 3, resulting from the diversion of water by the Corporation from the Bill Williams River watershed in a manner not in violation of the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(D) all past, present, and future claims relating to any potential injury arising out of, or relating in any manner to, the negotiation or execution of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The waivers and releases of claims under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in the form set forth in, as applicable—

(i) exhibit 7.6(ii) to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; or

(ii) exhibit 7.3(ii) to the Hualapai Tribe Agreement; and

(B) take effect on the enforceability date.

(3) **RETENTION OF RIGHTS.**—The Tribe shall retain all rights not expressly waived under paragraph (1), including the right—

(A) to assert any claim for breach of, or to seek enforcement of, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, or this Act in any court of competent jurisdiction (but not a tribal court); and

(B) to assert any past, present, or future claim to a water right that is not inconsistent with the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, or this Act.

SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 9401 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1327) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) **BIG SANDY RIVER-PLANET RANCH AGREEMENT.**—The term ‘Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014.”.

(2) **ENFORCEABILITY.**—Section 9403 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1328) is amended—

(A) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through “Due to” in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 9403. ENFORCEABILITY.

“(a) **CIVIL ACTIONS.**—

“(1) **COLORADO RIVER CIVIL ACTIONS.**—

“(A) **DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL ACTION.**—Due to”;

(B) in subsection (a) (as amended by subparagraph (A))—

(i) in paragraph (1) (as so amended), by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **VENUE.**—Any civil action under this paragraph may be brought in any United States district court in the State in which any non-Federal party to the civil action is situated.”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **BILL WILLIAMS CIVIL ACTIONS.**—

“(A) **DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL ACTION.**—Due to the unique role of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in resolving competing water rights claims in the

Bill Williams River watershed (as defined in section 3 of the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014) and other claims among the parties to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, any party to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement may commence a civil action in a court described in subparagraph (B) relating only and directly to the interpretation or enforcement of—

“(i) the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014; or

“(ii) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement.

“(B) **VENUE.**—A civil action under this paragraph may be brought in—

“(i) the United States District Court for the District of Arizona; or

“(ii) a State court of competent jurisdiction where a pending action has been brought to adjudicate the water rights associated with the Bill Williams River system and source, in accordance with the authority provided by section 208 of the Act of July 10, 1952 (commonly known as the ‘McCarran Amendment’) (43 U.S.C. 666).”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “The district” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The district”;

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking “such actions” and inserting “civil actions described in subsection (a)(1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **STATE COURTS AND DISTRICT COURTS.**—A State court or United States district court—

“(A) shall have jurisdiction over civil actions described in subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) may issue such orders, judgments, and decrees as are consistent with the exercise of jurisdiction by the court pursuant to—

“(i) this section; or

“(ii) section 7 of the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014.

“(3) **EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection affects the jurisdiction that would otherwise be available in accordance with the authority provided by section 208 of the Act of July 10, 1952 (commonly known as the ‘McCarran Amendment’) (43 U.S.C. 666).”;

(4) in subsection (d)(2), by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section—

“(A) applies only to—

“(i) the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program;

“(ii) the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014; and

“(iii) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and”;

(5) by striking subsection (e).

(b) **LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If any party to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement brings a civil action in a court described in paragraph (2) relating only and directly to the interpretation or enforcement of this Act (or an amendment made by this Act), the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement—

(A) the Tribe and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, or the allottees, may be named as a party or joined in the civil action; and

(B) any claim by the Tribe or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, or the allottees, to sovereign immunity from the civil action is waived, but only for the limited and sole purpose of the interpretation or enforcement of

this Act (or an amendment made by this Act), the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement.

(2) **VENUE.**—A court referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) the United States District Court for the District of Arizona; or

(B) a State court of competent jurisdiction where a pending action has been brought to adjudicate the water rights associated with the Bill Williams River system and source, in accordance with the authority provided by section 208 of the Act of July 10, 1952 (commonly known as the ‘McCarran Amendment’) (43 U.S.C. 666).

(3) **JURISDICTION.**—A State court or a United States district court—

(A) shall have jurisdiction over civil actions described in paragraph (1); and

(B) may issue such orders, judgments, and decrees as are consistent with the exercise of jurisdiction by the court pursuant to—

(i) this section; or

(ii) section 9403(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1328).

(4) **NONWAIVER FOR CERTAIN CLAIMS.**—Nothing in this subsection waives the sovereign immunity of the Tribe or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, or the allottees, to claims for monetary damages, costs, or attorneys’ fees.

(c) **ANTIDEFFICIENCY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any authorization of appropriations to carry out this Act, the expenditure or advance of any funds, and the performance of any obligation by the Department in any capacity, pursuant to this Act shall be contingent on the appropriation of funds for that expenditure, advance, or performance.

(2) **LIABILITY.**—The Department shall not be liable for the failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this Act if adequate appropriations are not provided to carry out this Act.

(d) **PUBLIC ACCESS.**—Nothing in this Act prohibits reasonable public access to the Conservation Program land at Planet Ranch or Lincoln Ranch in a manner that is consistent with all applicable Federal and State laws and any applicable conservation management plan implemented under the Conservation Program.

(e) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, or this Act—

(1) affects the ability of the United States to carry out any action in the capacity of the United States as trustee for any other Indian tribe or allottee;

(2) except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), confers jurisdiction on any State court—

(A) to interpret Federal law or determine the duties of the United States or any other party pursuant to Federal law; or

(B) to conduct judicial review of a Federal agency action; or

(3) limits the right of any member of the Tribe (acting in an individual capacity) to assert or acquire any water right based on State law.

SEC. 8. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, the Hualapai Tribe Agreement, and this Act, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable Federal environmental laws (including regulations), including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(b) EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS.—The execution by the Secretary of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement in accordance with this Act shall not constitute a major Federal action for purposes of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(c) UNITED STATES ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act, the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement, or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement affects any right of the United States to take any action (including any environmental action) under any law (including regulations and common law) relating to human health, safety, or the environment.

SEC. 9. ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the enforceability date shall be the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1)(A) to the extent that the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement or the Hualapai Tribe Agreement conflict with this Act, the applicable agreement has been revised by amendment to eliminate the conflict; and

(B) the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement have been executed by all parties to those agreements;

(2) the Corporation has submitted to ADWR a conditional amendment of the sever and transfer applications for the Lincoln Ranch water right and amendments to the sever and transfer applications for Planet Ranch and Lincoln Ranch water rights consistent with section 4.2.1(ii)(a) of the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement;

(3) the Secretary and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission have executed and filed with ADWR a conditional withdrawal of each objection described in section 4(b)(3);

(4)(A) ADWR has issued a conditional order approving the sever and transfer applications of the Corporation; and

(B) all objections to the sever and transfer applications have been—

(i) conditionally withdrawn; or

(ii) resolved in a decision issued by ADWR that is final and nonappealable;

(5) the Secretary has provided a notice to the parties to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Agreement that the Department has completed the legally required environmental compliance described in section 8;

(6) the steering committee for the Conservation Program has approved and authorized the manager of the Conservation Program to execute the lease in the form as set forth in exhibit 2.33 to the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Agreement; and

(7) the waivers and releases authorized by section 6 have been executed by the Tribe and the Secretary.

(b) RATIFICATION AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), for purposes of sections 4, 5, and 8, the Secretary shall carry out the requirements of this Act as promptly as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FAILURE OF ENFORCEABILITY DATE TO OCCUR.—If the Secretary does not publish a statement of findings under subsection (a) by December 15, 2015, or an extended date agreed to by the Tribe, the Secretary, and the Corporation, after providing reasonable notice to the State of Arizona—

(1) this Act is repealed effective beginning on the later of—

(A) December 31, 2015; and

(B) the date that is 14 days after the extended date agreed to by the Tribe, the Secretary, and the Corporation, after providing reasonable notice to the State of Arizona;

(2) any action taken by the Secretary to carry out this Act shall cease, and any agreement executed pursuant to this Act, shall be void; and

(3) the Tribe, members of the Tribe, the allottees, and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, members of the Tribe, and the allottees, shall retain the right to assert past, present, and future claims to water rights and claims for injury to water rights in the Bill Williams River watershed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our colleague from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is the author of H.R. 4924, which is cosponsored by the entire bipartisan Arizona House delegation. The bill authorizes and codifies two water rights settlement agreements.

The bill will provide some water supply certainty for the Hualapai Tribe, a mining company, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and the Federal Government. Due to Federal trust responsibility for the tribe, congressional authorization and ratification of these agreements are necessary.

The bill does not impact Winters Doctrine rights, which are tribal water rights set forth in a landmark 1908 Supreme Court case, nor does it authorize Federal expenditure of any kind since this bill involves just the first phase of an agreement. This creative bill provides benefits to all parties involved in these settlements without any Federal expense.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4924 would approve a water rights settlement agreement in the Bill Williams River Basin and settle a longstanding water rights dispute between the Hualapai Tribe and the Freeport-McMoRan Minerals Company.

Under this agreement, the Hualapai Tribe will confirm its water rights claims in the Bill Williams River

Basin, receive protections for culturally significant springs, and secure a non-Federal contribution to enable future settlement of its water rights claims in the other river basins. The Freeport Company will also receive greater water certainty at one of its sites.

This legislation approves a fair settlement in the Bill Williams River Basin without requiring any new spending authorization. I support adoption of H.R. 4924 and urge my colleagues to support this legislation as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), the author of this legislation.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman, DOC HASTINGS, and his staff for all their efforts on H.R. 4924.

As many of you are already aware, Chairman HASTINGS is leaving at the end of this Congress. DOC has served honorably since 1995. During my relatively short tenure in Congress, I have had the pleasure of working with Chairman HASTINGS on important matters, like protecting western water rights, improving our Nation's forest health, and increasing our access to American energy resources. Since this could be the last time I work with DOC on a bill, I would like to thank him for his leadership and for everything he has done to make our country a better place. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Chairman HASTINGS a friend and a mentor. He is one of the classiest individuals I have had the pleasure of serving with, and he will most certainly be missed.

Water in the West is critical to our future economic prosperity and, of course, is a limited resource on which there are many existing demands. H.R. 4924 is important legislation that will facilitate a fair and equitable settlement of certain claims within the Bill Williams Watershed in Arizona amongst the Hualapai Tribe; Freeport-McMoRan, a mining company; the Arizona Game and Fish Commission; and the Federal Government. My bill is good for property owners, good for local economies and jobs, settles an outstanding water rights dispute, and will result in a net water benefit to the basin.

The first of the two agreements codified by this legislation allows for certain private water rights owned by Freeport to be severed and transferred to provide water certainty for one of the company's mining operations. The Baghdad mine has an economic impact of \$339.1 million to the State of Arizona and sustains nearly 4,000 direct and indirect jobs.

□ 1630

Under this first agreement, Freeport will also donate 3,400 acres of private land to Arizona Game and Fish Department to be managed as part of the Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Finally, this first agreement will benefit water users throughout the West as Freeport has agreed to cap its withdrawals of water in the Wikieup Wellfield at 10,055 acre-feet, despite being entitled to nearly 40,000 acre-feet of existing water rights. Thus, my bill will result in an overall net water use reduction in the basin of approximately 35,000 acre-feet per year.

The second of the two agreements approved by H.R. 4924 will secure certain water rights for the Hualapai Tribe as well as two non-Federal contributions that will be provided by Freeport to the tribe for an infrastructure fund and economic development fund.

In addition, there is a provision in H.R. 4924 that will allow for new public access for hunting and fishing on the lands involved with this legislation.

Furthermore, the local counties benefit from the good-paying jobs and tax revenue associated with the continued use of the mine.

H.R. 4924 passed the full House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on November 19.

Preliminary Congressional Budget Office estimates indicate that the bill costs nothing to the Federal Government and will not score. The entire bipartisan Arizona delegation and both Houses of Congress strongly support H.R. 4924 and signed on as original cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this legislation that is extremely important to the State of Arizona. I urge immediate adoption by the House and hope my colleagues in the Senate will follow our lead and pass this critical bill in a timely manner this Congress.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4924, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAY 31, 1918 ACT REPEAL ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5050) to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5050

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 1918 ACT.—The term “1918 Act” means the Act of May 31, 1918 (40 Stat. 592, chapter 88).

(2) FORT HALL TOWNSITE.—The term “Fort Hall Townsite” means the land that was taken out of trust by being set aside or set apart under the 1918 Act on the Fort Hall Reservation, consisting of approximately 120 acres in the East Half of the Northeast Quarter in Section 35 and the West Half of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter in Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 34 East, Boise Meridian, Idaho, based upon a survey completed on May 19, 1921, and depicted on the document entitled “Plat of the Townsite of Fort Hall” on file with Bingham County, Idaho and the Tribes.

(3) TRIBES.—The term “Tribes” means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation.

SEC. 3. REPEAL.

The 1918 Act is repealed.

SEC. 4. RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Tribes shall have the exclusive right of first refusal to purchase at fair market value any land—

- (1) within the Fort Hall Townsite; and
- (2) offered for sale.

(b) ACQUIRED LAND HELD IN TRUST.—The United States shall hold in trust for the benefit of the Tribes or a member of the Tribes, as applicable—

- (1) any land owned or acquired by the Tribes or a member of the Tribes within the Fort Hall Townsite before the date of enactment of this Act; and
- (2) any land owned or acquired by the Tribes or a member of the Tribes within the Fort Hall Townsite on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECT.

Nothing in this Act affects any valid right to any land set aside or set apart under the 1918 Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr.

SIMPSON), my colleague, for his hard work and leadership on H.R. 5050. He will be speaking on the bill later, so I will just provide a brief summary.

Under the Act of May 31, 1918, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to set aside land for town-site purposes within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in the State of Idaho. The town-site envisioned under the 1918 Act never came to fruition, and the land is now owned by a county. The tribe seeks restoration of the land into tribal ownership because the parcel is centrally located on the reservation and can't be used for economic development. This bill removes this unused reservation so that the land may be fully utilized by the tribe.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SIMPSON, for his work on behalf of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5050 would repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and give the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation the exclusive right of first refusal to purchase, at fair market value, any land within the Fort Hall town-site which is offered for sale.

By repealing the 1918 Act, more land within the reservation's boundaries would be available to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Secretary would be prevented from possibly selling land within the designated town-site area. This bill would not affect current landowners and provides the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes only with the right of first refusal for any future transactions involving the lands.

Mr. Speaker, I support adoption of H.R. 5050 and urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the author of this legislation.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HASTINGS for bringing this bill and the subsequent bill that will follow to the floor and see rapid action. I thank the gentleman for his support of this.

Let me also say that this is the last year that Chairman HASTINGS will be in Congress. He has chosen to retire at the end of this year, and it has been a pleasure to work with him on both resource issues and on energy and water issues that I am involved with. We are going to miss him and his 20 years of service representing Washington and all the people in this country. So I appreciate the work that you have done, and we will miss you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5050, the May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act. This is a simple but significant piece of legislation addressing

issues that impact the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho.

As its name suggests, H.R. 5050 would repeal the 1918 Act that gives the Federal Government authority to unilaterally take Shoshone-Bannock tribal land out of trust and transfer it to a local government for use as a township. This act is antiquated, and any purpose it may have served toward its stated goal of providing trading opportunities for the tribes has long since expired. Today, thanks to an MOU dating back to 2009, the local county government has granted jurisdiction over the remaining town-site to the tribes for law enforcement, emergency services, roads, and infrastructure.

It is time to wipe this 1918 law off the books. From a practical standpoint, the tribes are already managing the land in question, for which the county has no interest in being responsible.

From a more general point of view, allowing the Federal Government the authority to unilaterally take tribal land out of trust violates the spirit of the relationship the government should have with the tribes. Repealing this act is the right and sensible thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude today, I would like to take note that H.R. 5050 has been introduced by my colleagues in the Senate and was unanimously passed out of the committee, and I am hopeful that the Senate would take action on this quickly so that this bill and the subsequent bill can be signed into law and the tribes can move on these issues.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5050.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BLACKFOOT RIVER LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2040) to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2040

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe with tribal headquarters at Fort Hall, Idaho—

(A) adopted a tribal constitution and by-laws on March 31, 1936, that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”);

(B) has entered into various treaties with the United States, including the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger, executed on July 3, 1868; and

(C) has maintained a continuous government-to-government relationship with the United States since the earliest years of the Union;

(2)(A) in 1867, President Andrew Johnson designated by Executive order the Fort Hall Reservation for various bands of Shoshone and Bannock Indians;

(B) the Reservation is located near the cities of Blackfoot and Pocatello in southeastern Idaho; and

(C) article 4 of the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger secured the Reservation as a “permanent home” for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

(3)(A) according to the Executive order referred to in paragraph (2)(A), the Blackfoot River, as the river existed in its natural state—

(i) is the northern boundary of the Reservation; and

(ii) flows in a westerly direction along that northern boundary; and

(B) within the Reservation, land use in the River watershed is dominated by—

(i) rangeland;

(ii) dry and irrigated farming; and

(iii) residential development;

(4)(A) in 1964, the Corps of Engineers completed a local flood protection project on the River—

(i) authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 170); and

(ii) sponsored by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7;

(B) the project consisted of building levees, replacing irrigation diversion structures, replacing bridges, and channel realignment; and

(C) the channel realignment portion of the project severed various parcels of land located contiguous to the River along the boundary of the Reservation, resulting in Indian land being located north of the Realigned River and non-Indian land being located south of the Realigned River;

(5) beginning in 1999, the Cadastral Survey Office of the Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys of—

(A) 25 parcels of Indian land; and

(B) 19 parcels of non-Indian land; and

(6) the enactment of this Act and separate agreements of the parties would represent a resolution of the disputes described in subsection (b)(1) among—

(A) the Tribes;

(B) the allottees; and

(C) the non-Indian landowners.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the land ownership and land use disputes resulting from realignment of the River by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(2) to achieve a final and fair solution to resolve those disputes.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALLOTTEE.—The term “allottee” means an heir of an original allottee of the Reservation who owns an interest in a parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the allottee; and

(B) located north of the Realigned River within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

(2) BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT NO. 7.—The term “Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7” means the governmental subdivision in the State of Idaho, located at 75 East Judicial, Blackfoot, Idaho, that—

(A) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the Realigned River; and

(B) represents the non-Indian landowners relating to the resolution of the disputes described in section 2(b)(1) in accordance with this Act.

(3) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land” means any parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes or the allottees;

(B) located north of the Realigned River; and

(C) identified in exhibit A of the survey of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Survey of the Blackfoot River of 2002 to 2005”, which is located at—

(i) the Fort Hall Indian Agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

(4) NON-INDIAN LAND.—The term “non-Indian land” means any parcel of fee land that is—

(A) located south of the Realigned River; and

(B) identified in exhibit B, which is located at the areas described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(C).

(5) NON-INDIAN LANDOWNER.—The term “non-Indian landowner” means any individual who holds fee title to non-Indian land and is represented by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for purposes of this Act.

(6) REALIGNED RIVER.—The term “Realigned River” means that portion of the River that was realigned by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in section 2(a)(4)(A).

(7) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation” means the Fort Hall Reservation established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

(8) RIVER.—The term “River” means the Blackfoot River located in the State of Idaho.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) TRIBES.—The term “Tribes” means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO CERTAIN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OWNED LANDS.

(a) RELEASE OF CLAIMS.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) all existing and future claims with respect to the Indian land and the non-Indian land and all right, title, and interest that the Tribes, allottees, non-Indian landowners,

and the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may have had to that land shall be extinguished;

(2) any interest of the Tribes, the allottees, or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribes or allottees, in the Indian land shall be extinguished under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the "Indian Trade and Intercourse Act") (25 U.S.C. 177); and

(3) to the extent any interest in non-Indian land transferred into trust pursuant to section 5 violates section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the "Indian Trade and Intercourse Act") (25 U.S.C. 177), that transfer shall be valid, subject to the condition that the transfer is consistent with all other applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

(b) **DOCUMENTATION.**—The Secretary may execute and file any appropriate documents (including a plat or map of the transferred Indian land) that are suitable for filing with the Bingham County clerk or other appropriate county official, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. NON-INDIAN LAND TO BE PLACED INTO TRUST FOR TRIBES.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the non-Indian land shall be considered to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes.

SEC. 6. TRUST LAND TO BE CONVERTED TO FEE LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for use or sale in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **USE OF LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 shall use any proceeds from the sale of land described in subsection (a) according to the following priorities:

(A) To compensate, at fair market value, each non-Indian landowner for the net loss of land to that non-Indian landowner resulting from the implementation of this Act.

(B) To compensate the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for any administrative or other expenses relating to carrying out this Act.

(2) **REMAINING LAND.**—If any land remains to be conveyed or proceeds remain after the sale of the land, the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may dispose of that remaining land or proceeds as the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON ORIGINAL RESERVATION BOUNDARY.

Nothing in this Act affects the original boundary of the Reservation, as established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

SEC. 8. EFFECT ON TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act extinguishes or conveys any water right of the Tribes, as established in the agreement entitled "1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement" and ratified by section 4 of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-602; 104 Stat. 3060).

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act affects the obligation of Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 to maintain adequate rights-of-way for the operation and maintenance of the local flood protection projects described in section 2(a)(4) pursuant to

agreements between the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 and the Corps of Engineers.

(b) **RESTRICTION ON FEES.**—Any land conveyed to the Tribes pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to fees assessed by Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

SEC. 10. DISCLAIMERS REGARDING CLAIMS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects in any manner the sovereign claim of the State of Idaho to title in and to the beds and banks of the River under the equal footing doctrine of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) affects any action by the State of Idaho to establish the title described in paragraph (1) under section 2409a of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the "Quiet Title Act");

(3) affects the ability of the Tribes or the United States to claim ownership of the beds and banks of the River; or

(4) extinguishes or conveys any water rights of non-Indian landowners or the claims of those landowners to water rights in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. **HASTINGS**) and the gentleman from California (Mr. **LOWENTHAL**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **HASTINGS** of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. **HASTINGS** of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to, once again, acknowledge the work of the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. **SIMPSON**) for his work on the House companion to this bill, H.R. 5049, which was ordered favorably reported from the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent.

S. 2040 addresses a land dispute caused by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho by requiring an exchange of Indian lands for non-Indian lands. Specifically, S. 2040 authorizes the Federal Government to take into trust certain non-Indian lands on behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho. In exchange, the government would then convey certain Indian lands. Finally, in recognition of this land exchange, the bill extinguishes claims that would be asserted by the tribes against the Federal Government.

It is a complex solution, Mr. Speaker, to a complex problem, and I am glad we will be able to resolve that problem with this bill. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **LOWENTHAL**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2040 would resolve border changes to the Fort Hall Reservation after the realignment of the Blackfoot River by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1964. This bill settles boundary disputes for the tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and directs the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District Number 7 for use or sale and requires that the non-Indian land be held in trust for the tribes.

The bill allows the local flood control district to compensate non-Indian landowners at fair market value. The disposition of the remaining lands, after the sale of the lands, is left to the discretion of the Flood Control District Number 7.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **HASTINGS** of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. **SIMPSON**), the author of the companion House bill to this legislation.

Mr. **SIMPSON**. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the chairman for bringing this piece of legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2040, the Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014. This important bill provides a needed fix to a long-standing problem regarding the northern boundary of the Fort Hall Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho. When I grew up in Blackfoot, which was on the northern side of the Fort Hall Reservation, the Blackfoot River was the designation of the northern boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and the southern part of the city of Blackfoot. As I was growing up, I can remember in the early days it used to ice up because it was a meandering, small river, and it would ice up, flood, and cause havoc.

Since its designation, however, in 1960, the Corps of Engineers flood control project changed the flow of the river, leaving some tribal land located north of the river and some non-Indian land located south of the river. For years, the tribes and affected landowners have collaborated to find a solution to this problem that works for all concerned. S. 2040 is that solution. The bill is a simple land exchange that would make both the tribes and the affected landowners whole.

S. 2040 is the result of cooperation and give-and-take. The bill passed the Senate in September with unanimous consent, and the House version of the bill was passed unanimously by the committee this fall. I look forward to seeing it signed into law before the end of this year. It will solve a long-standing problem for the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and the city of Blackfoot.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, once again, this is a good piece of legislation addressing a complex issue. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2040.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NEVADA NATIVE NATIONS LAND ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2455) to provide for the sale or transfer of certain Federal lands in Nevada, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2455

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Nevada Native Nations Land Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—ELKO MOTOCROSS LAND CONVEYANCE

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Conveyance of land to county.

TITLE II—CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO INDIAN TRIBES

Sec. 201. Conveyance of land to be held in trust for certain Indian tribes.

Sec. 202. Administration.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

TITLE I—ELKO MOTOCROSS LAND CONVEYANCE

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CITY.—The term “city” means the city of Elko, Nevada.

(2) COUNTY.—The term “county” means the county of Elko, Nevada.

(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Elko Motocross Park” and dated January 9, 2010.

SEC. 102. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO COUNTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights and such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and after agreement from the county, the Secretary shall convey to

the county, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 275 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Elko District, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map as “Elko Motocross Park”.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only as a motocross, bicycle, off-highway vehicle, or stock car racing area, or for any other public purpose consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the county to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (b).

(f) REVERSION.—If the land conveyed under this section ceases to be used for a public purpose in accordance with subsection (d), the land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

TITLE II—CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO INDIAN TRIBES

SEC. 201. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) TE-MOAK TRIBE OF WESTERN SHOSHONE INDIANS OF NEVADA (ELKO BAND).—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Te-moak Tribal Land Expansion”, dated September 30, 2008, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (Elko Band); and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada (Elko Band).

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 373 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Lands to be Held in Trust”.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE FORT McDERMITT PAIUTE AND SHOSHONE TRIBE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation Expansion Act”, dated February 21, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 19,094 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Expansion Lands”.

(c) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE SHOSHONE PAIUTE TRIBES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Mountain City Administrative Site Proposed Acquisition”, dated July 29, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 82 acres of land administered by the Forest Service as generally depicted on the map as “Proposed Acquisition Site”.

(d) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this section, the term “map” means the map entitled “Summit Lake Indian Reservation Conveyance”, dated February 28, 2013, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 941 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “Reservation Conveyance Lands”.

(e) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY LAND.—

(1) DEFINITION OF MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Expansion”, dated June 11, 2014, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (3)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 13,434 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as “RSIC Amended Boundary”.

(f) TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE.—

(1) MAP.—In this subsection, the term “map” means the map entitled “Pyramid

Lake Indian Reservation Expansion", dated July 26, 2014, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (1)—

(A) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; and

(B) shall be part of the reservation of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (2) is the approximately 11,719 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map as "Reservation Expansion Lands".

SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) SURVEY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the land taken into trust for each Indian tribe under section 201.

(b) USE OF TRUST LAND.—

(1) GAMING.—Land taken into trust under section 201 shall not be eligible, or considered to have been taken into trust, for class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

(2) THINNING; LANDSCAPE RESTORATION.—With respect to the land taken into trust under section 201, the Secretary, in consultation and coordination with the applicable Indian tribe, may carry out any fuel reduction and other landscape restoration activities, including restoration of sage grouse habitat, on the land that is beneficial to the Indian tribe and the Bureau of Land Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

□ 1645

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to commend the sponsor of this bill, Mr. AMODEI from Nevada, for his tireless work on this important piece of legislation. Because he will speak further on the details of this legislation, I will provide a very brief summary of the bill.

H.R. 2455, as amended, requires that 45,000 acres of Federal land be held in trust by the U.S. to expand the reservations of several tribes residing in Nevada while requiring that this land may not be used for gaming purposes.

The bill also directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 275 acres of Federal land to the county of Elko, Nevada, to be used only as a motocross, bicycle, off-road vehicle, or stock car racing area.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for his legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2455 would convey approximately 275 acres of Bureau of Land Management-administered land to Elko County, Nevada, at fair market value. The bill requires the land conveyed, the Elko motocross, to be used specifically as a motocross, bicycle, off-highway vehicle, or stock car racing area.

If the land is not used for these specific purposes, then it may be used for any other public purposes consistent with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

The bill would also transfer several thousand acres of BLM-administered land to seven Nevada tribes in trust: the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

This bill was amended by subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), to address among other things the administration's concerns about sage grouse habitat.

I thank my colleagues, Representative MARK AMODEI and Representative DON YOUNG, for their efforts to address these concerns. I support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), the author of this legislation.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for yielding me this time, and I also thank my colleague from California, the ranking member, and also the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for processing this bill.

I also want to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Idaho earlier regarding the departure of the committee chairman, Mr. HASTINGS from Washington, and while he talked about who is going to miss who more, I think it is probably accurate to say that I will miss Mr. HASTINGS more than he will miss me, but I will endeavor to change his mind over the years no matter what. This is a prime example of what happens when we work together.

This is several tens of thousands of acres which some have been waiting

since I was in the eighth grade. The original legislation for the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe was introduced in 1971 by then-United States Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon who represented Nevada, so those folks get the patience award.

This bill does housekeeping things that we should all be happy to have been part of finally finishing up. With checkerboard reservations, you have multiple issues of law enforcement—you are on the reservation, you are off the reservation—economic development, jobs for some of the most economically-challenged cultures in our Nation, multiple use, cultural resource protection, all those sorts of things which I am proud to be associated with.

I want to thank the chairman and the tribal council members who brought this to our attention at a meeting originally with Mr. YOUNG in Nevada several years ago, and we are looking forward to, since the committee and the subcommittee did great work, along with the minority, on changing some of this since it now conforms with the Senate wishes, to the Senate processing this expeditiously.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, again, a lot of these bills can be very complex, and I am glad there is a solution to it. I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2455, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARIES REVISION

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3572) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3572

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The maps subtitled "Lea Island Complex L07"; "Wrightsville Beach Unit L08, Masonboro Island Unit L09"; and "Masonboro Island Unit L09", included in

the set of maps entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina, are hereby replaced by other maps relating to the units entitled “Lea Island Complex L07”; “Wrightsville Beach Unit L08, Masonboro Island Unit L09”; and “Masonboro Island Unit L09”, respectively, and dated March 12, 2014.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement maps referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

SEC. 2. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, Hazards Beach Unit RI-07”, included in the set of maps entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Rhode Island, is hereby replaced by another map relating to the units entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07” and dated September 16, 2013.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with the provisions of section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

SEC. 3. JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM GASPARILLA ISLAND UNIT, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Gasparilla Island Unit FL-70P” included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to the Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida is hereby replaced by another map relating to the same unit entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Unit FL-70/FL-70P”, draft dated May 23, 2012.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA FROM JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Long Pond Unit SC-01” included in the sets of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to the Long Pond Unit in South Carolina is hereby replaced by another map relating to the same unit entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Long Pond Unit SC-01” dated September 30, 2014.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep each map revised under subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA FROM JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Huntington Beach Unit SC-03” included in the sets of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to the Huntington Beach Unit in South Carolina is hereby replaced by another map relating to the same unit entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Huntington Beach Unit SC-03” dated September 30, 2014.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep each map revised under subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 1982, Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and, 8 years later, significantly expanded the number of acres contained within the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

The fundamental goal of this law was to discourage development along fragile and shifting coastal barriers by prohibiting participation within the National Flood Insurance Program and to deny certain Federal development subsidies.

To qualify for inclusion within the system, coastal land had to be undeveloped or conserved as part of a national wildlife refuge, Federal or State park, a national seashore, a military installation, or conservation land owned by private organizations.

Inclusion in the system is through maps which historically were hand-drawn by individuals who used Magic Markers to distinguish property lines—really, Magic Markers. As you might expect, mistakes were made, and Congress has corrected those errors by providing legislative relief to homeowners whose property was mistakenly incorporated within the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

What we have before us today is a bill that corrects mistakes in certain coastal barrier units in Florida, North

Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. This affects both Republican and Democrat districts.

In total, the legislation affects maps in 10 of the 857 units of the system. Upon enactment, 156 acres of the 3.1 million acres would be removed from the system; however, because digital technology is now being used, 4,737 new qualifying acres will be added to the system for a net gain of 4,580 acres.

Each of these changes have been exhaustively reviewed. There is no dispute that these lands were mistakenly included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System, there are no objections to correcting these mistakes, and the Congressional Budget Office has in each case stipulated that “enacting the bill would not affect revenues.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote on this bipartisan noncontroversial collection of changes to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, and I compliment the sponsors for their work on the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, or CBRA, requires the identification of hazardous areas on the Atlantic and gulf coasts and makes Federal subsidies off-limits to people who choose to develop those lands. Particularly in this time of rising sea levels and increased storm surge brought on by global warming, CBRA is critical to helping protect American taxpayers and sensitive coastal ecosystems.

H.R. 3572 would adjust the boundaries of several Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina, South Carolina, Rhode Island, and Florida. I am particularly pleased that long overdue remedies for the constituents of my friends, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), are included in this package.

These changes have been carefully mapped by the Fish and Wildlife Service and reflect improvements in technology that have allowed us to show with great accuracy which parcels of land do and do not constitute “coastal barrier resources” under the law.

As a result, numerous properties that were originally included by mistake will be removed, and other properties that have been identified as at-risk will be included. These changes to the Coastal Barrier Resources System are protective of private property rights, the environment, and the taxpayers. I support passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3572, which includes a provision I introduced as H.R. 277, to revise the boundaries of Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Rhode Island. I want to begin by thanking Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for working with me to bring this important fix to the floor today.

I want to extend a personal thank you to Chairman HASTINGS for his ongoing cooperation in helping to advance legislation to make the Blackstone River Valley, the birthplace of America's industrial revolution, a national park.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents the culmination of several years of evaluation, research, study, public input, and review regarding the existing map of the Coastal Barrier Resources System in my State.

All four units in Rhode Island that would be replaced with a modernized, revised map under this legislation were included within the CBRS, according to the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990. It has been discovered that various private lands were inappropriately included in otherwise protected areas within the CBRS and that there were other technical inaccuracies.

The proposed revisions in my bill were approved by local cities and towns and other stakeholders, including the Norman Bird Sanctuary and the Audubon Society, who would be impacted; furthermore, including identified wetland and upland areas of both Almy Pond and Lily Pond is essential for protecting local habitat.

Importantly, the revisions would also remove eight privately-owned structures that were inappropriately included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

The changes in this bill will positively impact my district and my constituents, particularly the ones whose private property was inadvertently included in the original map. The passage of this legislation will also benefit the surrounding communities that have long anticipated a more coherent, comprehensive system that protects critical aquatic habitat and coastal lands while protecting access to areas used for recreational purposes.

I want to highlight the case of one constituent in particular. Philip Howell cannot obtain Federal flood insurance for his property that was incorrectly included in the CBRA map. As a result, his coastal property has gone without flood insurance during serious weather events like Superstorm Sandy.

An inability to purchase flood insurance has also caused Mr. Howell to take on serious financial risks related to damages that he would potentially be unable to cover out of his own pocket; moreover, without flood insurance coverage, he has found it difficult to purchase regular homeowner's insur-

ance from competing brokers at affordable rates.

While Mr. Howell and most of my constituents support the intent of the Coastal Barrier Resources System to protect neighboring habitat and recreation, they also have been overly burdened by innocent mapping mistakes that were made more than two decades ago.

As such, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3572 to ensure that coastal barrier mapping irregularities are rectified and the system works as it was intended.

I, again, thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their assistance.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3572, as amended.

The question was taken.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC NUCLEAR SECURITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5629) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5629

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

"SEC. 1908. DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DETECTION ARCHITECTURE.

"In carrying out the mission of the Office under subparagraph (A) of section 1902(a)(4), the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall provide support for planning, organization, equipment, training, exercises, and operational assessments to Federal, State,

local, territorial, and tribal entities to assist in implementing radiological and nuclear detection capabilities in the event of a radiological or nuclear act of terror or other attack. Such capabilities shall be integrated into the enhanced global nuclear detection architecture referred to in such section 1902(a)(4), and shall inform and be guided by architecture studies, technology needs, and research activities of the Office.

"SEC. 1909. SECURING THE CITIES PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall establish the 'Securing the Cities' ('STC') program to enhance, through Federal, State, local, tribal, and private entities, the ability of the United States to detect and prevent a radiological or nuclear act of terror or other attack in high-risk urban areas.

"(b) DESIGNATION OF JURISDICTIONS.—In designating jurisdiction under subsection (a), the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall consider jurisdictions designated by the Secretary as high-risk urban areas under section 2003, and other cities and regions as appropriate, for the selection of new STC locations.

"(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate not later than 30 days after any additions or changes to the jurisdictions participating in the STC program under this section.

"(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional committees specified in subsection (c) an assessment, including an evaluation of the effectiveness, of the STC program.

"SEC. 1910. PROCUREMENT REFORM.

"In the event of an acquisition of a new system for a component of the Department of Homeland Security or any other Department-related or -associated end-user, the head of such component shall complete and sign a Mission Need Statement and Operational Requirements Document, in accordance with relevant Department Acquisition Management Directives.

"SEC. 1911. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$291,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 and 2016."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the item relating to section 1907 and inserting the following new items:

"Sec. 1907. Joint biennial interagency review of global nuclear detection architecture.

"Sec. 1908. Domestic implementation of the global nuclear detection architecture.

"Sec. 1909. Securing the Cities program.

"Sec. 1910. Procurement reform.

"Sec. 1911. Authorization of appropriations."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in section 1906 (6 U.S.C. 596), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "paragraphs (6) and (7) of"; and

(2) in section 1907 (6 U.S.C. 596a)—
 (A) in the section heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;
 (B) in subsection (a)—
 (i) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;
 (ii) in paragraph (1)—
 (I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “each year” and inserting “every two years”; and
 (II) in subparagraph (C)—
 (aa) in clauses (i) and (iii), by striking “previous year” and inserting “previous two years” each place it appears; and
 (bb) in clause (ii), by striking “Annual” and inserting “Biennial”; and
 (iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “each year” and inserting “every two years”; and
 (C) in subsection (b)—
 (i) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;
 (ii) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “odd-numbered” before “year”; and
 (iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”; and

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5629, the Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014.

We know extremist groups such as al Qaeda and ISIS have shown interest in acquiring nuclear and radiological materials, and in July of this year, Islamist insurgents seized nuclear materials which were used for scientific research at Mosul University in Iraq. Fortunately, the material that was seized was not enriched to the point it could be used in weapons form, but it proves that our enemies are actively seeking materials that could be turned into a dirty bomb.

The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office is the lead agency within the United States Government for coordinating efforts to detect and intercept radiological and nuclear devices that threaten to come into the United States. DNDO coordinates these efforts through an interagency system and a collaborative framework known as the global nuclear detection architecture, which DNDO is responsible for implementing domestically.

DNDO works with other Department of Homeland Security components, including Customs and Border Protection, as well as State and local law en-

forcement to provide these entities with the equipment and training which is needed to interdict radiological or nuclear material before it can enter into the United States.

DNDO has had its share of struggles in the past, but over the past several years it has made significant improvements from top to bottom and today is one of the best functioning components in the Department of Homeland Security. We have done the oversight. According to an internal review that was done by the Department, this actual division has the highest morale of any department in Homeland Security. They are to be commended for their good work.

This legislation looks to build on the momentum that has been created by making modest improvements to better help DNDO carry out its mission. Specifically, H.R. 5629 strengthens DNDO's engagement with other DHS components and stakeholders and codifies acquisition procedures and guidelines to prevent the breakdowns that have occurred in the past.

Through my subcommittee's oversight, the gentlewoman from New York and I have had the ability to determine that performing the joint interagency review of the global nuclear detection architecture annually was not necessary, so H.R. 5629 also changes the review to require it every 2 years instead. DNDO has advised us that by making that small change, DHS could save up to \$800,000. I think it is important to be fiscal stewards of the dollars that are under our oversight. This accomplishes that.

This legislation also codifies and strengthens the Securing the Cities program, a program to enhance the ability to detect and prevent radiological or nuclear attacks in high-risk U.S. cities. This program has been very successful in building up the resources of New York City and is being expanded to the national capital region and Los Angeles and Long Beach.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to build on the capacity of the Department of Homeland Security to protect the homeland against such an attack.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5629, the Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014.

The bill under consideration today would essentially codify important existing authorities and programs within the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, or DNDO as it is known.

Congress has long emphasized the need to detect and interdict smuggled nuclear radiological material before it enters the United States, funding in-

vestments in nuclear detection domestically and abroad.

Since 2001, the Department of Homeland Security has adopted a strategy of securing the border and ports through the use of radiation portal monitors and nonintrusive imaging equipment. Under the leadership of Dr. Huban Gowadia, DNDO leads the Department's efforts at developing, testing, and evaluating next-generation detection equipment.

For the record, this measure is being considered today outside regular order, without any formal legislative action taken on it in committee. Given that we are in the waning days of the 113th Congress, I support bypassing regular order so that the House is afforded the opportunity to consider this legislation. The timing is important, as the Secretary is expected to transmit to Congress analysis about how efforts at addressing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats could be streamlined as part of the “unity of effort” campaign.

I would note that in advance of the introduction of H.R. 5629, the subcommittee on which I serve as ranking member did conduct an oversight hearing in July where we received wide-ranging testimony about DNDO's programs and activities from the Department and the Government Accountability Office. Testimony from GAO underscored DNDO's historical challenges with the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, or ASP, program.

Back in 2006, one of the urgent, initial activities of DNDO when it was stood up was the development and placement of technology to detect illicit nuclear materials and devices that could be shipped in cargo entering the United States. The plan was for advanced spectroscopic portals to be installed at all U.S. ports and selected border crossings to screen cargo shipments for nuclear materials. That acquisition turned out to be a debacle, with DNDO moving forward on acquisition decisions well before the technology had been demonstrated to live up to its promise. Those missteps cost taxpayers billions of dollars. Subsequently, the ASP program was canceled.

The current DNDO leadership and, for that matter, DHS leadership seem to have taken these tough lessons to heart and put in place some significant new processes and controls in the acquisitions process to help avoid another such debacle.

One of the important features of this bill is the authorization of the Securing the Cities program. This program represents a real success for DNDO. Under the Securing the Cities program, DNDO works with local State, city, and tribal leaders to bolster technical nuclear detection capabilities, nuclear forensic efforts, and coordination of nonconventional threats. As a New

Yorker, I have special interest in this program, which has done so much to help keep my city secure from non-conventional terrorist threats.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his bipartisan approach in developing this language and look forward to working with him in the future on this important program.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my partner on this subcommittee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN). You have been a great collaborator and friend to me on this committee. Together, we have amassed a record of bipartisanship to be proud of, particularly in the area of cybersecurity. I wish you well in all of your future endeavors, and I thank you once again.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 5629, the Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, after my remarks, I will insert into the RECORD an exchange of letters between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to also take a moment to thank the ranking member for her engagement and collaboration on the many issues that we had the opportunity to work on together, to share this collaboration and engagement of important matters before our Committee on Homeland Security, particularly work that we were able to do, as you have identified, on cybersecurity and, I think, also on chemical facilities and the protection which is so important to our homeland in that area as well. I have genuinely enjoyed the collaboration and look forward to hoping that we not only pass the bills that we have before this Congress, but that we can continue to work together into the future.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 1, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 5629, the "Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act." The bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive further consideration of this bill in Committee, notwithstanding any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science,

Space, and Technology. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

This waiver is also given with the understanding that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 5629 as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5629, the "Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act." I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral on this legislation, your Committee is not diminishing or altering its jurisdiction.

I also concur with you that forgoing action on this bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I will include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANKFORD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5629, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3410) to amend the Homeland Se-

curity Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic pulses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3410

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act" or "CIPA".

SEC. 2. EMP PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121) is amended—

(1) in section 2 (6 U.S.C. 101), by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(6a) EMP.—The term 'EMP' means—

"(A) an electromagnetic pulse caused by intentional means, including acts of terrorism; and

"(B) a geomagnetic disturbance caused by solar storms or other naturally occurring phenomena.";

(2) in title V (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 526. NATIONAL PLANNING SCENARIOS AND EDUCATION.

"The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable—

"(1) include in national planning scenarios the threat of EMP events; and

"(2) conduct outreach to educate owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners, and emergency responders at all levels of government of the threat of EMP events.";

(3) in title III (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 318. EMP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of domestic preparedness and response, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in consultation with other relevant agencies and departments of the Federal Government and relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure, shall, to the extent practicable, conduct research and development to mitigate the consequences of EMP events.

"(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and development under subsection (a) shall include the following:

"(1) An objective scientific analysis of the risks to critical infrastructures from a range of EMP events.

"(2) Determination of the critical national security assets and vital civic utilities and infrastructures that are at risk from EMP events.

"(3) An evaluation of emergency planning and response technologies that would address the findings and recommendations of experts, including those of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack.

"(4) An analysis of technology options that are available to improve the resiliency of critical infrastructure to EMP.

"(5) The restoration and recovery capabilities of critical infrastructure under differing levels of damage and disruption from various EMP events.";

(4) in section 201(d) (6 U.S.C. 121(d)), by adding at the end the following:

"(26)(A) Prepare and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate—

“(i) a recommended strategy to protect and prepare the critical infrastructure of the American homeland against EMP events, including from acts of terrorism; and

“(ii) biennial updates on the status of the recommended strategy.

“(B) The recommended strategy shall—

“(i) be based on findings of the research and development conducted under section 318;

“(ii) be developed in consultation with the relevant Federal sector-specific agencies (as defined under Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7) for critical infrastructures;

“(iii) be developed in consultation with the relevant sector coordinating councils for critical infrastructures; and

“(iv) include a classified annex as needed.

“(C) The Secretary may, if appropriate, incorporate the recommended strategy into a broader recommendation developed by the Department to help protect and prepare critical infrastructure from terrorism and other threats if, as incorporated, the strategy complies with subparagraph (B).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of the items relating to title V the following:

“Sec. 526. National planning scenarios and education.”;

and

(2) by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following:

“Sec. 318. EMP research and development.”.

(c) DEADLINE FOR RECOMMENDED STRATEGY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the recommended strategy required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(4) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act describing the progress made in, and an estimated date by which the Department of Homeland Security will have completed—

(1) including EMP (as defined in the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)) threats in national planning scenarios;

(2) research and development described in the amendment made by subsection (a)(3);

(3) development of the comprehensive plan required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(4); and

(4) outreach to educate owners and operators of critical infrastructure, emergency planners and emergency responders at all levels of government regarding the threat of EMP events.

SEC. 3. NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to grant any regulatory authority.

SEC. 4. NO NEW AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act, including the amendments made by this Act, may be carried out only by using funds appropriated under the authority of other laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3410, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, or CIPA.

In 1962, the United States conducted a test named Starfish Prime, where the military detonated a 1.4-megaton thermonuclear bomb about 25 miles above Johnston Atoll in the Pacific. In space, six American, British, and Soviet satellites suffered damage, and 800 miles away in Hawaii, burglar alarms sounded, streetlights blinked out, and phones, radios, and televisions went dead. While only 1 percent of the existing streetlights were affected, it became clear that electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, could cause significant damage.

EMP is simply a burst of electromagnetic radiation that results from certain types of high-energy explosions or from a suddenly fluctuating magnetic field. An EMP can be generated by nuclear weapons from naturally occurring sources such as solar storms or specialized nonnuclear EMP weapons. An EMP event could range from a small-scale incident, with little or no permanent damage, to a large-scale event, with dire consequences. In fact, a successful large-scale EMP event could damage electrical power systems, electronics, and information systems, and these effects could cascade into other interdependent infrastructures, such as telecommunications, gas, and water.

Repeated studies, including by the Congressional EMP Commission and Lloyd's of London, have warned that the U.S. electric grid is vulnerable to damage from EMP events, that there is a significant risk, and that we need to be better prepared. H.R. 3410 takes commonsense steps to address the EMP threat. Specifically, this legislation compels the Department of Homeland Security to include EMP events in their national planning scenarios, conduct research to mitigate the consequences of an EMP event, develop a recommended strategy to protect critical infrastructure, and perform outreach to raise awareness of the threat.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3410, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3410, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, recently, there has been increased interest in bolstering the resilience of our Nation's electrical power distribution and delivery system. In particular, there is growing interest in looking at the damage that could naturally occur to that system through powerful weather storms and geomagnetic disturbances, as well as through intentional and malicious physical and cyber attacks.

Earlier this Congress, the House approved legislation authored by my committee colleague and neighbor, Mr. PAYNE, to broadly research the threats to our electric grid. Today, we have an opportunity to foster progress on low-probability but high-consequence threats to the grid: electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, and geomagnetic disturbances, or GMD.

Today, our Nation's power system operates at such a high level of reliability that any major outage, either caused by heavy weather storms, operational errors, or sabotage, makes headlines. Our transmission system is the most complex and extensive of any system on the globe, consisting mainly of transformers, switches, transmission towers and lines, control centers, and computer controls.

The main risk for weather-related damage or a terrorist attack is a widespread power outage that lasts for an extended period of time. The damage that such an outage could have to the welfare of our citizens and economy is hard to measure, but it would certainly be very significant.

With that in mind, H.R. 3410 seeks to gain ground against this homeland security challenge. It does so by directing the Department of Homeland Security to include EMP and GMD in national planning scenarios; conduct outreach to critical infrastructure owners and operators, emergency planners, and emergency responders on the threats posed; conduct targeted research; and develop a strategy for addressing the threats.

I am disappointed that the bill provides no new resources to the Department to carry out these activities, but I am appreciative of the majority's willingness to work with me to refine the language to provide needed flexibility to the Department in how it carries out these activities.

That said, since H.R. 3410 had to bypass regular order to be considered here today, we did not have the time to include some small but key refinements. Specifically, the definitions in this bill for electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, and geomagnetic, or GMD, would benefit from further fine-tuning down the line so risk of these two distinct events being conflated is avoided.

An EMP is an electromagnetic pulse caused by intentional means, such as an act of war or terrorism. A GMD is a geomagnetic disturbance caused by

solar storms or other naturally occurring phenomena. While some have gotten in the habit of calling them both EMPs, they are not the same, thus requiring differing mitigation and resiliency responses.

Like my colleagues Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. FRANKS, I am very concerned about the potential impact and the types of threats posed by EMPs and GMDs. However, I think we should take care to make clear the distinct differences between the two.

We also know that public-private partnerships are essential to addressing the challenge of fully understanding the threats caused by EMPs and GMDs, especially because the overwhelming majority of our electric grid is privately held by large investor-owned utilities, or is part of the rural electric cooperatives systems or members of the American Public Power network that represents not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

I would note that the Department currently has a variety of planning efforts for solar weather geomagnetic disturbance events and other electromagnetic pulse damage under its all-hazards risk planning, including research on technologies to improve resiliency in the electric grid sector.

Additionally, the Department's science and technology directorate has cosponsored with private utilities an exercise in a fast-turnaround transformer replacement project. This effort is known as the Recovery Transformer Project, and it hopes to increase the resiliency of the transmission power grid through the use of more mobile and modular transformers.

Again, I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Chairman MEEHAN for working with me. I also thank Representative FRANKS, who has been a tireless and relentless proponent of this legislative measure to protect our Nation's electrical infrastructure. He is internationally known for his unwavering pursuit of this critical concern, and over the past few years has been viewed as a go-to legislator on protecting our Nation's infrastructure. It has been a real pleasure to engage in a moment of bipartisan interaction, particularly on a matter of such great import nationally and internationally, and I thank the gentleman.

As we enter the waning days of the 113th Congress, I sincerely hope this measure gets enacted into law. But in the event that it does not, I look forward to working with the majority on advancing this bill through regular order next Congress to ensure a more robust examination of the bill's impact on the Department and on industry.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MIKE MCCAUL, Subcommittee Chairman PAT MEEHAN, and, of course, Ranking Member YVETTE CLARKE for their principled and unwavering leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor. I was touched by the gentlelady's words as well. I would also especially like to personally thank Chairman PETE SESSIONS, the sole original cosponsor of this bill, for being a tireless champion of protecting our Nation's critical infrastructure against EMP.

Mr. Speaker, back in August of 2003, a large section of our electric grid was knocked out across the Eastern United States. Fifty million people were affected after 21 power plants shut down in just 3 minutes. Office workers streamed into parking lots, and many commuters were stranded inside their trains. In a matter of moments, those things that make up our critical infrastructure, from the electric grid to water pumps to cell phone service to computer systems, were disrupted. Life suddenly changed that day in New York, Mr. Speaker, as well as in Cleveland, Detroit, and all the way into Canada. In New York City alone, this short blackout was estimated to cost more than a half-billion dollars.

Mr. Speaker, a worst-case natural or manmade electromagnetic pulse—EMP—event represents a dangerous threat that could have a prolonged catastrophic impact on our electric grid—our most critical and our most interdependent infrastructure.

There are at least 11 major government reports and studies describing our vulnerabilities to electromagnetic pulses. Our Defense Department has wisely hardened many of our most critical defense assets like our strategic nuclear triad and our missile defense systems. However, our civilian grid remains fundamentally unprotected against severe EMP.

Whether catalyzed by non-nuclear intentional electromagnetic interference, a major solar storm, or a high-altitude nuclear blast, EMP is an invisible force of ionized particles with the potential to overwhelm and destroy our present electrical power grids, which would profoundly impact our civilization.

The National Intelligence University of the United States recently translated an Iranian military doctrine called "Passive Defense" which referenced the use of nuclear EMP as a weapon more than 20 times. This doctrine stresses that electrical grids are vital to national existence. It includes a formula for calculating the value of electric power plants and for prioritizing the targeting of electric grid components and other infrastructures.

Mr. Speaker, we know all too well the Obama administration has just extended talks with the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, allowing

them even more time in their inexorable march toward a nuclear weapons capability.

After the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security was founded. It created a Presidentially-appointed position for an Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection. Among the Assistant Secretary's main duties is the responsibility to "develop a comprehensive national plan for securing the key resources and critical infrastructure of the United States, including power production, generation, and distribution systems."

Yet 12 years later, Mr. Speaker, no such plan is in place, and our Nation's critical infrastructure, including those key resources like power production, generation, and distribution systems, are still vulnerable to large-scale blackouts from severe electromagnetic pulse and geomagnetic disturbances.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, we are here this night to pass the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, which, if signed into law, will represent the first time in history that Congress will be specifically addressing this dangerous threat of electromagnetic pulse. This legislation will enhance the DHS threat assessments for EMP through research and reporting requirements. It will also help the United States prevent and prepare for such an event by including large-scale blackouts into existing national planning scenarios, including educational awareness for the first responders, all to protect the critical infrastructure. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it will require specific plans for protecting and recovering the electric grid and other critical infrastructure from a dangerous electromagnetic pulse event.

Mr. Speaker, there is a moment in the life of nearly every problem when it is big enough to be seen by reasonable people and still small enough to be addressed. Those of us in this Chamber, and across America, live in a time where there still may be opportunity for the free world to address and mitigate the vulnerability that naturally occurring or weaponized EMP represents to the mechanisms of our civilization. This is our moment.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while the threat of an EMP or GMD event is real, I believe we need to use fully informed risk-based, scientific, and, frankly, commonsense plans and exercises to give us a clearer picture of how to prevent and respond in the event of an EMP or GMD incident.

This bill will give Congress a more complete understanding of preparedness, response, and recovery activities related to any type of EMP or geomagnetic disturbance incident, and could provide a thoughtful background

that can assist the Nation's response and resiliency if high-impact, grid-related events do occur.

With that, I urge Members to support H.R. 3410, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter exchange between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks by once again thanking the gentlewoman from New York for all of her bipartisan work on the important matters before this committee, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 1, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 3410, the "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act". The bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I recognize and appreciate the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive further consideration of this bill in Committee, notwithstanding any provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This waiver, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

This waiver is also given with the understanding that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 3410 as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,

Washington, DC, December 1, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3410, the "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act." I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral on this legislation, your Committee is not diminishing or altering its jurisdiction.

I also concur with you that forgoing action on this bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-

nology with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I will include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act. Over the past 10 years, the United States has seen an unprecedented expansion of electronic communication and commerce that boosts our economy and facilitates entrepreneurship. However, this technology is also susceptible to new types of potential threats, such as Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP), that could dramatically disrupt electronic activity or severely damage our electrical grids.

Due to the potential of an EMP threat, I joined Congressman TRENT FRANKS in introducing H.R. 3410—the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act. This legislation directs the Department of Homeland Security to enhance our nation's threat assessments of EMPs and to plan how to best protect and recover after an EMP occurs. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Act is the first step towards getting the U.S. closer to protecting ourselves from a potentially catastrophic nationwide blackout. It is my hope that this legislation will promote a national dialogue about the threat of EMPs and ensure that we are adequately prepared to protect our nation's critical infrastructure.

I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL for his important work on this legislation, as well as my dear friend, Congressman TRENT FRANKS for his leadership. Additionally, I want to thank Frank Gaffney, the Founder and President of the Center for Security Policy, for his policy expertise and much needed efforts to educate and spread awareness regarding the potential threats posed by an Electromagnetic Pulse. I strongly support the passage of this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3410, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

NATIONAL LABORATORIES MEAN NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3438) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize use of grants under the Urban

Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program to work in conjunction with a Department of Energy national laboratory.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3438

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Laboratories Mean National Security Act".

SEC. 2. USE OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES.

Section 2008(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(a)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting "including by working in conjunction with a National Laboratory (as defined in section 2(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801(3))," after "plans,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill simply clarifies that State and local governments and emergency management officials may use existing FEMA State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative funds, known as UASI, to work with a national lab or research facility.

H.R. 3438 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by inserting a clarification into the "allowable use" section of the Homeland Security Grant Program Title. Providing this clarification will allow these State and local first responders to leverage the expertise at national labs, should they choose to do so.

This is a simple, good government measure that will help maximize the use of limited Federal grant dollars.

This bill will allow State and local officials to cut through FEMA's red tape, which makes it harder for first responders to work with Federal national labs and make the best decisions for their homeland security needs. This bill will eliminate hoops that State and local grant recipients have had to go through in order to gain access to this expertise.

H.R. 3438 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill. It is similar to a bill sponsored by former Congressman Dan Lungren in the 112th Congress, which passed the House by voice vote.

I want to thank my colleague from California (Mr. SWALWELL) for continuing to work on this issue, and I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 3438, the National Laboratories Mean National Security Act, legislation that I have introduced that would expand the way in which national laboratories can help protect our homeland.

I want to thank the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for allowing this bipartisan bill to move to the floor.

I also want to thank my colleague on the committee, a fellow freshman, Mrs. BROOKS, for working with me on this bill. Mrs. BROOKS, I understand, is leaving the committee and will be going to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. We are going to miss her.

I have enjoyed working with you also as a fellow prosecutor and as someone who has been an active participant in the United Solutions Caucus, trying to find ways that freshmen, Republican and Democrat, can work together.

We are fortunate in this country to have a system of Department of Energy national laboratories, at which some of the brightest scientists in our country can work on some of the most complex issues of our time.

They are keeping our national nuclear defense secure, advancing clean energy sources, and changing ways to protect us from the threat of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear terrorist attacks. Now it is time to make sure that we maximize the way that our national laboratories and the gifted minds who work there can protect and secure the homeland.

I am honored to represent two of these national laboratories, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories, and I look forward to representing them again in the 114th Congress.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of employees at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and our laboratories across the country for their commitment to country and their faithfulness to science and advancing human progress.

Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and the remaining DOE labs are truly unique institutions. One part of their uniqueness is their operating structure. This structure has caused an issue, and that is what this bill is designed to fix. It is to maximize and utilize the national

laboratories in every way possible to keep us safe and secure at home.

Now, to maximize efficiency and agility at our national laboratories, almost all the laboratories are what is called government-owned, contractor-operated—GOCO. While the Federal government owns the labs, they are operated by private sector organizations. Only one is government-owned and government-operated.

Here is the issue. The Department of Homeland Security issues millions of dollars in grants every year to State and local agencies.

Some State and local homeland security grant recipients have expressed uncertainty about whether or not they can work with Department of Energy national laboratories on homeland security issues with these grant funding sources.

As Members know, FEMA offers grant programs, like the Urban Area Security Initiative, to help States, local governments, and other public servant entities to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks.

In fact, in my district, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, led by Sheriff Greg Ahern, uses this grant, the UASI grant, to support Urban Shield, which is a comprehensive, region-wide preparedness exercise that prepares first responders in the case of a natural or manmade disaster.

The confusion for some recipients may have been caused by the fact that they believe that they cannot use government-owned, contractor-operated laboratories with Federal funds. FEMA may have been under a similar impression or been unclear to recipients on this point as well.

These concerns are misplaced. There is no prohibition against using these funds. My bill will make sure, once and for all, that we use and we fully maximize our national laboratories and make sure that every recipient knows these dollars can be used there.

My bill would clarify the issue by explicitly including in law DOE national labs as entities with which FEMA homeland security grant recipients could work.

Providing this clarification would allow our DOE national labs to fully use their knowledge and experience to improve our homeland security. For example, at Sandia National Laboratories, they are providing modeling and simulations to help jurisdictions develop threat hazard identification risk assessments.

Lawrence Livermore houses the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center, which provides tools that help us predict and map how chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats might spread in the atmosphere.

H.R. 3438 is an important clarification in the law which will allow our scientists at Sandia, Lawrence Liver-

more, and across the country to more fully contribute to homeland security.

As Mrs. BROOKS pointed out, it is also a bipartisan idea, and it is a measure that was sponsored by former Republican Congressman and former prosecutor Dan Lungren, so I think it is fitting that it takes two prosecutors to bring it back to the floor here today to fix this. It passed in the last Congress by a voice vote.

Some of the best and brightest minds in the world are toiling away right now at our national laboratories. Today, let's make sure that nothing stands in the way of maximizing these public servants' ability to keep our country safe.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 3438.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill, and I too want to thank my colleague from California for picking up the torch that Congressman Lungren started that will permit this very important security coordination between our first responders, who work day in and day out on our behalf, and the national labs.

As the Congressman from California has so eloquently stated, they have such incredible scientific expertise that needs to be shared with our first responders, and there is much good that can come from the passage of this bill.

While FEMA is very careful in the manner in which it administers its grant dollars, we believe that this is one of those commonsense pieces of legislation that will make it much more efficient to allow those first responders to gain the incredible knowledge from our national labs, and so I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3438.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANKFORD) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5629, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3438, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC NUCLEAR SECURITY ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5629) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 11, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

YEAS—374

Adams	Camp	Crenshaw
Amodel	Capito	Crowley
Bachus	Capps	Cuellar
Barber	Capuano	Culberson
Barletta	Cárdenas	Cummings
Barr	Carney	Daines
Barrow (GA)	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Barton	Carter	Davis, Rodney
Beatty	Cartwright	DeFazio
Becerra	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Benishek	Castro (TX)	Delaney
Bentivolio	Chabot	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Chaffetz	DelBene
Bilirakis	Cielline	Denham
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Dent
Black	Clarke (NY)	DeSantis
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	DesJarlais
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Deutch
Bonamici	Clyburn	Diaz-Balart
Boustany	Coble	Dingell
Brady (PA)	Coffman	Doggett
Brady (TX)	Cohen	Doyle
Braley (IA)	Cole	Duffy
Brat	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Conaway	Edwards
Brooks (IN)	Connolly	Ellison
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Ellmers
Buchanan	Cook	Engel
Bucshon	Cooper	Enyart
Burgess	Costa	Eshoo
Bustos	Cotton	Esty
Butterfield	Courtney	Farenthold
Byrne	Cramer	Farr
Calvert	Crawford	Fattah

Fincher	Long	Rogers (MI)
Fitzpatrick	Lowenthal	Rokita
Fleischmann	Lowey	Rooney
Flores	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Forbes	Luetkemeyer	Ross
Fortenberry	Lujan Grisham	Rothfus
Foster	(NM)	Roybal-Allard
Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray	Royce
Franks (AZ)	(NM)	Ruiz
Frelinghuysen	Lummis	Runyan
Fudge	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Gabbard	Maffei	Ryan (OH)
Gallego	Maloney,	Ryan (WI)
Garamendi	Carolyn	Salmon
Garcia	Maloney, Sean	Sánchez, Linda
Gardner	Marchant	T.
Garrett	Marino	Sanford
Gibbs	Matheson	Sarbanes
Gibson	Matsui	Scalise
Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Schakowsky
Goodlatte	McCauley	Schiff
Gosar	McClintock	Schneider
Gowdy	McCollum	Schwartz
Granger	McDermott	Schweikert
Graves (GA)	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Grayson	McHenry	Scott, Austin
Green, Al	McKinley	Scott, David
Green, Gene	McMorris	Sensenbrenner
Griffin (AR)	Rodgers	Serrano
Griffith (VA)	McNerney	Sessions
Grimm	Meadows	Sewell (AL)
Guthrie	Meehan	Shea-Porter
Hanabusa	Meeks	Sherman
Hanna	Meng	Shimkus
Harper	Messer	Shuster
Harris	Mica	Simpson
Hartzler	Michaud	Sinema
Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)	Sires
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
Heck (NV)	Miller, George	Smith (MO)
Heck (WA)	Moore	Smith (NE)
Hensarling	Mullin	Smith (NJ)
Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney	Smith (TX)
Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Smith (WA)
Himes	Murphy (PA)	Southerland
Hinojosa	Nadler	Speier
Holding	Napolitano	Stewart
Honda	Neal	Stivers
Hoyer	Neugebauer	Stutzman
Hudson	Noem	Swalwell (CA)
Huelskamp	Nolan	Takano
Huffman	Norcross	Terry
Huizenga (MI)	Nugent	Thompson (CA)
Hunter	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
Hurt	Nunnelee	Thompson (PA)
Israel	O'Rourke	Thornberry
Issa	Olson	Tiberi
Jackson Lee	Palazzo	Tipton
Jeffries	Pallone	Tonko
Jenkins	Pascrell	Tsongas
Johnson (GA)	Paulsen	Turner
Johnson (OH)	Payne	Upton
Johnson, E. B.	Pearce	Valadao
Johnson, Sam	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Jolly	Perry	Vargas
Jordan	Peters (CA)	Veasey
Kaptur	Peters (MI)	Vela
Keating	Peterson	Velázquez
Kelly (IL)	Petri	Visclosky
Kelly (PA)	Pingree (ME)	Walberg
Kennedy	Pittenger	Walden
Killdeer	Pitts	Walorski
Kilmer	Pocan	Walz
Kind	Poe (TX)	Wasserman
King (IA)	Polis	Schultz
King (NY)	Pompeo	Waters
Kirkpatrick	Posey	Webster (FL)
Kline	Price (GA)	Welch
Kuster	Price (NC)	Wenstrup
Lamborn	Quigley	Whitfield
Lance	Rahall	Williams
Langevin	Rangel	Wilson (FL)
Lankford	Reed	Wilson (SC)
Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Wittman
Larson (CT)	Renacci	Wolf
Latham	Ribble	Womack
Latta	Rice (SC)	Woodall
Levin	Rigell	Yarmuth
Lewis	Roby	Yoder
LoBiondo	Roe (TN)	Young (AK)
Loeb sack	Rogers (AL)	Young (IN)
Lofgren	Rogers (KY)	

NAYS—11

Amash	Jones	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Labrador	Westmoreland
Foxx	Massie	Yoho
Gohmert	Stockman	

NOT VOTING—49

Aderholt	Hahn	Negrete McLeod
Bachmann	Hall	Owens
Bass	Holt	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Horsford	Perlmutter
Bishop (UT)	Hultgren	Richmond
Broun (GA)	Joyce	Rohrabacher
Brown (FL)	Kingston	Roskam
Campbell	Kinzing (IL)	Rush
Cassidy	LaMalfa	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu	Lee (CA)	Schock
Clay	Lipinski	Schrader
Davis, Danny	McAllister	Tierney
Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Titus
Gerlach	McIntyre	Wagner
Graves (MO)	McKeon	Waxman
Grijalva	Miller, Gary	
Gutiérrez	Moran	

□ 1855

Messrs. YOHO, STOCKMAN, FLEMING, and WEBER of Texas changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. MULVANEY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES MEAN NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3438) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize use of grants under the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program to work in conjunction with a Department of Energy national laboratory, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]

YEAS—386

Adams	Black	Butterfield
Amash	Blackburn	Byrne
Amodel	Blumenauer	Calvert
Bachus	Bonamici	Camp
Barber	Boustany	Capito
Barletta	Brady (PA)	Capps
Barr	Brady (TX)	Capuano
Barrow (GA)	Braley (IA)	Cárdenas
Barton	Brat	Carney
Beatty	Bridenstine	Carson (IN)
Becerra	Brooks (AL)	Carter
Benishek	Brooks (IN)	Cartwright
Bentivolio	Brownley (CA)	Castor (FL)
Bera (CA)	Buchanan	Castro (TX)
Bilirakis	Bucshon	Chabot
Bishop (GA)	Burgess	Chaffetz
Bishop (UT)	Bustos	Cielline

Clark (MA)	Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)	Tsongas	Webster (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)	Turner	Welch
Clawson (FL)	Heck (NV)	Miller, George	Southerland	Upton	Wenstrup
Cleaver	Heck (WA)	Moore	Speier	Valadao	Westmoreland
Clyburn	Hensarling	Mullin	Stewart	Van Hollen	Whitfield
Coble	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney	Stivers	Vargas	Williams
Coffman	Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Stockman	Veasey	Wilson (FL)
Cohen	Himes	Murphy (PA)	Stutzman	Vela	Wilson (SC)
Cole	Hinojosa	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez	Wittman
Collins (GA)	Holding	Napolitano	Takano	Visclosky	Wolf
Collins (NY)	Honda	Neal	Terry	Walberg	Womack
Conaway	Hoyer	Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)	Walden	Woodall
Connolly	Hudson	Noem	Thompson (MS)	Walorski	Yarmuth
Conyers	Huelskamp	Nolan	Thompson (PA)	Walz	Yoder
Cook	Huffman	Norcross	Thornberry	Wasserman	Yoho
Cooper	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent	Tiberi	Schultz	Young (AK)
Costa	Hunter	Nunes	Tipton	Waters	Young (IN)
Cotton	Hurt	Nunnelee	Tonko	Weber (TX)	
Courtney	Israel	O'Rourke			
Cramer	Issa	Olson			
Crawford	Jackson Lee	Palazzo	Aderholt	Hahn	Negrete McLeod
Crenshaw	Jeffries	Pallone	Bachmann	Hall	Owens
Crowley	Jenkins	Pascarell	Bass	Holt	Pastor (AZ)
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Paulsen	Bishop (NY)	Horsford	Perlmutter
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Payne	Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rangel
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce	Brown (FL)	Kingston	Richmond
Daines	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi	Campbell	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher
Davis (CA)	Jolly	Perry	Cassidy	LaMalfa	Roskam
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Peters (CA)	Chu	Lee (CA)	Rush
DeFazio	Jordan	Peters (MI)	Clay	Lipinski	Sanchez, Loretta
DeGette	Joyce	Peterson	Davis, Danny	McAllister	Schock
Delaney	Kaptur	Petri	Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
DeLauro	Keating	Pingree (ME)	Gerlach	McIntyre	Tierney
DelBene	Kelly (IL)	Pittenger	Graves (MO)	McKeon	Titus
Denham	Kelly (PA)	Pitts	Grijalva	Miller, Gary	Wagner
Dent	Kennedy	Pocan	Gutiérrez	Moran	Waxman
DeSantis	Kildee	Poe (TX)			
DesJarlais	Kilmer	Polis			
Deutch	Kind	Pompeo			
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Posey			
Dingell	King (NY)	Price (GA)			
Doggett	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)			
Doyle	Kline	Quigley			
Duffy	Kuster	Rahall			
Duncan (SC)	Labrador	Reed			
Duncan (TN)	Lamborn	Reichert			
Edwards	Lance	Renacci			
Ellison	Langevin	Ribble			
Ellmers	Lankford	Rice (SC)			
Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rigell			
Enyart	Larson (CT)	Roby			
Eshoo	Latham	Roe (TN)			
Esty	Latta	Rogers (AL)			
Farenthold	Levin	Rogers (KY)			
Farr	Lewis	Rogers (MI)			
Fattah	LoBiondo	Rokita			
Fincher	Loebach	Rooney			
Fitzpatrick	Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen			
Fleischmann	Long	Ross			
Fleming	Lowenthal	Rothfus			
Flores	Lowe	Roybal-Allard			
Forbes	Lucas	Royce			
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Ruiz			
Foster	Lujan Grisham	Runyan			
Fox	(NM)	Ruppersberger			
Frankel (FL)	Lujan, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)			
Franks (AZ)	(NM)	Ryan (WI)			
Frelinghuysen	Lummis	Salmon			
Fudge	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda			
Gabbard	Maffei	T.			
Galleo	Maloney,	Sanford			
Garamendi	Carolyn	Sarbanes			
Garcia	Maloney, Sean	Scalise			
Gardner	Marchant	Schakowsky			
Garrett	Marino	Schiff			
Gibbs	Massie	Schneider			
Gibson	Matheson	Schwartz			
Gingrey (GA)	Matsui	Schweikert			
Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)	Scott (VA)			
Goodlatte	McCaul	Scott, Austin			
Gosar	McClintock	Scott, David			
Gowdy	McCollum	Sensenbrenner			
Granger	McDermott	Serrano			
Graves (GA)	McGovern	Sessions			
Grayson	McHenry	Sewell (AL)			
Green, Al	McKinley	Shea-Porter			
Green, Gene	McMorris	Sherman			
Griffin (AR)	Rodgers	Shimkus			
Griffith (VA)	McNerney	Shuster			
Grimm	Meadows	Simpson			
Guthrie	Meehan	Sinema			
Hanabusa	Meeks	Sires			
Hanna	Meng	Slaughter			
Harper	Messer	Smith (MO)			
Harris	Mica	Smith (NE)			
Hartzler	Michaud	Smith (NJ)			

NOT VOTING—48

Aderholt	Hahn	Negrete McLeod
Bachmann	Hall	Owens
Bass	Holt	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Horsford	Perlmutter
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Kingston	Richmond
Campbell	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher
Cassidy	LaMalfa	Roskam
Chu	Lee (CA)	Rush
Clay	Lipinski	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis, Danny	McAllister	Schock
Duckworth	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Gerlach	McIntyre	Tierney
Graves (MO)	McKeon	Titus
Grijalva	Miller, Gary	Wagner
Gutiérrez	Moran	Waxman

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO FUNDING FOR UNESCO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, there is once again an effort being undertaken by some in Congress to restore at least partial funding for UNESCO, despite being prohibited by U.S. law to do so.

In October of 2011, UNESCO chose to welcome a nonexistent State of Palestine to its membership. It did so, knowing that this would trigger U.S. laws that prohibit us from funding any entity at the U.N. that grants membership to the PLO; yet, since that law was triggered and funding was cut, the administration and some of its congressional lackeys have been attempting to circumvent and undermine this decades-old law.

As we continue to work to put together funding measures to take us past the pending fiscal deadline, I will oppose and fight all efforts to insert language into bills that would restore even a portion of funding to UNESCO or give the President authority to waive this provision of the law.

RECOGNIZING TIM SBRANTI

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Tim Sbranti as he completes his term tomorrow as mayor of our hometown, Dublin, California.

I have worked with Tim in many roles. He has been my high school teacher, coach, friend, and mentor. I have learned a lot from him over the years, but I felt most honored when I worked with him as his colleague on the Dublin City Council.

Tim served as mayor from 2008 to 2014. He presided over Dublin during some of our city's most trying and troubling economic times, but even during tough times, Tim's steady leadership led Dublin not just to a balanced budget, but a surplus, and enabled the city to open new parks and provide affordable housing to its residents.

Tim did all of this while working collaboratively with his colleagues. He always shared the successes and put Dublin first in every decision. Due in large part to Tim, Dublin was recognized as an All-America City by the National Civic League in 2011.

Thank you, Tim, for your years of leadership in Dublin. Our All-America City was lucky to have an all-American mayor.

SHALE GAS PRODUCTION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the United States Energy Information Administration published its Today in Energy report, which illustrated that shale gas provided the largest share of U.S. natural gas production in 2013.

According to the report, gross withdrawals from shale gas increased to 33 billion cubic feet in 2013, representing 40 percent of total natural gas production and surpassing production from nonshale gas wells.

According to EIA, production in Pennsylvania, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas accounted for 79 percent of the total shale gas extraction nationwide, and Pennsylvania has become the second largest shale gas-producing State.

I should note that, in 2007, shale gas made up just 8 percent of the total natural gas produced in the United States, with Texas alone counting for 63 percent of the total production nationally. Continuing a trend, production gains have enabled a decline in natural gas imports for the sixth straight year, reaching the lowest level since 1995.

Mr. Speaker, due to the innovation of private industry, our domestic energy resources are now easier to attain at a much lower cost, which is benefiting the American consumer and our Nation's economic competitiveness.

RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY 2014

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is World AIDS Day, and I am very pleased to come from a city where so many celebrated and commemorated the progress and challenges involved.

I want to thank the Thomas Street clinic. I have visited there and seen the treatment that is given. As well, I thank the AIDS Foundation, which has always been on the front lines providing information and resources. I also want to thank the Montrose Clinic.

World AIDS Day, started in 1988, is an enormously important day. I remember being here as a civilian in the United States Senate when the Ryan White Act was introduced by Senator Kennedy and the distinguished Senator from Utah.

So we are here today to say we have not done all that we need to do. PEPFAR has cared for millions around the world through the work that we have done here in the United States Congress. Deaths have declined, but yet HIV/AIDS and transmission from mothers to infants still exists. It is important to continue the work. We should not ignore the success or challenges.

I am very glad to work with organizations in my district, and I hope that funding in the omnibus or the appropriations process is not diminished in fighting to eliminate HIV/AIDS in our lifetime. I thank all of those who have sacrificed and lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and

international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the Obama Administration's goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation. The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County's HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients' visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS. We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends, relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

HONORING DR. MAY BERENBAUM

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. May Berenbaum for being named a recipient of the National Medal of Science.

Dr. Berenbaum is a world-class entomologist at the University of Illinois, whose exceptional contributions to insect research have earned her this top award which she received at the White House last month.

A leading voice on the issue of pollinator health, Dr. Berenbaum has been critical to policymakers and to peers alike. After all, we have pollinators to thank for one out of every three bites of food that we have, and we have Dr. May Berenbaum to thank for being a leading researcher and enthusiastic voice in helping us sustain the pollinator population.

As a supporter of the National Science Foundation research and agricultural research, I come to the floor today, Mr. Speaker, to again congratulate Dr. May Berenbaum. Our area is very proud of you for receiving this honor.

□ 1915

WORLD WAR II VETERAN JIM CARROLL RECEIVES KNIGHT OF THE LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bloomington, Minnesota, resident Jim Carroll, who was awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal by the government of France. That is the highest honor given by the government of France to a foreign national.

Jim was honored for his actions as a U.S. Army paratrooper during World War II. His first combat jump with the 101st Airborne Division was at Normandy Beach, where he helped secure a critical bridge. Jim then went on to fight in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge.

Jim Carroll's willingness to put his life in danger in service to our country and our allies is absolutely worthy of our respect and deserving of the special recognition.

After leaving the military, Jim married his wife, Effie, and moved to Bloomington, Minnesota, where he has lived now for 70 years.

Mr. Speaker, we are all thankful for Jim's service and congratulate him on receiving the French Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal.

AMERICAN-MADE MEANS AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Pennsylvania know that American-made means American jobs. Whether it is the medical device manufacturer that employs hundreds or the family small shop down the road, the jobs and products created by American businesses in our communities are what drives our economy.

December is Made in America Month and the perfect time for leaders in both parties to come together around commonsense policies that put American businesses and the American worker first.

The bipartisan Made in America Act is just that kind of policy. This legislation would connect American consumers to American manufacturers by creating a definitive, standardized labeling for American-made goods.

By incentivizing businesses and manufacturers to meet certain "Made in America" benchmarks for domestic production and providing consumers with reliable and easy-to-understand information, the Made in America Act can meet two very valuable goals: increasing American purchases of American goods and reshoring American businesses and American jobs.

Making it in America is crucial to ensuring better jobs and more opportunities for our families across the Nation so, during this Made in America Month, let's work together and let's get it done.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, "hands up, don't shoot" is a rallying cry of people all across America who are fed up with police violence in community after community, fed up with police violence in Ferguson, in Brooklyn, in Cleveland, in Oakland, in cities and counties and rural communities all across America.

So tonight the CBC will stand on the floor of the House of Representatives and, for the next 60 minutes, speak on the topic, "Black in America: What Does Ferguson Say About Where We Are and Where We Need to Go?"

People are fed up all across America because of the injustice involved in continuing to see young, unarmed, African American men killed as a result of a gunshot fired by a law enforcement officer.

People in America are fed up with a broken criminal justice system that continues to fail to deliver accountability when law enforcement officers engage in the excessive use of police force.

People are fed up with prosecutors who don't take seriously their obligation to deliver justice on behalf of the victims of police violence, and instead, as we recently saw down in Ferguson, Missouri, choose to act as the defense attorney for the law enforcement officer who pulled the trigger and killed Michael Brown.

People are fed up.

Now, this is a problem that Congress can't run away from, and the CBC stands here today to make sure that Congress runs toward the problem, that we come up with constructive solutions to breaking this cycle, this epidemic, this scourge of police violence all across America.

So I am pleased today that we have been joined by several of our distinguished colleagues, including the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, who, for the last 2 years, has led the charge on behalf of the CBC in dealing with issues of social and racial and economic justice. I am proud to serve under her. I am proud that she is on the floor today. We are thankful for her service.

Mr. Speaker, let me now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Cleveland, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very, very much. And I thank you, Congressman JEFFRIES, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour for the 113th Congress.

For your weekly advice, for your weekly message, I thank you. We owe you a debt of gratitude. It was a pleasure to have worked with you for these last 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, we are running out of patience. Last week, the Nation waited and hoped that justice would finally be served in the case of Michael Brown. We waited to hear our country say loud and clear: There are consequences for taking the lives of others.

We waited to hear some reassurance that Black and brown boys' lives do matter. But, again, we were terribly disappointed and discouraged.

The Ferguson grand jury's decision not to indict former Officer Darren Wilson was yet another slap in our face. It was a painful reminder that, just like with Trayvon Martin and Tamir Rice, and so many others, law enforcement officers kill our Black and brown men and boys without repercussions.

While some may see the grand jury's decision as the system working as it should, others witnessed what we believe was a blatant miscarriage of justice.

Where is the closure for Michael Brown's parents?

Where is the understanding for the outrage and desperation of the Black community?

The fact that our country, the greatest country in the world, remains mired in race relations issues in the year 2014 is an embarrassment. We really should consider taking a long look in the mirror before we go to other countries lecturing to them about the need for democracy and tolerance when, here at home, we are unable to fully address our own issues.

If we are to learn anything from the tragic death of Michael Brown, we must first acknowledge that we have a race issue that we are not addressing. We must have open, honest, transparent conversations about prejudice, racism, and racial threat. We must also lead conversations with law enforcement about transparency, accountability, and community policing.

I want to thank the President today for, once again, putting a focus on the need for community policing in our country.

Mr. Speaker, all lives have value. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to clearly communicate this message to our voters, our constituents, and our neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for her eloquent remarks.

People have asked all over the country, in some quarters, perhaps in the Congress, and in the city, why are people upset?

Well, you had an unarmed individual, Michael Brown, who had no criminal record, just graduated from high school, on his way to college, killed in what appears to be the excessive use of police force, left to lie in the hot August sun for 4½ hours.

Immediate response by the police chief is to engage in character assassination of the deceased, while refusing to release the name of the officer who pulled the trigger.

The Ferguson Police Department responds as if this was a military campaign on foreign soil, not in an American city.

The prosecutor decides to get involved and does a document dump; doesn't engage in responsible prosecutorial behavior; fails to ask for a specific charge; allows the officer to testify, unabated; doesn't point out inconsistencies between his initial telling of the events of that fateful day and what he said before the grand jury; and then announces all of this late at night, and behaves as if he was the defense attorney for Darren Wilson.

Why are people upset?

Those are just a few of the reasons.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the distinguished delegate from the District of Columbia, Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. I want to thank my good friend from New York for his leadership this evening—it is the kind of leadership he has provided ever since he has come to the Congress—and for the critique he has just offered.

But I come to the floor this afternoon to try to convert that critique into an understanding of the big picture. Demonstrations have been going on, even though we are days away from the day when the indictment did not come down.

In a country where you haven't seen demonstrations all across the United States for some time, why have demonstrations by young people broken out all across America?

There is a message here that comes from the demonstrations and from the words of the parents of Michael Brown. His father pleaded that Michael Brown not have died in vain. The people in the streets are there to see that Michael Brown did not die in vain; that probable cause, once again, becomes color blind, to see that, when a young Black man goes into the street, he is not consistently and constantly profiled because of the color of his skin.

These demonstrations show that issues of detention and stopping of Black men, especially Black men in the streets, has been simmering below the surface until this tragedy became a way for it to find an outlet.

The provocative stops in the street—Eric Holder, a former U.S. Attorney, now the Attorney General of the United States, has been stopped in the streets of the Nation's Capitol. And I

say to my good friends, this is a progressive city. I cannot imagine what it must be like across the United States.

A young Black man in St. Louis held up a poster, which is all about the big picture. It said: "We Are All Mike Brown."

When my son goes into the streets, he is Michael Brown. We want an America so that when he goes into the street, he is like everybody else until he does something wrong and there is probable cause to show it. That does not occur in any city, in any small hamlet in the United States today, and so, yes, this great tragedy has become a vehicle to express that grievance.

There are things that can be done. The President has just come forward with a request for an appropriation for body cameras, a small amount, 260-some million dollars. Body cameras work. We have found that when police have body cameras, they protect the police as well as protecting members of the public.

□ 1930

So as we come to grips with the fact that there was no bill, no indictment, I hope we will not lose our focus on the big picture, that we are, in essence, sending a message to police departments all over the United States.

Even though you think you are not doing it, what we are talking about is endemic throughout the United States. People are laying down in peaceful protest. Yes, they are blocking the streets. I must say, when I was a youngster in the civil rights movement, we tried not to inconvenience people; but, look, this is a wholly different day, and they mean to draw the attention of the entire public and, yes, of police around the United States to just how much of a festering sore unwarranted stops of people of color have been.

I thank my good friend from New York for leading this Special Order. I thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for leading us off to-night.

In the spirit of Michael Brown's father, who asked that his son not have died in vain, let us make sure that we support the President's request for a pilot program for providing cameras, that we send the message back home to our police departments, and that we work together to make probable cause colorblind.

I thank my good friend from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for her observations.

Mr. Speaker, we are here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus to have an open, honest, and direct dialogue with America.

In a democracy, there has to be a balance between effective law enforcement on the one hand and a healthy respect for the Constitution and the civil

rights of others, particularly of African Americans, on the other. If we are honest, we have not gotten that balance right, and as a result, we see young, unarmed, innocent African American men being gunned down in city after city in America, and we are here to say, "Enough is enough."

I am pleased now to yield to someone who has served this institution incredibly well as a Member of Congress, who has served the country well as a member of the military, the lion of Lenox Avenue, the distinguished gentleman from the great State of New York and the village of Harlem, Representative CHARLIE RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have never felt more proud of my colleague from New York, for the great leadership that he has provided, since his arrival in this august body.

This is such a great country, and I love it so much. I was raised in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, and when I graduated from law school, having been the only one in my family having gone to college, I think my mother said, "Thank you, Jesus," and I said something like, "Thanks for the Constitution, and thanks for being born in America."

Like anything else you love, if there is an illness, if there is a problem, you would want to know what can you do to cure it. How can you make it all that our country can be? How can we say that we have a cancer that, until we recognize that we do, then we don't really love the country?

How can we be able to say that White and Black in this country are equal and that those who work hard and live by the rules have the same opportunities as each other, when we know that we have this cancer that sometimes we are able to make the country do a lot better than it has since our people were the only ones who were actually brought here in chains?

I marched from Selma to Montgomery, and things that I never had the opportunity to dream—because equality never was on the list in my community—but if, as a result of this, I have lived long enough to see African American men and women be elected to local and State offices around this country, to come here and join with nine African American Members of Congress in 1970 and to walk tall and know that, in that short period of time, we have grown to over 40, 45 Members of Congress, does that mean that we have rid ourselves of the cancer? I think not.

How can we do it? It is by admitting that we do have that problem because, whether we are talking about Ferguson or Watts or Harlem or Bed-Stuy, until we admit that we have this illness and that we have this problem, then singling out the success of some of us in this country does not heal the wounds that have been left through the centuries of racial hatred and prejudice.

We have been able to say we were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, but the truth of the matter is our people have been in slavery more than we have been so-called free people, and the fact that they said that you are no longer a slave didn't mean that you were an American with all the rights and the privileges of it.

It hasn't been that long that I can remember my grandfather from Accomac, Virginia, talking about innocent people being lynched in Virginia, and it hasn't been that long that our people have been granted the constitutional right to—what—vote, and it hasn't been that long ago that they even said that our schools should be desegregated or the military desegregated.

Until we reach the point that African American parents don't have to tell their kids to act differently just because of their color, that they have to succumb to a type of conduct that you teach them, on one hand, to be a man and stand up for your rights, but if he is in uniform, then beg and plead and don't say anything that might irritate him—I think—I really believe—that the people who unconsciously don't know and don't care about the heavy weight that Black folks have carried in this country over the centuries that they were brought here cannot possibly love the country as much as they would if they were to say it was not a Ferguson problem, it is an American problem.

They should be able to ask what is it that they could do. I would humbly suggest that the first thing you do is to acknowledge that you have that problem.

Some people may talk about payment for restitution for past crimes committed against human beings, but that restitution could be the ability to say that we are going to make certain that people of color in this country would be able to have access to the same type of education, live where they want to live, compete against anybody for the job and not feel that they are inferior because people have been taught that, just because they have a different complexion, that they are superior, and they think that because they were born on third base that just being born means they can hit a home run.

The fact is that all of us, collectively, would know that, whether you are black or brown or yellow—or whatever the complexion is—that the greatest benefit and asset that we have as a nation is that we bring in all of these cultures together to build the greatest Nation on Earth.

Whether we have another Ferguson in another 10 years or 20 years, it doesn't have to be. What has to be is that we cut this poison out of the system of this great country and openly say that we have this problem, and

then, as the parents of Mr. Brown would want, that death would have been just another sacrifice that one of us has made to wake up this wonderful country to do what has to be done.

Let me thank you for constantly reminding us that we have come a long, long way from how we got here, but we have a long way to go. Thank you so much.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his always eloquent and poignant observations.

Let me now yield to one of my dynamic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Allow me to add my appreciation for the continued leadership of my friend and colleague from New York and to thank the previous speakers. We all associate ourselves with the passion, the commitment, the determination that has been expressed.

Let me, as I stand, acknowledge that I am particularly pleased to be associated with distinguished legislators. Many people in this Nation have their particular roles as pastors and as civil rights leaders.

In a meeting held right before the Thanksgiving holiday, members of the Congressional Black Caucus were reminded of the giant role that they have played over the years in combining passion with legislation, hearings with pain.

As early as the 1990s, we held hearings on the questions of excessive force, as well as of the issues of racial profiling along the highways of America; of the issue of excessive sentencing in the crack cocaine disparities; of the issue of dealing with the overincarceration of minorities and the overfilling of jails.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to plead to my colleagues. We are legislators, and we cannot legislate without the partnership of Republicans, so I stand as a Democrat and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus that has always been cited as the conscience of America to say that we need to walk in step on the conspicuous Achilles heels of America, that is the criminal justice system.

As we stand here today, every one of us has applauded a police officer, has mourned at their passing in the line of duty, has given them awards, has stood alongside of them—every one of us.

Certainly, I will not take a backseat to anyone on my respect for law enforcement across the gamut. I recognize that they are here to protect and serve, and I think it is very crucial that our friends in law enforcement recognize the work that members of the Congressional Black Caucus have done, if not individually, then collectively.

Let me say that I also admire the young St. Louis Rams players who raised their hands to be able to share in the dignity of those young, peaceful protesters. If we don't affirm non-violence, then who will?

I think everyone—law enforcement and others—who agree or disagree should recognize young people like the ones in Houston, Texas. "Don't shoot."

That does not in any way denigrate or disrespect our law enforcement officers. For just a few minutes, I want to speak about that aspect and how we see the justice system.

To my colleagues, this is 2,500 pages. Those documents issued by the DA in St. Louis County were 10,000 pages. I am continuing to grow this stack. It is clear that what happened in the grand jury system, for many who don't know that system, is that those individuals are appointed by a judge.

A single judge says, "Who do I know in the community? Let me see if I can appoint 12 of them." In St. Louis County, it took nine to indict.

If you listen to New York State Chief Judge Sol Wachtler, who famously remarked that a prosecutor could persuade a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich, when I served on the municipal court, there were many probable cause hearings that we held, and there were many efforts by police officers to get a warrant, to be able to go when they thought there was suspicion of a crime. We worked with law enforcement officers.

In fact, the data says, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics, U.S. attorneys prosecuted 162,000 Federal cases. In 2010, which is the most recent year for which we have data, grand juries declined to return an indictment in 11. That is Federal. That is not the State system in Missouri, but I assure you it is comparable.

□ 1945

So what happened in Missouri as it relates to the criminal justice system?

First of all, a grand jury system is not a jury of your peers. A grand jury indictment is not a conviction. It would not have meant, if there was an indictment, that the officer in question was convicted. It would simply mean that we would transition to the jury system, and we would be able to address the question of Michael Brown's rights, for Michael Brown was protected under the Constitution.

The First Amendment not only talks about freedom of religion and speech, it talks about the right of association and the right of movement. Michael Brown, an 18-year-old "big boy," as his mom and dad lovingly called him, had a right to move, had a right to move on the streets of America. But he was denied that right. He was denied that right with seven shots.

So there has to be a question. No one would deny that there is a reason to

have a full trial, and the question would be: Why didn't the St. Louis district attorney act like many other district attorneys?

I know there are some who are in that role here on this floor tonight, which is presenting a case, and let the jury ultimately decide. And the facts in the grand jury evidenced that a question remains.

Let me say these two points as I close. I am a supporter of the executive order of the President for body cams, and there are many legislative initiatives that include that, but we need a broad view of what we are going to do in this situation.

As I indicated to you, a grand jury is something different from a trial, a petit jury or a trial by your peers.

So I would say that what happened in St. Louis was not the way that the process usually goes. Mr. McCulloch threw this on the grand jurors. And you needed nine—nine. Unfortunately, the configuration of that jury made it very unclear that there was not going to be an indictment.

So today I think it is very important that we address several questions. We need to look at the grand jury system here across the Nation. We need to look at it in the name of Sean Bell; Amadou Diallo; Eric Garner; Robbie Tolan, in my community, where the police officer was not indicted; Trayvon Martin, a civilian; Michael Brown; and the 12-year-old boy. We need to look at it from the perspective of why isn't community-oriented policing used? Why wasn't it used in Ferguson?

Under the Urban Justice Act, which I have introduced, it says that communities that rely heavily on fines and other means of funding their government, their Federal funding should be diminished accordingly if their whole base of living and funding is just to stop people along the streets. I said racial profiling; the expanding of civilian review boards; the increasing of diversity, which is being tried, unfortunately a little late in Ferguson; the use of conservatorships, of taking over police departments until they get it right; and last but certainly not least, educational reformation in teaching our young boys, our minority boys, along with things like My Brother's Keeper.

To my colleagues today, this is only the beginning. And I believe, as Martin King said: Where do we go from here? It is imperative that legislation join with compassion, that it not only be Democrats or members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but we want partners, Republicans who realize that the criminal justice system, as it penetrates into local communities, must be enhanced, changed, and reformed.

How long can we tolerate the shooting down of our children in streets?

And it has nothing to do with one's respect or lack of respect for law enforcement, from the very high levels of the FBI, DEA, and ATF, to our local constables and sheriffs and police officers.

So tonight my question is: Where do we go from here? The question is a reformation of the grand jury system. And I would almost say that a special prosecutor should have been the route in Missouri, and I would hope that we would look to legislative fixes with our colleagues to make America better.

The Congressional Black Caucus will not be silenced. Those of us who serve on the respective jurisdictional committees will not be silenced. We will not be silenced because America is better than this, a country that we love.

Where do we go from here? We must fix it, and fix it now.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from Texas for lending her powerful voice to this issue.

We want a fair, impartial, and color-blind criminal justice system. But if we are honest with ourselves, that doesn't exist for all Americans today, and that undermines the integrity of our democracy. That is not just a Black problem or a White problem or a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. That is an American problem. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus stands on the House floor here today to jumpstart—not just a discussion, but a march toward making meaningful progress as we move toward perfecting this great Union.

It is my honor and my privilege to now yield to my good friend and colleague from the great State of New York, someone who, himself, is a former prosecutor and who has been involved in the fight for social and racial justice during his tremendous tenure here in the United States Congress.

I now yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York City, the borough of Queens, Congressman GREGORY MEEKS.

Mr. MEEKS. I want to thank my friend and colleague, a great attorney, a great legislator, for leading this effort this evening, for not only here on the floor of the House of Representatives but for what you do every day; and, in fact, it is an example of what we could follow, how you lead in your district, especially in Brooklyn.

Rallying around, as I will talk about later, when you saw a prosecutor not do his job, you were one that led in Brooklyn to say the people will get a people's prosecutor. And folks went to the polls. When someone said it couldn't be done, where you led and helped make it happen, where an incumbent forgot his way and was not representing the people, you helped people get together to go to the polls and have a new prosecutor in Brooklyn to move forward. We thank you for that leadership.

Today we talk about Black in America. What Ferguson says about where we are and where we need to go.

Now, as Congressman JEFFRIES has said, I am a former prosecutor, so I know about the grand jury system. I know the failure of the grand jury process directed or, as some would argue, manipulated by county prosecutor Robert McCulloch to indict Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown, Jr., an unarmed Ferguson, Missouri, teenager, undermines public confidence in the very notion of equal administration of justice.

Now, when you go before a grand jury, all you have to show is that there is probable cause—probable cause, the lowest standard there is—that a crime was committed. And when you see the process that this prosecutor went through, he tried to try a case, or he came in with a preconceived thought that he did not want an indictment here. I don't know of any prosecutors that go into the grand jury and don't at least, after it is all done, ask for an indictment. Mr. McCulloch never asked for an indictment in this case.

The tragic circumstances in Ferguson and other unfortunate instances around the country have sparked a movement for justice, equality, and change that I believe is critical to the communities affected by miscarriages of justice. But this movement is not just for those communities. Indeed, the United States of America needs this movement. As others have said, this is an American problem. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Racial disparities of any kind are troubling for our entire Nation.

And so, though we have elected President Barack Obama here in the United States, I heard some say that we were in a post-racial America. No, we are not. For racism is still alive and well in the United States of America. We have got work to do.

So where do we go?

This movement, with its courageous contingent of young activists, is quickly learning, adapting, applying, and innovating on the most effective methods and models of the civil rights movements of previous generations. As this movement continues to grow and takes every opportunity to focus its demands, expand its outreach, develop its activists in the discipline of peaceful direct action, and deepen its understanding of how to apply mass pressure on policymakers, it will cascade not simply to interrupt business as usual, but to generate electoral participation on levels unseen in generations. This movement has the potential to transform the tragedy in Ferguson into a historic turning point in the centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice, and equality.

The Congressional Black Caucus is part of this moment and is a part of

this movement. Tens of thousands of Federal, State, and local elected officials, civic leaders, civil rights organizations, activists, clergies, lawyers, educators, artists, athletes, business owners, and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of ordinary working people of all ages from all over America are part of this movement.

So now is the time for America to come together to reform police practices, redress patterns of racial disparities in the justice system, and to hold police accountable for the use of excessive force, especially deadly force. Now is the time to match nonviolent direct action with meaningful legislative and administrative action. Now is the time for the Federal Government to act, for Congress to act, for courts to act, for State legislatures to act, for county and city governments to act.

Now is the time, my friends, to register to vote, because soon, very soon, it will be time to act at the ballot boxes. Only then will these voices be truly heard in every corner of every county and throughout this country. Then the world will know that unwarranted violence and abuse of power has no home in America; injustice has no seat in our democratic institutions. Only then will we honor the sacrifice of those who have paid the ultimate price and begin to heal a Nation of many who aspire to become one.

Yes, indeed, we have come a long way; but yes, indeed, we have a long, long, long way to go.

I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from New York, for his very eloquent and thoughtful remarks, as always.

And now it is my honor and my privilege to yield to a great civil rights leader, a former judge, the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas, Representative AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted mention Mr. HORSFORD. He is not here tonight, but I always associate him with Mr. JEFFRIES. They have been a great dynamic duo. And they have done outstanding work with these Special Order hours. In his absence, I want to let him know that we still greatly appreciate him and we miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I had a John Carlos moment. For edification purposes, John Carlos was the athlete at the 1968 Olympics who went to the podium, along with Tommie Smith, and raised his hand in what was called at that time a Black Power salute.

At that time, much was said about John Carlos and Tommie Smith. Many people criticized them for taking the podium and making this gesture. They were said to be outside of the mainstream. But I believe that history has vindicated them because they were a

part of the avant-garde. They actually were causing many people to understand that the Black Power movement at that time was much bigger than many thought.

I had a John Carlos moment because I saw this clip where the Rams players came into the arena: Hands up; don't shoot. It was a John Carlos moment because this has become the new symbol, a new statement, a statement wherein people around the country now are calling to the attention of those who don't quite understand that this is a movement that will not dissipate; it will not evaporate.

□ 2000

It is a movement that is going to continue because young people—a new generation—have decided that they are going to engage themselves in the liberation movement, the freedom movement, if you will, the continuation of what happened in 1968 with John Carlos and Tommy Lee Smith.

I want to make sure that those who participated on the Rams team, that their names are chronicled in history. I want people who look back through the vista of time to know who they were when they search the CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS. So I want to add their names to this RECORD. I want Kenny Britt to be recognized, Tavon Austin to be recognized, Stedman Bailey to be recognized, Jared Cook, Chris Givens, and Tre Mason. These are persons who in the years to come will be acknowledged as a part the avant-garde.

I want people to know also that I appreciate and support what the President is doing with his executive action. I support what he is doing with body cameras, and I support what he is doing with body cameras because I believe that body cameras can exonerate, and they can as well incriminate. They can exonerate officers who are falsely accused. They can provide empirical evidence of what actually transpired. There won't be "he said" or "she said." There will be the empirical evidence of what the camera actually saw. They can also incriminate those who would try to perpetrate a fraud upon the American people. Body cameras can identify those who would engage in criminal conduct and then try to excuse their conduct with words that don't match what the camera will reveal.

I believe in body cameras. This is why I have filed H.R. 5407, the TIP Act, Transparency in Policing. The TIP Act would cause the Justice Department to examine the circumstance in this country, the costs for body cameras, and would then allow those jurisdictions that cannot afford to incorporate body cameras into their police departments, there would be an exemption for them, but would require those generally speaking who receive Federal dollars to move to body cameras.

I regret that we are getting to a point now where we are getting it right after the fact. We shouldn't get it right after the fact. This is what is happening in Ferguson. After the fact, Ferguson is moving to body cameras. But we don't need another Ferguson. There are other communities around the country where after the fact they are moving to body cameras. We don't need to have an injustice take place before we move to a just circumstance and incorporate these body cameras.

My hope is that we will follow the President's lead and that we will incorporate body cameras into police departments across the length and breadth and the scope of this country, if you will. But I also pray that this bill, H.R. 5407 will get a hearing. It is overwhelmingly supported by members of the CBC as well as others. It is not a CBC initiative, but it is supported overwhelmingly by the CBC, and my hope is that this bill will get a fair hearing because we should not get it right after the fact.

We should have an opportunity to eliminate a lot of what we see as confusion and chaos. We need not continue to add fuel to the flame of confusion. That flame can be eliminated if we but only had these body cameras. They are not a cure-all, and they are not a panacea, but they are a positive step in the right direction. I salute the President and thank him for what he is doing, and I pray that we will get a fair hearing on H.R. 5407.

God bless you, dear brother, and I pray that you will continue to do what you are doing on the floor of the House in giving us this voice so that we may reach the American people.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nevada has approximately 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is now my honor and privilege to yield to the gentleman from New York, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, my good friend. She is a distinguished Congresswoman who represents the neighboring district at home in Brooklyn. She is a fighter for justice and a voice for the voiceless.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Hands up, don't shoot.

I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. JEFFRIES of Brooklyn, New York, for his tremendous leadership both here in Washington, D.C., and at home in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss being black in America and what the injustice in Ferguson, Missouri, says about where we are and where we need to go as a civil society.

I first want to, once again, offer my condolences to the family of Michael

Brown, whose efforts to secure justice on behalf of their son were undermined by the decision of the grand jury. The killing of Michael Brown and attacks by the Ferguson Police Department on protesters demonstrate an assumption that young women and men who are African American are inherently suspicious—a false assumption with deadly consequences.

So where do we go from here? We must not allow this false assumption to prevail in our Nation, in our society. We cannot and will not accept the devaluation of African American lives. We have seen this scenario play out too many times in recent years, even in my hometown in Brooklyn, New York, where we are still reeling from the recent killing of Akai Gurley, an unarmed young man shot by a probationary New York City police officer. This killing comes on the heels of the homicide by a choke hold of Eric Garner on Staten Island, again, in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, it is deeply disappointing that as we observe the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 we are still trying to fulfill the promise of the 14th Amendment, of equal protection under the law. While the Civil Rights Act of 1964 transformed our Nation by prohibiting discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, and national origin at work, in schools, and in other public facilities, we still must transform the perception, biases, and prejudices that some people still carry with them like luggage from generations past.

The incidents in Ferguson and cities across this Nation remind us that communities that have been disproportionately and unjustly targeted by police departments demand recognition of their humanity. Young people of color refuse to live in a democratic society in a state of fear, and we have an obligation as a nation to rid ourselves of the scourge of racially biased, state-sanctioned terrorism.

I fully support the steps announced today by the Obama administration to strengthen community policing and fortify the trust that must exist between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. I have been a vocal advocate for better relations between the community and law enforcement community. Given the police officers' sole mission is to serve and protect the people with dignity, integrity, and respect, we must focus on achieving that mission. I pledge to work with my constituents, the Obama administration, my colleagues, and officials across this country—especially in New York City—to restore public trust and to establish a more enlightened policing strategy, and to prevent such incidents in the future.

So, again, I would like to thank Mr. JEFFRIES for his leadership. I want to thank the CBC, the conscience of the

Congress, for holding this timely Special Order. To all Americans who are disturbed by the demonstrations that are taking place across this Nation, I want you to remember these four words: no justice, no peace.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman CLARKE.

Mr. Speaker, Akai Gurley in Brooklyn did not deserve to die. Tamir Rice in Cleveland did not deserve to die. Michael Brown in Ferguson did not deserve to die. The Congressional Black Caucus is determined to make sure that these and many other deaths at the hands of law enforcement resulting from the use of excessive force will not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and my privilege to yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Indiana, Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON, one of the mighty voices of the hip-hop generation here in the United States Congress who powerfully represents his Midwestern district.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I have to acknowledge my colleague, my friend, my brother, and leader, not only nationwide but internationally, but especially in Brooklyn, for his boldness, his tenacity, Mr. Speaker, his intestinal fortitude, and his ability as a sitting Member of Congress to still speak truth to power, Congressman JEFFRIES.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my deepest condolences to the Brown family, who lost their son far too soon. As a parent, I can only imagine their pain and grief, Mr. Speaker. No parent should have to go through such an ordeal.

As a young African American man, I can relate to the frustration being felt on the streets of Ferguson and streets across our country. The history of this great Nation, Mr. Speaker, past and present, is plagued with incidents of bigotry and discrimination in our justice system. Racial injustice continues to afflict our communities, and with each incident like this one, old wounds are reopened. The feelings felt in Ferguson are real and cannot and should not be discounted.

Mr. Speaker, many right now feel abandoned by our justice system or unfairly singled out for suspicion. These are very legitimate concerns that cannot be ignored or overshadowed by those who have turned to violence.

Now, as a former police officer, Mr. Speaker, I want to say I do respect our system of justice, but I also recognize the shortcomings. We certainly have a long way to go to guarantee our country's children of color are protected equally under the law in every instance, every neighborhood, and all across this great Nation. Mr. Speaker, no community should have to doubt whether justice has prevailed when a decision like this one has been handed down.

We must not let Michael Brown's death be in vain. That would be a dis-

grace. That would be a tragedy. Today, our Nation is still struggling to heal. But this cannot truly happen until we honestly assess how justice is provided across our country.

This process starts with peaceful protests, yes, but it ends with lasting reforms that protect all Americans equally, Mr. Speaker. This will not be easy or quick. But what is clear is that this march toward a better, more equitable country must begin with a unified front.

Now through this tragedy we should bring about lasting change. And so tonight on that note, I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues, my fellow Americans, to stand with the Congressional Black Caucus to make this dream a reality.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman for his eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, let me now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland, the great ELIJAH CUMMINGS, for his remarks.

□ 2015

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES for calling this Special Order tonight.

Let me say to America, whenever a law enforcement officer shoots and kills an unarmed citizen in this great country, America has a problem. I want us to be very careful that we don't become distracted and not address the issues.

I know that we in the Congressional Black Caucus make sure that we don't get involved in motion, commotion, and emotion and no results, and that is what this is all about because the things that we are talking about is trying to bring about change, not just for our young people today, but for generations yet unborn.

Let me just briefly state that I am very pleased with what the President did today. I think it is a step in the right direction, the effort to get body cameras, 50,000 of them, and to establish a task force.

Right after Ferguson happened, I, along with a hundred other leaders, wrote to the President, and we just asked for certain things, and I will name them, and then I will yield back because I know we have limited time.

We asked that DOJ develop a training for law enforcement officers to counteract racial bias, renewed focus on diversity hiring and retention among law enforcement professionals, grants to support engagement with youth in the communities these officers serve, call for the demilitarization and reduction of excessive weaponry among community police departments, call for DOJ oversight of law enforcement practices, and increased accountability through national standards for investigation into cases of inappropriate police behavior.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus will continue this fight. To the Brown family, you have our condolences, but we know that you want to make sure that change is brought about. We promise you that we are going to do everything in our power to make that happen.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland.

I now yield to one of my colleagues in the freshman class, soon to be a dynamic sophomore, the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor to stand here not only with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but with you, Congressman JEFFRIES, for the work you have done.

Today, I have a heavy heart as we stand here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus on the topic of being Black in America, what Ferguson says about where we are and where we need to go.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by expressing my deepest condolences to the family of Michael Brown as his death was undeniably tragic. The "Gentle Giant," as Michael was nicknamed by his family members, will not be forgotten, nor what his loss represents. Michael Brown had a promising future before his life was cut short by police gunfire by police that fateful day in August.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way. We still have a long way to go. We look forward to marching toward a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply dismayed and concerned by the decision of the grand jury not to indict Ferguson, Missouri Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of Michael Brown. Based on my interaction with constituents I expect that many thousands of others share that response and will express their concerns in peaceful public protests. I call upon law enforcement in Missouri, and all across our nation, to show all possible restraint and sensitivity and allow the American people to exercise their First Amendment right and responsibility in expressing their opinions over this event and similar recent events.

The events leading to the shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, mirror a horrifying string of similar deaths and shootings of African American men at the hands of law enforcement all across the country which seem to have escalated in recent weeks: Eric Garner (43), Staten Island, New York—July 17; John Crawford (22), Beavercreek, Ohio—August 5; Ezell Ford (25), Los Angeles, California—August 11; Dante Parker, Victorville, California—August 12; Levar Jones (35), Columbia, South Carolina—September 4 and most recently Tamir E. Rice (12) in Cleveland, Ohio—November 23.

According to the Chicago Tribune (8/26/2014) "Chicago police shot 36 people last year, 26 of them African American males, and have shot 34 people so far this year." The circumstances surrounding many of those shootings remain unclear or unknown. The emerging pattern of these events raise significant, troubling questions about the protection of the civil rights of Americans, especially young African American males, in encounters with law enforcement.

The sense of frustration and anger felt by so many African Americans, especially young African Americans, is understandable. There remain great inequities in the functioning of our criminal justice system, inequities which are also still found in housing, finance, employment, and electoral politics. History suggests that the reduction of these inequities come only after sustained, unrelenting public protest, unified community resistance and economic, legal and political action. The progress we have made as a nation in securing equality and social justice has been uneven and intermittent. There have been periods of backlash and backsliding but over the years the end result has been slow, but relentless progress in repealing and reversing legal, social and economic injustices.

The question before us now is how best to protect our youth, how to end violence, including police violence in our community. Times like this bring to the surface powerful emotions and the temptation to lose faith in our still too often imperfect democratic process. Peoples of nations around the world which either have never established democratic institutions and processes or have given up on perfecting them have paid a horrible, and unnecessary, price. Now is a time to make our laws and law enforcement work for our community, not against our community. Now is the time for us to redouble our determination to reform and strengthen our system of laws and law enforcement, not to abandon it for a brief moment of street rage.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Ferguson Grand Jury's decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson for the August 9th shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown is a grave injustice. This decision plays into the deeply painful narrative, held in the hearts of many African Americans, that the lives of young black men are not valued in this country. While this notion may seem hard to believe for some, it is a reality for many minorities, as we continually see our justice system betray us. Most disturbing about the death of Michael Brown is the chilling fact that he is not the first unarmed African American man to die at the hands of police officers who were not held accountable for their actions. When I think of Michael Brown, I think of Edward Garner, Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo, Anthony Lee, and Oscar Grant. I think of the futures that could have been, and the pain and suffering brought to their families. How many more lives will we lose before deciding to bring about meaningful change?

As the proud mother of a black man and grandmother to three grandsons, I cannot imagine the depth of the wound left in the hearts of Lesley McSpadden and Michael Brown Sr. As a Member of Congress who represents a predominantly minority community

similar to Ferguson, I mourn for the societal ills faced by my constituents, the people of Ferguson and communities of color around the country. I share in their sense of hurt and anger. Our charge now is to harness that anger into constructive change, initiating dialogue with our community members, our elected officials, and our police departments, to ensure that there are no more senseless tragedies.

We are never wrong for heralding the call for justice. However, it is time for us to evaluate our methods for sounding that call. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said: "we must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." At a time when it may seem easy to retreat to our respective corners, we should instead seek understanding and acceptance from one another, by working together to secure a better future for our sons.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for hosting this important Special Order. I appreciate your leadership in organizing these important discussions.

We stand here tonight, once again, to talk about the ongoing and systematic failure of our justice system. I am deeply disappointed at last week's decision by the grand jury in Ferguson to not indict Officer Darren Wilson. I share the feelings of frustration, anger and disappointment by the recent decision.

And the protests that have spread across the country are a testament to that frustration and anger.

How many more deaths like Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—Michael Brown, and Tamir Rice will be tolerated until America decides that black lives matter? How many more jail beds will be filled by black and brown men and boys until we realize America has a deep and long rooted systematic problem that must be addressed? The killing of Michael Brown has, once again, confronted us with the systematic issues of racism and injustice that are endemic in our society.

In a recently published op-ed in The Washington Post, Stacy Patton writes: "Black America has again been reminded that its children are not worthy of being alive—in part because they are not seen as children at all, but as menacing threats to white lives."

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Disparity and inequality continue at every level of our society—a legacy born in the suffering of the Middle Passage, nurtured through slavery and preserved with Jim Crow. Today, we see this in the form of things like repressive voter ID laws, economic inequality, and mass incarceration.

The African American poverty rate of 27.2 percent is more than two and half times the poverty rate of white Americans. The 10.9 percent unemployment rate among African American is nearly twice the national average.

These statistics paint a clear picture of inequality in America yet we continue to ignore these disparities. This cannot continue.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress."

Mr. Speaker—the only way we can remove the dam is by addressing the deep and long-

rooted structures that continue to disproportionately affect people of color.

And Congress is the body in which to do it. We were sent to Washington by our constituents to address the issues facing our nation—let's start working on the structural and racial biases that pervade our institutions.

I applaud the President for calling for a \$263 million spending package to reform police departments. But much more work remains to be done.

We have a duty to pick up the banner carried by Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, and Medgar Evers, to ensure that our children and our children's children can live in a world free of ignorance, discrimination and racism.

That is why we must pass legislation that will require the Department of Justice to support training programs for police departments to reduce racial bias and profiling. We need legislation and funding programs that focuses on diversity hiring and retention of officers in communities that need them the most. We need to pass legislation like H.R. 5478, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

As a nation, we have made progress against racism but we are backsliding.

We are losing the prize that our forefathers and mothers fought, bled and died to obtain and preserve. We must stand together—stronger than ever—to raise our voices, march in the streets, and cast our ballots demanding change. The soul of our nation is at stake.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and life for all can and should be more than just words. It should be a promise to all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin or where they were born.

It should mean that for every mother or father, regardless of their race or socio-economic status, that they can look across the dinner table from their son or daughter and know that they can and will have a better life than their parents. That they will be protected and judged equally under the law. That their son or daughter will be at the table again tomorrow night.

A world where justice for all is fulfilled.

EQUALITY FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are some Members who wanted to be heard from the prior Special Order, and they didn't have a chance, and I am glad to yield to my friend, Mr. JEFFRIES, so they may conclude.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend, a very important member of the Judiciary Committee, for graciously yielding a few moments for us to close this very important Special Order.

I yield to Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY to finish her remarks as we prepare to conclude this CBC Special Order. Again, I thank Congressman GOHMERT for graciously yielding a few moments of his time.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues. Let me continue and be very brief and just say Michael Brown had a promising future before his life was cut short by police gunfire on that fateful Saturday in August.

He was supposed to start technical college this past fall, planning to become a heating and cooling engineer one day. He hoped to start his own business. He strove to set an example for his younger siblings, teaching them to stay in school and further their education—instead, another loss.

Michael Brown fell victim to a criminal justice system that too often fails people of color. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, he is now another Black male whose full promise and potential will never be realized because his life was taken too early by the very department created to protect and serve his community, the Ferguson Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate that the Congressional Black Caucus is on the floor today discussing being Black in America. The CBC is the conscience of the Congress and, in many circumstances, the conscience of America on the topic of race relations, struggles, and inequities.

We are also scholars and crusaders. We are our brothers' keepers. We have marched and written civil rights laws, and today, December 1, we are celebrating the 59th anniversary of Rosa Parks maintaining her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her civil disobedience on this day should be celebrated.

As we see in the majority a peaceful protest in refusing to give up her seat, Rosa Parks sparked a civil rights movement that continues today; a movement highlighted by incremental progress such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, where a Nation came together with hopes of eliminating centuries of discrimination against Blacks and providing equal rights under law.

The civil rights movement is ongoing and faces significant challenges. A great distrust between local residents and law enforcement remains today. Too many young Black men have been left behind and are seen as objects of fear, and we have a school-to-prison pipeline that tears our communities of color apart, leaving them forever incomplete.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concerns of dedicated individuals.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am, today, hopeful. I am hopeful that initiatives like the President's My Brother's Keepers, which is implementing cradle to college and career programs for young people in my district, will allow us to continue Rosa Parks' progress that she sparked 59 years ago.

Finally, should we work harder to get more people registered to vote? Should we have more get out the vote? Yes, but it takes more than that. This Congress should work with the President, and I fully support his request for some \$263 million in part to equip police officers with cameras.

Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. As we prepare to conclude, let me, again, thank Mr. GOHMERT for this gracious act of bipartisanship, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank Congressman JEFFRIES for his leadership and my colleague from Texas for his generosity.

As we reflect on the events in Ferguson, let me begin by offering my prayers to the family of Michael Brown and the entire Ferguson community. Tonight, we stand before the House as Representatives of our communities and as concerned citizens.

We stand here to say we, too, mourn Michael Brown. We mourn his loss and what it represents—the very real fear and frustration of Black and brown families across the Nation who worry for their sons. We are here to speak for those who are weary after another incident of a young Black man being killed by police.

Ferguson speaks to the broader challenges we face as a Nation—race relations—but particularly the fraught relationship between the Black community and the police. Members of my family have and do serve in law enforcement, and I am fortunate that, for most of my life, I have been able to have many positive personal experiences with that community. My grandparents' grocery store in Harlem always had police officers checking in.

On the whole, I believe those who put their lives on the line for our communities are good, but that doesn't negate the fact that, in America today, we still have too many in the Black community who fear the police or feel disrespected by the police, including my son and his friends, and we still have too many police officers who fear the Black community. This is a dynamic that colors every encounter and paves the way for tragic outcomes.

Regardless of your perspectives on the events in Ferguson, we can all agree that no community should live in fear of the institutions that are charged with protecting it. We must hold our law enforcement officials to the highest professional standards and provide them with the training they need to effectively police diverse communities.

This training must address the biases and stereotypes that influence decisions in the field and that creates obstacles to mutual understanding, and in working to achieve that understanding, we can and must strive to-

ward a justice system that treats all Americans fairly and values all American lives equally.

I am encouraged by the many peaceful, productive protests across the country from everyday citizens of all colors calling for change in the way our country views and values young Black men, but this is just the beginning and not enough. As a mother, a wife, and a Member of Congress, I believe that this change must begin today.

I encourage everyone who is outraged by Ferguson to look for ways that they can prevent a similar tragedy from happening in your community. Don't let this issue fade until the next tragedy. Get involved with your local government.

Go to your local town hall, city council, and community policing meetings. Know who represents you and who is policing your streets. Be a part of the change, and lend your voice to the discussion on the direction of your community; vote, exercise your rights, demand and expect accountability. That is how we work together toward the kind of change that makes our communities safer and honors the memory of Michael Brown.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman KELLY. We are here today to begin a conversation about a fair, equitable, and colorblind criminal justice system. That should be something that all Americans embrace, and that is what we are going to work toward as we move toward the next Congress in 2015.

To close, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JEFFRIES for his leadership, and I thank the Speaker, I am sorry that we were walking across the floor, and we may not publicly say it, but we thank you for your clarification, and to my good friend on the Judiciary Committee, Judge GOHMERT, who has engaged in the issues of the criminal justice system. We are grateful for your knowledge on these issues.

I want to leave two points behind as we clarify how we can move forward and recognize crises, but yet not be overcome by such. Might I thank the former mayor of New York for his provocativeness, but say that I disagree with some of the interpretation of why officers are in the African American community.

A statistic does say, in fact, that over 2005 to 2012, a white police officer used deadly force against an African American person almost two times every week. That does not have to be because we know there are broader ways of addressing these questions, so let me say to you why there is such ire about what happened to Michael Brown.

As I started out in my remarks about the grand jury system, it is one that

raises the fact question, and if the fact question is not answered, why were his hands up? Why was he shot these many times? Then you go to a jury of your peers. It is a criminal justice system that no matter what color, creed, race, or religion you are, abiding by the Constitution, you can clearly say a question has been raised, and justice needs to answer that question.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are asking for, a simple justice that allows everyone to stand at the table of opportunity, equality, and rightness.

So I would make the argument tonight that we have laid out a roadmap with a number of suggestions, whether it is cameras—supporting the President's request for money—whether it is legislation dealing with the utilization of tickets and citations, stopping people from moving, whether or not it is My Brother's Keeper, I believe that the Judiciary Committee, along with our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, can raise up the specter of the Constitution and no matter who we are, we can look at those young men in St. Louis who raised their hands, applaud them for their work, applaud law enforcement officers who are engaged in community-oriented policing, and make a purposeful commitment that we will follow in the pathway of non-violence and use the tools that our Constitution has given us to make our criminal justice system work for all of us, whether we are poor, whether we are rich, whether in unique communities, or whether we are Big Mike.

We are going to say to Mr. Brown and we are going to say to Mike's mother that justice is going to come, not respecting whether or not we stand on one side or another, one race or another, because we are going to do right.

I have faith in the Constitution, and I have faith in this Congress. For the very reason that Judge GOHMERT yielded us the time to finish our words, I know that we will be engaged, Republicans and Democrats, with the Congressional Black Caucus in a pathway forward to make America rise to our higher angels and to the Constitution that we so love.

Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES, for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for convening this very timely Special Order on one of major challenges facing our nation: how can we best rise from the ashes of the miscarriages of justice in Ferguson, Missouri and restore the trust and confidence of all Americans in the fairness and impartiality of the criminal justice system.

That trust and confidence does not exist today among large segments of our population in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown, an unarmed teenager who died after absorbing six gunshots from a Ferguson, Missouri police officer even though he posed no imminent threat, was not resisting arrest, and was observed by numerous witness to be holding his hands up, the universal sign of surrender.

Compounding this unreasonable and excessive use of lethal force was the failure—some might say refusal—of the local prosecutor to obtain an indictment of any kind against the officer who killed Michael Brown.

The strength and foundation of democratic government rests upon the consent and confidence of the governed. Similarly, effective enforcement of the law and administration of justice requires the confidence of the community that the law will be enforced impartially and that all persons are treated equally without regard to race or ethnicity or religion or national origin.

While most police officers take this responsibility seriously and strive to treat all persons equally and with respect, their efforts are too often undermined by some of their colleagues who abuse the enormous trust and confidence placed in them.

Remedial action should be taken with respect to officers whose conduct has been determined, after an adjudicatory proceeding, to violate applicable legal standards.

In recent months, the nation has been repeatedly shocked by the killings of unarmed African Americans, mainly young African American males, by persons claiming, despite substantial and credible evidence to the contrary, that the use of lethal force was justified. The tragic killing of Michael Brown is just one of the worst examples.

In August of this year in Staten Island, unarmed Eric Garner, an asthmatic 43-year-old father of six and grandparent, died from an unlawful chokehold administered by a New York Police Department officer who suspected Mr. Garner of selling an untaxed pack of cigarettes.

And closer to home my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and I all remember the outrageous case involving young Robbie Tolan, who was shot and seriously injured by a white Bellaire Police Department officer while in the driveway of his home, 15 to 20 feet away from the officer, had committed no crime, and whose innocence had been affirmed to the officer by his mother and father.

Let me state at the outset that as a Member of Congress and member of the bar that I hold the rule of law sacred.

I have always supported law enforcement and have always recognized the value and importance of prosecutors seeking justice and defense attorneys fighting to protect the rights of the accused.

I also revere the grand jury process, which on the federal level at least, has been one of the bulwarks safeguarding the public and the accused since the ratification of the 5th in 1791.

I do not fault the decision to impanel a grand jury to investigate the killing of Michael Brown; on the contrary, a grand jury investigation was the proper way to proceed. Like many others, however, I have two main concerns regarding the way the grand jury investigation was conducted.

First, the failure of the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney, Robert McCulloch, to recuse himself and seek the appointment of a Special Counsel was a grave mistake.

Not just because his father was a St. Louis policeman killed in the line of duty by a black

man when he was 12. Not just because his brother, nephew and cousin all served with the St. Louis police and that his mother worked as a clerk for the force for 20 years. And not just because Mr. McCulloch would have joined the police force too, but he lost a leg in high school due to cancer.

Mr. McCulloch's credibility and reputation for fairness has been at low ebb among African Americans in St. Louis County since his handling of the notorious "Jack-in-the-Box" shooting in June 2000, in which two officers approached a stopped car carrying two unarmed African American men from the front and fired 21 shots, killing Earl Murray and Ronald Beasley.

In the ensuing investigation, Mr. McCulloch put the case to a grand jury which declined to indict the officers, and McCulloch said he agreed with the decision.

The story presented by Mr. McCulloch's office to the grand jury was that Murray's car moved toward the two officers, who then fired out of self-defense. The two officers who shot Murray and Beasley were also invited to testify before the grand jury and both men told jurors that Murray's car was coming at them and that they feared being run over. However, a later federal investigation showed that the car had never come at the two officers: Murray never took his car out of reverse. The officers involved in the shooting did not testify truthfully to the grand jury, yet Prosecutor McCulloch stated publicly that he agreed with the decision not to indict.

The second major flaw was that the manner in which the grand jury investigation was conducted impeded rather than facilitated the search for truth that is the province of a petit jury.

The purpose of a grand jury is two-fold: to make the threshold determination as to whether probable cause exists to believe that a crime has been committed and that the accused is the person who committed it. Once this minimal showing has been made, it is for the petit jury to determine whether the evidence presented at trial is sufficient to prove beyond reasonable doubt each essential element of the offense.

In discharging its duty, the grand jury looks to, and is dependent upon, the prosecutor for an orderly and coherent presentation of evidence establishing probable cause and for guidance as to the law and in making sense of the evidence and testimony.

That did not happen in this case. Instead, the prosecution did not present any indictment that the grand jury could evaluate against the evidence to determine whether to return a "true bill" and did not make any recommendation regarding charges that could or should be lodged.

It is common wisdom that a grand jury historically has functioned as a tool of the prosecution, so much so that is frequently noted that a prosecutor could persuade a grand jury to "indict a ham sandwich."

This is not an exaggeration. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. attorneys prosecuted 162,000 federal cases in 2010, the most recent year for which we have data. Grand juries declined to return an indictment in only 11 cases.

So the failure of the Ferguson Grand Jury to return an indictment exacerbated the lack of

public confidence in the criminal justice system, especially among African Americans, not just in Ferguson, Missouri but all across the country because to many it sends the signal that the lives of African American males have less value than do others.

It should be noted that according to the FBI's most recent accounts of "justifiable homicide," in the seven years between 2005 and 2012, a white police officer used deadly force against an African American person almost two times every week.

Of those African American persons killed, 18 percent, or nearly one in every five, was under 21 years of age. In contrast, only 8.7 percent of white persons killed by police officers were younger than 21.

In 2012, Houston had an African American population of 23.7 percent. That same year, African Americans accounted for 48 percent of victims killed by the police.

Chicago was even worse with a whopping 91 percent of police killings involving an African American victim, nearly three times their percentage of the city's population.

For New York, the comparable figures were 87 percent and 28.36 percent. Across the country, in 2012 there were 739 justifiable homicide shootings by police and citizens and of these, 313 of the victims (42.35 percent) were African American.

This cannot and must not continue. That is why I am renewing my request to Attorney General Holder that the Justice Department consider bringing federal charges so that those responsible for the killing of Michael Brown are held accountable.

I am also calling upon the Department of Justice to exercise the authority conferred by the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which gives the Department's Civil Rights Division authority to investigate state and local law enforcement agencies that it believes have unconstitutional policies or engage in unconstitutional patterns or practices of conduct. The law is intended to address systemic issues, rather than individual complaints.

As Americans we must demand that the law is applied fairly and equally to all persons in the courtroom and on the street.

Achieving this goal is the best way to honor the memory of Michael Brown.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, and I thank Congressman GOHMERT for the time.

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Mr. GOHMERT. I thank Mr. JEFFRIES, my colleague and friend. I knew that words that were going to be spoken were from the heart, and I am glad to be able to facilitate that. Thank you.

And it does take me back again. I was just a little kid, a little bitty kid, when Martin Luther King, Jr., was standing up for civil rights for all people. We have heard over and over: Well, he did wonderful things for African Americans. But I happen to know as a little White Christian boy growing up in east Texas that the work he did and the life he gave actually enabled me as

a little White boy to treat my brothers and sisters like brothers and sisters. That is the ultimate goal, as Dr. King said: we judge each other by the content of the character and not by the color of the skin. That is a goal to shoot for.

It also meant that when I was quarterback and captain for the JV, junior varsity, team in our high school, it meant I got to have Coach Williams as my head coach. I just loved Coach Williams. But it was tough when he put both hands on your shoulder pads and got right in your face. You knew you were in for a lesson. But he was immeminently fair. We had no race problems. He was just a fair man.

Although I didn't vote for President Obama and certainly might have had other people in mind for Attorney General, I had hoped that there would be a piece that would come out with Eric Holder as Attorney General the way I experienced with Coach Williams, an African American, but great coach, very winning season, and he made football fun—a great leader, a great teacher. I just loved having him for a coach.

I had hoped that that might be true across the country, but we have seen so many people hurt around Jefferson. I was reading about minority business owners who had their businesses burned. I so hope that the words that my friend Ms. JACKSON LEE was saying will ultimately come through where protests will be nonviolent so people don't lose their stores and lose their homes or lose their lives.

Just before coming over, I was hearing about a Bosnian man that was beat to death with a hammer. It is senseless, just senseless. I don't even know the cause of his being killed there in Missouri.

Peaceful protests are what Dr. King knew would do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and he certainly did a great deal of good. But basically most people what they want is to make sure that they get fair treatment. That is it: be treated fairly.

Now, we do have some that want to engage in crony capitalism and want to have all kinds of advantages. We saw that with TARP. People wanted to have their cake, and then when they finish with that have your cake, too. That was very unfortunate. But overall, most Americans just want to be treated fairly. They want everyone to be treated equally and fairly under the law, which brings me to the subject I wanted to take up tonight.

We know that the President, before Thanksgiving, announced that since Congress hadn't passed or hadn't changed the law as he wanted them to, he indicated he waited long enough. He waited for Congress to change the law, and since Congress had not changed the law, he decided to do it for Congress. The trouble is that is not equal and fair under the law.

Some have said, well, they don't think there is a way that Congress can defund this illegal executive order that provides amnesty. And actually, the law is clear. I mean, if you are illegally in the country, you are not allowed to work in the country; and the President, regardless of whether or not he has the power to provide amnesty or a pardon in a single case, there is no law, there is no authority, constitutional or legislative, that allows a President to provide benefits across the board that are illegal and not authorized under the law. You just can't do that.

So what do we do about that?

Some have said we can't defund the President's illegal actions. An article here in Breitbart by Matthew Boyle, 26 November, and this is a quote to start the article:

"In light of Congress's constitutional power over the purse, the Supreme Court has recognized that 'Congress may always circumscribe agency discretion to allocate resources by putting restrictions in the operative statutes,'" the CRS, a legislative authority on Capitol Hill, wrote in a report sent to incoming Senate Budget Committee Chairman Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama. "Where Congress has done so, 'an agency is not free simply to disregard statutory responsibilities.' Therefore, if a statute were enacted which prohibited appropriated funds from being used for some specified purposes, then the relevant funds would be unavailable to be obligated or expended for those purposes."

Sessions' team provided the CRS report—which is not made public unless Members of Congress who request such reports decide to make them so—exclusively to Breitbart News.

Rogers, last week—

And apparently it is talking about House Appropriations Committee Chairman Representative ROGERS.

Rogers, last week, argued that Congress could not block funding for Obama's executive amnesty because the agency that will be printing the work authorization and other documents for illegal aliens—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)—operates primarily on fees it collects rather than from tax revenue collected by the Federal Government.

So, as I understand it, the Appropriations Committee was concerned that since the Citizenship and Immigration Services, or CIS, gets a great deal of their funds from fees, perhaps we couldn't defund them. But the CIS report goes on to say this:

A fee-funded agency or activity typically refers to one in which the amounts appropriated by Congress for that agency or activity are derived from fees collected from some external source. Importantly, amounts received as fees by Federal agencies must still be appropriated by Congress to that agency in order to be available for obligation or expenditure by the agency. In some cases, this appropriation is provided through the annual appropriations process. In other instances, it is an appropriation that has been enacted independently of the annual appropriations process, such as a permanent appropriation in an authorizing act. In either case, the funds available to the agency through fee

collections would be subject to the same potential restrictions imposed by Congress on the use of its appropriations as any other type of appropriated funds.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that is a long quote from CRS, but the bottom line is right there at the end: It doesn't matter whether revenue is generated through fees or whether it is a direct appropriation. Congress has the authority to restrict how that money is spent.

Anyway, that is a very helpful CRS opinion, and Matthew Boyle did a good job of covering that.

But I also noticed an article by the Twitchy Staff—that would be my dear friend Michelle Malkin. She has a series of tweets that people have sent out in response to the amnesty that this President is going to provide and the illegal right to work that is going to be legalized by fiat by the President. This is from November 20.

One tweet says:

Excellent point made on @TalkRadio1210. Will all the immigrants who came here legally get a refund from Obama for the fees they had to pay?

Of course, the Labor Secretary Tom Perez, previously with the Justice Department when we saw racial relations deteriorate dramatically, but Tom Perez said in his tweet:

This is a moral imperative, a national security imperative and an economic imperative.

He is talking about the need for the President to act like a king and just dictate new law and allow people who are not allowed to work here legally to work here legally, though it is against the law.

Tony Pelz says:

@LaborSec are you going to refund all the money I spent doing it legally? Huh? Huh?

Ben Shapiro says:

Our nanny is from Guatemala. She arrived legally 5 years ago. Tomorrow, she takes her citizenship oath. Boy, did she waste her time.

Shar Viloria says:

Hey @BarackObama I want a refund of all my legal fees plus 10 years' worth of interest. I have all the receipts. I came here legally.

Another tweet says:

My family has paid fees to the U.S. immigration system and followed the law. I'd like a refund, please.

Another says:

So, who's gonna refund the \$18,000 I spent to bring my wife here legally? @BarackObama? @NancyPelosi?

There is another invoice apparently. They are seeking a refund for all the money they were out.

Another says:

Hey, you gonna chip in for my refund, for doing it legally?

Another said:

Lots of dollars for husband to immigrate to U.S. legally: attorney, mounds of paperwork, interview, et cetera. Do we get a refund now?

Another said:

So 5 million illegal immigrants get short-cut visas. Do I get a refund of the \$50,000 I spent over 14 years legally becoming a citizen?

A different person tweets:

My wife came here legally. If #ObamaAmnesty happens, can we get a refund for all the money we spent on her green card application?

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Another says:

Does this act refund all the filing fees of those legally at this time? Does it relieve us sponsors of our legal obligations?

There are a lot of people that are upset about this—and understandably—because they went about becoming citizens the right way.

My office continues to help people. One worked for 7 years in order to get admitted legally. We have had people work for 10 years to get here legally and be authorized legally. And the message that is sent when a President just by speaking new law into existence because he is not happy that Congress didn't do what he told them to, that sends a message to those who abide by the law, just as these tweets indicate, that America, which has tried to be fair across the board, fought against the worst blot on American history—slavery—fought for civil rights, and now we are fighting to have the law completely disregarded so that it is an encouragement to people coming illegally.

The word I was getting today from law enforcement friends on the border in Texas who are seeing the numbers and the President's promise of an illegal amnesty is, once again, creating a lure to people to come rushing illegally into the United States. And I know there are those that say, "No, we have got to make sure you have been here 5 years." How about that? Isn't that amazing?

The message of the President basically is, if you are really good at violating the law and you have been doing it over 5 years, so you are a pro at violating our immigration law, we want you to stay. We want you to work. You are good at violating the law. On the other hand, if you are new at violating the law, we don't want you here working.

So the question arises: If someone is willing to break United States law to come here illegally for whatever reason, whether it is a desire for a job, a desire for benefits, a desire to come here and hurt us, whatever their desire they are willing to break the U.S. law to come for, does anybody seriously think that people that would break the law—at least some of them—would not be willing to sign a paper that says they have been here for 5 years when they haven't, if they are told, "You sign this paper whether you know what is on it or not." Some don't speak English.

I have been out there, as you know, Mr. Speaker, all hours of the day and

night on our border around the Rio Grande. I have seen people come across and look at the Xerox copy with some mention of a country they are from. They look at each other and say, "Oh, here," and they switch papers. They don't come with identification cards. They don't come with a government driver's license. They come with no legitimate identification.

So as someone pointed out there in a holding facility near the border, "Gee, that guy says he's a teenager," but you rarely see beards that well developed on somebody that is 15. So they can lie about their age and there is no question—some of them have—because they have got no identification.

Of course, why would this administration want to require any kind of real identification to come into the U.S.? We have the right to vote. This administration has been fighting tooth and nail, spending massive amounts of money to fight any State that wanted to just make sure that people were voting legally, lawfully, and they were the person that they were representing they were.

And some say, "Well, it's just ridiculous to think there's any fraud," and then you find out there are still people in Louisiana telling Democrats to go out and vote again. And that is why I have, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, urged my Republican friends that there is no group, no matter that they vote traditionally well over 90 percent for Democrats, we can't just assume they should always vote Democrats. We need to be going after the deceased vote. Just because dead people may vote Republican, they shouldn't always vote Democrat after they pass away. Republicans should have a share of those.

I know that people don't always get sarcasm around this town, but the fact is there are plenty of people that cheat the system, whether it is at voting, whether it is at legalization, and that is certainly going to happen when people have nothing but their word to say that they have been here for 5 years so that the President, under the new law he spoke into existence, can feel comfortable that: Gee, they've been here 5 years. I'm comfortable they're good at violating the law, so I want them to stay.

There is an article written by Bryan Preston. It recommends watching a clip from President Obama's State of the Union address in 2009. He says Representative JOE WILSON was finally vindicated. But he points out:

Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell held an online chat with Latino bloggers on November 11, 2014. The bloggers asked Burwell about ObamaCare benefits for "mixed families"—families in which some are present in the United States legally, while others are not.

Burwell said that so-called "DREAMers," people brought to the United States illegally when they were children, are not eligible,

but she indicated that she and President Obama would like to change that. Surely another executive order cannot be far off.

But then she said “mixed families should come . . . Everyone should come on, and folks should not be scared. No questions will be asked, and it is not about an immigration issue.”

So if you come to get medical benefits, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is saying “no questions will be asked.” How in the world are they going to avoid violating the law by providing medical care? Not medical care—that is required for anybody legally or illegally here—but insurance that the rest of America is paying for.

This article points out that, despite Secretary Burwell saying that:

“No questions will be asked, and it is not about an immigration issue.”

It is an immigration issue, and it's a fiscal issue, it's a rule of law issue and a constitutional order issue, but deeper than that, it is an honesty issue.

American taxpayers, a majority of whom never supported ObamaCare in the first place, will now be forced to subsidize health care for millions who are not even in the country legally.

As part of my alternative health care proposal I offered before ObamaCare ever passed and became law, one of the requirements would be to provide temporary work visas when we need temporary workers to harvest crops, whatever, but that doesn't mean that the rest of America should subsidize their health care. In other words, if someone wants to bring in people temporarily under a temporary work visa, they ought to be required to make sure that they have health care. So either the employer buys an umbrella health insurance policy for those while they are temporarily here or the individuals have to.

Some nations have started requiring that before you can get a visa to come in their country, since they are not wealthy countries and they can't afford to be providing everybody in the world free health care, if you want to come into their country on a visa, you have to show that you will be covered by health insurance so they don't have to pick up the tab. That continues to be a problem here, however.

An article from National Review Online, November 26, Peter Kirsanow, says:

You've been working hard to support your family, paying taxes—including Social Security and Medicare taxes—for nearly 20 years. Now you find out that 5 million illegal aliens the President legalized with a stroke of a pen will be eligible for Social Security, Medicare, and disability benefits—you know, the programs you've been supporting with your tax dollars your entire working life.

The plant you've been working at most of your career is considering layoffs and benefit cuts due to the cost of new regulations imposed by bureaucrats who've never run so much as a pop stand, and who know absolutely nothing about your business. So your employer is forced to hire cheaper labor and

is interviewing formerly illegal aliens to replace some of your coworkers, and maybe you, because the company won't have to pay the \$3,000 ObamaCare penalty on such illegal aliens for not providing health care coverage.

So, to keep your job, you try to make yourself more valuable to the company by getting additional training and skills at the nearby college. But the school, supported by your tax dollars, rejects your application in favor of an illegal alien under the admission office's affirmative action program that makes it 170 times more likely a preferred minority will be admitted over you. He'll even get in-state tuition rates, as well as a grant funded, in part, by your tax dollars. And so what if that may be unconstitutional? Indeed, you feel a bit chastened when one of the school's professors suggests you might be racist for thinking this is all somewhat unfair.

You thought that, if push came to shove, you could always get a job at your brother-in-law's tool and die shop over on West Plymouth. But it got burned down when the elected officials—to whom you've remitted tens of thousands in tax dollars to protect property, as well as dictate your toilet's water flow, failed to deploy sufficient law enforcement personnel to control the rioters the very same elected officials elected to inflame.

Well, no worries. You're pretty sure that, much like your preternaturally serene neighbor Julia, who never seems to have worked a job in her entire life, you'll be able to access a variety of social benefits to keep your family afloat. At least for a while. Admittedly, you became a little nervous upon learning that the newly “legal” immigrants could drain the Treasury of nearly \$2 trillion. But hey, all the smart people in academia, Hollywood, and Washington say this is all good for America. The fundamentally transformed States of America.

Happy Thanksgiving.

And it is quite an interesting point that my friends, my colleagues here have been talking about the tremendous problems in Missouri. I have talked to too many minorities that have had a tough time finding a job, a tough time finding employment that will pay them so they can live, help a family live, and now they are going to be competing with 5 million people who didn't even come into the country legally.

But the national Chamber of Commerce wanted this. The superrich in the country who, at least in the first 5 years of this administration—we haven't seen the number for the 6 years—for the first 5 years of this President's administration set a record. Never before in the history of the country has 95 percent of all income in America gone to the top 1 percent.

□ 2100

Under President Obama and his policies, that happened.

People in this administration can talk about the disparity between the poor and the rich and the unfairness to the middle class. There just can't be much more unfair to the middle class, more devastating to the middle class,

more devastating to the Nation's poor than to suddenly announce, you are now going to compete with 5 million people that are here illegally, that are going to take jobs cheaper than you would be willing to.

It is not that there are that many jobs Americans won't do, as we are told. Under a free market system, it costs the market whatever it takes to get the legal workers to come work for a living wage.

You wouldn't have to have legislation about minimum wage if you weren't bringing in millions of people illegally and causing them to compete with people that are trying desperately to find jobs, doing everything they can to find jobs.

But we also know that for the first time since President Carter, over 92 million people who could work, who are over 16, could work, they have totally given up working. They are not looking anymore.

With this new 5 million people that the President has, all of a sudden, with the stroke of his wand, taken from illegal status to legal status, and here are your work papers—all that is illegal, but he has done it, which should ultimately drive another 5 million people out of work, and either onto food stamps, onto welfare.

So if the President has been upset about being tied so much of this year with Jimmy Carter's numbers, over 92 million people that are not even looking for work anymore, they have given up hope, he won't have to worry about that. He will be in a league all his own once he puts an additional 5 million working Americans out of work as they are displaced by people that are illegally here willing to work cheaper. Very, very tragic.

An article from Victor Davis Hanson: “For Obama, inconvenient law is irrelevant law.”

He says:

There is a humane, transparent, truthful, and constitutional way to address illegal immigration. Unfortunately, President Obama's unilateral plan to exempt millions of residents from Federal immigration law is none of those things. President Obama has said he had to move now because of a dawdling Congress. He forgot to mention that there were Democratic majorities in Congress in 2009 and 2010, yet he did nothing, in fear of punishment at the polls.

Nor did Obama push amnesty in 2011 or 2012, afraid of hurting his own reelection chances. Worries over sabotaging Democratic chances in the 2014 midterm explain his inaction from 2012 until now. He certainly wouldn't have waited until 2015 to act because Republicans will then control Congress.

Given that he has no more elections and can claim no more lasting achievements, Obama now sees amnesty as his last desperate chance at establishing some sort of legacy.

Obama cited empathy for undocumented immigrants.

Well, I have got that. I mean, most of us do:

But he expressed no such worry about the hundreds of thousands of applicants who wait for years in line, rather than simply illegally crossing the border.

Any would-be immigrant would have been wiser to have broken rather than abided by Federal laws. Citizens who knowingly offer false information on Federal affidavits or provide false Social Security numbers would not receive the sort of amnesties likely to be given to undocumented immigrants.

Obama has downplayed Americans' worries about social costs and competition for jobs, but studies show illegal immigration has depressed the wages of entry-level American workers while making social services costly for States and burdensome for U.S. citizens.

Obama says he has the legal authority to rewrite immigration law without working with Congress, yet, on more than 20 occasions when it was politically inexpedient to grant amnesties, Obama insisted he would not, or that such a move was prohibited by the Constitution.

President Obama not long ago warned us about the dangers of granting amnesties by fiat. This is President Obama: "The problem is that I am President of the United States. I am not the emperor of the United States."

On another occasion, he lamented: "Believe me, the idea of doing things on my own is very tempting, but that is not how our system works. That is not how our democracy functions. That is not how our Constitution is written."

By setting aside settled immigration policy and ignoring statutes he finds inconvenient, President Obama has set a new precedent that a President can arbitrarily declare what is valid and what is not valid immigration law.

Should his successors make up their own versions of any Federal statutes that they choose, in areas ranging from abortion and gun control to drug enforcement, environmental protection?

And I would also add, heck, why not throw in income tax? Just declare that all the people that are going to vote for you don't have to pay income tax.

Why not?

All you have to do is say, I waited and waited and Congress wouldn't allow my supporters to get away with not paying income tax, so I waited long enough. Here is the new law. My supporters don't pay income tax.

Then here's another article from Steve Dinan, in the Washington Times from November 25:

Under the President's new amnesty, businesses will have a \$3,000-per-employee incentive to hire illegal aliens over native-born workers because of a quirk of ObamaCare.

President Obama's temporary amnesty, which lasts 3 years, declares up to 5 million illegal immigrants to be lawfully in the country and eligible for work permits, but it still deems them ineligible for public benefits such as buying insurance on ObamaCare's health care exchanges.

Under the Affordable Care Act, that means businesses who hire them won't have to pay a penalty for not providing them health coverage, making them \$3,000 more attractive than a similar, native-born worker, whom the business, by law, would have to cover.

The loophole was confirmed by congressional aides and drew condemnation from those who said it put illegal immigrants ahead of Americans in the job market.

"If it is true that the President's actions give employers a \$3,000 incentive to hire

those who came here illegally, he has added insult to injury."

That is a quote from Representative LAMAR SMITH.

"The President's actions would have just moved those who came here illegally to the front of the line, ahead of unemployed and underemployed Americans."

A Department of Homeland Security official confirmed that the newly legalized immigrants won't have access to ObamaCare, which opens up the loophole for employers looking to avoid that penalty.

Then Breitbart has an article regarding Robert Rector, our friend at Heritage Foundation. "Amnestied Illegal Immigrants Could Cost Taxpayers \$2 Trillion Over Their Lifetime." It is dated 24 November.

Well, we do have this report from CRS, Congressional Research Service, and it looks like Congress should be able, without any problem, to pass a law that defunds any actions carrying out the President's illegal fiat that he dictated.

I pulled language here—I have got a great staff, very helpful—I got them to pull this language from the law in 1974. This was in the bill that limited the funds that kept military in Vietnam, and this was on a continuing resolution. This was kind of what we are doing right here.

But in 1974, the post-Watergate, Democratic majority in both houses just decided, you know what?

We are going to stop Vietnam on a dime. Never mind that there are people who have been our allies that will be murdered as soon as we pulled out. Time to pull out.

No plan for a slow withdrawal. No plan about leaving a stable government. We are just pulling out all of a sudden, and a million, 2 million people, it is estimated, died.

This is how they do it. Section 108 of this continuing resolution, in 1974, simply said:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law on or after August 15, 1973, no funds herein or heretofore appropriated may be obligated or expended to finance, directly or indirectly, combat activities by United States military forces in or over, or from off the shores of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

Boom, that stopped Vietnam. We can do the same thing with the President's illegal law that he pronounced into being.

And then, in 1984, we had a Democratic-controlled House and Senate. They just decided they didn't want anybody providing funds to the Contras that were fighting Communists just south of the United States in Nicaragua, so here is the language, and I am quoting. This was in the bill that was signed October 12, 1984:

During fiscal year 1985, no funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or ex-

pendent for the purpose which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.

So we just take our language directly from what the Democratic House and Senate did in 1974, what they did in 1985, and do that to address what the President has done, otherwise, fund things I wouldn't normally at all be in favor of funding. But I think this is such an important principle to saving this little experiment in a democratic Republic, it is worth doing.

Then I couldn't help but note Kenric Ward's article, November 25:

More than a year after Watchdog reported the IRS sent thousands of refunds to the tiny town of Parksley, Virginia, a woman has pleaded guilty to conspiracy and mail fraud.

Linda Avila admitted to obtaining more than \$7.2 million in refunds by exploiting the Federal Government's child tax credit program. Avila filed more than 1,700 tax returns with stolen identifications used by illegal immigrants, mainly from Mexico.

The Virginian-Pilot reported that Avila, 50, operated a landscaping and cleaning business in Parksley. Investigators found copies of refund checks in amounts from \$4,000 to more than \$7,000. The tax returns frequently cited foreign dependents, which increased the refund amounts.

Avila had the refunds mailed to various post office boxes on the Eastern Shore and in Delaware, according to court records. The workers cashed the checks, turned over most of the money to Avila, keeping a small fee for themselves.

Avila, who remains free pending sentencing in U.S. District Court on February 17, could not be reached for comment.

□ 2115

There is a good chance that has been going on in more than one place.

Then there is this article from Neil Munro, today, December 1, entitled, "Obama: Fund My Amnesty or I'll Shut Down the Government." It basically talks about that that is, indeed, what the President is threatening to do, "You fund my illegal action when I spoke new law into being and overrode laws that were duly passed by the House and Senate and passed by the Congress and sent to the President."

The President signed it. He overrode it just by himself. In essence, he is saying, "If you don't give me every dime I want, along with funding my illegal actions, I am going to shut down the government."

We have heard MITCH MCCONNELL say it and JOHN BOEHNER say it. They don't want a shutdown. We don't want a shutdown. We also don't want to fund illegal activity.

We hope that the President is not going to throw a hissy fit and shut down the government because this is about the Constitution. It is about fairness under the law. It is about fairness to people who came legally. It is about fairness to the minorities who have an unemployment rate through the roof, and now, we are adding 5 million people

who are going to get to compete with people who can't find jobs or who are underemployed as it is.

It is up to Congress to do the moral, the legal thing, and force this President to work with Congress instead of dictating to it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of a family illness.

ENROLLED BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were there-

upon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on November 21, 2014.

H.R. 4067. An act to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

H.R. 5441. An act to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 5728. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on November 24, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 5441. To amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 5728. To amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 129. Appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

H.R. 4067. To provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KIRSTEN GULLICKSON, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 30 AND SEPT. 12, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kirsten Gullickson	8/30	9/12	Italy		3,684.00		3,811.80				7,495.80
Committee total					3,084.00		3,811.80				6,895.80

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ \$600 returned to U.S. Treasury.

KIRSTEN GULLICKSON, Sept. 17, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROBERT KAREM, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 19 AND SEPT. 27, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert Karem	9/20	9/22	Israel		1,271.24						1,271.24
	9/22	9/23	Jordan		429.13						429.13
	9/23	9/25	UAE		886.10						886.10
	9/25	9/27	France		1,401.60						1,401.60
Commercial airfare	9/19	9/27					14,694.30				14,694.30
Daniel Silverberg	9/21	9/22	Israel		635.62						635.62
	9/22	9/23	Jordan		429.13						429.13
Commercial airfare	9/20	9/23					8,787.54				8,787.54
Committee total					5,052.82		23,481.84				28,534.66

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT S. KAREM, Oct. 28, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, THOMAS J. WICKHAM, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 13 AND OCT. 16, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency ²	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas J. Wickham	10/13	10/16		436.21	464.05	793.08	843.70			1,229.29	1,307.75
Kirk Boyle	10/13	10/16		436.21	464.05	2,174.97	2,313.80			2,611.18	2,777.85

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency ²	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Committee total					928.10		3,157.50				4,085.60

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS J. WICKHAM, Oct. 21, 2014.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Frank D. Lucas	8/11	8/13	New Zealand	700.24	(³)	700.24
	8/13	8/17	Australia	1,344.00	(³)	1,344.00
Hon. Richard Hudson	8/11	8/13	New Zealand	700.24	(³)	700.24
	8/13	8/17	Australia	1,344.00	(³)	1,344.00
John Goldberg	8/11	8/13	New Zealand	700.24	(³)	700.24
	8/13	8/17	Australia	1,344.00	(³)	1,344.00
Mary Nowak	8/11	8/13	New Zealand	700.24	(³)	700.24
	8/13	8/17	Australia	1,344.00	(³)	1,344.00
	8/11	8/13	New Zealand	700.24	(³)	700.24
Committee total					8,176.96						8,176.96

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, Oct. 27, 2014.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Donna Shahbaz	6/27	7/1	France		1,759.00						
Commercial airfare	7/1	7/3	Spain		594.00						
Sarah Young	6/27	7/1	France		1,759.00		3,629.51				
Commercial airfare	7/1	7/3	Spain		594.00						
Matt Washington	6/27	7/1	France		1,759.00		3,391.32				
Commercial airfare	7/1	7/3	Spain		594.00				24.92		
Hon. Adam Schiff	6/29	6/30	Georgia		306.07		3,679.70				
	6/30	7/1	Azerbaijan		724.22						
	7/2	7/3	Moldova		218.00						
Hon. Kay Granger	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras		0.00				107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Hon. John Carter	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras		0.00				107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras		0.00				107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Hon. David Price	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Hon. Henry Cuellar	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Anne Marie Chotvacs	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Ben Nicholson	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Steve Marches	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Clelia Alvarado	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		649.00				365.84		
	7/13	7/13	Honduras						107.19		
Ground transportation							332.46				
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	8/7	8/10	Philippines		711.00				283.66		
	8/10	8/13	Indonesia		1,059.00				489.60		
	8/13	8/16	Singapore		1,341.82				801.72		
Commercial airfare							15,688.90				
Delegation costs									44.95		
Hon. Kay Granger	8/7	8/10	Philippines		711.00				283.66		
	8/10	8/13	Indonesia		1,059.00				489.60		
	8/13	8/16	Singapore		1,341.82				801.72		
Commercial airfare							14,086.50				
Delegation costs									44.95		
Hon. Ken Calvert	8/7	8/10	Philippines		711.00				283.66		
	8/10	8/13	Indonesia		1,059.00				489.60		
	8/13	8/15	Singapore		894.54				801.72		

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Brooke Boyer	8/7	8/10	Philippines		711.00				283.66		
	8/10	8/13	Indonesia		1,059.00				489.60		
	8/13	8/16	Singapore		1,341.82				801.72		
Commercial airfare							15,371.70				
Delegation costs									44.95		
Jennifer Hing	8/7	8/10	Philippines		711.00				283.66		
	8/10	8/13	Indonesia		1,059.00				489.60		
	8/13	8/16	Singapore		1,341.82				801.72		
Commercial airfare							15,020.10				
Delegation costs									44.95		
Hon. Harold Rogers	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Hon. Steve Womack	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Hon. Tom Cole	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Hon. Henry Cuellar	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
William Smith	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
BG Wright	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Julia Casey	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Anne Marie Chotvac	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Angela Ohm	8/9	8/12	United Kingdom		1,210.49				214.95		
	8/12	8/12	Belgium				87.39				
	8/12	8/15	Hungary		744.90				287.17		
	8/14	8/14	Croatia				44.91				
	8/15	8/16	France		516.00		127.09		203.18		
Hon. Chris Stewart	8/28	8/29	Israel		1,000.00						
	8/30	8/31	Jordan		657.29						
	9/1	9/2	Egypt		709.00						
Jennifer Miller	9/3	9/4	Morocco		582.00						
	8/3	8/5	Ukraine		735.55						
	8/5	8/7	Romania		502.35				56.33		
	8/7	8/10	Hungary		759.00						
Commercial airfare							10,810.65				
Parking							136.00				
Mileage							68.32				
Maureen Holohan	8/3	8/5	Ukraine		735.55						
	8/5	8/7	Romania		502.35				56.33		
	8/7	8/10	Hungary		759.00						
Commercial airfare							9,822.25				
Taxi/mileage							94.94				
Thomas O'Brien	8/18	8/19	Djibouti		341.00						
	8/19	8/22	Ethiopia		1,287.00						
Commercial airfare							8,617.32				
Elizabeth Bina	8/18	8/19	Djibouti		341.00						
	8/19	8/22	Ethiopia		1,287.00						
Commercial airfare							8,617.32				
Andrew Cooper	8/18	8/19	Djibouti		341.00						
	8/19	8/22	Ethiopia		1,287.00						
Commercial airfare							8,617.32				
Hon. Jack Kingston	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.24						
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00						
Susan Adams	8/27	8/31	Norway		1,292.65						
Commercial airfare							10,881.00				
Jim Kulikowski	8/27	8/31	Norway		1,292.65						
Commercial airfare							7,102.50				
Erin Kolodjeski	8/27	8/31	Norway		1,292.65						
Commercial airfare							10,881.00				
Hon. Jack Kingston	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		220.05				327.19		
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		234.00						
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		220.10				152.13		
Hon. Adam Schiff	8/30	8/31	Tunisia		442.00						
	9/1	9/2	Morocco		586.00						
	9/3	9/6	Spain		1,406.00						
Committee total					75,470.87		180,537.80		20,941.45		276,950.12

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to United Kingdom—June 29–July 2, 2014											
Hon. Trent Franks	6/29	7/2	United Kingdom		558.00						558.00
Commercial airfare							1,210.60				1,210.60
Andrew Walter	6/29	7/2	United Kingdom		559.00						559.00
Commercial airfare							1,210.60				1,210.60
Visit to Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Jordan—July 30–August 8, 2014											
Ryan Crumpler	7/31	8/2	Jordan		423.00						423.00
	8/2	8/4	Kuwait		916.00						916.00
	8/4	8/7	Oman		393.00						393.00
	8/7	8/7	Qatar		114.00						114.00
Commercial airfare							17,256.60				17,256.60
Jamie Lynch	7/31	8/2	Jordan		423.00						423.00
	8/2	8/4	Kuwait		916.00						916.00
	8/4	8/7	Oman		393.00						393.00
	8/7	8/7	Qatar		114.00						114.00
Commercial airfare							17,579.60				17,579.60
Craig Greene	7/31	8/2	Jordan		423.00						423.00
	8/2	8/4	Kuwait		916.00						916.00
	8/4	8/7	Oman		393.00						393.00
	8/7	8/7	Qatar		114.00						114.00
Commercial airfare							17,256.60				17,256.60
Jack Schuler	7/31	8/2	Jordan		423.00						423.00
	8/2	8/4	Kuwait		916.00						916.00
	8/4	8/7	Oman		393.00						393.00
	8/7	8/7	Qatar		114.00						114.00
Commercial airfare							17,579.60				17,579.60
Vickie Plunkett	7/31	8/2	Jordan		102.00						102.00
	8/2	8/4	Kuwait		610.00						610.00
	8/4	8/7	Oman		176.00						176.00
	8/7	8/7	Qatar		3.00						3.00
Commercial airfare							17,579.60				17,579.60
Visit to Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam, Malaysia—July 31–August 9, 2014											
Kari Bingen Tytler	8/2	8/4	Singapore		288.00						288.00
	8/4	8/6	Philippines		170.00						170.00
	8/6	8/7	Malaysia		94.00						94.00
	8/7	8/8	Viet Nam		98.00						98.00
Commercial airfare							16,583.80				16,583.80
Paul Arcangeli	8/2	8/4	Singapore		288.00						288.00
	8/4	8/6	Philippines		170.00						170.00
	8/6	8/7	Malaysia		94.00						94.00
	8/7	8/8	Viet Nam		98.00						98.00
Commercial airfare							16,583.80				16,583.80
Debra Wada	8/2	8/4	Singapore		288.00						288.00
	8/4	8/6	Philippines		170.00						170.00
	8/6	8/7	Malaysia		94.00						94.00
	8/7	8/8	Viet Nam		98.00						98.00
Commercial airfare							16,583.80				16,583.80
William Spencer Johnson	8/2	8/4	Singapore		288.00						288.00
	8/4	8/6	Philippines		170.00						170.00
	8/6	8/7	Malaysia		94.00						94.00
	8/7	8/8	Viet Nam		98.00						98.00
Commercial airfare							16,583.80				16,583.80
Visit to China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan—August 2–12, 2014											
Hon. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon	8/4	8/6	China		659.39						659.39
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan		169.08						169.08
	8/7	8/10	South Korea		987.30						987.30
	8/10	8/11	Japan		408.00						408.00
Hon. Mike McIntyre	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Hon. Jackie Walorski	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Hon. Steven Palazzo	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Hon. Scott Rigell	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Hon. Mike Rogers	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Robert L. Simmons II	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
David Sienicki	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Brian Garret	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Claude Chafin	8/4	8/6	China								
	8/6	8/7	Taiwan								
	8/7	8/10	South Korea								
	8/10	8/11	Japan								
Delegation expenses			China						4,388.03		4,388.03
Delegation expenses			Taiwan						1,010.96		1,010.96
Delegation expenses			South Korea						5,971.63		5,971.63
Visit to Georgia, Germany, United Kingdom—August 17–23, 2014											
Jeanette James	8/17	8/18	Georgia		597.77						597.77

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare	8/18	8/20	United Kingdom		519.83						519.83
	8/20	8/23	Germany		862.00						862.00
							9,168.30				9,168.30
Debra Wada	8/17	8/18	Georgia		597.77						597.77
Commercial airfare	8/18	8/20	United Kingdom		517.08						517.08
	8/20	8/23	Germany		842.00						842.00
							9,168.30				9,168.30
David Giachetti	8/17	8/18	Georgia		597.77						597.77
Commercial airfare	8/18	8/20	United Kingdom		517.08						517.08
	8/20	8/23	Germany		842.00						842.00
							9,168.30				9,168.30
Visit to Poland, Norway, Slovenia, Italy, Greece—August 18–29, 2014											
Kimberly Shaw	8/19	8/20	Norway		497.77						497.77
Commercial airfare	8/20	8/22	Poland		409.68						409.68
	8/22	8/24	Greece		525.44						525.44
	8/24	8/26	Slovenia		501.37						501.37
	8/26	8/29	Italy		910.81						910.81
							16,735.10				16,735.10
Ryan Crumpler	8/19	8/20	Norway		497.77						497.77
Commercial airfare	8/20	8/22	Poland		409.68						409.68
	8/22	8/24	Greece		525.44						525.44
	8/24	8/26	Slovenia		501.37						501.37
	8/26	8/29	Italy		910.81						910.81
							16,735.10				16,735.10
Jamie Lynch	8/19	8/20	Norway		497.77						497.77
Commercial airfare	8/20	8/22	Poland		409.68						409.68
	8/22	8/24	Greece		525.44						525.44
	8/24	8/26	Slovenia		501.37						501.37
	8/26	8/29	Italy		910.81						910.81
							16,735.10				16,735.10
Brian Garret	8/19	8/20	Norway		497.77						497.77
Commercial airfare	8/20	8/22	Poland		409.68						409.68
	8/22	8/24	Greece		525.44						525.44
	8/24	8/26	Slovenia		501.37						501.37
	8/26	8/29	Italy		910.81						910.81
							16,735.10				16,735.10
Delegation expenses	8/22	8/24	Greece						529.24		529.24
Delegation expenses	8/24	8/26	Slovenia								307.15
Visit to Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco—August 27–September 5, 2014								307.15			307.15
Hon. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon	8/28	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
Hon. Jeff Miller	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
Hon. Mike Conaway	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
Hon. Vicky Hartzler	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
Hon. Steven Palazzo	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
Hon. Bradley Byrne	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
Robert L. Simmons, II	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
Alex Gallo	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
Jaime Cheshire	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
	8/24	8/30	Israel		720.00						720.00
Visit to Tunisia, Morocco, Spain with CODEL Kaine—August 30–September 7, 2014	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30						523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00						525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00						394.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	8/30	9/1	Tunisia		109.00						109.00
Commercial airfare	9/1	9/3	Morocco								
	9/3	9/7	Spain		468.00						468.00
							320.90				320.90
Visit to Israel, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, France with STAFFDEL Karem—September 19–27, 2014											
Michael Casey	9/20	9/22	Israel		1,271.24						1,271.24
Commercial airfare	9/22	9/23	Jordan		429.13						429.13
							5,428.10				5,428.10
Kari Bingen Tytler	9/20	9/22	Israel		1,271.24						1,271.24
Commercial airfare	9/22	9/23	Jordan		429.13						429.13
	9/23	9/25	United Arab Emirates		1,084.10						1,084.10
	9/25	9/27	France		1,351.60						1,351.60
							14,659.30				14,659.30
Visit to Jordan, Lebanon—September 22–26, 2014											
Peter Villano	9/23	9/25	Jordan		390.00						390.00
Commercial airfare	9/25	9/26	Lebanon		210.00						210.00
							7,545.00				7,545.00
Paul Arcangeli	9/23	9/25	Jordan		451.00						451.00
Commercial airfare	9/25	9/26	Lebanon		210.00						210.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare							7,545.00				7,545.00
Michael Casey	9/23	9/25	Jordan		390.00						390.00
	9/25	9/26	Lebanon		210.00						210.00
Commercial airfare							7,545.00				7,545.00
Visit to Cuba—September 30, 2014											
Hon. Joseph Heck	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Niki Tsongas	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Mike Conaway	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Jackie Speier	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Jackie Walorski	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Bradley Byrne	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Vicki Hartzler	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Hon. Tulsi Gabbard	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Christopher J. Bright	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Elizabeth Conrad	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Heath Bope	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
David Sienicki	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Cathryn Sendak	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Michael Amato	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Michael Casey	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
William S. Johnson	9/16	9/16	Cuba								
Committee total					59,224.49		293,804.15		11,899.86		364,928.50

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Lloyd Doggett	8/19	8/21	Poland		543.62						543.62
	8/21	8/23	Lithuania		431.41						431.41
							2,644.50				2,644.50
Committee total					975.03		2,644.50				3,619.53

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, Sept. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Luke Messer	8/18	8/19	India		273.34						273.34
	8/19	8/21	Poland		271.81						271.81
	8/21	8/23	Lithuania		603.41						603.41
	8/14	8/23	Multiple				13,696.03				13,696.03
Committee total					1,148.56		13,696.03				14,844.59

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Oct. 21, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Joe Barton	8/8	8/11	The Republic of Korea		987.30		15,294.00		2,213.31		18,494.62
	8/12	8/16	The People's Republic of China		1,257.74				5,798.74		7,056.48
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	8/8	8/11	The Republic of Korea		987.30		15,630.60				16,617.90
	8/12	8/13	The People's Republic of China		530.18						530.18
Hon. Leonard Lance	8/8	8/11	The Republic of Korea		987.30		14,230.50				15,217.80
	8/12	8/16	The People's Republic of China		1,257.74						1,257.74
Brandon Mooney	8/8	8/11	The Republic of Korea		987.30		14,154.50				15,141.80
	8/12	8/15	The People's Republic of China		953.46						953.46
John Stone	8/8	8/11	The Republic of Korea		987.30		14,764.40				15,751.70
	8/12	8/16	The People's Republic of China		1,257.74						1,257.74
Committee total					10,193.36		74,074.00		8,012.06		92,279.42

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Oct. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Oct. 9, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

Hon. Michele Bachmann	8/14	8/18	Beijing, China		1,282.18		(³)				1,282.18
	8/18	8/19	Hong Kong, China		423.08		(³)				423.08
Hon. John Carney	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		180.05		(³)				180.05
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		163.00		(³)				163.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		193.65		(³)				193.65
Committee total					2,241.96						2,241.96

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

Brent Woolfork	6/28	7/2	Kazakhstan		659.00		8,921.70				9,580.70
	7/2	7/5	Uzbekistan		563.00						563.00
Tom Hill	6/29	7/2	Egypt		801.00		3,194.30		* 1,258.00		5,253.30
Evan McMullin	6/29	7/2	Egypt		801.00		3,229.50				4,030.50
Tim Mulvey	6/29	7/2	Egypt		801.00		3,229.50				4,030.50
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	6/27	6/28	Israel		470.00		11,049.92				11,519.92
	6/28	6/30	Jordan		700.00						700.00
	6/30	7/3	Israel		1,360.00						1,360.00
Hon. Ted Deutch	6/27	6/28	Israel		480.00		5,759.82				6,239.82
	6/28	6/30	Jordan		700.00						700.00
	6/30	7/3	Israel		1,400.00						1,400.00
Eddy Acevedo	6/27	6/28	Israel		440.00		10,999.92				11,439.92
	6/28	6/30	Jordan		720.00						720.00
	6/30	7/3	Israel		1,410.00						1,410.00
Casey Kustin	6/27	6/28	Israel		470.00		10,188.92				10,658.92
	6/28	6/30	Jordan		690.00						690.00
	6/30	7/3	Israel		1,420.00						1,420.00
Mark Walker	6/29	6/30	Honduras		236.00		1,096.10		* 497.36		1,829.46
	6/30	7/3	Guatemala		679.65						679.65
Eric Jacobstein	6/30	7/3	Guatemala		679.65		743.60				1,423.25
Janice Kaguyutan	6/30	7/3	Guatemala		679.65		743.60				1,423.25
Ramon Zertuche	6/30	7/3	Guatemala		679.65		751.10				1,430.75
Ari Fridman	6/30	7/2	Bahrain		627.30		3,594.00		* 855.00		5,076.30
	7/2	7/3	Germany		335.00						335.00
Andrew Veprek	6/30	7/3	Bahrain		627.30		3,741.10				4,368.40
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	6/26	7/3	Australia		1,374.00		16,108.40		* 9,107.00		26,589.40
Hon. Eliot Engel	6/29	7/2	Australia		1,031.00		12,188.50				13,219.50
Scott Cullinane	6/26	7/3	Australia		1,374.00		10,514.30				11,888.30
Doug Campbell	6/29	7/2	Australia		1,031.00		10,271.50				11,302.50
Hon. Eliot Engel	7/2	7/5	Australia		894.00		9,917.30				10,811.30
	7/5	7/7	New Zealand								
Doug Campbell	7/2	7/5	Australia		894.00		8,155.80				9,049.80
	7/5	7/7	New Zealand								
Hon. Matt Salmon	7/11	7/14	Guatemala		639.87		(³)				639.87
	7/13	7/13	Honduras								
Hon. Steve Chabot	8/18	8/19	India		214.00		11,776.00				11,990.00
	8/20	8/21	Poland		251.00						251.00
	8/22	8/23	Lithuania		495.00						495.00
Kevin Fitzpatrick	8/18	8/19	India		224.00		11,154.83				11,378.83
	8/20	8/21	Poland		261.00						261.00
	8/22	8/23	Lithuania		490.00						490.00
Jackie Quinones	8/20	8/24	Kenya		1,420.00		12,725.40				14,145.40
	8/24	8/26	South Sudan		180.00						180.00
	8/26	8/27	Kenya		355.00						355.00
Joan Condon	8/17	8/20	Niger		355.00		7,917.10				8,272.10
	8/20	8/24	Mali		824.00						824.00
Worku Gachou	8/17	8/20	Niger		360.00		7,129.10				7,489.10
	8/20	8/24	Mali		829.00						829.00
Jeff Dressler	8/26	8/29	Israel		1,550.00		6,292.92		* 2,517.88		10,360.80
	8/29	9/1	Jordan		1,065.68						1,065.68
Jessica Kahan	8/26	8/29	Israel		1,550.00		6,292.92				7,842.92
	8/29	9/1	Jordan		1,065.68						1,065.68
Hon. Albio Sires	8/30	9/1	Tunisia		306.53		(³)				306.53
	9/1	9/3	Morocco		581.00						581.00
	9/3	9/7	Spain		1,356.01						1,356.01
Hon. Juan Vargas	8/30	9/1	Tunisia		306.53		(³)				306.53
	9/1	9/3	Morocco		581.00						581.00
	9/3	9/7	Spain		1,356.01						1,356.01
Hon. Joseph Kennedy III	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		180.05		(³)				180.05
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		141.00		(³)				141.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		222.00		(³)				222.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	8/26	8/28	Austria		402.00		12,470.32		* 2,367.02		15,239.34
	8/29	8/31	Hungary		486.95						486.95
	8/31	9/2	Israel		1,000.00						1,000.00
	9/3	9/5	Kazakhstan		1,178.41				* 2,565.67		3,744.08
	9/5	9/8	Russia		1,247.73				* 1,429.00		2,676.73
Hon. Gregory Meeks	8/27	8/28	Austria		201.00		16,289.24				16,490.24
	8/29	8/31	Hungary		486.95						486.95
	8/31	9/2	Israel		1,000.00						1,000.00
	9/3	9/5	Kazakhstan		1,178.41						1,178.41
Paul Behrends	8/26	8/28	Austria		402.00		6,150.26				6,552.26
	8/29	8/31	Hungary		486.95						486.95
	8/31	9/2	Israel		1,000.00						1,000.00
	9/3	9/5	Kazakhstan		1,178.41						1,178.41
	9/5	9/8	Russia		1,247.75						1,247.75
Hon. Edward Royce	8/31	9/2	Israel		1,500.00		8,936.42		* 17,115.56		27,551.98
Hon. Eliot Engel	8/24	8/30	England		1,941.00		9,876.42		2,684.05		14,501.47
	8/30	9/2	Israel		2,000.00						2,000.00
Tom Sheehy	8/31	9/1	Israel		1,000.00		9,520.02				10,520.02
Mira Resnick	8/29	9/1	Israel		1,685.05		8,755.42				10,440.47
Matt Zweig	9/1	9/2	England		514.00		2,315.60		353.94		3,183.54
	9/2	9/3	France		544.00						544.00
	9/3	9/4	Germany		375.00						375.00
Thomas Alexander	9/1	9/2	England		514.00		2,315.60				2,829.60
	9/2	9/3	France		544.00						544.00
	9/3	9/4	Germany		375.00						375.00
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	9/24	9/28	Turkey		1,035.50		13,710.90		1,725.22		16,471.62
	9/27	9/27	Iraq								
Hon. George Holding	9/24	9/28	Turkey		985.50		13,710.90				14,696.40
	9/27	9/27	Iraq								
Evan McMullin	9/24	9/28	Turkey		1,002.50		13,710.90				14,713.40
	9/27	9/27	Iraq								
Doug Campbell	9/24	9/28	Turkey		1,035.50		13,710.90				14,746.40
	9/27	9/27	Iraq								
Hon. Scott Perry	9/30	9/30	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba				(³)				
Committee total					68,734.17		329,160.05		42,475.70		440,369.92

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

* Indicates Delegation Costs.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
STAFFDEL Giaier:											
Paul Anstine	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.23						364.23
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.76		18,634.50				19,366.26
Steven Giaier	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.23						364.23
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.77		18,634.50				19,366.27
Jason Miller	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.23						364.23
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.76		18,634.50				19,366.26
Diana Bergwin	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.22						364.22
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.76		18,634.50				19,366.26
Hope Goins	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.22						364.22
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.76		18,634.50				19,366.26
Adam Comis	8/18	8/20	United Arab Emirates		1,266.00						1,266.00
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain		364.22						364.22
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom		1,051.59						1,051.59
	8/23	8/24	Belgium		731.76		18,634.50				19,366.26
Miscellaneous staff delegation expenses	8/18	8/19	United Arab Emirates						587.28		587.28
	8/20	8/21	Bahrain						370.00		370.00
	8/21	8/23	United Kingdom						2,560.00		2,560.00
CODEL McKEON											
Hon. Eric Swalwell	8/28	8/30	Israel		720.00		(³)				720.00
	8/30	9/1	Jordan		523.30		(³)				523.30
	9/1	9/3	Egypt		525.00		(³)				525.00
	9/3	9/5	Morocco		394.00		(³)				394.00
CODEL Lankford											
Hon. Beto O'Rourke	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		220.05		(³)				220.05
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		234.00		(³)				234.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		220.10		(³)				220.10
Committee total					23,317.91		111,807.00		3,517.28		138,642.19

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Oct. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Oct. 7, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Hon. Pedro Pierluisi	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Hon. George Holding	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Hon. Doug Collins	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Hon. Jason Smith	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Shelley Husband	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Branden Ritchie	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
David Whitney	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Pete Larkin	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
John Manning	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Jason Everett	8/2	8/10	China		647.00		(³)		1,118.12		1,765.12
Hon. Pedro Pierluisi	8/30	9/7	Tunisia		874.00		(³)		1,560.00		2,434.00
			Morocco				(³)				
			Spain				(³)				
Committee total					7,991.00				13,859.32		21,850.32

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Oct. 30, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Doc Hastings	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Hon. Doug Lamborn	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Hon. John Fleming	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Hon. Gregorio Sablan	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Martin Doern	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Tim Charters	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.00		(³)				700.00
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Delegation expenses	8/11	8/13	New Zealand						4,914		4,914
	8/13	8/17	Australia						21,415		21,415
Committee total					12,264.00				26,329.00		38,593.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman, Oct. 29, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Darrell Issa	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,170.00				2,391.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Hon. Stephen Lynch	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,764.00				2,985.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Hon. Paul Gosar	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,764.00				2,985.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Hon. Blake Farenthold	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,143.00				2,364.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Hon. Kerry Bentivolio	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,764.00				2,985.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Rebecca Watkins	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		1,390.00				1,611.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Ashok Pinto	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		2,759.00				2,980.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00

December 1, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 160, Pt. 11

16319

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bruce Fernandez	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		1,390.00				1,611.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Ellen Dargie	7/17	7/18	El Salvador		221.00		1,390.00				1,611.00
	7/18	7/19	Honduras		262.00						262.00
	7/19	7/20	Guatemala		223.00						223.00
Delegation expenses									19,594.00		19,594.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	8/16	8/18	Egypt		534.00		9,626.00				10,160.00
	8/18	8/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	8/20	8/21	Israel		520.00						520.00
Brien Beattie	8/16	8/18	Egypt		534.00		9,626.00				10,160.00
	8/18	8/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	8/20	8/21	Israel		520.00						520.00
Tyler Grimm	8/16	8/18	Egypt		534.00		9,626.00				10,160.00
	8/18	8/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	8/20	8/21	Israel		520.00						520.00
Delegation expenses									4,601.00		4,601.00
Hon. James Lankford	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		170.00						170.00
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		181.00						181.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		161.00						161.00
Hon. Rob Woodall	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		220.00						220.00
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		234.00						234.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		222.00						222.00
Hon. Pat Meehan	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		220.00						220.00
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		234.00						234.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		222.00						222.00
Sang Yi	8/29	8/30	El Salvador		220.00						220.00
	8/30	8/31	Honduras		234.00						234.00
	8/31	9/1	Guatemala		222.00						222.00
Delegation expenses									7,359.00		7,359.00
Committee total					14,189.00		48,412.00		31,554.00		94,155.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Rob Woodall	8/11	8/13	New Zealand		700.24		(³)				700.24
	8/13	8/17	Australia		1,344.00		(³)				1,344.00
Committee total					2,044.24						2,044.24

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Oct. 14, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. —☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Oct. 1, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. David Schweikert	6/28	6/30	Georgia		510.00		(³)				510.00
	6/30	7/2	Azerbaijan		819.01		(³)				819.01
	7/2	7/3	Moldova		218.00		(³)				218.00
Committee total					1,547.01						1,547.01

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. SAM GRAVES, Chairman, Sept. 24, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEFF MILLER, Chairman, Oct. 28, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Angela Ellard	7/6	7/9	Canada		825.00		985.30				1,810.30
Katherine Tai	7/6	7/9	Canada		825.00		985.30				1,810.30
Angela Ellard	9/2	9/6	Vietnam		1,108.54		19,027.00		657.35		20,792.89
Jason Kearns	9/5	9/10	Vietnam		1,662.80		12,173.70				13,836.50
Stephen Claeys	9/5	9/10	Vietnam		1,166.67		10,470.00				11,636.67
Hon. Jim Gerlach	9/30	9/30	Cuba				(³)				
Committee total					5,588.01		43,641.30		657.35		49,886.66

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman, Oct. XX, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Katie Wheelbarger	6/30	7/2	Africa		971.65						
	7/2	7/4	Africa		307.45						
	7/4	7/5	Africa		744.00						
Commercial airfare							13,067.50				15,090.60
Jim Hildebrand	6/30	7/2	Africa		971.65						
	7/2	7/4	Africa		307.45						
	7/4	7/5	Africa		744.00						
Commercial airfare							13,067.50				15,090.60
Nate Hauser	6/30	7/2	Africa		971.65						
	7/2	7/4	Africa		307.45						
	7/4	7/5	Africa		744.00						
Commercial airfare							13,067.50				15,090.60
Carly Blake	6/30	7/2	Africa		971.65						
	7/2	7/4	Africa		307.45						
	7/4	7/5	Africa		744.00						
Commercial airfare							13,067.50				15,090.60
Hon. Devin Nunes	8/2	8/4	Europe		698.52						
	8/4	8/6	Europe		516.00						
	8/6	8/8	Europe		488.89						
	8/8	8/10	Europe		274.34						
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,175.00						
	8/13	8/16	Europe		1,719.00						
Commercial airfare							9,498.80				14,370.55
Frank Garcia	8/2	8/4	Europe		698.52						
	8/4	8/6	Europe		516.00						
	8/6	8/8	Europe		488.89						
	8/8	8/10	Europe		274.34						
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,175.00						
	8/13	8/16	Europe		1,719.00						
Commercial airfare							9,498.80				14,370.55
Bob Minehart	8/2	8/4	Europe		698.52						
	8/4	8/6	Europe		516.00						
	8/6	8/8	Europe		488.89						
	8/8	8/10	Europe		274.34						
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,175.00						
	8/13	8/16	Europe		1,719.00						
Commercial airfare							9,498.80				14,370.55
Shannon Stuart	8/11	8/16	Europe		2,865.02						
Commercial airfare							1,149.20				4,014.22
Jim Hildebrand	8/3	8/5	South America		528.00						
	8/5	8/7	South America		764.00						
Commercial airfare							2,990.60				4,282.60
Amanda Rogers Thorpe	8/3	8/5	South America		528.00						
	8/5	8/7	South America		764.00						
Commercial airfare							2,990.60				4,282.60
Hon. Michele Bachmann	8/3	8/6	Asia		1,036.00						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		360.24						
	8/7	8/9	Middle East		710.20						
Commercial airfare							13,374.00				15,480.44
Tom Corcoran	8/3	8/6	Asia		1,036.00						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		360.24						
	8/7	8/9	Middle East		710.20						
Commercial airfare							13,404.00				15,510.44
Lisa Major	8/3	8/6	Asia		1,036.00						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		360.24						
	8/7	8/9	Middle East		710.20						
Commercial airfare							13,404.00				15,510.44
Carly Blake	8/3	8/6	Asia		1,036.00						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		360.24						
Commercial airfare							13,404.00				14,800.24

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Lynn A. Westmoreland	8/10	8/13	Africa		709.00						
	8/13	8/15	Middle East		420.00						
	8/15	8/16	Asia		430.00						
Commercial airfare							14,738.90				16,297.90
Nate Hauser	8/10	8/13	Africa		709.00						
	8/13	8/15	Middle East		420.00						
	8/15	8/16	Asia		430.00						
Commercial airfare							10,589.00				12,148.00
Rachel Wilson	8/10	8/13	Africa		709.00						
	8/13	8/15	Middle East		420.00						
	8/15	8/16	Asia		430.00						
Commercial airfare							10,589.00				12,148.00
Linda Cohen	8/10	8/13	Africa		709.00						
	8/13	8/15	Middle East		420.00						
	8/15	8/16	Asia		430.00						
Commercial airfare							10,589.00				12,148.00
Katie Wheelbarger	8/11	8/14	Middle East		1,023.00						
	8/14	8/16	Middle East		910.00						
	8/16	8/18	Middle East		1,096.00						
	8/18	8/19	Middle East		396.00						
Commercial airfare							14,311.60				17,736.60
Michael Ellis	8/11	8/14	Middle East		1,023.00						
	8/14	8/16	Middle East		910.00						
	8/16	8/18	Middle East		1,096.00						
	8/18	8/19	Middle East		396.00						
Commercial airfare							14,311.60				17,736.60
Chelsey Campbell	8/11	8/14	Middle East		1,023.00						
	8/14	8/16	Middle East		910.00						
Commercial airfare							11,486.50				13,419.50
Geof Kahn	8/11	8/14	Middle East		1,023.00						
	8/14	8/16	Middle East		910.00						
Commercial airfare							12,422.50				14,355.50
Carly Blake	8/11	8/14	Middle East		1,023.00						
	8/14	8/16	Middle East		910.00						
Commercial airfare							12,422.50				14,355.50
Andy Keiser	8/18	8/19	Europe		253.00						
	8/19	8/21	Europe		510.00						
	8/21	8/22	Europe		277.00						
Commercial airfare							12,926.90				13,966.90
Darren Dick	8/18	8/19	Europe		253.00						
	8/19	8/21	Europe		510.00						
	8/21	8/22	Europe		277.00						
	8/22	8/23	Europe		400.00						
	8/23	8/26	Europe		1,493.84						
Commercial airfare							15,106.90				18,040.74
Sarah Geffroy	8/18	8/19	Europe		253.00						
	8/19	8/21	Europe		510.00						
	8/21	8/22	Europe		277.00						
	8/22	8/23	Europe		400.00						
	8/23	8/26	Europe		1,493.84						
Commercial airfare							15,106.90				18,040.74
Michael Bahar	8/18	8/19	Europe		253.00						
	8/19	8/21	Europe		510.00						
	8/21	8/22	Europe		277.00						
	8/22	8/23	Europe		1,493.84						
Commercial airfare							12,926.90				15,460.74
Hon. Frank A. LoBiondo	8/19	8/20	Africa		312.62						
	8/20	8/21	Africa		154.00						
	8/21	8/24	Africa		680.00						
	8/24	8/26	Africa		790.00						
Commercial airfare							7,751.42				9,688.04
Frank Garcia	8/19	8/20	Africa		312.62						
	8/20	8/21	Africa		154.00						
	8/21	8/24	Africa		680.00						
	8/24	8/26	Africa		790.00						
Commercial airfare							7,751.42				9,688.04
Katie Wheelbarger	9/20	9/22	Middle East		795.62						
	9/22	9/23	Middle East		404.13						
	9/23	9/25	Middle East		710.05						
	9/25	9/27	Europe		835.80						
Commercial airfare							14,659.30				17,404.90
Hon. Mike Rogers	9/24	9/27	East Asia		1,042.00						
							16,862.00				17,904.00
Darren Dick	9/24	9/27	East Asia		1,042.00						
Commercial airfare							16,862.00				17,904.00
Geof Kahn	9/24	9/27	East Asia		1,042.00						
Commercial airfare							16,862.00				17,904.00
Hon. C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger	9/22	9/23	Southeast Asia		377.00						
	9/23	9/27	Southeast Asia		1,088.00						
Commercial airfare							9,701.18				11,166.18
Heather Molino	9/22	9/23	Southeast Asia		377.00						
	9/23	9/27	Southeast Asia		1,088.00						
Commercial airfare							9,701.18				11,166.18
Bob Minehart	9/22	9/23	Southeast Asia		377.00						
	9/23	9/27	Southeast Asia		1,088.00						
Commercial airfare							9,701.18				11,166.18
Committee total					74,181.57		418,862.68				497,201.27

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

Note: In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.

HON. MIKE ROGERS, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at the right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. TREY GOWDY, Chairman, Oct. 7, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at the right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Vice Chairman, Oct. 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Christopher H. Smith	6/27	7/2	Azerbaijan		1,554.05		14,548.80				16,102.85
	8/28	9/1	Italy		736.00		2,425.10				3,161.10
Hon. Robert B. Aderholt	6/29	6/30	Georgia		306.07						306.07
	6/30	7/2	Azerbaijan		724.22						724.22
	7/2	7/3	Moldova		218.00						218.00
Hon. John Phillip Gingrey	6/29	6/30	Georgia		306.07						306.07
	6/30	7/2	Azerbaijan		724.22						724.22
	7/2	7/3	Moldova		218.00						218.00
Mark Milosch	6/27	7/2	Azerbaijan		1,623.55		9,479.20				11,102.75
	7/2	7/3	Moldova		218.00						218.00
Committee total					6,628.18		26,453.10				33,081.28

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Co-Chairman, Oct. 26, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8114. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8115. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8116. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-426, "Wage Theft

Prevention Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8117. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8118. A letter from the National Adjutant, Chief Executive Officer, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the 2014 National Convention Proceedings Of The Disabled American Veterans; (H. Doc. No. 113-175); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

8119. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Balanced System for Measuring Organizational and Employee Performance Within the Internal Revenue Service [TD 9703] (RIN: 1545-BL89) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8120. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — December 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-31) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8121. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Min-

imum Essential Coverage and Other Rules Regarding the Shared Responsibility Payment for Individuals [TD 9705] (RIN: 1545-BL91) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8122. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure Providing Indexing Under Section 36B and Section 5000A (2016) (Rev. Proc. 2014-62) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8123. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Individual Shared Responsibility Payment Hardship Exemptions that May Be Claimed on a Federal Income Tax Return Without Obtaining a Hardship Exemption Certification from the Marketplace [Notice 2014-76] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5449. A bill to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 113-629). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5421. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code in order to facilitate the resolution of an insolvent financial institution in bankruptcy (Rept. 113-630). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5050. A bill to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-631). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2455. A bill to provide for the sale or transfer of certain Federal lands in Nevada, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-632). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3572. A bill to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina; with an amendment (Rept. 113-633). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 277. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI-04P, Easton Beach Unit RI-05P, Almy Pond Unit RI-06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI-07 in Rhode Island; with an amendment (Rept. 113-634). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1810. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida (Rept. 113-635). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3226. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; with an amendment (Rept. 113-636). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3227. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; with an amendment (Rept. 113-637). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4924. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Plant Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Plant Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona; with an amendment (Rept. 113-638). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5049. A bill to ex-

change trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-639). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 5769. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 5770. A bill to amend the Disaster Assistance Recoupment Fairness Act of 2011 to extend authority granted to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts relating to disaster assistance provided to individuals and households, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5771. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 5772. A bill to amend section 552a of title 5, United States Code, to unequivocally authorize an award of provable damages, including damages that are not pecuniary damages; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 5773. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to extend certain provisions relating to multiemployer defined benefit pension plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5774. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the assignment of social security account numbers to certain individuals seeking employment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5775. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring energy tax incentives; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 5776. A bill to allow reviews of certain families' incomes every 3 years for purposes of determining eligibility for certain Federal assisted housing programs; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5777. A bill to protect cryptocurrencies; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5778. A bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northeast Nigeria and areas affected by Boko Haram through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by Boko Haram, to support efforts to rescue female students abducted in Nigeria on April 14, 2014, as well as other kidnapping victims of Boko Haram, and to provide funds for humanitarian relief, development programs, transitional justice, and victim support, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 5769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 5770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 5772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of The Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 5773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 5774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 5776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

“The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes”

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 366: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 482: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 543: Mr. HECK of Washington and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1008: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1015: Mr. FLORES, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1074: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1084: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1094: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1125: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1141: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1518: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 1821: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1981: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2123: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 2663: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2788: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2852: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2975: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2976: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 3116: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3600: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3636: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 3877: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3912: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3969: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3991: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 4040: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4190: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4301: Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 4306: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4351: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 4440: Ms. DELAULO, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 4484: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4489: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 4551: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4594: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4772: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 4814: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 4837: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 4930: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 4969: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 5009: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 5059: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 5063: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 5083: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 5119: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 5182: Mr. CONYERS and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 5213: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 5227: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 5228: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 5241: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 5267: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 5271: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5403: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 5407: Ms. CHU, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 5481: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 5484: Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5504: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 5505: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 5524: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 5539: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 5547: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 5548: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5580: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 5589: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5644: Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 5650: Ms. ESTY and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 5677: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 5686: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 5700: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 5706: Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 5727: Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 5737: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 5739: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 5743: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 5747: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 5748: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5751: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 5759: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 5761: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 5768: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.J. Res. 113: Mr. NADLER.

H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H. Res. 520: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 711: Mr. ISRAEL and Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 728: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H. Res. 730: Mr. DELANEY.

H. Res. 735: Mr. HURT.

H. Res. 755: Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H. Res. 758: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. COOK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. ISABEL ALLENDE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Isabel Allende, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama on November 24. Ms. Allende joined eighteen other bold and inspiring Americans at the White House to receive our Nation's highest civilian honor.

Beginning in 1945, American presidents have honored individuals who make particularly important contributions to "the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural endeavors." As an accomplished author and human rights advocate, Isabel Allende has promoted positive social change throughout the Nation and the world.

Since her first novel was published in 1982, Ms. Allende has reached extraordinary heights as an author. Her books have been translated into more than 35 languages and have sold more than 65 million copies worldwide. Ms. Allende has received numerous awards over the last 30 years, including the prestigious National Literary Award in Chile, her country of origin, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Isabel Allende has established herself as a feminist force in Latin America's male-dominated literary world and as a strong advocate for social justice. In addition to writing, Ms. Allende devotes much of her time to human rights and the empowerment of women worldwide.

From activists who fight for social change, to artists who explore the furthest reaches of our imagination, Ms. Allende joins a distinct group of individuals who have pushed our Nation to reach new heights. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Isabel Allende for her singularly exceptional career, and for her outstanding record of service.

HEATHER GEYER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Heather Geyer for her passion for local government and commitment to her community.

Heather started her career serving for seven years as the Assistant to the City Manager in Greenwood Village. She then moved to the position of Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Wheat Ridge in 2006. In her current position, Heather serves as the Adminis-

trative Services Director/Public Information Officer for the City of Wheat Ridge where she oversees the internal support services department including Human Resources, Information & Technology, Finance, Purchasing and Sales Tax. She celebrates eight years at the City of Wheat Ridge in December.

Heather is also a huge believer in mentoring the next generation of women in government and is a founding member of Colorado Women Leading Government. This unique group is dedicated to advancing the role of women in local government. Heather has received numerous state and national awards for all her work. She continues to dedicate her extra time to her community as the president and budget manager of the Foothills Animal Shelter Board of Directors and as a board member for the Wheat Ridge Optimist Club.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Heather for her tremendous work mentoring and giving back to her community. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID
ROGERS ON RECEIVING THE
DAVID NYHAN PRIZE FOR POLITICAL JOURNALISM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, with great respect, admiration, and appreciation, I would like to recognize David Rogers, who will today receive the David Nyhan Prize for Political Journalism from the Shoreline Center.

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than the "dean" of the Capitol Hill press corps. David has covered Congress for more than 30 years; he earned his stripes, and his work has the deserved reputation as the "gold standard for Congressional reporting."

His dedication to fair, honest reporting is readily apparent in every word he writes; as a result, Members of Congress, staffers, and congressional reporters alike respect what David has to say, and are better for having read his work.

After bravely serving our country during the Vietnam War as a combat infantry medic with the 1st Division in 1969, David's career as a journalist spanned some of the most important events in our Nation's history. He has covered school desegregation in Boston, broke the story on U.S. mining in Nicaraguan harbors, spent nearly two decades covering Congress and national politics in The Wall Street Journal, and now provides in depth coverage of the intersection of politics and policy at Politico. His work has been precise, wide-ranging, and important, a feat few in his profession have accomplished.

His knowledge of the inner workings of Capitol Hill is unparalleled—in particular, his perceptive work covering the Appropriations process, where I have had the privilege of working with him closely. David began covering the House Appropriations Committee when few others did, and he is one of only a handful of people who possess a deep, institutional knowledge of the process. Through it all—hours-long markups, bicameral negotiations, and late-night floor debates—David's reporting has been smart, accurate, and makes a connection to the reader that conveys both the personal and the national importance of the issues he's covering.

So David, we thank you for your service and your commitment to integrity in journalism and in everything you do. I applaud you on this esteemed award.

HONORING MS. JOSEPHINE LUCEY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Josephine Lucey. As a school board member from the Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) and the 2014 President of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), she has fought fervently to provide students in her community and throughout the state of California a high quality education.

Ms. Lucey is being honored for her immeasurable contributions to ensuring sound public education policies for her community and across the State of California. On December 13, 2014, Josephine's efforts will be recognized by her peers at the CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco, California.

Ms. Josephine Lucey has championed bond and parcel tax measures to increase public education funding for both her local elementary and high schools. Her educational and community leadership roles include the Hoffmann Award Chair for the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, the Santa Clara Education Coalition, and the Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization. Moreover, utilizing her experience in mechanical engineering and the aerospace industry, she contributed to the flight safety and mission success of the Space Shuttle flight STS-54, for which she was awarded the "Silver Snoopy" by the shuttle crew.

As President of the CSBA, Ms. Josephine Lucey has held various leadership positions on the CSBA's committees and councils. She chairs the CSBA's Business and Education Advisory Council and is a member of the Cities Counties Schools Partnership's Board of Directors. In addition, she represents the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CSBA at education-related events throughout the state and country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Josephine Lucey for her years of dedication and commitment to the California School Boards Association and to education. Her contributions have left a lasting legacy, which will benefit the lives of our students today, and in the future.

**CELEBRATING BIOMARIN
PHARMACEUTICALS INC.**

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to acknowledge BioMarin Pharmaceuticals on the occasion of the company's recognition by Forbes Magazine as the 7th Most Innovative Company in the World for 2014. Selection as one of the world's ten most innovative companies is no small accomplishment and is a testament to BioMarin's ability to efficiently provide patients with new solutions to challenging chronic and degenerative genetic conditions.

Forbes' ranking relies on the ability of investors to identify which companies will continue to spur innovation now and in the future. Given BioMarin's past success in pioneering new medical treatments, the company's high ranking is well deserved.

Since 1997, BioMarin has developed and commercialized five medical treatments, a remarkable feat in the biopharmaceutical industry. The company has been recognized as one of the nation's fastest drug developers, bringing new treatments to market 12 months sooner than the industry median. For the patients with rare and often severe conditions, one year can make a lifetime of difference.

The innovative work of BioMarin staff, from the leadership team to research associates, has had a lasting impact on the North Bay community and beyond. Please join me in congratulating BioMarin Pharmaceuticals on this important recognition and wishing them many years of future success.

DR. MARYANNE BACH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Maryanne Bach for her outstanding professional work and passion for sustainability and mentoring women and minorities.

Maryanne has broken through the "first woman barrier" several times. She served at the Denver Federal Center as Director of Security, Safety and Law Enforcement, Director of Research and Development, and Director of Technical Services. Each of these positions were formerly never held by a woman. She was also the first female Executive Director of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Maryanne's professional accomplishments include working with legislative and executive branches of the federal government, and directing water resources infrastructure, policies and financial actions for nine states. In addition, her Master's in Botany and Plant Ecology has helped expand conservation efforts through North America.

In retirement, Maryanne has not slowed down and is giving back to her community in several capacities. She currently operates a private life coach business, serves as the Prayer Chaplain Coordinator for Unity of the Foothills at Red Rocks, and is a board member of the Evergreen Alliance for Sustainability.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Maryanne Bach for receiving this honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**HONORING THE LYNDEN CHRISTIAN
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 Lynden Christian girls volleyball team. On November 15, the Lynden Lyncs won the Class 1A state championship, a fitting end to their impressive season. I congratulate them on this memorable achievement.

The Lyncs only suffered two defeats during the entire regular season. On the way to the first title in school history, they defeated Kalama, Cascade, and Bellevue Christian, dropping only one set throughout the state tournament. The team's motto for the year, "Start Strong, Finish Stronger," was on display during the championship match, when the Lyncs secured the title with a resounding 3-0 victory over King's High School.

I would like to give special recognition to Kara Bajema, Madison Weg, and Carli Tjoelker for their pivotal roles in the championship match, and throughout the season. Bajema, a junior, had 14 kills and 13 digs, while Weg had 11 kills and 14 assists. Tjoelker added 14 assists.

Lynden Christian's impressive performance on the court is also a testament to the leadership of Coach Kim Grycel. Coach Grycel provided the team with the encouragement and training necessary to achieve this notable victory. The title provided a fitting cap to the most successful season in school history for the Lyncs volleyball team.

Again, I congratulate the Lynden Christian girls volleyball team on all of their success. Their accomplishments and success are hard-earned and well-deserved.

**RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NICHOLAS MICOZZIE**

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the lifetime of public service of State Representative Nicholas Micozzie.

For thirty-six years, Nick Micozzie has made the trip up the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Harrisburg to represent his community in the state House of Representatives. The residents of Nick's district have long benefited from his loyal service, legislative skill and dedication to hardworking families in Delaware County.

Nick began his public service forty-four years ago like many do, stepping up to serve in his own neighborhood as an Upper Darby Township councilman. Nick's compassion and his commitment to Upper Darby's families were obvious and before long, Nick's constituents sent him to Harrisburg to serve. During his thirty-six year tenure, he left an indelible mark on state government, chairing numerous committees and passing important legislation that helps Pennsylvania.

Throughout his service, Nick never forgot where he came from. He was always willing to talk to his constituents, explain a vote, or discuss the issues of the day. If there was any way he could help them, he did. It never mattered which side of the aisle you were on—Nick has always been a gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, last month Nick Micozzie made the drive to Harrisburg one final time. Surrounded by his friends, family and colleagues, Nick reflected on his career of service to his community. Nick Micozzie has been a tremendous public servant and a tireless advocate. Delaware County has been blessed to have him as a voice in Harrisburg.

**NANCY TAYLOR MASON/BABY
DOE'S CLOTHING**

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nancy Taylor Mason and Baby Doe's Clothing for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Nancy Taylor Mason and her business, Baby Doe's Clothing, for their dedication and support of local artists. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, Baby Doe's is Golden's premier source for artisan items and clothing that work for the Colorado lifestyle. Since 2000, storeowner Nancy Taylor Mason has spearheaded the marketing of the very successful Annual Golden Fine Arts Festival. Additionally, the store and the staff are strong supporters of Golden schools, civic groups, charities, and local events.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nancy Taylor Mason and Baby Doe's Clothing for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA CASEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Julia Casey, who is retiring from my Congressional staff after more than two decades of distinguished service. Julia started her career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1991 when she joined my staff, and ever since has faithfully and dutifully kept the trains running in both my Washington, DC office and more recently in the Appropriations Committee. Every meeting, speaking engagement, constituent fly-in, flight itinerary, office move, staff on-boarding, committee hearing, and committee mark-up that my congressional calendar has seen, Julia has managed with professionalism and grace.

Like most of us, I have been fortunate in my tenure in Congress to have extraordinary professional and personal staff accompany me on this journey. However, Julia stands out as a trusted confidant, advisor, and most assuredly, friend. Exceedingly loyal, trustworthy, and organized, she has made my life simpler in an often complicated and demanding place. Her cheery demeanor, her thoughtful execution, her reliability and calmness under pressure—these are just some of the attributes that have made Julia a truly irreplaceable part of the Rogers team. Time and again, she has gone above the call of duty to help me, and by extension, the people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District in delivering a better, more responsive and open constituent experience. Julia has made an indelible mark on, not only the U.S. House of Representatives, but also on me, both personally and professionally, and I will be forever grateful to her and to her family.

As we all know, congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments. She has earned more than her share of quality time with her husband Greg and cherished son Gregory in her home state of Idaho, where she and Greg will retire soon.

Congress, the House, the Appropriations Committee, Kentucky, my wife Cynthia, and I will surely miss Julia's contributions and leadership; but we thank her for her steadfast service and dedication. We wish Julia many wonderful years of retirement with her family and friends.

IN HONOR OF MARGARET HAGERTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Hagerty, a constituent from my hometown of Concord who at 91 years old is the oldest person to finish this year's New York City marathon.

Now, in North Carolina, we know the value of putting in the time and effort to reach our goals. We aren't strangers to hard work, but Margaret outpaces us all. From 5Ks on Union Street in Concord to marathons at the Great Wall of China, Margaret has participated in countless races and has the trophies and medals to prove it. She also holds the world record for oldest person to finish a marathon on every continent.

Margaret wasn't always a runner and didn't take up the sport until her early 60s. One day, she woke up, started running and didn't want to stop.

It's extremely inspiring to see someone work so hard to achieve amazing things. I admire Margaret for her dedication and her tenacity—her outlook on life is something we can all aspire to. I wish her all the best in her future races. For everyone back home in the 8th District, she'll always finish first in our book.

LESLIE HORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leslie Hord for her generous spirit in giving back to her community and leading by example.

Leslie has been with Citywide Banks since 1996 and has almost 35 years in the financial industry helping people with their financial needs. Her career has been exemplary. Her activities outside of her career amplify her commitment to the Jefferson County community. She serves as Vice President of The Action Center Board of Directors and will serve as President in 2015. She also serves on the Leadership Jefferson County Alumni Committee, co-chairs Justice Day for Youth Leadership Jefferson County and is a Kiwanian.

On any given day you can see Leslie delivering food baskets for the Seniors' Resource Center, helping with Lakewood Scrub or participating in Colorado's Future Civic Engagement meetings. She believes in giving back to her community and leads by example.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leslie Hord for receiving this honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING PATRICIA MAHAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Clara City Councilmember Patricia Mahan for her decades of dedicated and faithful public service to her community.

Councilmember Patricia Mahan has long devoted herself to serving others. Among the significant driving forces behind her commitment has been her family. She witnessed firsthand the fulfilling impact of public service

through her late father's work as an esteemed councilmember. In addition, her desire to protect her grandmother's home from a street widening plan led her to become a Historical & Landmarks Commissioner in 1993. She has also dedicated herself to helping the public as both an educator and a lawyer. With a teaching accreditation from San Jose State University, Patricia has taught subjects such as English and drama to secondary school students. She also earned her Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law, and has been practicing as an attorney for over 30 years.

Patricia Mahan has worked tirelessly for many civic organizations. From 1983 to 1992, she served on the Board of Trustees at the West Valley-Mission Community College. She was a Legal Hearing Officer for the Santa Clara County Assessment Appeals Board from 1992 to 1994. She also assumed presidency over various organizations, such as the Lions Blind Center of Santa Clara Valley.

Councilmember Patricia Mahan was first elected to the Santa Clara City Council in 1994 and re-elected in 1998. She was elected Mayor of Santa Clara in 2002 and re-elected for a second term as Mayor in 2006. Throughout her two terms as Mayor, she demonstrated efficiency and innovation in governing her community. As Mayor, she supported the construction of the San Francisco 49ers Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. By encouraging this project, she dedicated herself to enriching her city both culturally and entrepreneurially. Demonstrating her commitment to service, Mahan was elected to another term on the City Council in 2010. Her determination to promote Santa Clara in every way possible speaks of her exemplary leadership abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Councilmember Patricia Mahan for her unparalleled devotion to public service. Thanks to her many years of faithful and selfless work for Santa Clara, the community has become a much more vibrant and better place to live. Although her term is coming to a close, her vision and legacy will no doubt live on.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF OPINION
EDITORIAL ON DIPLOMACY IN FIJI**HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, an opinion editorial on diplomacy in Fiji.

[From The Hill, Jan. 25, 2012]

LANDLUBBER DIPLOMACY WON'T WORK IN FIJI

(By Rep. Eni F. H. Faleomavaega

(D-American Samoa))

Having no policy of its own, the U.S. marched in time, applying section 508 sanction law which severed U.S. aid to Fiji. U.S. sanctions, however, have had no consequence because U.S. aid to Fiji was less than \$3 million per year.

Of consequence is Pakistan. In 1999, when General Pervez Musharraf overthrew the democratically-elected government of then

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the U.S. waived 508 sanction law, despite the fact that for nearly ten years General Musharraf never made good on his promise to resign his military commission and hold free, fair and transparent elections in Pakistan.

The U.S., like Australia and New Zealand, cooperated with Pakistan's regime—even providing billions in aid—because we understood then like we should understand now that engagement is vital to our interests and necessary if our long-term objectives are peace, stability and democracy.

Do Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. consider Fiji vital to our interests? If not, I believe we should give China and Iran's growing presence in the region. If so, we need a new way forward.

The U.S. can no longer rely on landlubber diplomacy which seeks to force democracy by isolation. Every tautai (navigator) knows—democracy can't be forced. Force is contrary to the order of democracy and contrary to our innate desire to choose.

To succeed in Fiji, we must start from the beginning. The legacy of Fiji's colonial past has never been fully resolved since Fiji gained its independence in 1970. To date, Indians control many of the small businesses. Australia and New Zealand control major banking and commercial enterprises, and indigenous Fijians control much of the communal land and military establishment, with serious divisions existing between traditional leaders and lower-ranking Fijians.

So far, no resolutions have been established to provide balance and fairness to both Fijians and ethnic Indians. In the past 20 some years, Fiji has had four coups and three constitutions. In the two coups of 1987 and the political crisis of 2000, ethnic tensions played major roles.

Until we understand this beginning and begin to converse about it, democracy will not get underway. Having had several discussions with interim Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and dozens of others during my visits to Fiji, I believe U.S. leadership can help strengthen bilateral ties and improve regional conditions.

By employing smart diplomacy in Fiji—which has been the hallmark of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's foreign policy initiative even in Myanmar—I have every hope that we can achieve equal suffrage and other political, economic and social reforms targeted under the "Strategic Framework for Change," just as the interim Prime Minister seeks.

IN HONOR OF HERMAN J. RUSSELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn spirit that I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary man who labored tirelessly for the greater good, a man that stood as an example to us all, Mr. Herman J. Russell. Sadly, Mr. Russell passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Philip AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Born on December 23, 1930, Mr. Russell was a lifelong resident of Atlanta, Georgia. At the young age of 16, he purchased a small plot of land for the price of \$125, an invest-

ment he eventually used to put himself through college at Tuskegee University in Alabama. He then went on to form a plastering company which, over the course of several decades, grew into a multi-million dollar real estate development and construction company, H.J. Russell & Co. Today, it is one of the nation's largest minority-owned real estate firms.

Herman Russell is known as a founding father of the city of Atlanta. From Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to the Georgia Dome, from the Georgia-Pacific tower to the Coca-Cola headquarters, and from Turner Field to the Philips Arena, Mr. Russell played an essential role in the construction of much of the great skyline we see today. His firm is a partner in the joint venture selected to build the new nearly \$1.3 billion Atlanta Falcons stadium, which is slated to open in 2017.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a leading African-American businessman, Mr. Russell was an esteemed civic leader. He served as the first black member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as the chamber's second black president. Mr. Russell was an activist and champion of the Civil Rights Movement, working closely with other influential figures such as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also contributed to the successful campaign of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor.

Mr. Russell was also well-known for his giving heart, evidenced by his role as a generous benefactor for numerous educational programs for institutions such as Morehouse College, Georgia State University, and his alma mater, Tuskegee University. Additionally, Mr. Russell lent his charitable support to accomplish such tasks as the expansion of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta facility at Hughes Spalding.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." The great Capital of the South would not be the same without Mr. Russell. Breaking down the numerous racial and economic barriers that stood in his path, Mr. Russell was a visionary and a man ahead of his time. His passing is a great loss to us all but his memory and storied legacy will serve as an enduring source of inspiration for so many.

Mr. Russell is survived by his wife, Sylvia Anderson Russell; and his three children, Michael, Jerome, and Donata, who each run a portion of the family business, continuing their father's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the great Herman J. Russell, a charitable man who worked his whole life to overcome great challenges and grow into the leader he was destined to be. Mr. Russell was a remarkable man and a blessing to the state of Georgia and the nation as a whole. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 530 had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING THE CITY OF NEWPORT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Mayor, City Council, and residents of Newport, Minnesota, past and present on the occasion of the city's 125th Anniversary.

Even before its incorporation as the village of Newport in 1889, the city was a vibrant Mississippi River community with deep roots in Minnesota history. Newport has always drawn its strength from the people who live within it, and takes pride in its rich history and natural beauty. According to the Washington County Historical Society, Newport began as two separate settlements, one of which was called Red Rock. It was settled by European immigrants shortly after the land was purchased by the U.S. government in 1837 through treaties with the Ojibwe and Dakota. The name Red Rock was derived from a red-painted granite boulder, an unusual remnant likely deposited by retreating glaciers. This rock, which has been moved several times, was held in great reverence by the Dakota. Today the rock sits in front of Newport United Methodist Church.

The area around the settlement of Red Rock became a place of agriculture and commerce on the Mississippi River, as well as a major gathering spot for Methodist camp meetings. The "Red Rock Camp Ground Association" held meetings each July that drew single-day crowds of 20,000 people. Special steamboats and trains brought people from St. Paul twice a day. By the 1880s, however, attendance began to decline rapidly. After the city was incorporated, several successful companies began operation in the city, including Farmer's Terminal Meat Packing Company (Cudahy), the Farmer's Terminal State Bank and the Fritz Candy Company.

In the 1950s Newport Plaza opened a new and dynamic chapter in retail for the city. Today the shopping center with its signature red roof continues to welcome local residents as well as travelers from nearby Highway 61 for legendary home cooking at the North Pole restaurant and for essential items from John Bartl Hardware.

125 years after it was founded, Newport is thriving. It is helping to model sustainable and ecologically sound practices by participating in Minnesota GreenStep Cities, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their environmental and quality-of-life goals. Through the dedicated work of local elected officials and residents,

the community is a leader for other communities in our state.

Fellowship and community involvement is essential to the prosperity of any small town, and Newport boasts several outstanding examples of community engagement, including its annual Pioneer Day celebration, community garden, Veterans Memorial, and the Newport Public Library and Community Center. Residents are constantly working to keep this river community a desirable place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise to pay tribute to residents of Newport, Minnesota and its noble place in our state—past, present and future—on the city's 125th anniversary.

RACHEL T. EMMER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel T. Emmer for bringing her passion for environmental solutions and entrepreneurship to her community.

Rachel traveled several paths after earning an undergraduate degree in business. She started a hotel and restaurant in Central America, selling the business in the early 90's and becoming part of a film crew recording documentaries for National Geographic, Discovery and the BBC. It was during this time she found her passion for environmental solutions. She earned an MBA in sustainability from Bainbridge Graduate Institute. One of the first "Green" MBA programs in the United States.

Today, Rachel is the founder of the DetritusGroup which collaborates with businesses, municipalities and nonprofit organizations to build up their internal capacity and effectiveness in the area of sustainability. Rachel is also an Adjunct Faculty in the Business Department of Red Rocks Community College teaching business and entrepreneurship classes and inspiring both young students and returning adults to pursue a career in business and the development of entrepreneurship.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rachel T. Emmer for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF
FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST FOR
OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF
U.S. POLICY REGARDING AMERICAN
SAMOA'S STATUS BEFORE
THE UNITED NATIONS
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the following information about my request for official clarification regarding American Samoa's

status before the United Nations Decolonization Committee.

FALEOMAVAEGA VISITS UNITED NATIONS AND REQUESTS OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF US POLICY REGARDING AMERICAN SAMOA'S STATUS BEFORE THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

[Press Release—Mar. 30, 2006]

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on Monday March 27, 2006 he visited the United Nations (UN) as part of an official Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Chairman Henry Hyde and Ranking Member Tom Lantos of the House Committee on International Relations. The CODEL, which included other senior Members of the International Relations Committee, met with Ambassador John Bolton, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, to discuss the current nuclear crisis with Iran and whether Congress should withhold funding for the UN when problems of corruption and lack of accountability continue to exist.

During the visit, Faleomavaega also had the opportunity to be briefed by Commander Jeffrey J. Jones who has been appointed by the US Mission to serve as the liaison for the United States to the UN Special Committee of Twenty-four (C-24), also known as the UN Decolonization Committee. As a follow-up to his briefing, Faleomavaega wrote to Ambassador Bolton to determine American Samoa's status relative to US policies relating to the Decolonization Committee and the United Nations.

The full text of Faleomavaega's letter to Ambassador Bolton dated March 30, 2006 follows:

Dear Mr. Ambassador: I am writing to thank you for meeting with Members of the House International Relations Committee during our recent visit to the United Nations (UN) and the United States Mission. I commend Chairman Henry Hyde and Ranking Member Tom Lantos for leading our Congressional Delegation and I was pleased to be a part of our important discussions with you regarding the current nuclear crisis with Iran and whether Congress should withhold funding for the UN when problems of corruption and lack of accountability continue to exist. During our visit to the United Nations, I also had the opportunity to be briefed by Commander Jeffrey J. Jones who has been appointed by the US Mission to serve as the liaison for the US to the UN Special Committee of Twenty-four (C-24), also known as the UN Decolonization Committee. As you know, in 1945, the United Nations established the International Trusteeship Council for the purpose of reviewing and then making recommendations before the UN General Assembly to declare certain territories as non-self-governing, or dependent on colonial powers. Since the creation of the UN, more than 80 colonies have gained their independence and 16 non-self-governing territories, as defined by the UN remain today.

Although the Trusteeship Council no longer exists, the Decolonization Committee stands in its place. Each year, the UN Decolonization Committee reviews the status of the 16 non-self-governing territories which include American Samoa as well as other US possessions. It is my understanding that the US does not pay much attention anymore to the activities of the Decolonization Committee in part because the US has had frustration over the years in dealing with member countries like Cuba that continue to view the United States as a colonial power. A few years ago, I attended a meeting of the Decolonization Committee

held in Havana, Cuba and I can confirm the fact that the remarks of the Speaker of the Cuban Parliament were very negative towards the United States.

This aside, it is my understanding that there are no negotiations on American Samoa underway between the United Nations and the US Government. Notwithstanding these circumstances, Commander Jones informed me that the US State Department does file annual reports about American Samoa with the Decolonization Committee after consulting with officials of the US Department of the Interior. These reports contain information about the economic, social and political development of American Samoa and, for this reason, I am requesting your assistance in determining the official position of the US regarding American Samoa's status before the UN Decolonization Committee. Again, the Decolonization Committee defines and categorizes American Samoa as a non-self governing territory.

In recent years, our late Governor Tauese Sunia initiated a movement to request that American Samoa be de-listed as a non-self governing territory by the United Nations. However, neither our US Secretary of State nor our Secretary of the Interior ever brought this matter before the people and leaders of American Samoa for consideration. While I suspect that at some point in time a plebiscite may be needed to determine whether or not the listing should be continued, I respectfully request that the Governor, our territorial legislature, and my office be informed on what procedures need to be taken before action, if any, is taken by the UN Decolonization Committee or the US Mission to the UN.

As you can appreciate, it is imperative that the elected and traditional leaders and the people of American Samoa are fully briefed and informed about the territory's political status as a non-self governing territory as defined and categorized by the United Nations before any action is taken.

Faleomavaega concluded his letter by saying, "With this understanding, I would appreciate receiving a response from you as to American Samoa's status relative to US policies relating to the Decolonization Committee and the United Nations."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes on Thursday, November 20, 2014. On Roll Call Vote 529, the Waxman of California Part C Amendment Number 1, I would have voted "aye." On Roll Call Vote 530, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 4795, I would have voted "aye." On Roll Call Vote 531, On Passage of H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, I would have voted "no."

HONORING KAREN NELSON

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take long for anyone to recognize that the Congress depends on staff people to get most of its work done. Members speak and Members vote, but much of what we say is researched for us by staff and many of our votes are based on advice and counsel we get from our staff.

I have been in Congress for 40 years now. For 36 of those years, I have had the great good fortune to be advised and counseled by Karen Nelson, my chief health staff person. Much of what we have accomplished in health during that time has been because of her.

First, she knows the field. For three decades, she has been directly involved in every public health and health finance law that has passed this House. She's a living reference work for details about everything from Medicaid rates to pharmaceutical trials to tobacco advertising to health exchanges. She also provides the institutional memory on the origins of these laws as well as the alternatives and amendments that were considered in their passage.

She is, however, much more than an encyclopedia of health policy. She is also intuitive about issues. I have seen her be briefed on an issue that was altogether new to her and immediately hone in on the central problem. She can hear disparate facts and figures and then pick out the common thread. She has often learned of a policy roadblock and quickly found a way over, under, around or through it.

And, fundamentally, she is wise. When politics and politicians come to a stalemate, she can find a fair compromise. When egos and pride get in the way, she can find a way for everyone to save face. And when a policy is unfair, inequitable, or just wrong, she has the courage of her convictions to say so.

This is not to say that Karen spends all her life at the office. I've seen her walk out of members' meetings to go to a basketball game of her beloved Wizards. I know that if I have a weekend night free that Karen will have seen every movie in town and will have a review for me. As hard as she works, she also manages to enjoy her free time, too.

I have been the beneficiary of Karen Nelson's life and work for decades. So has the Commerce Committee. So has this House. And so have millions of children, poor people, elderly people, and all Americans. Most of them don't know—and will never know—what she's done for them, but I wanted to take this moment to tell my colleagues and to thank her.

HONORING CITY OF TRACY
MAYOR, BRENT H. IVES**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge City of Tracy Mayor, Brent H.

Ives, for his numerous years of outstanding service and commitment to the betterment of our community.

Mayor Ives is a local of Tracy and grew up in the community. He attended New Jerusalem School in the Vernalis area and graduated from Tracy High School in 1971. He attended San Joaquin Delta College and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Ives began his service in 1988 as a Parks Commissioner in Tracy. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for four years prior to serving one year on the Planning Commission. In 1991, he was elected as a Tracy City Councilmember and for the last eight years, has served as Mayor.

Mayor Ives served as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Group, South County Fire Authority, San Joaquin Partnership for Economic Development, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (ACE), and as Chairman of the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). He also lead the Mayor's Community Youth Support Network (MCYSN), which provides broad-based assistance and solutions to youth and their parents encountering the challenges that young people and their parents face today.

Mr. Ives operates BHI Management Consulting in Tracy, a consulting firm that specializes in assisting small government agencies and non-profits in areas of strategic planning, governance, organizational health and supervisory excellence. Prior to his time in public service, he worked as a Senior Engineering Deputy Section Leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before retiring after a 37 year career.

Brent and his wife, Lynda, have three grown children and enjoy spending time with their grandkids.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring City of Tracy Mayor, Brent H. Ives, on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.

CRITTENTON SERVICES
CELEBRATES 126TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to share with my colleagues inspiring information about Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, a life-changing organization serving low-income teenage girls in public and charter schools in Montgomery County, Maryland and Washington, DC.

On November 20th, at a gala celebrating its 126th anniversary, Crittenton announced an important expansion of its programs and honored several area women who have displayed leadership on issues crucial to the healthy development of teen girls. I am delighted that one of the honorees is our colleague, and a member of the Maryland Congressional delegation, my good friend Rep. DONNA EDWARDS. Karla Silvestre, Director of Community En-

agement at Montgomery College and with whom my staff and I have worked over many years, also received well-deserved recognition, as did Meredith Attwell Baker, President and CEO of CTIA—the Wireless Association, and Gloria L. Blackwell, Vice President of Fellowships, Grants, and Global Programs at the American Association of University Women. Each of them has my heartiest congratulations.

Earlier this year, with the support of Montgomery County and the District of Columbia Department of Health, Crittenton tripled the number of its programs for low-income teen girls. As a result, Crittenton, under the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Pamela Jones, now provides services at 11 DC schools and six Montgomery County schools, serving over 400 middle and high school girls. The objectives of the programs are to reduce pregnancies, births, and sexually transmitted infections among teen girls, ages 14 to 19, and increase their motivation and aspirations to succeed in high school and complete post-secondary education.

Over the course of the school year, Crittenton presents structured curricula that are science-based, age appropriate, and medically accurate. In 26 sessions, the programs teach girls about healthy relationships with their peers, dating partners, and parents; reproductive health, nutrition, and fitness; and life options, including post-secondary education and careers. Through active learning activities—role-play, games, or group discussion—Crittenton helps the girls acquire “real world life skills” such as communication, conflict resolution, assertiveness, and negotiation; managing emotions, impulses, frustration, and stress; and goal-setting, planning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

In addition, to help participants envision a future and become increasingly motivated to achieve that future, Crittenton organizes out-of-school enrichment activities that expose them to college and careers. But the programs’ “secret sauce” is the relationship that program leaders form with the girls. Program leaders are culturally competent, well trained, highly experienced youth development specialists. They create a welcoming environment and a “safe space” that inspires the girls to speak openly with a caring adult and each other; they talk with the girls honestly and non-judgmentally; and they model positive behavior.

A central component of Crittenton's programs is a focus on the “whole girl” and her future, with a goal of heightening her awareness of life options. Through the experiences the programs provide, girls learn to recognize and value their gifts and develop invaluable life and leadership skills. Most importantly, they develop a belief in their ability to succeed, even in challenging situations.

Crittenton was originally established in Washington, DC in 1887. Its mission has evolved from rescuing young girls from sex trafficking and exploitation to providing a residential home as a safe haven with caring trusted adults for single mothers and their babies. As society and the need for services changed, so has Crittenton. The Florence Crittenton Home was sold in 1983 and the organization launched a series of successful

multi-year programs for teen girls and young women. Today, Crittenton Services of Greater Washington provides three key programs.

SNEAKERS (Self-efficacy, Nurture, Expectations, Assertiveness, Knowledge, Empowerment, Responsibility, and Success), a program that enables vulnerable girls who are navigating the challenges of adolescence to thrive;

PEARLS (Parenting, Education, and Responsive Life Skills), a program that enables pregnant and parenting teens to succeed as students and parents; and

4C'ING the Future (Crittenton College and Career Connection), a college and career access program that engages parents and prepares 8th grade girls to become the first in their families to attend college.

For many years, Crittenton's programs have been changing the trajectories of teen girls' lives. Crittenton girls are avoiding risky, unhealthy behaviors; acquiring social and emotional skills that are essential for academic and life success; becoming motivated learners who will graduate from high school; and using their voices, time, and talent to serve others. They also have a vision—and a plan—to achieve their academic, personal and professional goals.

I am pleased to share with my colleagues this wonderful example of the invaluable contributions that non-profit organizations make to their communities. I extend my gratitude and appreciation to Crittenton for all it does to change lives and wish it a very happy anniversary.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF ASCC'S UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the funding of an Upward Bound program at American Samoa Community College in 2003.

[Press Release, Oct. 9, 2003]

FALEOMAVAEGA SPEAKS OUT ABOUT CONFUSION SURROUNDING ASCC'S UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is speaking out about the confusion surrounding ASCC's Upward Bound Program and is also making all letters pertaining to this matter available to the public.

"On June 22, 2003, Hipa Neria, the Director of ASCC's Upward Bound Program, called my office and requested my assistance in finding out whether or not ASCC's grant application would be funded," Congressman Faleomavaega said. "In response to Mr. Neria's request, my office immediately called the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), learned that ASCC's grant would not be funded, and informed Mr. Neria of the USDOE's decision."

"Upon learning of the USDOE's decision, Mr. Neria provided my office with additional information and requested my assistance in defending and obtaining funding for ASCC's proposal. In a letter dated June 24, 2003, Mr.

Neria stated that he had been informed by his colleagues in Washington not to write, call, email or make any requests. Given the seriousness of the situation and my desire to help American Samoa's students, I wrote a letter dated July 10, 2003 to Larry Oxendine, USDOE Director of the Federal TRIO programs which includes Upward Bound. I also faxed Dr. Adele Satele-Galeai, President of ASCC, and Mr. Neria a copy of my letter."

"In my letter, I informed the USDOE that American Samoa has a dire need for the services the Upward Bound Program provides. I agreed with Mr. Neria's position that American Samoa's socio-economic status, educational disparity, and unique geographical location warranted a second review of ASCC's application. I also stated that I believed American Samoa would be credited additional points upon further review of the Needs Section and I expressed my appreciation for Mr. Oxendine's reconsideration of ASCC's application," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"As a follow-up to my letter to Mr. Oxendine, my office continued its discussions with the USDOE. During these discussions, the USDOE informed my office that more than 1,218 Upward Bound applications were submitted and only 792 were funded. USDOE also informed me that only proposals with a score of 99.00 or greater were funded and ASCC's proposal had received a score of 98.33. ASCC's proposal had also been read and scored by three non-federal readers, as required by federal law."

"Although I was informed in July that the review process could not be reopened, additional funds became available about three weeks ago at which time the USDOE reviewed the remaining proposals that had not been funded. Of the applications remaining, 17 had higher scores than ASCC's application and all 17 received funding. An additional 17 applications had scores equal to ASCC's application but the USDOE only had money to fund one of the 17. Mr. Oxendine chose to fund ASCC's application based on the fact that we are an underserved area."

"In a letter dated October 8, 2003, Mr. Oxendine stated that my letter and the information received from my staff and President Satele-Galeai was very helpful in making the decision to fund ASCC out of the group of 17 applications with the next highest score. He also said that he was pleased to inform me that ASCC's program would be funded at \$220,000 for the 2003-2004 project period and, subject to future appropriations, USDOE would be making funding available at this level for three additional years."

"Mr. Oxendine also apologized for the delay in informing my office of his decision. In fact, he said he announced his decision at a national TRIO conference in San Diego on Monday September 29, 2003 and he was unaware that my office had not yet been informed."

"Again, I apologize for the confusion," Mr. Oxendine said in his letter, "but I am sure you will agree that the final outcome of our mutual efforts was highly successful." Like Mr. Oxendine, I do agree that our efforts were highly successful and I want to especially thank Mr. Neria and Dr. Satele-Galeai for working closely with my office to favorably resolve this issue. "I also want to thank Chairman Boehner of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for releasing a statement saying that 'Congressman Faleomavaega worked hard to restore ASCC's Upward Bound funding, and I cannot take credit for his actions.' I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to step forward and

set the record straight about this matter," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"Chairman Boehner is a friend of mine and he should be commended for letting the people of American Samoa know that he did not restore ASCC's Upward Bound funding. In fact, the Chairman knew nothing about our Upward Bound funding until he read a fabricated story published in the Samoa News on October 1, 2003 which made claims that he worked with Mrs. Amata Radewagen to resolve this issue."

"Again, I thank Chairman Boehner for letting our people know the truth. Neither Congresswoman Deborah Pryce nor the House Republican Conference brought this matter to Chairman Boehner's attention. Furthermore, the USDOE informed my office that it received no letters from Congresswoman Deborah Pryce or the House Republican Conference regarding ASCC's Upward Bound Program funding. Other than the calls my office made, the USDOE received only one phone call in late July from a caller identifying herself as working for the House Republican Conference. Mr. Oxendine spoke to this caller only once and never heard from the caller again until after September 29, 2003. After September 29, 2003, USDOE received one more call from this same caller saying she had heard through the grapevine that an announcement had been made in San Diego and she wanted to verify the accuracy of this report."

"While I would be more than happy to credit anyone who helped to restore ASCC's funding, I am pleased that the USDOE and Chairman Boehner have cleared up the confusion surrounding ASCC's Upward Bound Program. At this time, I want to thank the USDOE and Mr. Oxendine for supporting and funding the Upward Bound grant proposal submitted by ASCC. After working with Dr. Satele-Galeai and Mr. Neria for the past several months, I also want to thank them for their hard work."

"Most of all, I want to wish our students the very best. Upward Bound is an important college preparatory program and I am hopeful that our students will take advantage of the opportunities this program provides. As always, I am also hopeful that our young people will pursue their four year college degrees and return to American Samoa to live and serve," the Congressman concluded.

IN HONOR OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McKenzie Hayes, Sarah Bridges, Anvitha Paruchuri, Jacob Haffey, Ruby Araj, Dania Baraka, Dalya Hazim, Ashi Arora, Jessica Kassis, and Reneh Araj, the officers and new inductees of Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Iota Chapter, at Schoolcraft College. Phi Theta Kappa is the largest academic honor society for two-year colleges and becoming an official member of this organization is one of the highest recognitions that a student can receive at a two-year college. Congratulations to them on their accomplishment.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,963,753,617,957.26. We've added \$7,336,876,569,044.18 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

EMILY ROBINSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Robinson for her countless contributions to Jefferson County.

As the market president for FirstBank, Emily has helped to cultivate and mentor a team of young professionals, supporting their goals and efforts to assist them in achieving a successful future. Inspired by her self-employed parents, she found her passion and career in banking by providing support and financial resources to help business owners become successful. Her passion for helping business owners at FirstBank led her to climb the corporate ladder from trainee to market president. Emily's leadership and drive even helped benefit the bank's growth during the economic collapse of 2008. Since then, FirstBank's Lakewood and Golden locations have seen a 50 percent increase in deposits, making it one of the most successful FirstBanks in Colorado.

Emily is also dedicated to enhancing the management-training program at FirstBank, having experienced first-hand the progressive programs FirstBank offers its employees. She has served on many boards throughout her career including Seniors' Resource Center, Clinic Campesina Family Health Services and The West Chamber. She has been on the Board for Community First Foundation since 2010, the inaugural year of Colorado Gives Day, which is a 24-hour online giving initiative aimed at increasing philanthropy in the state. Due to Emily's involvement, the program has raised \$58.1 million for state nonprofits. She also sits on the board for The Jefferson Foundation and Arvada Economic Development. Emily was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to serve on the State of Colorado Banking Board in 2011.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emily for her dedication, passion, and drive. She is an incredible example for all women in the workplace and in the community.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope, the leading international women's organization dedicated to promoting the ideals of ancient Greece. Founded November 16th 1929 in San Francisco, California the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the wellbeing of women through community service and volunteerism. Especially, I would like to honor the Daughters of Penelope District 5 who represent chapters in New Jersey for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of women across our great state.

Nationally, one example of the great work done by the Daughters of Penelope can be found in the Penelope House, a shelter for battered women in Mobile, Alabama. The Penelope House focuses on the prevention of domestic violence through education and public awareness. The Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social and economic independence through shelter, counseling, and advocacy.

Clearly, the Daughters of Penelope deserves our recognition and support as they continue to expand the opportunities, status and well-being of women and their families around the globe. Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope on reaching such a milestone and I look forward to continuing to see the charitable efforts of such a dedicated group of people.

THE SORROW AND THE HOPE OF
"COMFORT WOMEN"**HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue which has been close to my heart during my years of service as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific. This is the issue of the "Comfort Women" or, as former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton more accurately termed these victims of Imperial Japan's military during the Second World War, "enforced sex slaves."

Of all the actions in my almost twenty-six years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, one that affected me most was the convening of my first hearing on February 17, 2007 as the new Chairman of the then Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment. The fact that the issue of the 'Comfort Women' was the topic of my very first hearing signified how deeply important this issue was and is to me.

The hearing represented the first official testimony given to a U.S. government entity regarding one of the most egregious war crimes carried out in the Pacific Theater during the

Second World War. The compelling and courageous testimony of the three victim witnesses, Ms. Yong Soo Lee and Ms. Koon Ja Kim from the Republic of Korea, and Ms. Jan Ruff O'Herne from Australia, brought tears to the eyes of many in the hearing room and left no doubt as to the culpability of Imperial Japan's military in the organization and management of comfort stations.

It was a special privilege that then South Korean National Assembly member and now President of the Republic of Korea, Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, was present as a special guest of the Subcommittee at the hearing. The hearing provided an impetus for the unanimous adoption by the U.S. House of Representatives later in 2007, during the 110th Congress, of House Resolution 121. Introduced by my good friend, Congressman MIKE HONDA, H. Res. 121 "expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women', during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II."

In this regard, I wish to draw to the attention of my fellow colleagues the opening of a special art exhibition titled "The Sorrow and the Hope of 'Comfort Women'" to be held in the May Gallery of Mullen Library at Catholic University in Washington, DC. As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, Pope Francis met with "Comfort Women" survivors during his recent visit to South Korea. The special exhibition, which will be held from November 25, 2014 to January 12, 2015, is being hosted by the National Catholic School of Social Service's Center for International Social Development (CISD) and co-organized by the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues, Inc. (WCCW), whose President is Ms. Christine Choi and Vice President is Dr. Julie Jung-Sil Lee. There will be a seminar held in connection with the art exhibition at Catholic University on November 25, 2014.

I would like to take special note of the fact that one of the artists whose work will be displayed at this exhibition is Eileen Marie Halpin, the daughter of my former staff member Dennis P. Halpin. Eileen graduated summa cum laude in kinetic imaging from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in May 2013. She also attended the Gobelins School of the Image in Paris, France in the summer of 2013. She is currently working as a freelance artist. Eileen sent her artwork last year to "Comfort Women" survivors residing in the House of Sharing in Wangju, Korea. This is a facility which I have visited on repeated occasions during my official visits to South Korea as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I have spent many hours with my grandmas at the House of Sharing, who are examples to me of courage, strength, and the resilience of the human spirit. These women are my heroes, and I count them among my greatest friends in this life.

Mr. Speaker, although I will soon depart from this esteemed body, I will continue to be a strong advocate for closure for the victims of

the greatest crime of organized, coercive sexual trafficking in the twentieth century. The overwhelming majority of these victims came from the Asia-Pacific region, a region which I have proudly represented and continue to call home. The current revisionism involving denial history which has emerged in certain influential quarters in Japan regarding the "Comfort Women" and other war crimes related to the Second World War would never be tolerated with regard to the crimes committed in the European Theater during that war. As philosopher George Santayana famously observed, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the Nigerian school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram and the Yazidi women and girls enslaved by ISIL not to forget the tragic historic warning offered by the experiences of the "Comfort Women". It is my sincere hope that this esteemed body will do all it can to ensure justice for women and young girls everywhere. This is my hope forevermore.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL COOK-KALLIO

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheryl Cook-Kallio for her long service to the East Bay.

Cheryl is a dedicated teacher, with credentials in social science, English, and a supplemental credential in Spanish, in addition to her BA degree in history from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and her MA degree in history from San Jose State University. Currently teaching classes in Advanced Placement history and government at Irvington High School, Cheryl has taught for over 30 years in the Fremont Unified School District.

For her teaching, Cheryl has received numerous awards. These include the 1997 Teacher of the Year from the Sons of the American Revolution and 2005 Irvington High School Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl's work has gone beyond the classroom as well. She has coached the Irvington High School We the People team since 2000, and her annually successful team won the California State Championship in 2005. She has volunteered as a leader in Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts as well as served on the board of the Amador Friends of Music.

Cheryl also has given back to her community as an elected official; since 2006 she has been a member of the Pleasanton City Council. She has served in a variety of roles in that position, including vice mayor and as a member of the Audit Committee and School District Liaison Committee.

As Cheryl prepares to leave the city council after her current term expires, I want to thank her for all she has done and continues to do for the East Bay. We are a better community because of her tireless efforts.

HONORING DR. DANIEL KRAFT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Daniel Kraft of Boynton Beach and congratulate him on his retirement after 34 years of dedicated service to the children of South Florida.

From his days as a volunteer physician with the National Service Corps to his long tenure as a private practitioner in West Palm Beach, Daniel has dedicated his career to improving the lives of children in our community.

His passion for service goes well beyond his practice as a doctor. In his limited free time, Daniel developed the Support Group Network, a computerized database of medical support organizations. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Drowning Prevention Coalition and both a founding member and former President of the Palm Beach County Pediatric Society.

A classical music and piano enthusiast, Daniel enjoys traveling around the world and is fluent in Spanish and French. Daniel has obtained multiple degrees, including a medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins.

In honor of his invaluable contributions to the children and families of South Florida and on behalf of my district, I am pleased to recognize Dr. Kraft for his amazing achievements and I wish him a long and fulfilling retirement in the company of his wife and three daughters.

HONORING LT. COL. MICHELLE R. BRUNSWICK ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Michelle R. "Shelli" Brunswick for her 29 years of dedicated service to our country. In her most recent assignment, she served as the House Budget and Appropriations Liaison for the United States Air Force. In this role, Colonel Brunswick was responsible for Congressional interaction between the U.S. Air Force and Congressional Appropriations and Budget committees, Members, and staffers. She was the most seasoned Air Force liaison on Capitol Hill and an agent trusted to prepare the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Congressional delegation meetings and defense posture hearings with Members of Congress.

In her nearly three decades of active duty military service, Colonel Brunswick held numerous leadership positions that have helped shape Air Force acquisitions and ensured the "tip of the spear" was always sharp. Her duties covered the spectrum of Air Force operations and ranged from managing the careers

of service members to serving as a direct representative of the Air Force charged with resolving issues pertaining to the President's Budget.

As a native of Clearwater, Florida, Colonel Brunswick's career in the Air Force began in 1985 after receiving her enlistment through the Basic Military Training program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management in 1994, Colonel Brunswick received her commission from the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 1997. In 1998, she earned a Master's degree in Business Administration and Management. While her active duty career had many different facets, Colonel Brunswick excelled in every assignment. These assignments included positions as a personnel specialist, project officer, project manager, program integrator, professor, and program chief.

Throughout Colonel Brunswick's 29 years in the Air Force, she always exemplified the Air Force core value of excellence in everything she did. As a testament to this, Colonel Brunswick was a Distinguished Graduate from the Officer Training School, one of a few hand-picked program managers selected Air Force-wide to participate in the Air Force Institute of Technology's Education with Industry at The Boeing Corporation. She was certified in Program Management Level III per the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, a certified Space Professional Level III by the U.S. Air Force Space Professional Functional Authority, and earned the Project Management Professional certification.

Before joining the Air Staff, she was a Professor of Acquisition Management at Defense Acquisition University, where she co-authored a book on the future of Project Management. She served two deployments with Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq with the Defense Contract Management Agency and completed a joint Operation Enduring Freedom tour in Washington, DC and Cuba with the Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants under the authority of the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Colonel Brunswick became known for her exceptional ability to identify real issues and then move to solve them. As all great leaders do, she led from the front by setting the example for others to follow and has been a stalwart advocate for the Department of Defense. These traits will greatly benefit her and those with whom she serves now and in the future.

During her final tour at the Pentagon, Colonel Brunswick's superior leadership orchestrating and executing Hill appropriations strategy enabled enactment of four Air Force budgets, totaling \$646 billion dollars, from Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2014. As the Air Force acquisition subject matter expert on Capitol Hill to the United States House of Representatives, she shaped the fiscal environment and executed over 400 Congressional events, resulting in broad support for the Air Force's top acquisition priorities including the Joint Strike Fighter, KC-46 Air Refueling Tanker, and Long Range Strike Bomber programs.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Brunswick leaves a legacy of integrity, selfless service, and excellence that is of the highest standard. Her exemplary character and years of service have

resulted in a career of which she and her family can be very proud. On behalf of the entire United States Congress, and along with Colonel Brunswick's parents, Marshall and Betty Harris, Doug and Margaret Goodman, and fiancé, Jerry, it is an honor to recognize the career and service of Lieutenant Colonel Michelle R. Brunswick. My wife Libby and I congratulate her and wish Shelli and her family all the best.

KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend congratulations to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the occasion of Kazakhstan's national holiday—Independence Day. Under the leadership of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan has reached considerable success in economic development, increased the living standard of its nation and enjoys authority in the region and in the world arena. Promoting the ideals of democracy and progress as well as standing for ensuring comprehensive security and stability, Kazakhstan has become an active member of the global community and America's strategic partner. Successfully hosting the OSCE Summit in Astana, serving as the chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and President Nursultan Nazarbayev's personal contribution to promotion of inter-ethnic and religious tolerance demonstrates that in the last twenty three years of independence Kazakhstan has reached great success in its development as a sovereign, stable and a prospering state.

Kazakhstan plays an important role in Central Asia and by far is a rightful leader in the region. The United States is grateful for Kazakhstan's steadfast friendship and solidarity in the Global War on Terrorism, and its adherence to stabilization and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. President Obama highly commended Kazakhstan's efforts in the organization and holding of Iran 5+1 nuclear talks in Almaty in 2013. The dialogue on strategic partnership between the U.S. and Kazakhstan continues to demonstrate the common vision and commitment we share to solve modern challenges. From Project Sapphire and the Degelen Mountain to the closure of an anthrax factory in Stepnogorsk, Kazakhstan has not just talked but has acted and delivered in making the world a safer place.

Kazakhstan has become a state with stable institutions and a dynamic economy. It has become a member of the international community, recognizing its responsibilities both at regional and international levels to maintain dialogue among religions and cultures. Kazakhstan is especially a stabilizing influence in Central Asia.

This holiday is considered a symbol of freedom and independence of our state. During the short historical period the people of Kazakhstan have managed to construct the

democratic, legal and economically independent state.

Kazakhstan has launched an ambitious national program to make the country one of the 30 most competitive nations in the world by 2050. President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced the plan on December, 2013 in his annual state of the nation address and laid out wide-ranging reforms.

The nation's new economic strategy, the Nurlu Zhol (Bright Path) announced by President Nazarbayev at a recent state-of-the-nation address on Nov. 11, 2014, serves as a clear vision for efficient and sustainable development in Kazakhstan. In this period of global economic instability, the strategy will allow Kazakhstan to strengthen its already strong trajectory of sustained growth.

I have every confidence that Kazakhstan will achieve the objectives of the Kazakhstan 2050 strategy and that the United States will support these efforts.

HONORING THE HALLIE Q. BROWN
COMMUNITY CENTER'S 85TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the volunteers, staff and patrons of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, past and present, on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. Since this agency was founded in 1929, it has served as a shining example of leadership and progressive commitment to advancing the quality of life for residents of Saint Paul, Minnesota's Summit-University neighborhood.

African Americans in Minnesota's capital city faced growing social challenges in 1929, leading the Saint Paul Urban League to formulate plans for a new community center. The center's first Executive Director, Miss I. Myrtle Carden, chose to name the newly formed center after Hallie Quinn Brown, honoring her work as a prominent suffragette, African American educator, author and elocutionist. The community center has been thriving ever since.

After its relocation to the Martin Luther King Center in 1972, the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center has evolved to encompass other organizations and programs, including the nationally recognized Penumbra Theatre Company. The Hallie Q. Brown Center is designed to provide a wide range of services that reflect the diversity of the community. Providing access to critical human services, fostering personal growth, and developing community leadership is the ongoing work of Early Childhood Education, Youth Out of School Time, Multi-Service Hub Center Administration, and the Emergency Food Shelf and Clothing Closet among many other programs at the center.

Mr. Speaker, 85 years of supporting the community at the Hallie Q. Brown Center deserves to be commended. Employees, volunteers and donors to the center have made valuable contributions of time, talent and resources that have made a difference in the

lives of so many in this community. Please join me in rising to honor the 85th anniversary of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL MICHAEL L. DAVIDSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Michael L. Davidson for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to our great nation. He has served for the last two and a half years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army. On November 25, 2014, he deployed to Afghanistan where he is serving as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces—Afghanistan.

A native of Moore Haven, Florida, Lieutenant Colonel Davidson became a Cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1989. While at West Point, he participated in Corps Squad Sports and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He was commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in May 1993. After completing the Artillery Officer Basic Course, he served as a Lieutenant for 18 months in the Republic of Korea as a platoon leader and operations officer in 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, a rocket artillery unit. After returning from Korea, Lieutenant Davidson was assigned to 1st Battalion 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There he served as a platoon leader, battalion adjutant officer, and assistant battalion operations officer.

After graduating from the Captain's Career Course he returned to the Republic of Korea and the 2nd Infantry Division, where he served in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment (Manchu) as a Battalion Fire Support Officer, Battery Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander; and Aide de Camp to the Commanding General. Following this assignment, he deployed with the 3rd Army Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) in 2002, serving as the lead planner for the Deep Operations Coordination Cell and later as an effects planner in the CFLCC Commander's Early Entry Command Post in Baghdad, Iraq.

Major Michael Davidson returned to the 18th Airborne Corps and served as a Multi-National Corps-Iraq lead planner before serving as the 3–319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment Battalion Operations and Executive Officer in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division during their combat deployment in Iraq.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and knowledgeable resource in 2008 when Major Michael Davidson was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he served as a Congressional Fellow in my Washington, D.C. office. Following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he took command of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division where his battalion served as

part of the Army's Global Response Force for all world-wide contingency operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Davidson's leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. As a Congressional and Budget Liaison Officer, he worked directly with the Senate and House Appropriations and Armed Services Committees to educate and inform Members of Congress and staff on the many diverse and important procurement initiatives of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 700,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Michael L. Davidson for two decades of service to our nation. In addition to gratitude for his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Davidson has the respect, admiration, and affection of many on Capitol Hill and we wish him all the best in his deployment to Afghanistan and his upcoming promotion to Colonel.

CYNTHIA JAMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cynthia James for her passion for helping and supporting people.

With two Master Degrees in spiritual psychology and consciousness studies, Cynthia has become a transformational specialist guiding people as they make lasting changes and healing in their lives. Cynthia is a speaker, a coach, a musical performing artist and the multi-award winning author of *What Will Set You Free and Revealing Your Extraordinary Essence*.

Through her program, Advanced Awareness Coaching, Cynthia has coached thousands of people worldwide, including high level business leaders. In 2014, Cynthia's Extraordinary Living Project was selected to be a Commitment Maker by the Clinton Health Matters Initiative. In addition to her work and her new project, she also serves as a minister in Special Ministries at Mile Hi Church in Denver, CO.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cynthia James for her well-deserved honor and the positive impact of her leadership, healing, and dedication on the lives of others across our community and the world.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD AIDS DAY
2014

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge World AIDS Day, 2014.

Today, more than 35 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. Of the 35 million, 1.2 million are in the United States and almost 1 in 7 Americans—that's 14 percent—are unaware of their infection.

It grieves me to know that Brooklyn has earned the dubious distinction as an HIV/AIDS epicenter for African-Americans in NYC. Nearly 29,000 Brooklyn residents were living with HIV/AIDS as of June 30, 2013. Over 30 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the first half of 2013 were made concurrent with AIDS diagnoses and years after infection, when HIV was already causing illness. And surveys suggest that 40 percent of Brooklyn adults have yet to receive an HIV test.

Though there have been many successes in the treatment of the disease, given the grim statistics that I just noted, we cannot rest on our successes. It is imperative that we continue to push forth policies, initiatives, and legislation that support HIV/AIDS research and programs, both domestically and globally. We also must continue to significantly fund HIV/AIDS research and programs.

One such program that benefits from HIV/AIDS funding is SUNY Downstate's HIV Center for Women and Children, which is located in my district—the 9th Congressional District of New York. The center provides: HIV/AIDS clinical support, mental health assistance, psychosocial support, educational outreach, research—and the all important testing program—and in doing so helps stop the transmission of HIV/AIDS in my district.

We must continue to fight on behalf of those who need to access life saving research and programs. The manner in which we as a nation address HIV/AIDS will determine the fate of the next generation of Americans. Let's continue to take a stand against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. NGUYEN
AN HA OF THE SOCIALIST RE-
PUBLIC OF VIETNAM

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and brother, Mr. Nguyen An Ha of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen has been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 1993. He was assigned as Political Counselor at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States in March 2011, and also serves as Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2007 to 2011, Mr. Nguyen served in the America Department of MOFA. From 2003 to 2007, he worked as Second Secretary of the Mission of Vietnam to the United Nations (UN). From 1996 to 2003, Mr. Nguyen worked as an expert at the Department of International Organization in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1994 to 1995, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen graduated from the University of Foreign languages in Hanoi. He is married to

Hoang Thi Hai Yen, and he and his lovely wife have a beautiful daughter, Nguyen Hoang Minh Ngoc. Mr. Nguyen is the son of Mr. Nguyen Huu Xuyen and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Huong.

On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen has spared no effort in strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations. He has served his country and colleagues with distinction and honor. As Political Counselor, he worked side-by-side with His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, former Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States, and also with Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, former Minister at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States, to promote Vietnam's stance in calling for a peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Because of their tireless efforts and leadership, the U.S. House of Representatives finally passed for the first time ever a Resolution calling for such support. H. Res. 714, a Resolution I introduced in support of peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided by universally recognized principles of international law, was unanimously passed by the House on December 2, 2014.

In my official capacity as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have relied on Mr. Nguyen's expertise regarding many matters affecting the security of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Mr. Nguyen has been a tremendous help to me and I will miss him when he returns to Vietnam next year.

Because so many in diplomatic missions serve so well, it is rare for me to include a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of diplomats. But Mr. Nguyen has served exceptionally well—in a way that deserves to be recognized and preserved in the records of U.S. history and so I am including a statement as I also did for Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Ambassador Cuong.

On a more personal note, knowing and serving with Mr. Nguyen, Dr. Duong and Ambassador Cuong has been one of the highlights of my career. I am thankful for our friendship and I will always be grateful to them for all they did to bring about recognition of the interim board of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam. Furthermore, I will also hold a special place in my heart for Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Politburo, Vice Chairwoman Tong Thi Phong, the National Assembly, MOFA, Public Security and the countless other individuals, departments, organizations and individuals who supported recognition—a cause that meant so much to me.

As I now leave the U.S. House of Representatives, I hope I will be remembered as having given all I could on behalf of the leaders and people of Vietnam, too. Once caught up in a war I knew little about, I thank God I was able to return to Vietnam later in life as both Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. In returning, I found a people I love.

This is why I have repeatedly called for the United States to clean up the mess it left behind and do right by the victims of Agent Orange. I have also advocated for the United States to boost bilateral relations in several sectors, including defense, trade and security. Strong U.S.-Vietnam ties are key to stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and H. Res. 714 is a step forward.

I thank Mr. Nguyen, once more, for his work in bolstering the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Until we meet again, I wish Mr. Nguyen the very best, and I extend to him my highest regards.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR OF
THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHAN-
DLER III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and outstanding citizen, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, for his 33 years of dedicated, distinguished, and honorable service. SMA Chandler will retire on August 1, 2015, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and devotion to the United States Army and this great nation.

A native of California but raised in the Boston area, SMA Chandler enlisted in the Army in 1981. He excelled throughout his career and served in all tank crewman positions and had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. SMA Chandler's skill as a leader of warriors was recognized early on as he assumed command positions in numerous regiments and divisions. He was assigned as the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy command sergeant major in December 2007. Nearly two years later, he became the 19th Commandant of United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and the first enlisted commandant in the academy's history.

In his final assignment, SMA Chandler served as Sergeant Major of the Army, our Army's most senior enlisted soldier, leading the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and carrying news of the enlisted ranks to the Chief of Staff of the Army and other leadership. He served as the role model and standard bearer for enlisted personnel, built relationships between the Army and Congress, and rallied support from community and business leaders for soldiers and their families. His guidance and influence have steered the Army into a well-equipped and well-trained force over the past four years.

His extraordinary service has not gone unnoticed. SMA Chandler is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He has also been honored with the Order of Saint George, the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. Additionally, SMA Chandler sat on a wide variety of councils and boards that made decisions affecting enlisted soldiers and their families and was routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues to celebrate SMA Raymond Chandler's retirement. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of our nation. He has been a shining example for the nation and has earned our gratitude. I commend him for his selfless service to the nation and the United States Army. I wish him and his wife Jeanne all the best in their much-deserved retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 26TH
ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY AND
OF AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 26th Annual World AIDS Day, which also marks the beginning of AIDS Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation," which embodies the core strategy for reversing the AIDS epidemic domestically and internationally.

Since its establishment by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, World AIDS Day has served as a call to action and a living memorial to all those whose lives have been lost to the disease across the globe. According to WHO, an estimated 39 million people have died since the first cases were reported in 1981 and 1.5 million people died of AIDS-related causes in 2013.

In the United States, more than 1.2 million people are currently living with HIV, with almost one in seven (14 percent) unaware of their infection. We also know that the burden of HIV infection continues to fall greatest on men who have sex with men (MSM), African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and young people, who account for the majority of the approximately 50,000 new HIV infections each year.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that only 25 percent of Americans living with HIV are virally suppressed and successfully making it through the HIV care continuum. This means that about 825,000 people living with HIV are not receiving the full benefits of treatment, and may be unknowingly passing the virus on to others.

Treatment remains the most promising tool we have to creating an AIDS-free generation. Because of continued advancements in antiretroviral drugs and efforts to link individuals to care, more people living with HIV are able to manage the disease and lead active, productive lives. If we can increase the number of individuals living with HIV who are on treatment, then we can achieve global AIDS control. One year ago, S. 1545, the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013, was signed into law and stands as a symbol of our nation's enduring commitment to ending AIDS worldwide.

At the 2014 International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) in Melbourne, Australia, AIDS

Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and other civil society organizations introduced the "20x20 Campaign," which aims to have 20 million people on antiretroviral therapy by 2020. In addition, UNAIDS proposed the "90-90-90" treatment goals, which are to have 90 percent of people infected with HIV know their status, 90 percent of people infected with HIV on treatment, and 90 percent of those on treatment with an undetectable viral load all by 2020.

Ultimately, however, the future is in our hands. We know how to stop the transmission of HIV and help people living with AIDS stay as healthy as possible. It starts with raising public awareness, knowing your status, and challenging the stigma that prevents so many within our communities from accessing the care they need.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to remember the dozens of scientists, researchers, and activists who perished when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. They were en route to AIDS 2014. Among them was world-renowned scientist Dr. Joep Lange, his partner Jacqueline van Tongeren, and WHO spokesman Glenn Thomas. Theirs was truly a tragic loss for the global AIDS response.

Mr. Speaker, as we look to the start of the 114th Congress, it is imperative that we remain committed to continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS, and address the ongoing effects of sequestration on HIV care in the United States. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing World AIDS Day and AIDS Awareness Month, as well as supporting vital HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs, including the Ryan White Program and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I had to return to New York to attend a funeral, and as a result, I missed three votes on November 20, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote no. 529, agreeing to the amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN, "aye" on roll call vote no. 530, the motion to recommit, and "no" on roll call vote no. 531, final passage of HR 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act."

IN RECOGNITION OF MERUYERT
SAUDABAY, MINISTER-COUN-
SELOR AT THE EMBASSY OF
KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Meruyert Saudabay,

born in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Meruyert graduated from George C. Marshall School in Ankara, Turkey. After high school, she moved to Sydney, Australia where she studied for one year at the University of Sydney. She continued her studies in London Richmond University where she studied law. Meruyert obtained her LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

Meruyert's career began in London's Chevron Corporate office. Her portfolio included merger and acquisitions. She was a member of a leading legal team during the Chevron Texaco merger. After returning to Astana, Kazakhstan, Meruyert worked for Kazakh National Oil and Gas Company (KazMunaiGas) in the Business Development division.

After earning her LLM degree, Meruyert joined communications services firm "APCO" where her focus was on Russia and the firm's business development in the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS) countries.

In 2009, Meruyert began her long-anticipated diplomatic career following in her father's footsteps. Meruyert's father—His Excellency Kanat Saudabayev—is a prominent international political figure. He was the first Ambassador ever from an independent Kazakhstan. He served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States from 2000 to 2007. In 2007, President Nursultan Nazarbayev promoted him to the position of Secretary of State. In 2009, he was appointed Secretary of State-Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2010, during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Saudabayev held the position of Chairman-in-Office.

I have known the Honorable Kanat Saudabayev for nearly 15 years. He is my dear friend and brother and has been since we met and began working side-by-side when he was appointed Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States. His daughter is my daughter, and Meruyert has made us both proud.

As Meruyert puts it, "I have worked in multinational corporations. I have experience in lobbying. But my highest honor has been to put my time to use for the benefit of my country." In her position as Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United States, Meruyert serves her country with distinction. I commend her for her tireless efforts in promoting U.S.-Kazakhstan relations. Meruyert carries forward the vision of President Nazarbayev, who is also my friend.

I applaud President Nazarbayev for changing the course of history and renouncing nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 but President Nazarbayev immediately and boldly renounced these weapons and transferred them under great security by means of an unprecedented joint program with experts from Kazakhstan, Russia and the United States.

President Nazarbayev headed this heroic effort because, for more than 40 years prior to Kazakhstan's independence, the Soviet Union used Semipalatinsk in northern Kazakhstan as a test site to detonate more than 500 nuclear explosions. More than one million people were exposed to radioactive fallout.

I continue to call upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize President Nazarbayev's contributions to world peace as no other world leader has done so much to safeguard humanity from the terrible dangers of nuclear terrorism.

I also thank Minister-Counselor Meruyert Saudabay for standing with her father and me and many others in strong support of President Nazarbayev's mission to modernize and balance the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

I extend to Meruyert my highest and kindest regards and, for the unwavering support they provide to her, I especially thank Meruyert's family including her husband Daulet Orynbayev and their daughter Ayah; her sister Aray; her brother Ermek Saudabayev, his wife Altnai, their daughter Merey and son Nurbol; her brother Yerbol, his wife Elaine Bekmyrza and their daughter Amira; and her father and mother Kanat Saudabayev and Kullikhan Saudabayeva. I wish each of them the very best and I thank them also for the support they have always extended to me.

DORIS STIPECH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Doris Stipech for her welcoming charisma and the positive influence she has bestowed upon her profession and her community through volunteerism and philanthropy.

As an active member of the local community, Doris serves as a board member for civic organizations and other boards dedicated to education and economic empowerment, including the Arvada Food Bank, Women's Bean Project, Leadership Arvada, Red Rocks Community College Foundation Board, and the Center for Work, Education and Employment. Doris has even created a unique program through State Farm that honors clients on their birthday with a gift to a local non-profit. The program has raised awareness for many non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Foothills Animal Shelter.

Doris' love for learning and new experiences is one of her trademark qualities. In addition to her work in the U.S., Doris contributes her time to international leadership development. She has worked with Habitat for Humanity as a Global Village Builder in Fiji and in Northern Ireland. Doris and her family has also been a host for three Rotary exchange students. Through State Farm, she has mentored and guided new agents new to the business and remains committed to the development of young people and their future.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Doris Stipech for generously giving her time and effort to non-profit organizations, as well as mentoring young people and future agents alike.

IN HONOR OF FORMER GEORGIA GOVERNOR CARL SANDERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable statesman and civic leader, Mr. Carl E. Sanders, former Governor of Georgia. Sadly, Governor Sanders passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2014. His passing marks the close of a long and prolific life, and his departure leaves a void in the hearts of Georgians. A memorial service for Mr. Sanders was held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Carl E. Sanders was born on May 15, 1925 in Augusta, Georgia. A skilled athlete, he earned a full athletic scholarship to the University of Georgia, where he was to play quarterback. However, after his freshman year of college, he joined the Army Air Forces during World War II. He was trained to pilot a B-17 Bomber, which he named "Georgia Peach," but the war concluded before his services were required abroad.

Carl Sanders returned to finish his education at the University of Georgia, and met the woman who would become his wife, Betty Bird Foy. They married in the summer of 1947, after he graduated with a degree from the UGA School of Law.

After being admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1948, Mr. Sanders began his career in an Augusta law firm, but kept a close eye on Georgia's political landscape. Six years later, he ran for and won a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. In 1956, State Representative Sanders was elected to the Georgia Senate, where he served three terms. During this tumultuous time period, Senator Sanders advocated for keeping Georgia's public schools open when many of his colleagues favored closure to avoid implementing court orders to desegregate.

In 1962, Senator Sanders was elected as the 74th Governor of Georgia at the young age of 37. During his four-year term, he brought a series of progressive reforms to Georgia. He made education his first priority and his administration added 10,000 new teachers. His legacy includes expanding access to higher education by establishing more community and junior colleges throughout Georgia. His administration reorganized the State Highway, Welfare, and Health Departments and established the State Water Quality Control Board, the state's first environmental regulatory office. He negotiated the deals that brought professional sports teams, the Braves and the Falcons, to Atlanta. Under his leadership, Georgia had the top-ranked airport development program in the nation, with 42 airports being built during his term. At the conclusion of his term, Georgia stood at a surplus of \$140 million.

As Governor, he also worked closely with State Senator Leroy Johnson, the first African-American to serve in the Georgia Senate, and worked quietly to remove remnants of the Jim

Crow system from the State Capitol and other state facilities. He appointed the first African Americans to serve in the Georgia State Patrol.

Within a year of leaving Georgia's Gold Dome, Mr. Sanders and two colleagues created the law firm Troutman Sanders LLP. Over the years, the firm grew tremendously, and now employs over 600 people in offices from Atlanta to Hong Kong. He managed the firm for over 25 years, and where most men would have retired, Mr. Sanders assumed the role of Chairman Emeritus and remained an active part of the business until his passing.

Governor Sanders accomplished much throughout his life but none of this would have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife of 67 years, Betty; his daughter, Betty Foy Botts, and son, Carl Sanders, Jr.; and his beloved in-laws and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to former Governor Carl E. Sanders for his remarkable leadership in our great State of Georgia. He shall be remembered as an outstanding Governor, a champion of education, and a supporter of civil rights during a time when few had the courage to do so. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIE W.
WEATHERFORD

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mayor Willie W. Weatherford of Manteca on his retirement and to personally thank him for his dedicated, lifelong spirit of community service.

Mr. Weatherford started his career in public service as a Manteca city police officer in 1966. He was promoted to Police Sergeant in 1971 and seven years later to Police Captain. He was named Police Chief and City Manager for the City of Galt in 1983 but found he was missing "the family city". The Weatherfords made the move back to Manteca after a few years, and Willie took the helm as Police Chief until he retired in 1994.

Not one for retirement, Mr. Weatherford ran a successful campaign for a seat on the Manteca City Council just two years later. He was elected Mayor in 2002 and is currently completing his third term in office.

Notable projects completed during Mayor Weatherford's tenure include: conversion of an abandoned sugar beet factory into Spreckels Industrial Park, several senior housing projects, multi-purpose gyms at Golden West School and Sequoia School sites in conjunction with the Manteca Unified School District, a skate park, BMX park, Big League Dreams sports park, the Tidewater Bike Path, which

converted nearly four miles of abandoned railroad tracks into a pedestrian and bicycle pathway, Stadium Plaza, Northern California's first Bass Pro Shop and the Manteca Lifestyle Center at the Promenade.

Mayor Weatherford's dedication to service extends far beyond the public sphere with membership in several community organizations, including the Manteca Safety Council, Manteca Kiwanis Club United Lutherans Church Council, serving on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Eskaton Independent Senior Living, and as District Chairman for the Boy Scouts. He has truly made a substantial and lasting impact.

Mr. Weatherford and his wife, Sherilyn, have been members of the Manteca community for more than 42 years. He is the proud father of two daughters, Dawnis and Dayna, and grandfather to 5.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Manteca Mayor Willie Weatherford, on his retirement and thanking him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.

DR. LINA KULKARNI POLITANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Lina Kulkarni Politano for her inspirational leadership and giving back to her community.

Dr. Politano is board certified and a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a distinction which less than 30 percent of orthodontists attain. With a passion for Orthodontics she began building her practice from scratch. Today she serves as a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association, and the Metropolitan Denver Dental Society.

In addition to her work, Dr. Politano is proud to give back to the community where she grew up. She is a committed supporter of several schools' educational programs. This commitment extends to her alma mater D'Evelyn School, where she serves on the D'Evelyn Education Foundation's Board of Directors.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Lina Kulkarni Politano for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN SUPPORT OF TEA PARTY AND
LIBERTY

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I know how George Washington felt at Valley Forge. His troops cold and starving, a disillusioned public, the horizon bleak. He had more failures than

successes in a war against aristocratic tyrants. He did not have a Constitution to defend, just a dream of something like it, far off in the mind's eye. That "faith" in a dream, of something better, yet but a concept, blurred, not yet fully focused. They stayed the course nonetheless, warmed by the untouchable concepts of freedom; they could see the unseeable; with empty stomachs were nourished by prospects of economic and individual liberty and in God's grace they fought on, they persevered.

The death of a nation happens with a whisper and a nudge, patently and stealthily, robbing its unsuspecting citizens of inalienable rights and replacing them with government controls . . . For the good of the people, of course.

Only when it is too late to turn back the clock does a nation realize that freedom has vanished in the blink of an eye.

Harsh and tyrannical treatment will not nourish respect. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy. The breasts of liberty nourish freedom, her voice patiently educates, her ears listen to the formerly unheard, her heart offers respect due others. It is this spirit that can not fail to inspire in people regards for him/or herself and in so doing nourishes others by example.

Patience and perseverance got the snail to the ark.

So too will those valiant souls dedicated to freedom's prospects, individual liberty, and respect for others without the interference of tyrannical dictates of a Godless government overshadowing our every move and choice.

To the Lakes Area Tea Party and liberty minded folks everywhere. I say persevere. Your valiant struggle, stout heart, and dedication to honest and transparent government has not gone unnoticed. Persevere.

HONORING GARY AND JEAN
ALLEN ALES AND THE SAINT
PAUL FRIENDSHIP CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Gary Ales, Jean Allen Ales, and the Saint Paul Friendship Club, an organization Mr. Ales founded 50 years ago.

In 1964, Gary Ales who was then a Saint Paul Public Schools teacher, organized a community service organization called the Friendship Club that set out to improve the community without seeking any educational or financial reward. The group would go wherever they were most needed and include any and all helpers regardless of age, gender, race or faith. They volunteered at senior living facilities, on environmental projects and at the YMCA, while also teaming up with local businesses to provide low income families with holiday parties and gifts. With the simple goals of inclusion and altruism, the Saint Paul Friendship Club has touched an astounding number of lives. Even after his retirement in 2001, Mr. Ales continued his work with the club along with his wife, Jean.

Now in its 50th year, the Friendship Club has reached truly remarkable heights under

the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Ales. All told, more than 15,000 members of the club have served over 320,000 members of the community. They have completed over 750 trips to visit with underprivileged and sick seniors, clean up schools and parks, plant over 500 trees, and give Christmas gifts to over 1,000 students. All of these projects were completed on volunteers' own time, without missing any days of school.

While it is nearly impossible to list all the contributions of the Saint Paul Friendship Club during the past 50 years, perhaps the organization's greatest achievement was put into words by a former member of the club in a letter he wrote to Mr. Ales. In his note, the student wrote, "Thank you for showing me a new way to think and see, for opening new doors and paths for me to explore. What you have done for me I will never forget. What you have taught me, I will carry it on and teach it to others."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Saint Paul Friendship Club and its founders, Gary and Jean Ales. I hope everyone can look towards these remarkable people, and the organization they have created, for inspiration as they continue to pursue their motto of "We Share, We Care." Please join me in rising to honor the 50th anniversary of the Saint Paul Friendship Club.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON'S STOPOVER IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's stopover in American Samoa on November 7, 2010.

[Press Release, Oct. 26, 2010]

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON TO STOPOVER IN AMERICAN SAMOA ON NOVEMBER 7, 2010

Congressman Faleomavaega announced that at approximately 1:20 pm on Friday, October 22, 2010, the Honorable Kurt Campbell, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, called Faleomavaega to inform him that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would be stopping over in American Samoa on November 7, 2010, at the Congressman's request.

"This stopover has been a long-time in the making," Faleomavaega said, "and I appreciate that Secretary Clinton has chosen to refuel in American Samoa. On February 2, 2010, I wrote to President Obama asking him to stopover during his scheduled trip to Indonesia to say thank you to the thousands of Samoan men and women who currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, especially since the Iraq war death rate per 1 million population is higher for American Samoa than any other State or Territory, as reported by USA Today which commended American Samoa for its outsized sacrifice."

"When the President's trip was postponed, I had the opportunity to raise the issue again with Secretary Clinton when she testified be-

fore the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on February 25, 2010. At our hearing, I informed Secretary Clinton that on February 23, 2010, I met with Assistant Secretary Campbell and that he let me know that she might be considering a stopover in American Samoa. 'I can assure you,' I said, 'that our people will extend to you the same warm welcome that they would extend to President Obama, and we would be honored by your visit. Your presence in the Territory would be historic and, on behalf of our people, I would like to personally extend an invitation to you to make a brief visit as American Samoa is well-positioned to be a regional leader in our effort to strengthen U.S.-Pacific Island relations.'"

"On March 3, 2010, when Assistant Secretary Campbell testified before my Subcommittee at a hearing on a regional overview of East Asia and the Pacific, I reminded him of the invitation that I extended to Secretary Clinton and again stated that I believed her visit would give her the chance to thank the thousands of Samoans who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and honor the many who have fallen in the line of duty, as well as support our efforts to strengthen U.S. interests in the region."

"Last month, on September 29, 2010, when Assistant Secretary Campbell again testified before my Subcommittee at a hearing on renewed engagement and U.S. policy towards Pacific Island nations, I informed him that my invitation to Secretary Clinton still stands."

"As a result of these repeated and continued discussions with the U.S. Department of State, I am pleased that Secretary Clinton made this request a high priority and that she will be stopping over to pay tribute to our veterans and our people. Though her visit will be brief and her arrival will be late at night, it is an honor for our Territory to receive her in conjunction with her travels to Hawaii, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, and Australia from October 27-November 8."

"Secretary Clinton has been a good friend of American Samoa and Samoa, and more than anyone she stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us to provide aid in the aftermath of the tsunami that left untold damage in its wake."

"I am appreciative that Secretary Clinton authorized an airlift of supplies gathered by our Samoan communities in LA and Utah, and that she worked closely with Congresswoman Laura Richardson and me to see that these necessary goods were provided to our families and friends in the neighboring islands of Samoa at a time when they needed these critical supplies the most."

"The U.S. Department of State informed my office that they contacted Governor Togiola's office on Monday, October 25, 2010 to inform ASG of Secretary Clinton's upcoming visit, and I have every confidence that our local leaders will do their part in welcoming the former First Lady of the United States to American Samoa."

SUSAN TAYLOR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Susan Taylor for sharing her energy and passion with her community.

Susan Taylor is the Executive Director of Villa Manor Care Center where she brings extensive experience and leadership to her team. Susan mentors and encourages her Villa Manor team to explore educational and professional workshops which creates an environment that brings the best possible experience for patients with complex medical conditions.

Susan was proud to be recognized with the 2014 America Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living National Quality Award. Susan is the only person to receive this award in the national Life Care Centers of America organization.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Susan Taylor for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JOHN HUTCHINSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Mr. John Hutchinson upon the occasion of his retirement from Gulf Power Company, a Southern Company, as the Director of Community and Economic Development. For more than two decades, Mr. Hutchinson has served the Northwest Florida community, and I am pleased to honor his achievements.

A graduate of Louisiana State University, Mr. Hutchinson held various roles throughout his career in the utility industry, which spanned 32 years, and included Mississippi and Southern Company Services. As part of Gulf Power, he worked tirelessly with local, regional, and state economic development organizations to help grow the company into what it is today. Without question, when one looks at the success of Gulf Power, one does not have to look too far to learn of the impact Mr. Hutchinson has made on the company.

Through his dedicated efforts, Mr. Hutchinson helped bolster the company's job creation, strengthen community relationships and support charitable and civic programs. As Director of Corporate Communications for 22 years, Mr. Hutchinson ensured that Gulf Power stayed connected with the community that it served. His unwavering commitment was particularly important during some of the most challenging times, including Hurricane Ivan, which devastated the Gulf Coast, and, in 2009, he was recognized for his success when he was named the Communicator of the Year by the Florida Public Relations Association.

In addition to serving the needs of Gulf Power's consumers, Mr. Hutchinson helped promote economic growth and opportunity for Northwest Floridians through his work with Enterprise Florida and Florida's Great Northwest, where he worked with economic development organizations to help bring new businesses to the area and help local businesses expand and hire new employees.

In addition to his myriad professional accomplishments, Mr. Hutchinson also serves an integral role in the success of the Gulf Coast's civic community through his leadership and volunteer work. Mr. Hutchinson currently serves as the Community Economic Development Association President, Chairman of the University of West Florida Foundation, and he is a member of the executive committee for Florida's Great Northwest. As a result of his work in the community, Mr. Hutchinson has achieved numerous awards, including the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Leader of the Year, as well as its Volunteer of the Year.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. John Hutchinson for his achievements and service to the Gulf Coast community. My wife Vicki and I wish John and his wife Nancy all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MARION S. BARRY, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Marion S. Barry, Jr., the four-term Mayor of the District of Columbia and Ward 8 Council Member, who is remembered for his work as a national civil rights leader and as a creator of post-home-rule D.C. Barry passed away on November 23, 2014.

Born in Itta Bena, Mississippi in 1936, one of 10 children in a family of sharecroppers and one of Tennessee's first black Eagle Scouts, Marion brought his prodigious work ethic to the civil rights movement before coming to the District of Columbia. He left his PhD program in chemistry at Fisk University to help form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), became its first national chairman, and continued to work for civil rights in the District and nationally.

In 1965, Barry moved to the District of Columbia, and was quickly adopted by the city and its voteless residents. Barry used his political gifts and brilliant skills as a community organizer not only in the fight of its residents for jobs, equal rights, home rule, and statehood, but also applied them to the political process to become mayor of the city. He established Pride Inc., which received federal funding as it trained and found jobs for residents. Marion Barry was elected first as a member of the D.C. School Board. He went on to be elected as an at-large Member of the D.C. Council and then became the second home-rule mayor of the District of Columbia, in 1979.

As mayor of the District of Columbia in the first years of home rule, Barry began the work to make home rule work. In his first term in office, Barry, who inherited a \$100 million deficit, ordered the first audit in a century. He reduced the city's debt and balanced its budget. He opened employment and business contract opportunities to African Americans for the first time and established a summer jobs program that was to become his signature program. It gave many young people their first work experience,

for which thousands still remain grateful. During his four terms as mayor, Barry never forgot his own roots in poverty, becoming an iconic figure, especially to the city's poor even as he worked to build an African American middle class. After his years as mayor, Barry became council member for Ward 8, the lowest-income ward in the city, where he also lived and was continually re-elected. In his role as Ward 8 Council Member, Barry strongly supported congressional legislation that transferred valuable federal land, including Poplar Point in Ward 8, to the District of Columbia, and the congressional legislation that established the Department of Homeland Security headquarters, now being built on the St. Elizabeths property located in Ward 8, the first federal complex east of the Anacostia River.

Marion Barry, who blazed his own path of ups and downs, published his autobiography, "Mayor for Life: The Incredible Story of Marion Barry, Jr.," this year. He was loved for his indomitable capacity to keep getting up and rise above controversy and criticism to work for residents of the District of Columbia until his last days.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Marion S. Barry, Jr., for his many accomplishments for the District of Columbia and for a lifetime of fighting for the oppressed and underserved.

TRIBUTE TO BEN WICKE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Ben Wicke is one of these individuals. On Tuesday, November 25, 2014, Ben was honored for his service with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors.

For twenty years, Ben has faithfully served his community. After being first elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors in 1994, Ben ran unopposed in 1998 and was selected by the County Board of Supervisors to fulfill a four year term. In 2002, Ben again ran unopposed, and was appointed to carry out another four year term. Throughout his tenure on the Board, Ben's heralded leadership was often called upon, serving as President in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2007 and finally, in 2011. In addition, Ben also represented the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors to several community organizations. These include Western Municipal Water District, the Eastern Municipal Water District, the Canyon Lake Water Sub-Committee and the Quail Valley Coalition Corporation.

Due to his combined passions for water and for the residents and communities of Southern

California, Ben also volunteers his time throughout the region on additional Boards of Directors. Since 1995, Ben has held a seat on the Meeks and Daley Mutual Water Company Board of Directors, working as its President since 2001. The Association of California Water Agencies Region 9 Board of Directors also utilizes Ben's talents as he represents all of the water agencies in San Bernardino, Imperial, and Riverside counties in the advancement of legislative and regulatory priorities. Ben has always emphasized working with officials throughout the state to develop plans that would effectively manage one of our most important natural resources—water.

In light of all that Ben Wicke has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Ben's tireless passion for conservation and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPT.
MARK EDWARD DREILING

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Mark Edward Dreiling, who is retiring from the United States Air Force. He is a third generation Airman who comes from a family with a long history of military service to this nation.

Capt. Dreiling entered the United States Air Force through ROTC Detachment 465 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He then began his career as a Missile Warning Crew Commander where his crews provided warning and battle space awareness to deployed personnel engaged in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. With over 2500 error free hours of operations and five Highly Qualified Evaluation ratings, his crew earned the Air Force Space Command Crew Member Excellence Award. During this time, he was selected to serve as both the Chief of Crew Force Management and the Chief of Operations Training.

Under his leadership in Crew Force Management, his team secured the first-ever error free Space Command Inspector General assessment for the office, earning the Professional Team Award during the 2008 operational readiness inspection. During his tenure in Operations Training, Capt. Dreiling's leadership helped his team garner the 2010 Air Force Space Command Operational Readiness Inspection operations group "excellent" rating. By leading the instruction and war fighting proficiency efforts for over two hundred missile warning crew members, he ensured the technical accuracy and effectiveness of training materials and operational procedures for the entire crew force.

Capt. Dreiling's next assignment was to the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, where he was the first DoD representative to complete certification on one of the

government's newest overhead sensors. During this time, he completed over five hundred error free hours providing unprecedented indications and warning for nine high interest events.

Most recently, Capt. Dreiling served as the Test Director for the family of Advanced Beyond Line-of-sight Terminals at the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 4. During his final assignment, his work on a \$3.9 billion military satellite communication terminal program directly informed a Secretary of Defense Milestone decision critical to the maturation of the future Presidential and Air Force Strategic Nuclear Command and Control System.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Capt. Dreiling and his family a heartfelt thanks on behalf of a grateful nation for their dedication and service to our country.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE JOHN H.
LAND**

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, the former City of Apopka, Florida Mayor and a wonderful friend, John H. Land. John passed away Saturday, November 20, 2014. I have had the honor to work with Mayor Land for over four decades during his public service as Mayor.

As Mayor of Apopka for 61 years, John was one of the longest-tenured public officials in the nation. He proudly served his community and was committed over the decades to make a positive difference in the lives of all those he was elected to serve.

Mayor Land was born in Plant City, Florida. He attended the University of Florida until World War II, when he signed up for the Army, serving under Gen. George S. Patton in Europe.

Following his return, John worked in his family's mill, Consumers Lumber and Veneer Company, and later won election in 1949 as Mayor of Apopka, a small Florida city that boasted a mostly rural population of 2,254. Over the next six decades as mayor, Apopka grew to a population of over 45,000 with a diversified tax base.

Over his many years in Public Service, faith was always deeply important in the life of Mayor Land. He loved his family, community and country. He was a spiritual leader and deacon at the First Presbyterian Church. I, and many others, sought his council.

American history was another passion that Mayor Land and I shared. As a fitting tribute to Mayor Land, the Tri-County League of Cities renamed its Lifetime Achievement Award, on the evening before his passing on November 21, 2014, as the Mayor John H. Land Award, of which he was the first recipient.

For his tireless work on behalf of thousands of Central Floridians, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Apopka Mayor John H. Land. What a great privilege it has been to work with him. I extend

my deepest sympathies to his wife, Betty; their children, Suzanne Larkin, Cathy Waters and John Land, Jr.; and John's many grandchildren.

Mayor John H. Land's final resting place is Greenwood Cemetery in his beloved city. He will always be remembered as one of the key architects who helped lay the foundation for Apopka's growth and success. I asked my colleagues today to join me in paying tribute to John H. Land.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROTECT MULTI-EMPLOYER
PENSION PLANS**

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, the laws governing the pension plans for over 10 million Americans will expire, threatening the retirement security for these families and causing great uncertainty for their employers who sponsor these retirement vehicles.

These pension plans, known as multi-employer pension plans, are traditional pension plans that have provided millions of Americans a secure retirement for several generations.

Multi-employer pension plans are retirement plans negotiated by a union with a group of employers, typically in the same industry. Collective bargaining contracts say how much the employers must contribute to the plans for their employees. The plans are run by trustees selected by the union and the employers. The trustees typically determine the amounts that the plans will pay in lifetime monthly benefits.

While fewer workers may be utilizing these traditional pensions than in the past, Congress should be taking steps to bolster these traditional pension plans and help to expand their availability between businesses and workers, not slow walking their demise by allowing important funding rules to expire.

While this bill is a simple one-year extension of the expiring rules, these rules provide needed certainty to businesses who offer pension plans to their workers. Without this certainty, businesses will be subject to outdated, unfamiliar rules that could threaten not only their employees' pensions, but also the basic sustainability of their business operations.

Specifically, current multi-employer pension funding rules stipulate that if a pension plan becomes underfunded, or unable to meet its negotiated obligations, the trustees of the pension plan are given a set amount of time to create a restructuring plan to ensure that negotiated benefits can be paid out over the long term to employees. These pension plan trustees, who are appointed by both labor and management, can use this time to create a long-term framework to ensure all obligations are met. This works to the benefit of employers and employees.

But if these funding rules are allowed to expire on January 1 and a pension plan becomes underfunded, instead of giving labor and management the tools to create a sustainable path forward, the law would demand excessive cash payments and excise fees from

employers. Forcing companies to make massive cash infusions into their pension plan while also facing new government-levied excise taxes will not guarantee a fully funded pension plan for their workers. Rather, it increases the likelihood that the employer will be forced to abandon their pension plan. Abandoning pension plans does not benefit either employers or employees.

Make no mistake, this legislation should not be seen as a long-term remedy to the issues involving retirement security. Rather, this bill is a simple extension of the law to prevent uncertainty and turmoil to employers, workers, and retirees.

Next year, the Congress should re-examine the nation's pension laws—those governing individual company plans as well as these labor-management negotiated plans.

Enactment of this bill will not cost the federal taxpayers any money, but lack of action on this bill will cost both businesses and families, who could lose the security that these traditional retirement plans provide.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that provides certainty to employers, and protects the retirement security that workers and retirees have labored for during their careers.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY GUGLIELMANA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Judy Guglielmana is one of these individuals. On Tuesday, November 25, 2014, Judy was honored for her service with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors.

Judy's passion for Riverside County began long before her service with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors. After making Lake Elsinore her home in 1972, she enrolled both of her sons in Elsinore schools. Judy then advocated for the Elsinore High School District as the Community Liaison and as a member of the High School Board of Trustees.

In 2006, Judy was first elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors. She extended her leadership in 2008 to hold the position of Board Treasurer and continued her service as Vice President in 2009. Following her reelection in 2010, Judy assumed the role of President in that same year, Board Treasurer in 2013 and finally as Vice President in 2014. Throughout her tenure Judy advocated for the highest quality water through her work on the Legislative, Conservation and Outreach Committee and the Groundwater Advisory Committee. Judy emphasized the importance of providing water and sewer services at the lowest possible

rates and strived to maximize water resources through planning, management and conservation.

In light of all that Judy Guglielmana has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Judy's tireless passion for conservation and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she moves on to her next challenge.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to continue consideration of S. 2963, to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels, and the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, and Ronald Anderson Walter, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

TBA

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs

To hold hearings to examine evaluating the impact of the 'Umbrella Movement'.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine farmers and fresh water, focusing on voluntary con-

servation to protect our land and waters.

SR-328A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark R. Rosekind, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, and Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations and other actions to enhance and maintain nuclear safety.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the high cost of treating veterans with the Hepatitis C virus and the impact of the disease on the VA health care system.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine dismantling Iran's nuclear weapons program, focusing on the next steps to achieve a comprehensive deal.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure

To hold hearings to examine natural gas vehicles, focusing on fueling American jobs, enhancing energy security, and achieving emissions benefits.

SD-215

DECEMBER 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to continue consideration of S. 2963, to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels, and the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, and Ronald Anderson Walter, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a

Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2946, to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, an original bill entitled, "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014", S. Res. 578, supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, Robert Francis Cekuta, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Richard M. Mills, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Jess Lippincott Baily, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, and Margaret Ann Uyebara, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, all of the Department of State, Leon Aron, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and Carol Leslie Hamilton, of California, to be an Alternate Representative to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

S-116

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

DECEMBER 9

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine campus sexual assault, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights

To hold hearings to examine the state of civil and human rights in the United States.

SD-226